

Kehila

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

May 2015

Mosaic commemorates 70 years since VE day Street Party - Shabbat, 9th May

See page 9



Check out the new Mosaic website
www.choosemosaic.org

About our members

Children's birthdays are listed on page 29

HWPS

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

George Adams
Louis Chesner
Walter Harwood
Kenneth Herman
Pat Jacobs

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Miriam Capitelli

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Norman Benson
Ron Spiegel
Val Spilfogel
Helena Stone

HEMS

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Johanna Marx, 21
Norman Vinacour, 70
John Levy, 75

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:

Johanna Marx

GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOMES TO:

Gillian & Michael Gurner
Gillian & Mark Hartstone

Mosaic Reform

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Jonathan Barnett
Simon Turner

MAZAL TOV TO:

Zella Milstone on being awarded the Northwood League of Jewish Women's "Volunteer of the Year" for her 45 years of voluntary service.

Laura Nymark on the birth of her grandson, Noah Isaac

Juliet Grainger & Stephen Grainger on the birth of their grandson, Jack Jerome

Viv & Steve Levinson on the birth of their grandson, Joshua Maro

Veronica & Norman Noah on the birth of their twin grandsons, Jonah Jack & Cole Gerry

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Shirley Freeman, 80
Sue Kessler, 70
Evelyn Becker, 85
Elaine Cohen, 95
Lilian Finniston, 96
Hanne Freedman, 91
Neil Hershman, 75
Ruth Jacobs, 85
Nat Levene, 92
Andor Marer, 91
Peter Mendel-Lion, 90

Jane Prentice, 60
Carol Shama, 50
Michael Wallace, 41
Lesley Young, 70
Melville Faber, 90
Phyllis Kline, 70
Trevor Pinkus, 80

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Hilda & Ivor Cohen on their 30th wedding anniversary

Joan & Raymond Woolfson on their 50th wedding anniversary

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Laurence Music
Rose Mikardo
Basil Cohen

GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOME TO:

Marie Stillerman

CONDOLENCES TO:

Mary Sorene on the death of her husband, Ray, & Carryl on the death of her father

Trudy Segal on the death of her mother, Leah Sinkin

Kathy Phillips on the death of her sister, Jacqueline Nia

Doreen Walport on the death of her sister, Helen Speculand

The family of Marion Weihs

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Welcome

We are happy to say that the 'small' A5 format used for the March issue was generally well-received, and we intend to continue Kehila-Monthly in this style. The twice-a-year seasonal magazine will continue to be in the larger (A4) format.

Now is perhaps a good time to state Kehila's objectives. We aim to be a high quality, attractive, easy-read, non-political publication focussing on the community, plus personal and communal events - interlaced with Jewish stories from around the world and other communities.

Wherever possible, articles should be short and snappy (obviously, this does not apply to the Rabbis!) and - at least for the monthly version - should not extend over more than one page. That means approximately 400 words with a picture, or 450 without. We like to have pictures to break up long tracts of words!

We encourage input from the wider membership from all constituent synagogues, not just from our worthy regulars. If you are going to submit an article that we have not specifically requested from you, please give us lots of warning, both so we can reserve space and so we can gauge its appropriateness. As intimated above, we intend to steer away from 'political' articles. Personal opinions, where briefly and temperately expressed, may find a home in what we hope will be a lively letters page.

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

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

Copy date for June issue is 17th May

A Rabbi's Word

By Rabbi Paul Arberman

Shavuot – festival of revelation

Different streams in Jewish life understand revelation in different ways. We all agree that Shavuot is the “festival of revelation” — but what does that mean? The booklet “Emet V’Emunah” put out by the Masorti-Conservative Movement, opens with the words:

“We believe in God. Indeed, Judaism cannot be detached from belief in God. Conservative Judaism affirms its belief in revelation, the uncovering of an external source of truth emanating from God.”

It goes on to explain that “the single greatest event in the history of God’s revelation took place at Sinai, but was not limited to it. . . . Some of us conceive of revelation as the personal encounter between God and human beings”. Among them there are those who believe that this personal

encounter involved God communicating with us in actual words. For them, the commandments of the Torah were themselves issued directly from God.

“Shavuot celebrates the fact that we try to understand Torah — truths in life that are greater than ourselves”

Others, however, believe that revelation consists of an indescribable human encounter with God. The experience of revelation inspires the verbal formulation by human beings of laws and ideas.

Still others among us conceive of revelation as the continuing discovery, through nature and history, of truths about God and the world. These truths —

although they must filter through every generation’s cultural influences — are nevertheless seen as God’s timeless overarching purpose for creation. Proponents of this view tend to see revelation as an ongoing process rather than as a specific event.

Relating to Shavuot is not as easy as Pesach or Yom Kippur. I try to remind myself that no matter how revelation is defined, Shavuot celebrates the fact that we try to understand Torah — truths in life that are greater than ourselves.

And Shavuot celebrates the fact that we were searching for a relationship with God back at Sinai in order to create a better life and a better world. Masorti Jews believe that God either directly interacted, or inspired us, at Sinai, to keep searching in every age.

Chag Sameach.



