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Kehila

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

June 2015

First anniversary of the Mosaic community

See report of the AGM on page 13



Check out the new Mosaic website
www.choosemosaic.org

About our members

Children's birthdays are listed on page 19

Mosaic Liberal (formerly HWPS)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Betty Leon

MAZAL TOV TO:

Julia and Mike Lane on the birth of another granddaughter – Dana Talia – to Laura and Greg Lane

GOOD LUCK IN HER NEW HOME

Jacqueline Kaplan

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Harold Levy
Adrienne Green
Edith Horton

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family and friends of Frances Silver

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Ron Spiegel
Val Spilfogel

HEMS

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Harold Curry (94)

MAZEL TOV TO:

Max Alexander, who won the Junior Chef award in a special Master Chef-style competition in London recently

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Stanley Morris

Mosaic Reform

MAZAL TOV TO:

Dennis Goodman on the birth of his great granddaughter – Malka Dina

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Maureen Sclare, 70
Alan Burns, 60
Claude Landes, 91
Hedy Orchudesch, 94
Doreen Walport, 85
Frankie Zeitlin, 80
Joshua Freeling, 90

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Margot & Claude Landes on their 60th wedding anniversary

Sheila & Maurice Rosen on their 55th wedding anniversary

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Tony Holman
Ruby Nerva

GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOME TO:

Sue & Harold Shupak
Michelle Miller

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family of Marie Stillerman
Doris Younger on the death of her husband, Peter

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Welcome

Congratulations to us all on our first anniversary as a 3-shul community. The front page picture says it all and is a tribute to the Mosaic leadership.

Our UK general election hysteria fades into memory and everyone realises that, because there are so many forces opposing change, apart from some tinkering at the edges, nothing very revolutionary will happen. Compare that with the Israeli situation where a precarious 10-party coalition government will rule on a manifesto that no one could predict. Small parts of the manifestos of the smaller parties will form government policy – perhaps in line with the number of votes they obtained. Who can say which method is 'better', more democratic, more likely to succeed?

The eerie silence from Israel on the rockets and the tunnels and the retaliations, which dominated our papers just a few weeks ago, surely does not mean that all is sweetness and light and that each side now accepts the other's position. The situation remains on a knife-edge, though one hopes that strong, moderate voices are at work behind the scenes.

On a more parochial note, due to the absence, on holiday, of a critical element of the production process, next month's Kehila (distributing at the end of June) may not have all the pretty colour and clever layout that you have come to expect. There will be no Kehila at all in August and things will return to normal in September.

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

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

Copy Date for July issue is 14th June

A Rabbi's Word

In a recent edition of Kehila, I wrote about dementia and, specifically, about Paul Morris and his struggle to care for his mother Nina and his wife Sandra, both suffering from forms of the disease. We continue to support Paul and, fortunately, he was able to travel to Israel for a few days of respite.

Every case of dementia, of course, is different. For starters, there are different disease types, stages and symptoms. All might manifest differently and be influenced differently by a huge range of possible genetic and environmental factors and synergies.

In our synagogue community, there are others besides Nina and Sandra who are afflicted. One individual is our long-time member Irving Harris, aged 92, who lives with his daughter Jaki near East Grinstead, East Sussex.

For over fifty years, Irving and his family lived just off Preston Road and very close to the shops and underground station. When the synagogue was located there, I recall often greeting Irving and his wife Muriel as they went about their errands. Sadly, that daily routine all changed suddenly in 2008 when Muriel died. This was a double blow for the family as Irving's older daughter Adrienne died of cancer only eleven days later.

Irving carried on living alone in his home. He and Jaki had hoped to buy a place for

him to live in the sheltered housing facility Blackberry Court – built on the HWPS site – and he moved in for a very short time. However, Irving struggled to live in a new environment, his memory further deteriorated, and he was diagnosed with dementia.

Irving's younger daughter, Jaki, decided together with her father that the best solution was to have him move into her home in East Sussex. Loving and nurturing, Jaki always felt a close bond with her father and he was made completely welcome and began to share the household with her and her two teenage boys, Joseph and Isaac – a home full of vitality and madness!

Two years ago, Irving celebrated his 90th birthday and I was privileged to attend his party. Clearly, Irving and his family were all thriving together. Thanks to Jaki's care and devotion as well as organisational skills all has gone as well as possible.

A few days ago, I visited Irving and Jaki again. While riding from the train station to her home, Jaki shared with me in detail how she manages each day to try to balance all of her responsibilities at home and work. She takes her father twice a week to a day centre so they both get a break. Sometimes, Irving gets very anxious when that happens. Sometimes, too, he needs things repeated endlessly to him and, when



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

“ She regards caring for her father as a deep privilege and will continue to do so as long as is humanly possible ”

he is particularly confused, he doesn't sleep at night. Therefore, Jaki seeks to offer much warm company so her dad feels secure and safe. Fortunately, Irving has retained his very placid and pleasant demeanour and, several times a day, he expresses his gratitude to Jaki for looking after him so well. She regards caring for her father as a deep privilege and will continue to do so as long as is humanly possible.