© Portrait by Italaander – www.italaander.co.uk

HWPS YOM KIPPUR APPEAL

By Alan Solomon

Members of HWPS contributed a total of

£8,005

to last year’s Yom Kippur Appeal, more than for the last six years. This has enabled us to donate £1,500 to each of our five main beneficiaries:

**MIND,
The Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women,
Sarcoma UK,
Friends of EcoPeace Middle East (FoEME),
and the Religious Union for Progressive Jewish Communities in the Ukraine.**

The balance will be held for small donations to other charities during the year.
Our grateful thanks to all those who contributed.

When a parent lives alone of course you do your best to be there as often as you can but when you have a job and family to support this is not always enough to stop your Mum or Dad from feeling desperately lonely.

Is loneliness making your parent despair?

We think we have the answer. Belmont Lodge in Bushey, Hertfordshire, is the perfect place for independent, active, older people. It offers warm and comfortable accommodation with a Jewish ambience, Kosher food and en-suite rooms, plus varied activities and outings, and a chance to make new friends.

Come for a visit and see how we work or perhaps bring your parent in for a week’s respite to see how they like it.

Take this opportunity to make life better for them and for you too.

For more information please contact any of the following:
Nicola Winkler: 01923 826402 nicola_winkler@hotmail.com
House Manager: 59 Belmont Road, Bushey, Herts WD23 2JR or on 01923 213964.
Linda Cohen: 01494 764657.
www.abbeyfield-belmontlodge.com

Abbeyfield

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By Barbara Grant – Chairman, Mosaic Reform



will bring. In fact those of you who know me will know that if I am asked to do something, the answer is usually 'yes, what's the question?'

During the last month, I have had the privilege to be at the Synagogue to hear three Holocaust survivors speak at Mosaic – Freddie Knoller, a survivor of Auschwitz visited us on a Sunday morning in March and enthralled a packed shul hall. His engaging nature motivated a number of HaMakom students to question how he had survived such a traumatic time in the camps and his response and advice to them was very simple and clear – 'You should live life to the full, take every opportunity that comes your way and work hard to realise your full potential'. Some three weeks later, we welcomed Ann and Bob Kirk to our very moving Yom Hashoah evening. After the horror of Kristallnacht in 1938, Ann and Bob were forced to leave their parents at a very young age to travel alone to Britain on the Kindertransport. Despite

living through this tragic period in our history, all three of these amazing survivors still give so much positive energy to ensuring that we never forget the tragedy of the Holocaust. Their zest for life is an example to us all and leaves me personally feeling very humbled.

How lucky we are to be living in the relative safety of post War Europe, enjoying all that is on offer to us in our own Community. Mosaic is a wonderful opportunity for each and every one of us to identify with our Jewish roots and values and be inspired to live life to the full. We can all get involved in some small way with all that is on offer not only in our own, but also the wider community. Kehila is packed with lots of ideas of how each and every one of us can play our part in shaping our Jewish heritage. There really is something for everyone. The television will always be there to entertain you in the corner of the living room, but it is so much more fulfilling to say that you are an active member of a pluralist community.

I am often asked the question 'how do you manage to pack everything in?' How indeed?

I lost my dear mother some 35 years ago at the seemingly young age of 53. Her life was tragically cut short by cancer – it was called 'the big C' in those days. My mother felt unwell one day and six weeks later we buried her.

Some years later (more than I care to mention) I turned 53 and it was at that point that I took on a new mantra in life – Live for today, enjoy every minute, pack in as much as you can as you never know what tomorrow

Harrow Friendship Club

Entertainment for the over-60s

May/June

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

4th May: CLUB CLOSED - BANK HOLIDAY

11th May: Ronnie Goldberg entertains

18th May: Smooth sounds with singer David Peace

25th May CLUB CLOSED - BANK HOLIDAY

1st June: Gayathrie and Bill Patrick entertain

8th June: Return visit of Roy Blass

15th June: Fiona Harrison presents 'The Great American Songbook'

22nd June: Ascot Day

29th June: 'The Right Mix' – return visit of duo Barbara and Alan

For further information call Bertha (contact via the Office)

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Adult Education Programme

Text and Context

Danish and Daven - A Look at the Book of Ruth.
Sat 16th May, 9.30 – 10.20 am with Michael Barnett

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, 8.00 pm 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, 8.00 pm 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, 9.30 am: Menachem Begin
Sat 29th August, 9.30 am : 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, 9.30 am 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.
Generally Monday morning 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.
Sat 23rd May, 6th June, 18th July, 9.30 – 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, 3.00 pm with Michael Marx.

EVENTS



SHABBAT 9TH MAY

HARROW & WEMBLEY
PROGRESSIVE SYNAGOGUE

&

reform
synagogue

**COMMEMORATES
70 YEARS SINCE VE DAY**

With a special "Street Party" Kiddush after the Shabbat Services

There will also be live music and an exhibition
of personal photos and memorabilia
from 1935-1945

(The exhibition will continue for a week after the 9th May)

reform
synagogue

HARROW & WEMBLEY
PROGRESSIVE SYNAGOGUE
Progressive Judaism for North West London

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..

Shavuot at Mosaic

Liberal | Masorti | Reform

Saturday 23rd May 2015

Erev Shavuot services take place at the Hatch End Masorti Synagogue premises utilising not only the Girl Guides Headquarters but also the two adjacent Scout Halls - allowing for 3 individual services. All are located at the rear of the Grimsdyke Road car park (free after 6:30 pm), Grimsdyke Road, Hatch End, HA5 4HP

Order of Events on Saturday 23rd May 2015

- 7.00 pm Individual services for Liberal, Masorti and Reform synagogues
Liberal and Reform in Boy Scouts large and small halls
Masorti in the Girl Guide H.Q.
- 7.50 pm All join for a communal food/drink break (including cheesecake)
in the Girl Guides H.Q.
- 8.20 pm **'The Income Gap in the Text'**
Three approaches to considering a significant and difficult contemporary issue through studying Jewish sources:
1) **Torah text** with Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith
2) **Book of Ruth** with Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton
3) **Talmudic text** with Rabbi Paul Arberman
- 9.00 pm Plenary Discussion Concerning Income/Wealth Inequality with
Respect to Social Cohesion:
How Might the Texts That We Have Just Examined Influence Our Views?

All Mosaic Community Members and Guests are Welcome

Please refer to your synagogue weekly bulletin for the details of the times and location of any further Shavuot Services that have been arranged

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*.

Jewish Child's Day

KIDS 4 KIDS

CLEAR OUT FOR THE KIDS

On Sunday 17th May 2015, from 10.00am-1.30pm Mosaic Jewish Community will open its doors to receive your unwanted but good condition childrens' clothing and stationery.

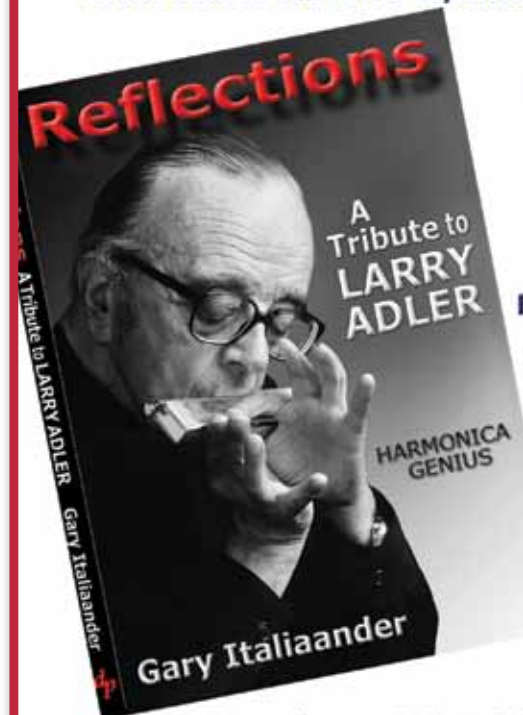
All the goods will be sent to children's homes in Israel, who have specifically asked for our help. Anything and everything will make a difference to the lives of underprivileged and disabled kids.

To find out more information, please contact admin@choosemosaic.org or visit www.jcd.uk.com

Goods 4 Good

All the items we collect need to be transported to a warehouse in Borehamwood during week commencing 17th May. If you think you can help, please contact the Mosaic Office.

"We are fortunate and delighted that Gary is giving freely of his time to share his experiences and entertain us".



An illustrated talk about the unique harmonica performer and raconteur

Larry Adler
by his friend

Gary Italiaander
author of the book that he created in memory of Larry with contributions from many internationally known luminaries



Sunday, 31st May at 3pm
An illustrated talk with live performance
by 'HARMONICA TOO'
followed by tea!

Mosaic Jewish Community 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow HA1 3BS
Advance bookings until 21st May - £5.00
From 22nd May and on the door - £6.50

To book, please ...
tel: 020 8864 0133 or email: admin@choosemosaic.org

"... Larry had agreed to perform at Carnegie Hall with a full orchestra ... I was there in the wings, open mouthed like the rest of the audience." **Sting**

"Larry improvised a version of Summertime with Itzhak Perlman, the poignancy of which will haunt me until the day I die. **Sir Michael Parkinson**



From now until 25th May, 50 giant sculptures of Shaun the Sheep are hitting the streets of London to raise funds for Wallace and Gromit's Children's Charity. As you wander through the capital, you will spot sculptures that have been individually designed by local artists, and see some famous names.

Monday 25th May - afternoon

Walking with Sheeps

After five jolly interesting walks devised by Sir Bernard Miles, Mosaic: Walking with Sheeps [sic] is perhaps a bit more colourful as we will be following Bitzer's Trail (5km) starting at The Shard, along the River Thames, across Tower Bridge and into the heart of the City of London.

Numbers are limited for this Bank Holiday Monday afternoon walk, so please contact John Ashmele or e-mail john@ashmele.co.uk for further information. There is no fee for this walk, but a suggested donation of £5 pp to a Synagogue charity would be appreciated.

Disclaimer: We hope you will enjoy taking part in Walk 39, 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.