Jaki is fully aware that she is fortunate that her father retains his sweet personality and that he remains fairly mobile and quite

communicative. This could all change in a moment but, while Irving is stable, life is there to be enjoyed. To expand on the words of philosopher Mark Vernon: Where 'nothing is conclusively solved; everything [may be] addressed afresh [if there is sufficient love and goodness]'. For Irving and Jaki, the time spent together is a gift to both.



Irving and Jaki Harris

What's in a name? Quite a lot!

By Alan Solomon – vice-chair of Mosaic Liberal (formerly HWPS)

For many years we were Wembley & District Liberal Synagogue, a name which was subsequently shortened by the omission of “& District”. Then, some 26 years ago, we decided to change to Harrow & Wembley Progressive Synagogue in the hope of attracting some lapsed

Orthodox Jews looking to join a local Synagogue but for whom “Liberal” might be a step too far. However, now wishing to cement our membership of the Mosaic community, we decided by an overwhelming majority at our AGM in May to follow the precedent of Mosaic Reform, and at the same time to revert

to the name “Liberal” to show our pride in being a constituent Synagogue of Liberal Judaism and all that the movement stands for.

So we're now Mosaic Liberal Synagogue catering for Liberal Jews living in Harrow, Wembley and anywhere else in north-west London.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By Neil Mendoza – Chairman, Hatch End Masorti Synagogue

Please step up to the plate (even a pigeon step will do!)



opposed to a fever. It has been AGM season for many of us and, apart from the perennial risk of the “paper clip” question on the minor details of annual accounts, business continues as usual. That “usual” always seems to involve the task of finding and persuading volunteers to come onto Councils/Boards and to discharge particular roles – I have to say that in two decades of synagogue management, I have never known a contested election!

Unfortunately, it so often seems to be the same faces stepping forward and the frequently heard explanation for holding back is nearly always lack of time. But it doesn't have to be like that! There are so many things that people can do to help, from the very small to the very large, so that time constraints should really

not be an obstacle. Helping in convenient, bite-sized portions can be immensely valuable and will always be greatly appreciated, whether it's across the whole Mosaic federation or just within one of the constituent synagogues.

So, my message for this Kehila is: please don't be put off from getting involved in helping; this does not have to mean attending meetings and it really doesn't have to impose any more time than you want. But it all makes such a difference and can so often be more enjoyable than you might think. It's a pity if people view their shul membership as being just about life-cycle events: being part of, and contributing to, the Community may well be considered a mitzvah; but much more than that – it can also be quite fun!

The election fever of May has quietened down and life has returned more or less to normal. Certainly, the country is tinged bluer, but the sun still rises and sets, the dogs still bark at the postman and we don't have to wear tartan.

And so is it with shul elections, although we don't generally manage much more than a minor sniffle as



Adult Education Programme

Text and Context

Wine, Women and a Gazelle – Medieval Poetry on the Good Life, God and the Soul

Andalusian Jews in the 10th – 13th Century belonged to a sophisticated culture. The Spanish rabbis were influenced by Arabic love poetry to express their thoughts about love, life and God.

Wed 10th June, 20:00 with Rabbi Middleton

A Guide for the Perplexed – Jewish thoughts on God and the World

Moses Maimonides' great philosophical work 'Guide to the Perplexed' is a real product of the cross fertilization of thought, culture and worldview.

Wed 8th July, 20:00 with Rabbi Middleton

Parashat ha'Shavuah

Pre-service shiur on Torah reading.
Sat 13th June on Shelach Lecha with Rabbi Middleton & Sat 11th July on Pinchas with Rabbi Dabba Smith.

Legacies of Zionist Figures

Looking at the ideas and careers of prominent Zionists, past and present, through the examination of primary source materials and academic perspectives.

Sat 4th July, 09.30: Menachem Begin;
Sat 29th August, 09.30: Ariel Sharon
Both sessions will be led by Rabbi Dabba Smith

Hebrew

Hebrew Reading Sessions

An informal group for those interested in improving their fluency in reading Hebrew prayers and in sight-reading and exploring the weekly Sidrah. Lots of practice and individual attention.

Sat 6th June, 27th June, 18th July, 09.30 with Rabbi Dabba Smith

Intermediate/advanced Hebrew

This class involves reading texts and a gentle introduction to Hebrew grammar. Participants have to be prepared to do some regular homework. Monday 10.30-11.30 (but check with Rabbi Middleton).

Service taking – shaliach tzibbur training

Small intensive class to help train those who are interested in actively taking services.

6th June, 18th July, 09:30-10:20 with Rabbi Middleton.

Jewish Culture

Discovering Jewish Music An illustrated talk which will explore the Jewish influence on American 'classical' music, concentrating on G Gershwin, A Copland, L Bernstein, S Reich and P Glass.
Sun 14th June, 15:00 with Michael Marx.

EVENTS



Garden Party & BBQ  **Mosaic**
Choose your Jewish life

Sunday 28th June 1pm onwards

In a member's garden in Pinner

Music and children's activities


£13.50 adults, children under 13 free

Book online at www.choosemosaic.org
or email office@choosemosaic.org or call 020 8864 0133

Saturday 20th June 2015



Another in our
"ELDER STATESMAN" series

Steve Levinson will be
"In conversation" with
Dennis Goodman



Dennis, now over 90 years of age, will tell of his survival and recovery after being shot down in the war, and how in peacetime he rose through the ranks in a public company to build a successful business career.