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

Discovering Jewish Music

First instalment
Sunday 14 June

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.





SAVE THE DATE

**MOSAIC BBQ
&
GARDEN PARTY**

SUNDAY 28th JUNE

FILM MOSAIC

Tuesday 12th May, 8:00 pm

'Ida'

Poland, 1962. Anna, an orphan brought up by nuns in the convent, is a novice.

She has to see Wanda, her only living relative, before she takes her vows. Wanda tells Anna about her Jewish roots. Both women start a journey not only to find their family's tragic story, but to see who they really are and where they belong. Their journey causes each to question what they used to believe in.

Part of the new wave of extraordinary Polish films, *Ida* was released in 2014, and has won numerous international awards. Made in Polish with English subtitles, this is a movie that you will not want to miss.

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

League of Jewish Women – Pinner Branch

Tuesday May 19th 20:00

Music evening presented by Richard Stanton 'Songs and Sketches that might make you smile'

Thursday June 18th 15:00

Annual afternoon Tea

Contact Myra Wand (via Office) for venue details

KIEV KOPPERS UPDATE

By Rita Asbury

During the last month I was able to add another £100 to the KIEV KOPPER account. This was all collected in small amounts, so many thanks to all of you continue to contribute your coppers. This brings our total since January 2000 to £15,400, a commendable £1000 a year. Let's hope that this money helped towards some Pesach treats.

I can also report that I was able to bank £1500 from our Yom Kippur appeal. Rabbi Alex was really delighted with this contribution as the community can do so much with this amount and it is needed more than ever at the present time.

Thank you to everyone - and as always ...
KEEP the KOPPERS KOMING.

Thoughts following the recent Israeli elections

By Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, Senior Rabbi to the Movement for Reform Judaism



I loved voting in Israel. I loved the feeling that I was impacting on the future of Israel and on the future of the Jewish people. Now I am living in the UK, I

still am preoccupied with the Israeli elections as they matter so much to me and to so many members of our Movement.

Our core values of equality, justice and telling the truth even when it's uncomfortable, guide me in my reaction to the pre-election words of Prime Minister Netanyahu rejecting the possibility of a Palestinian State and questioning the benefit of Israeli Arabs voting. Our Movement is resoundingly committed to equality for all Israelis and the two-state solution. This is not a theoretical political mechanistic option. This means peace, security, dignity and justice for Palestinians and Israelis in separate sovereign states.

It's time for honesty. But, it always has been and it always will be. However you reacted to the results of the Israeli election, I encourage you to tell people your reaction as our community must be a place where a wide spectrum of views can be expressed in safety. People who feel silenced will not feel comfortable to participate in community life.

I know that it is our role as Jews to be

actively involved in society and our task to partner God in being actively engaged in our world. Over the last days, many people, particularly young adults, have expressed their deep disquiet and disappointment at the election results and a desire to disengage with Israel.

“Our inheritance is one of truth, debate and honesty. Our task is to ensure that that happens”

I think that “davka” now is exactly the time to take courage in our hand and to engage. For me, this means supporting what I believe is right and calling out against what I believe is wrong. I think we should do this whether it is about UK society or Israel.

This is our inheritance as Jews, not to switch off, not to disengage, however tempting. Our inheritance is one of truth, debate and honesty. Our task is to ensure that that happens, in friendships, and synagogues, in private and in public.

This is our task, but my prayer is that, after the storm of the election, the moral imperative and reality of governing will temper views expressed and a different, more hopeful, political reality will emerge.

PAST AND PRESENT

By Barbara Wrightman

I spent the weekend of Feb 28/Mar 1st almost entirely in shul. On Shabbos we were entertained by all the young people from RSY; their verve and enthusiasm was a joy to see and hear. Later, after lunch, we were entertained quite differently by Humphrey Phillips in another in the series of “Elder Statesman” interviews. Humphrey related some interesting and enthralling tales about his life and war experiences, ably prompted by Michael Reik.

The next day found me in quite a different setting – again in shul. Like many in our community, my earliest beginnings were within the folds of Orthodox Judaism. In my case this was in East London at the Boundary Road Synagogue, later to be known as Waltham Forest Hebrew Congregation. The area was never a particularly Jewish one but, nevertheless, the shul flourished for 113 years. It boasted large Shabbos morning congregations with overflow services on the High Holydays. Now, in keeping with our community, the local neighbourhood is dwindling and they have taken the courageous and realistic decision to merge with Wanstead and Woodford Shul. A few weeks ago the final Shabbos service took place which I attended and on 1st March a valedictory service was held to say goodbye to the Minister. I met members I had been with in school and at cheder. The highlight of my day was when a middle-aged gentleman approached me and said, “You used to

teach me in cheder!” I was simply amazed that he recognised me and although I didn’t recognise him I certainly remembered his name; he had always been a good pupil and eager to learn which stood him in good stead as he is now a doctor.

It was a poignant occasion, bringing back the memory of attending shul with my dear grandfather from the age of three and many other memories concerning my whole family who were all members.

The building is particularly beautiful and has always been well maintained. Far-sighted management broke away from the United umbrella and we became an entirely independent institution in the 1960s. In 1969 we bought our own burial plot in Cheshunt cemetery.

We always welcomed people from other faiths and for some years we had an interfaith group which met regularly and was far ahead of its time. A Greek Orthodox Priest regularly attended Shabbos morning services for many years. Our claim to fame is that the one-time caretaker’s daughter who used to help with the Shabbos morning Kiddush grew up to be the one-time Attorney General, Baroness Scotland.

The photograph will give you a flavour of the building which started life as a Huguenot Temple and graduated to a Methodist Church and is now likely to be transformed into a Mosque.



Je Suis Juif – Europe and Anti-Semitism

Notes from event in February by Michael Reik

I attended an event held at the Central Synagogue, W1 on 19th February in conjunction with the Henry Jackson Society on the above subject. There were four very impressive speakers

Brendan O’Neill (BO): Editor Spiked

Simone Rodan (SR): Paris Director, AJC

Maajid Nawaz (MN): Chairman Quilliam Foundation and Lib Dem parliamentary candidate Hampstead

Douglas Murray (DM): Associate Director Henry Jackson Society and Political Commentator

BO: Anti-Semitism is worse coming from the Left than Islamophobia. Influential people, not Government, do not condemn anti-Semitism. The Prejudice of the Liberal Elite not to condemn anti-Semitism creates more anti-Semitism. However their condemnation of Islamophobia is a means of expressing their own prejudices.

SR: There has been a 120% increase in violent attacks against Jews this past year in France. Time has been lost as the French Government has not been treating attacks in years past as anti-Semitic. Attacks in France come from the Right and the Left.

MN: Believes that when free speech is attacked we are at the point of no return (reference Charlie Hebdo). He started his talk with a recording of the shooting of the security guard in Copenhagen. He confirmed attacks on Jews are three times higher than on Muslims in the UK, even though there are ten times as many Muslims as Jews.

DM: He believes our community leaders prevent the young Jewish activists from saying things as they are. “First they came for the Cartoonists, and then they came for the Jews”. A primary problem is in not identifying the source when an event occurs. Typical Obama’s comments; “21 Egyptians were killed this week”. NO! 21 Coptic Christians were murdered this week. ‘4 Jews were killed in a random attack at a Supermarket in Paris. NO! 4 Jews were murdered in an anti-Semitic attack at a Supermarket in Paris.

MN: Muslims are very quick to condemn others (typically the response to Eric Pickles’ request to the Muslim Community following the Paris attacks to do more). As stated in the Koran, Muslims should far more self analyse where problems arise.

DM: Jews in France are in pincer movement with Muslims on the Left (on the one side) and the Front National (Marine le Pen) on the Right on the other side.

SR: However the Front National’s present success is by saying things other parties will not.

BO: There is now no line between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism.

DM: The reason ISIS and Al Qaeda are after the Cartoonists is not the cartoons themselves but because they wish to stop the exchange of ideas. Thought process is forbidden by those within Isis.

BO: We should change the law to state no one has the right not to be offended.

Blood, Sweat and Hummus

Volunteering on gap year with Magen David Adom

By Joanna Phillips

When I signed up to volunteer on an ambulance in Israel for two months, I wasn't really sure what to expect.

Now, on my penultimate day of volunteering, I can say that I've had a life-altering experience which has taught me skills I will keep forever and placed me in situations I never thought I'd be in.

For some background: I'm currently living in Israel for nine months on a gap year with BBYO Beyond. For the first four months of my programme I was volunteering in Jaffa and studying at Tel Aviv University. It was there that I learnt to speak Hebrew in Ulpan classes, and my language skills have been highly praised by all of the people on my ambulance. "Your Hebrew has definitely improved," an Israeli young volunteer told me, "because you were awful when you got here." My accent has also been commented on in terms as highly as "broken", "funny" and "= English". Luckily, the majority of my patients only speak Russian, so this is not too much of an issue.

After Tel Aviv, I was given the opportunity to work with Magen David Adom, Israel's national ambulance service, for two months. I readily agreed to this and I am so glad I did. The programme started with an intensive sixty hour training course in Jerusalem. Each day we had ten hours of classes, which is way more than my friends have in their first year of university, and more than some of them



seem to actually attend in a month. Although there was a lot of information to take in, the importance of what we were learning as well as the humour of our instructors made the week bearable and even enjoyable.

After passing my test, I am now a qualified first responder and licensed to work on ambulances alongside medics and paramedics. I moved to Beer Sheva, the biggest city in the Negev desert, to actually begin my volunteering alongside three other international volunteers from my programme. One of my favourite things about Beer Sheva is the diversity of the population here. As Magen David Adom provides medical service to all of Israel's citizens without discrimination, I have truly been able to witness a full spread of people from all walks of life. I have been sent to the homes of Orthodox Jews who have photos of Rabbis on every wall, to large spacious apartments belonging to secular families, to Bedouin families in the Arab town of Rahat and to Ethiopian and Indian Jews whose wedding and Bar Mitzvah photos demonstrate the true diversity of the Jewish religion. I have also been to prison twice to take inmates to hospital in handcuffs and attended to a Thai migrant worker living in a construction site. In addition, I've been to

more houses of elderly Russian people than you would have thought possible. Regardless of race, religion or nationality, all of our patients get the same medical treatment.