Immediately following Shabbat service and a light lunch

Tuesday 16th June at 8p.m.

Wines for summer BBQs

A wine tasting event at
39 Bessborough Road
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 3BS

£12.50 - includes all wine, cheese & biscuits + charitable donation.

Places are limited, so please book via the office now or by Friday 29th May at the latest.

All cheques payable to Mosaic Jewish Community Ltd..



Ladies' & Gentlemen's
GOLF DAY
WEDNESDAY 1st JULY



Hartsbourne Country Club
Hartsbourne Avenue, Bushey Heath, WD23 1JW

Come and join us from 8.30 am for tea or coffee with a Danish, 18 holes of golf (pairs better ball Stableford) and a buffet lunch during prize giving.



£65 inclusive
Please register by 31st May with the Mosaic Office
020-8864 0133
or by email to admin@choosemosaic.org



Mosaic

Choose your Jewish life

Sunday 21st June 2015

'Seventy Four years ago tonight...'

**Author Alex Gerlis
in conversation with Steve Levinson**

At 7.30 p.m.

39 Bessborough Road, Harrow, HA1 3BS



Alex Gerlis and his family joined MNS towards the end of the last century and both his daughters were bat mitzvah'd at the synagogue. Alex was a journalist with the BBC (working with Steve Levinson, among others,) for over twenty five years. He left in 2011 to concentrate on his writing.



His first novel, *The Best of Our Spies*, was published in December 2011 and has consistently featured in the Amazon best-seller lists since then.

The Best of Our Spies is a spy thriller set against the true background of the deception operation behind D-Day, with the action taking place in both France and England.

His second novel, *The Swiss Spy*, will be published by Studio 28 at the end of May and is also a spy thriller set against real events in the Second World War. This time the plot revolves around the build up to Operation Barbarossa, the German invasion of the Soviet Union (which took place on 21st June, 1941).

The Swiss Spy is set in Switzerland and Germany. Part of the plot involves the attempted rescue of a Jewish family from Berlin and one of the issues that Alex and Steve hope to explore in the discussion is the dilemma of covering real and sensitive events in fiction. Should a subject like the holocaust, for instance, be taboo in novels?

"I research my material meticulously" says Alex. "I approach a story as if it were a piece of journalism. I will not use the name of a street, or a hotel or a railway station, for example, unless I can be sure it is accurate. I feel that this way the novel can have a truly authentic feel, which is important. But at the same time it can blur the lines between fact and fiction and I'm very aware that this can be controversial."

Alex is now writing his third novel, which will be set in Vienna in 1944/5 and will be a sequel to *The Swiss Spy*.

Discovering Jewish Music

**Sunday 14th June, 15:00
at Bessborough Road**

During the last hundred years the influence of Jewish American musicians on the world of music has been extraordinary, both in the development of contemporary "classical" music, jazz, folk and musical theatre.

In his first illustrated talk (Sunday 14 June), Michael Marx will explore the Jewish influence on American "classical" music, concentrating on George Gershwin, Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, Steve Reich and Philip Glass.

In his second talk (date to follow) he will conduct a trip through Tin Pan Alley and after - Gershwin (again), Jerome Kern, Oscar Hammerstein, Bernstein (again), Sondheim, through to his namesake Jeff Marx, one of the creators of Avenue Q.



FILM MOSAIC

At 8:00pm on Tuesday 23rd June 2015

'THE GOVERNESS'

The Governess is a 1998 British period drama film written and directed by Sandra Goldbacher. The screenplay focuses on a young Jewish woman of Sephardic background, who reinvents herself as a gentle governess when she is forced to find work to support her family.

Starring Tom Wilkison, Minnie Driver and Harriet Walter, this movie is a BBC Co-production.

'The Governess', is commented on often in Nathan Abrams reference book "The New Jew in Film".

(Subtitles available)

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

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

Harrow Friendship Club

Entertainment for the over-60s

June/July

Mondays: 11:00 to 14:30

Tel (on the day): 020 8423 2903

Seated mobility from 11:30

Lunch from 12:00

Entertainment (as below) from 13:30

22nd Ascot Day

29th "The Right Mix" – return visit of duo Barbara and Alan

JUNE

1st Gayathrie and Bill Patrick entertain

8th Return visit of Roy Blass

15th Fiona Harrison presents "The Great American Song Book"

JULY

6th Return visit of popular entertainer Alex Samos

13th Leonie Paige entertains

20th Cards and Games afternoon

27th To be arranged

For further information call Bertha (contact via the Office)

Mosaic Bake-In

Over recent months the smell of home baking has wafted from the Mosaic kitchen. This home baking is enjoyed by all at Kiddushim rather than commercially prepared cakes and biscuits.



These sessions have proved to be a pleasant, productive bonding experience for those who have taken part.

We would like to arrange a baking rota inviting one person to take charge over a bake-in with help from other volunteers ... approx every six weeks. It involves shopping, preparation and a free morning.