I would definitely recommend the Magen David Adom overseas programme to all those aged 18-25 and willing to spend at least two months in Israel. However anyone can help Magen David Adom by donating – and it was HEMS chosen charity in its Yom Kippur appeal.

Magen David Adom receives no government funding and relies on international support to buy all of its ambulances and equipment. I have seen first-hand what an amazing organisation it is and I hope that everyone at Mosaic will give generously to ensure that they can continue the amazing work they do. If you would like to know more about what I've been up to then check out the link from the volunteering section of the Mosaic website: <http://choosemosaic.org/world-beyond/volunteering/>

Notes from Board of Deputies meetings in February and March

By Michael Reik (Mosaic BoD representative)

Following the tragedy in Copenhagen, CST (Community Security Trust) confirmed that all Jewish Communities in the UK have a higher level of protection than at any time in CST's existence. It was reported that a small boy was stopped from waving an Israeli flag at the league cup final at Wembley by a steward on the basis this was a religious symbol. Guidelines are to be provided by CST as to whether flak jackets should be worn by volunteer security personnel at synagogues in light of the increasing incidents in Europe. CST is looking to increase funding from outside sources for synagogues.

The All-Party Parliamentary Enquiry into Anti-Semitism showed a continuing and growing problem in Social Media. Discussion by prominent figures against Jews, Holocaust and Israel are a direct cause of Anti-Semitism, but the UK is leading worldwide in combating Anti-Semitism. There is a new definition on Anti-Semitism: 'any remark, insult or act, the purpose or effect of which is to violate a Jewish person's dignity or create an intimidating, hostile,

degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that person is anti-Semitism'.

A proposal was made that Board members should be educated to have greater understanding of Islam and that leaders of the Muslim Community take a greater stand to fight extremist views.

It was reported that the last three Ancient Jewish Sites (Synagogues) in Southern Iraq, which are currently believed to be under Iranian control, are being converted into Mosques.

The situation in the Ukraine is very fluid and there were worries that the ceasefire will not hold.

Currently there is no communication emerging from the Kremlin.

There was concern regarding Gaza, mainly because the Egyptians have now closed off all entries from their side of the border. It is believed that Gaza is re-arming for a further war with Israel, including rebuilding their tunnels. Hezbollah is understood to have a stockpile of weapons but no interest in a war at this time because they are fighting off IS, and thereby effectively preventing any advance by IS into Israel.

Review of past events



PURIM at Mosaic

By Jane Harrison

Purim takes on a bitter sweet note when you realise part of the play was performed in the Terezin/Theresienstadt during the Shoah.

Not only were we taken back there by Dr Lisa Peschel, who wrote *Performing Captivity, Performing Escape: Cabarets and Plays from the Terezin ghetto*, but members from the Mosaic community took on the roles during our Purim celebrations at Bessborough Road last month.

It was a poignant reminder that humour can reign and uplift fellow Jews in the depths of despair.

Lisa, a non-Jew and Lecturer of Theatre at the University of York, said she first became interested in the Terezin ghetto when she went to the Jewish Quarter in the Czech Republic and saw an exhibition of the children's drawings. Those incredible works of art 'stayed in the back of my mind for five years' and eventually prompted her to write a play about the cultural life of the ghetto.

She said: "Most survivors, who were teenagers or young people at the time, remembered the cultural life as a time of incredible richness as well as fear and uncertainty, but also the solidarity of putting on a play. I was on the edge of my seat, reliving their experiences; the capacity for pleasure in such a terrible situation.

They said "the Nazis can control what happens to our bodies, but not what happens to our minds."

She said while the Nazis controlled most of their lives, they ignored their theatrical outpourings because they simply didn't care. She said: "They didn't think they would get out alive."

Terezin was a transit camp, from where most Jews were sent to Auschwitz, and was famously visited by the Red Cross to dispel the rumours of death camps. The Nazis spent six months making the ghetto respectable for their visit and even produced a propaganda film to back up their lies.

On a lighter note services were held by all three shuls with the traditional readings of Megillat Esther and an updated version of the Purim play was performed by Mosaic Reform amid much mirth and cross-dressing.

A superb array of food was presented by Jane Prentice and her many helpers from the community committee and from all three synagogues.

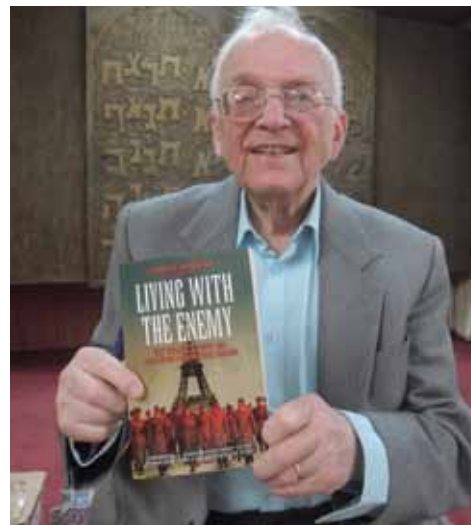
Freddie Knoller at HaMakom

By Barbara Grant

Over 100 people joined the senior students of Mosaic HaMakom on 8th March, to listen to Freddie Knoller tell his story of surviving Auschwitz and the Holocaust.