This is a request for volunteer bakers to offer a date of your choice in June, July, August, September and onwards.

This will only require one session per year - if we can have enough people to run 6-8 sessions per year.

Please let Joan or Ann know, via the Mosaic office, if you will lead and make up a baking team?



Mosaic first AGM

By Jane Harrison

NEARLY 200 people from the three synagogues turned out to celebrate the first Annual General Meeting of our Mosaic Jewish Community (MJC) on Sunday, 17th May.

Harry Grant, the MJC's first chairman, said: "This has been an exciting year. We have managed to create something quite special and the envy of several other communities who are very curious to know what we have achieved.

"People don't find it easy to accept change, but the concept of what we have achieved here has manifested itself extremely well through the many different activities we have organised together.

"There have been birth pains and at times it has been a challenge. But it has been a trail-blazing exercise. It has been a pleasure to be part of it."

Describing the new community, Phil Austin, chairman of the project steering group and MJC's vice chairman, said: "It's a nice feeling making new friends. Goodwill and respect is very important and we have got something greater than the individual parts."

Members were told a new site is still being actively sought to satisfy all the communities' needs.

All the officers were returned unopposed, save for education director, which will be appointed at a later date. Slices of a first birthday cake – prepared by Evelyn Sheldon – were handed out to all attendees.

The front page picture shows left to right: Neil Mendoza – HEMS chairman, Rabbi Paul Arberman – HEMS Rabbi (with us in spirit), Barbara Grant – Mosaic Reform chairwoman, Harry Grant – Mosaic chairman, Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith – Mosaic Liberal Rabbi, Rabbi Kathleen Middleton – Mosaic Reform Rabbi and Adrian Cohen, Mosaic Liberal chairman.

Mosaic remembers



By Trudy Segal

140 people attended a unique event on 9th May at the Synagogue to celebrate the 70th anniversary of VE Day – the end of the second World War in Europe.

Mosaic Reform held a specially-themed service. The congregation was joined by Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith and members of the newly named Mosaic Liberal Synagogue to hear the reading of poems by veteran Dennis Goodman, who served in the RAF, as well as 6 other community members who lived through the war years: Janet Solomon, Joe Wayne, Paul Zatz, Wolfie Heymann, Michael Barnett and Mary Vulkan.

Thanks were given for Europe's liberation and we remembered those who gave their lives for our freedom. The service ended with a special rendition of Adon Olam, to the tune of "The White Cliffs of Dover" and the cutting of a celebratory cake.

With flags and bunting on display, everyone enjoyed a "street party" lunch and were able to browse a special

exhibition that included letters, photographs, ration books, identity cards, medals (including a 'Croix de Guerre') and a wonderfully preserved gas mask.

The party atmosphere continued with live music and dancing and a robust sing-song.

A strong community spirit underpinned this amazing event. Special thanks must be given to the "decorating team" of Margi Goldman, Anne Steiner, Frankie Green and Esther Aronsfeld; also to everyone who helped by making sandwiches and the wonderful bakers whose cakes, scones, flapjacks and cupcakes ensured that



the tables were groaning with food. Thanks to all who helped set up the exhibition.

None of this would have been possible without the leadership of Jane Prentice, whose enthusiasm and hard work made this a truly memorable Shabbat.

The pictures show variously, preparations under way, the 'street party', dancing to the band, George Vulkan and Sam Walport with his wartime diary (written at age 10), Michael Barnett pointing to himself (age 6) at an actual VE party in 1945, Alan Solomon pointing out his father – special constable Reginald Solomon – to Kevin Ziants, David Lobb and the Heymanns admiring the VE day cake.

Survivor Memory Quilts



By Joan Noble

For the 70th anniversary of the Liberation from the Camps a special project took place to commemorate a unique group of survivors who were liberated in 1945 called 'The Boys'.

They were taken in by the British government and started a new life in Windermere. The Boys were helped to make a success of their lives, learning new skills, making a livelihood and building their families.

I volunteered, along with others, to work on a Memory Quilt which took many months. The experience of designing, capturing and sewing a life story lived over several decades has been extremely challenging. I realised how hard and emotional it has been for people to work on. Both survivors and subsequent generations have invested so much time and thought in this challenge.

Years ago they set up the 45 Aid Society which became their family. The culmination of the Quilt Project was a recent Dinner where these precious colourful quilts were unveiled to an overwhelming response. Of the 600 guests, 52 survivors with their families attended from all corners of the world.

It was my great privilege to be involved with this project and to meet some of the people whose stories were captured in these 28cm squares that made up 4 enormous quilts.

Several years back I worked at the Holocaust Survivor Centre and always felt how special it was to work with Survivors. I valued my relationships, friendships and admired their strength of character, their

“From just one Survivor, whole new generations have emerged”

great personalities and amazing history.

Their clear message was 'we have survived and we have now passed the 'baton' safely into the hands of our children and grandchildren for ongoing commemoration'.

The overriding message was that from just one Survivor whole new generations emerged. This being the ultimate victory – triumph over adversity. This is the essence of Martin Gilbert's book titled 'The Boys' – available in our Synagogue Library.

I loved working on the quilt using both paint and stitch and hope the end result will be a source of inspiration to many future generations to come.

The quilts will be loaned out and hung in museums and exhibitions around the country. A book with a photograph of each square and their particular story is also available.

Board of Deputies Report

By Michael Reik

Main points from Board Defence and International Committee Meetings 27th/28th April

There have recently been a number of anti-semitic demonstrations in the areas of Stamford Hill and Newcastle involving Neo-Nazis. The general feeling is that we should press police to put a stop to speeches that incite violence and which could give rise to anti-semitism. It is noted that a Conservative Councillor in Derby was suspended for making anti-semitic remarks about David Miliband.

A major achievement of the Board of late has been their direct involvement in the cancellation of the Anti-Israel Academic Conference at Southampton University on the grounds of security. A delegation from the Board met with the Vice Chancellor of the University. The Chancellor had originally stated that he had an obligation to defend

free speech and to consider this factor against safety and security. However, some anti-semitic speakers with extreme views had been invited to speak at the conference and they would have demonised Israel and its right to exist. In the end, the cancellation was made on the grounds that a number of Jihadist organisations had proposed to turn up to support the conference, which would have caused considerable trouble.

In the last year, a number of Israeli cultural trips have had to be cancelled because the venues had refused to accept them, as they were threatened by anti-Israeli organisations. The view was expressed that the police should prosecute such organisations.

A positive note has been that at the NUS conference, the UJS raised their profile and no BDS resolutions against Israel were adopted.

The Jewish Manifesto has been considered positively

by many prospective MPs.

The Board also made a positive achievement in stopping Reverend Sizer from making any further anti-semitic comments on the internet under a strict instruction from the Bishop of Guildford.

A recent delegation from the Board's international division to Brussels met up with MEPs from all four main parties and received positive offers to assist in fighting anti-semitism and BDS threats towards Israel.

Considerable concern has been expressed that, in any agreement with Iran on nuclear issues, no account seems to have been taken of the continuing border disputes that Iran continuously creates. We believe that any reduction in sanctions on Iran should only be carried out on a step by step basis.

The outgoing British Ambassador to Israel, Matthew Gould, has proven to have been influential in a massive increase in the amount of trade between Israel and the UK, and it is a fact that the relationship between countries improves immensely when trade is an arbiter. This has also been shown to be the case in relations between Israel and China and India.

Letter to the Editor

The views expressed are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the officers, council or Rabbis of Mosaic or its constituent synagogues.



From Jacqueline Gross

**UNRWA – UNFAIR,
UNHELPFUL,
UNACCOUNTABLE**

In 1947, during a House of Commons debate,

Ernest Bevan, the then Foreign Secretary, said that the problem of Mandate Palestine was irreconcilable: 'The Jews will do all in their power to get a Jewish State and the Arabs will do all in their power to stop the Jews from having a Jewish State.'

I am quoting from a comment made by Dr. Einat Wilf. Dr. Wilf, a former MK, served as Foreign Policy Advisor to Shimon Peres. Her main thesis is that the West maintains that settlement building is the main stumbling block to the advancement of the Israel/Palestine Peace Process, whereas the real and most intractable problem is UNRWA. This organisation continues to push for the 'right of return' of the Palestinian refugees in all its work and continues to promote the fallacy of Palestinian victimhood.

In 1949 two UN refugee organisations were set up. UNHCR which was founded to look after and re-settle ALL the refugees apart from the Palestinians, UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) only for Palestinians. UNRWA was set up at the insistence of the Arab states after Israel's

1948 War of Independence.

All known refugees from the 1950s until the 1970s have been settled by UNHCR except for the Palestinians. In fact, the number of Palestinian refugees has increased – originally 650,000 people, now around 5 million. UNRWA includes on its roster all the descendants of the Arabs who left Palestine/Israel during and soon after the 1948 war. Many were not even long term indigenous Arabs in what became Mandate Palestine. They were relative newcomers, settling in Palestine from Arab countries in the 1910s, 1920s and 1930s as prosperity, economic growth and agriculture increased because of European Jewish immigration.

UNRWA has until recently been unaccountable, even financially, not even to the UN. It employs around 25,000 people, 95% of whom are Palestinian and a few Western employees, who make up the "shop-window". It receives around \$600 million p.a. from its donors, 71% from the West. Arab countries contribute very little.

UNRWA is the greatest obstacle to the Israel/Palestine Peace process. The organisation has never attempted to integrate the Palestinian refugees into Jordan or Lebanon.

UNRWA doesn't want a 2-state solution. Their solution is the 'right of return of all the

refugees', thus negating the Jewish State. It continues to feed the dream of return to the Palestinians; this is of course a "no go" area for Israelis. Western governments don't take this issue seriously, saying that the Palestinians don't really mean the 'right of return'. Yet in a recent poll, 95% of Palestinians say they agree to full 'right of return'. Israelis and Palestinians take this very seriously. The West has forgotten that the issue of refugees is very important to Palestinian identity.

The West ignores this fact. It is not the building of settlements, nor even the status of Jerusalem, that is preventing the progress of peace negotiations; it is the stance by Fatah and more overtly by UNRWA, Hamas and Islamic Jihad promoting return to Israel of some 5-6 million Palestinian refugees.