Freddie left Vienna in his mid teens and made his way through Europe into France where he obtained false papers and joined the Resistance, posing as a French National. His jilted local girlfriend then uncovered his identity and he was sent to Auschwitz and subsequently Bergen Belsen.

Freddie, an articulate and capable speaker at the age of 94 enthralled the audience with his extraordinary story of survival and optimism. When asked by one of the youngsters how he managed to survive in the face of such adversity, he told them of their need to seize every opportunity which life throws at them and always be optimistic and positive about everything that they do.



Reaction to the Freddie Knoller event

By Sam Phillips (age 14):

Freddie Knoller told of his experiences during the Shoah. It gave me a completely new insight into this horrible and tragic event. You can read as many history books as you like, none compare to hearing the real story from the perspective of a survivor. His positive outlook on life despite what he lived through has made me realise what "inspirational" really means.

Pesach Biscuit Marathon

By Judy Silverton

Judy Silverton lead a team of helpers from all three communities at a Pesach 'biscuit bake in' at the Bessborough Road kitchen on 1st April. Between them, they baked about 180 almond macaroons, 160 cinnamon balls, 150 coconut pyramids and 60 chocolate hazelnut cookies! They used 5.5 kilos of ground almonds, 1 kilos of ground hazelnuts, 2 kilos of coconut, 1 kilo of chocolate chips, 5 dozen eggs, 5 lbs of sugar and quite a lot of elbow grease. The results were used for the communal seder and the two kiddushim during Pesach.

Thanks to Sue Shupak, Jeanette Leibling, Evelyn Sheldon, Michael Barnett, Linda Lucas and her mother-in-law, Sheila Garfield, Pat Zatz and Karen Pollak.

Review of past events (continued)

Communal Seder



1. Emma, Victoria, Alexander and Rabbi Kathleen singing Ma Nishtana

2. Hana Schlesinger, 'organiser in chief'

3. Wolfie and Marie Heymann with Rabbi Kathleen. Wolfie has just celebrated his 90th birthday.

4. Feo Kahn, aged 105, and her son Stephen (over 70!)

5. Overall scene

Photographs by FDS

Chollah Bake for Red Nose Day

By Jane Prentice

Twelve women (and one brave man) rose to the occasion to bake chollahs for Red Nose day.

The chollah bake, on March 13th was organised by Mosaic Reform member Jonelle Roback and run by nursery nurse and Emunah fund-raiser Francine Wunsh.

Francine's fund-raising includes raising £500 to bring disadvantaged Israeli children to the UK where they enjoyed a performance of the Lion King.

Having started Slimming World in Edgware with her husband, she started baking chollah rolls, as it was one of the bread allowances, and went on to run a number of charity bakes. She said: "I now do a lot of chollah bakes for charity, which I enjoy and everyone else seems to as well."

Jonelle said: "I went to one of Francine's charity chollah bakes and thought it would be a wonderful idea to hold one at Mosaic Reform for Red Nose day."



1. Learning to plait the dough

2. Ready for erev Shabbat

3. The proud team plus their Challot, ready to bake

Civic Service at Mosaic Reform (14th March)



Left to right: Honorary Alderman Keith Toms, The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor Ajay Maru, Rabbi Kathleen and Barbara Grant

Review of past events (continued)

Mosaic Reform marks Yom HaShoah

By Jane Harrison

We might think we know all about the Kindertransport but it's not quite the same when you are faced with two people who were actually there.

With poignancy and wry humour Bob and Ann Kirk told their incredible story of how they came to this country from Germany on the Kindertransport, Ann to stay with two sisters known through a family friend and Bob to someone he only ever knew as Mr Smith before he was passed from pillar to post.

Neither saw their parents again, but many years later learned they had both perished in concentration camps.

Can we truly imagine what it must have been like to say goodbye to our children, knowing there was a slim chance of ever seeing them again? I know I can't.

Ann was sent to a boarding school because the sisters wanted her to learn English, but she hated it as the children labelled her a Nazi

when they discovered she was German. After staying with Mr. Smith Bob was sent on to a hostel but he said he was always well treated.

Many weren't, ending up with people who treated them as skivvies or with non-Jews, who never told them they were Jewish. Some were even brought up as Christians.

Ann said: "So many parents didn't know who their children were going to and neither did the children." She expected England to be beautiful, but found it rather "dirty" when she arrived at Southampton at the age of ten.

Bob met Ann at a club for young Jewish refugees run by Woburn House, and they were married on May 21, 1950. They both speak at various events throughout the year to raise awareness of the Kindertransport.

A special service, led by Rabbi Kathleen, was held at Mosaic Reform on April 16, with readings and poetry from members of the community. Memorial candles were also lit by the community to remember the six million who died during the Holocaust.



We are looking for a bank of willing volunteers to help, on an ad hoc basis, with preparing food for Mosaic events. This includes preparation both in advance and on the day.