If this were to happen, it would ensure the destruction of the Jewish State. The West is ignoring this at Israel's peril.

Children's Birthdays

Ryan Specterman (3) Phoebe Stiassny (6)
Layla Stiassny (6) Jacob Rickayzen (12)

Kehila Quiz No. 8 (General Knowledge)

Compiled by Neil
Goodman

- 1 Which Netherlands city is famous for its porcelain?
- 2 What song do they strip to in 'The Full Monty'?
- 3 Who has more ribs, a man or a woman?
- 4 In the world of property, what do the letters HMO stand for?
- 5 How many sides does a Stop sign usually have?

Answers on page 21

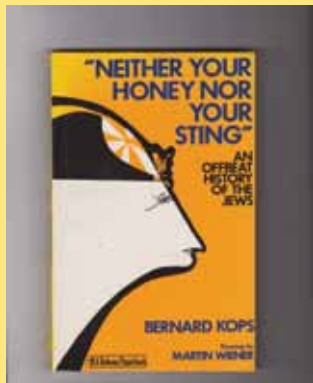
We now have facility to book tickets for any Mosaic events via Paypal. See 'Events' section on www.choosemosaic.org



Do you have time to visit a member of the community and take them out for a coffee, a walk or an occasional hospital appointment? If you have a few hours to spare once a month please let Gay Saunders know. Email her at communitycare@mosaicreform.org.uk or phone her on 020 8864 0133

Book Review

Rosemary Wolfson's review of a book from the Mosaic Library –
Neither your honey nor your sting – an Offbeat History of the Jews by
Bernard Kops. Drawings by Martin Wiener



Bernard Kops, the playwright, usually writes about the traditional Jewish East End of London. Martin Wiener is a renowned American artist.

This work, published in 1985, explains complex situations in a simple and sometimes “humorous” style.

Kops informs us that Jewish history begins with Abraham and his belief in one God. He is followed by his grandson, Jacob. After wrestling with the angel, Jacob is given the name of Israel.

Family stories are omitted, but Kops relates the Jews' struggles with epidemics and periods of famine.

There is little commentary about Moses, but the Golden Calf episode is mentioned, and the giving of the Ten Commandments. These rules he calls: “the first great leap forward for mankind”.

There are brief biographies of David and his son, Solomon. Solomon's building of the Temple in 960 BCE is mentioned; its destruction occurred in 586 BCE. The Jewish leaders were deported to Babylon. In 540, Cyrus invaded Babylon and freed the Jews. Then, he writes: “It is now 538 BCE. The Temple in Jerusalem is rebuilt.”

Herod in 37 BCE is mentioned as being: “a Jewish boy but not so nice.”

We are not told that he renovated the temple, but Kops does say that it was destroyed in 70 CE.

The Jesus story is amusingly, albeit controversially presented.

Around the year 200 CE, Rabbi Yehudah Ha-Nasi compiled and edited the Mishnah, the main body of Jewish law.

A momentous era was that of 711 CE, the Golden Age in Spain. This period includes poets and writers, such as Solomon Ibn Gabirol and Judah Ha-Levi.

He admires Maimonides (1135-1204) who compiled the Mishneh Torah, the code of Jewish Law, which contained the Thirteen Articles of Faith. Maimonides also wrote the Guide for the Perplexed.

The Crusades and the Jews of England are considered, likewise the Spanish Inquisition of 1492. In 1517 in the Holy Land: “The Ottoman Turks are now top dogs”. They welcome the Jews.

Kops includes Spinoza (1632-1677) of Amsterdam.

Although a student of Torah and Talmud, he controversially came to believe that people should think for themselves.

He is informative about the Jews' Aliyah to Palestine from the end of the 19th century onwards and he covers the first Zionist Congress convened by Theodore Herzl.

When the First World War broke out, the Turks maltreated the Palestinian Jews. Kops tells us that Dr Chaim Weizmann managed to persuade the British to allow Jews to immigrate to Palestine, and in 1918, the country became a mandate of the British Government.

There is nothing new in the way Kops describes WW2, but he occasionally does so in a “humorous” manner. He movingly covers the horror of the concentration camps.

Britain handed over responsibility for the mandate of Palestine to the United Nations. In 1948, David Ben Gurion became Prime Minister of the new State of Israel.

Bernard Kops concludes by discussing the dilemmas for both Jews and Arabs in the land of Israel in a fair manner.

The illustrations throughout are delightful and witty—the work of an accomplished cartoonist and artist.

Are you planning a holiday?

If you are going abroad and would like to visit the local Jewish community, why not contact the Mosaic office and ask for the relevant details from the Jewish Year Book. You can find out about communities all over the world and we would be delighted to share this information with you. For Progressive Jewish communities in Europe, details of all those affiliated to the World Union for Progressive Judaism can be found on www.europeanregion.org

KIEV KOPPERS UPDATE

By Rita Asbury

At all meetings of the Mosaic Liberal Rites & Practices committee, those present contribute £1 each to Rabbi Alex's discretionary fund. This money is a lifeline for some members of the Kiev community, helping to provide food and simple necessities for everyday living. This help has been especially crucial during recent months.

During May I was able to send £100 from this fund and this was gratefully received by Alex. So thank you to Mosaic Liberal (HWPS) Council and Rites & Practices members for your contributions. Perhaps other groups which meet regularly could start up a similar scheme.

**Thank you also to all those who continue to contribute their coppers. Every penny is important. As always...
KEEP the KOPPERS KOMING!**

KEHILA QUIZ NO. 8 (GENERAL KNOWLEDGE)

1. Delft; 2. You can leave your hat on; 3. The same! Both have 24; 4. House of Multiple Occupancy; 5. Eight

Jewish Heritage and Cultural Diversity of Marrakech

By John and Annette Ashmele



Lazama synagogue

This journey to Marrakech, Morocco in April, led by Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith offered a unique opportunity for a small group of travellers to explore sites of significant Jewish history and Berber culture. Marrakech is relatively close to London yet

culturally and geographically utterly different. Many Jews migrated to Morocco after the destruction of the First and Second Temples and yet again, when expelled from Spain during the Inquisition. There have been long periods of peace and tolerance, and Sultan Mohammed V refused to implement Nazi demands for persecution. Today, the Jewish population of Marrakech is very small and primarily elderly, with large numbers having emigrated to France or Israel.

On Friday, we went to the Mellah, once the Jewish Quarter, to visit the Lazama Synagogue built on the

site of a structure dating to 1492. We also visited the nearby Jewish cemetery, spice markets, Place Des Ferblantiers, the Bahia Palace and the exquisite Saadian Tombs. After returning to our riad for a brief rest, we celebrated Erev Shabbat at the home of Anne-Marie and Guy Azoulay, parents of Mosaic Liberal Synagogue member Rachel Azoulay.

The following morning, after a short Shabbat service on the roof of the riad, we visited Marrakech's sprawling and maze-like souks and experienced the sights, sounds and smells

of the Jemaa El Fnaa Square. Dinner that night was at a traditional Moroccan restaurant, where the resident belly dancer paid particular attention to Frank!

On Sunday we travelled by minibus for about an hour to the foothills of the High Atlas mountains to visit the Ecomusée Berbère and a nearby Jewish cemetery located in the village of Tafza and overlooking the Ourika Valley. We visited the pilgrimage site where the saintly Rabbi Salomon Bel Hensh was buried five centuries ago before heading back to Marrakech.

Our last day in Marrakech was spent at the extraordinary Majorelle Gardens, where we took refuge among the exotic plants and Moorish architecture painted in brilliant colours, and visited the small, outstanding Berber Museum devoted to the diverse influences on Moroccan culture, including Jewish contributions.

This was our first 'Jewish journey' with Frank, and we can understand why he has a band of regulars. Well done, Frank!

Review of a past event

Sunday 26th April – Mosaic: Walk around Hampstead Village

By John Ashmele,
Walk Leader

Hampstead has always attracted enthusiasm and artists in equal measure, as well as members of the Mosaic community for the last (and possibly, shortest) in a series of five jolly interesting walks in London. The walk took us from the streets which explain Hampstead's origins as a fashionable village, on to the Heath itself.

We set off down Flask Walk; the name holds the key to Hampstead's origins as a fashionable village, where spa water was 'flasked' and sold in Fleet Street for three pence. Proceeding up the rural Well Walk, Well Passage and Well Road, we arrived at New End Square where we glimpsed the Shard rising in the distance. Passing the Village Shul, built on the site of the New End Theatre, we were led back to Heath

Street and the Everyman Cinema, which began its days as a theatre, where the stage was graced by such stars as Edith Evans and Noel Coward (ask your parents!).

We continued along Church Row, once home to H. G. Wells and Gracie Fields, and past the graveyard of St. John's, the final resting place of John Constable and Hugh Gaitskell amongst others. From the top of Mount Vernon, we descended back down to Heath Street, past the Holly Bush Tavern, whose clientele once included Boswell, Dr. Johnson, Marie Lloyd and 'Two-Ton' Tessie O'Shea. Passing Admiral's House (used in the films 'Mary Poppins' and 'Bedknobs and Broomsticks'), we at last reached Whitestone Pond, just four miles from Charing Cross, the start of the first in this series of jolly interesting walks.



The group of travellers

Visit to a small shul in Vienna

By Edwin Lucas

HEMS, Mosaic Reform and Kol Chai joined up for a visit to Vienna. Did you miss the trip? Did you not see it in Kehila? Well, that is because it was a private 3-way tour to Vienna where Mosaic member Fred Stern hails from. His daughters Linda from HEMS and Ruth from Kol Chai accompanied him and Schlepper Lucas from HEMS was allowed to come along as the travel slave. You see Schlepplers can not only schlepp at HEMS, they can schlepp here there and everywhere.

It was Friday and what do Mosaic Reform and Kol Chai do every Friday, but hold services. This was newish to Schlepper Lucas, but together they schlepped to shul. No sitting together and 'yes' the daughters kept their eyes on the family below. No throwing down sweets, no mouthing page numbers and the ladies behaved really well. I knew my way round the siddur, much to everyone's surprise, and the chazzan sang beautifully with a small male choir. I stress 'male' as

no ladies were allowed into the downstairs area. Is this right or not? At least ladies were there and there were 60 attendees, which was lovely to see.

There are 11 shuls for the 10,000 Vienna residents. Now comes the question about friendliness. It is a big thing for me and you will ask who I spoke to. I spoke to a chap from Toronto who was on a tour of shuls in Europe and knew someone I knew of from Glasgow. What a small world.

That reminds me of the Mosaic AGM when I met Lionel Ostwind. His wife came from Glasgow and we had a good chat about refugees and the Jewish game of "Do you know?". He knew of a Lucas family but no relation.

Back to Vienna. I felt at home and was sad to see a young lad come to shul after burying a parent that week. At the end of *Lechow dowdee*, the Rabbi and the wardens went to greet the mourner into shul. It was touching and heart-warming to watch



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from our raised seating. The community made him feel welcome. I was touched to see that traditions are the same in different parts of the world. Next month I shall visit the still-united United Kingdom Welsh capital of Cardiff to see what they do, before heading to Vancouver and San Francisco.

We did not join the community for Shabbat dinner and I missed that, as that is what going abroad and meeting "shul family" is all about.

What customs are there for Friday night? How do other folk prepare their challahs post *braches*? We tear our challah and sprinkle it with salt. Friends of ours pull it apart like a "tug of challah". Please tell me what you do so we know what to expect when we attend another wonderful Mosaic Friday night. I am looking forward to the next one already.

Mosaic moments



VE day celebration organisers



Group picture from the VE day Shabbat event on 9th May



Sam Phillips and the kids at the VE day event



AGM cake, prepared by Evelyn Sheldon



Frank at the Mellah on the Marrakech tour (see page 22)



The old synagogue in Carpentras, taken by Michael Reik on his Jewish Journey in Provence in early May. A full write-up of the tour will be included in the next seasonal Kehila

What's On!

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

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

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

HEMS: Girl Guide Headquarters (GGHQ), Hatch End: Saturday 09:30

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

JUNE

Wednesday	3rd	20:00	Council meetings
Saturday	6 th	09:30	Hebrew with Rabbi Frank
		09:30	Service taking – “Shaliach Tzibbur” training with RKdMM
Sunday	7 th	16:00	HEMS AGM @ GGHQ
Tuesday	9 th	20:00	Mosaic Photography group
Wednesday	10 th	20:00	Wine, Women and a Gazelle – RKdMM (see page 7)
Saturday	13 th	09:30	Parashat haShavuah with Rabbi Middleton
Sunday	14 th		Copy Date for July issue of Kehila
		14:45	Stone-setting – Deborah Berl – Cheshunt
		15:00	Discovering Jewish Music (see page 11)
Tuesday	16 th	20:00	Wine Tasting evening (see page 9)
Wednesday	17 th	12:00	Luncheon Club
Saturday	20 th	11:00	Shabbat Shira
		13:00	‘Elder Statesmen’ – Dennis Goodman (see page 8)
Sunday	21 st	19:30	Author Alex Gerlis in conversation (see page 10)
Tuesday	23 rd	20:00	Film Mosaic ‘The Governess’ (see page 11)
Thursday	25 th		Distribution of July issue of Kehila
Friday	26 th	19:30	Pot Luck supper
Saturday	27 th	09:30	Hebrew with Rabbi Frank
		09:30	Torah Tots
Sunday	28 th	13:00	Mosaic BBQ and Garden party (see page 8)

Every Week

June | July

Monday	11:00	Friendship Club (see page 12)
Monday	20:00	Group 326
Sunday	09:45	HaMakom

Some big, some small,
and everything in Shul.

JULY

Wednesday	1 st	08:00	Mosaic Golf Day at Hartsbourne
		20:00	Council meetings
Saturday	4 th	09:30	Zionist figures with Rabbi Frank
Tuesday	7 th	20:00	Mosaic Photography Group
Wednesday	8 th	20:00	A Guide to the Perplexed (see page 7)
Friday	10 th	19:00	Contemplative Service
Saturday	11 th	09:30	Parashat haShavuah with Rabbi Dabba Smith
Sunday	12 th	15:00	Cameo – Group for the Bereaved
Wednesday	15 th	12:00	Luncheon Club
Saturday	18 th	09:30	Hebrew with Rabbi Frank
		09:30	Service taking “Shaliach Tzibbur” training with RKdMM
		11:00	Shabbat Shira
Friday	24 th	19:30	Pot Luck supper
Saturday	25 th	09:30	Torah Tots

Singing is good for you. Singing in a group is even better, because for those of us who are not born to be soloists, to blend one's voice with others leads to an outcome that is not only musically satisfying, but also builds a community based on shared interest and aspiration.

For Mosaic, as a new community, the idea of creating community in shared song is a way of making that concept a reality. The artistic focus of a new Mosaic Choir will explore music with Jewish connections – which is a broad and deep pool that takes in music from Aaron Copland to Leonard Cohen, from Mendelssohn to Mombach.

You don't have to be able to read music to take part (although it could help), but a willingness to embrace music outside your comfort zone would be useful. And, of course, a good sense of humour.

If you would like to join, please contact the office

*Proposed
Mosaic
Community
Choir*