Please contact Barbara Grant via the Office



Mosaic moments

HaMakom Mock Seder

Photographs by Miriam Smith



New baby Hoffman

Baby Benjamin Hoffman, born on Purim, with proud parents Gideon and Rozina and grandparents Rosemary and Maurice.

HaMakom

HaMakom's new Assistant Teachers receiving their certificates.

HaMakom new Assistant Teachers Harry Garland, Phoebe Decker and Elana Solomon receiving their certificates from Yael Shotts (LJ) and Rabbi Debbie Young-Summers (MRJ), having completed the Jewish studies GCSE course or Kabbalat Torah and a teacher training course.



Letters to the Editor

From Trudy Segal

Thanks for support after her mother's death

I would like to express my gratitude for the support shown to my sister and I following the death of our beloved mother, Leah.

We thank everyone who attended the funeral/shiva prayers and came to visit. We also appreciate the many messages of condolence we received.

Special thanks to Rabbi Kathleen for her comforting words at the shiva.

From Maxine Segalov

Netball on Monday evening at JFS

Joanna and I have been playing netball with Pinups (originally a Pinner shul group but now with members from other shuls) for nearly 25 years!

We range in age from early 40's to mid 60's and would very much like to recruit a few new members.

We play on Monday evenings at 8 to 9pm at JFS. Enthusiasm is as important as skill! It costs around £10 per month.

If anybody is interested they should contact our coach Sharon Freeman - Sharon.freeman@live.com

From Humphrey Phillips

On his mention in the Pesach edition

I always look forward to receiving Kehila – the Pesach edition is quite amazingly entertaining. But when I reached page 39, I was startled to read my name in large type under the photo of an old guy I recognised. No, not Michael – the chap on his left!

Still in shock, I was very surprised to see that the article was by my lovely neighbours of yesteryear – Antonia and Howard Berger. I was delighted to see them in the audience and do appreciate their kind words and am so pleased the ancient Black & Decker still keeps the edge on the hedge.

And with apologies for that liberty Mr. Pinkus, my thanks too for being so generous with precious space.

From Gina Greenglass

Appreciation of the Chollah Bake-In

Please thank everyone concerned with arranging the Cholla Bake for Comic Relief. It was such fun and I appear to have made two absolutely delicious cholla - the first time I have ever baked bread.

I had such a lovely time. Many thanks to all concerned.

From Gidon Bromberg – director of EcoPeace Middle East

Reaction to Israeli election results

We take this opportunity to share with you all our personal feelings, this difficult morning, post Israeli elections. There is no doubt that as an organization we wake up to many more challenges in our work at EcoPeace Middle East.

We cannot predict what the future will bring, but in the short term it looks like the road ahead for us as an organization will be even more difficult tomorrow than yesterday.

As an organization we remain committed to work through this difficult period. We will reassess our strategies, be even more creative in our thinking and yes at times act with even more caution and care. To succeed though, more than ever, we will need your support.

History teaches us that fear feeds on fear that breeds even more fear. Our task remains clear - to break that cycle of fear, one child, one adult, one community, one crossborder basin at a time, with a vision that only as equals showing mutual respect for each other and the environment we share, can we obtain the better future that we all claim to desire.

We are holding our heads high, proud of our so many successes and certain as to our objective.

Thank you for your continued support.

Thoughts from Edwin Lucas - an awake HEMS Member



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

Shechyonu

Weekday services are never easy to generate a minyan and HEMS was delighted that we had a great attendance on the Friday of Pesach. Three congregants could also say shehechyonus as they performed mitzvahs for the first time – not only in this year but ever. Well done, Frances, Marilyn and Neil and may this be the first of many.

Well done Mosaicers

Those who attended Pinner Shul Yom Hashoah will have been party to a wonderful, gripping story about the Holocaust. It was marvellous to see the

youth there and HEMS youth was represented by Lili and Maise Balkin. There were other Mosaic members there and it really showed a joined-up approach of cohesion, which is what Mosaic is all about. Long live Mosaic and working together for the “Brave New World” of Mosaic.

An idea and a question

Mosaic is a big community and we have had many lovely gatherings and functions. We need to ensure that we all integrate well together like a recipe of tastiness. How can we ensure that this is done easily at gatherings? Should we bow like the Japanese and introduce ourselves or have simcha style handshaking and kissing lines, or should we have name badges in big letters so we can glance at a name without peering at that part of the anatomy, that a badge is affixed to?

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:

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

May

Saturday	2nd	09:30	Parashat haShavuah with Rabbi Frank
Sunday	3rd	15:00	Tea in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer
Wednesday	6th	20:00	HWPS AGM
		20:00	Council meetings
Thursday	7th		Lag b'Omer
Saturday	9th	12:30	VE Day Shabbat 'street party' (see page 9)
Sunday	10th	11:00	Bereavement Group recruitment
		14:45	Stone setting - Philip Daniels - Cheshunt
Tuesday	12th	20:00	Film Mosaic - 'Ida' (see page 16)
Friday	15th	19:00	Kabbalat Shabbat service: a contemplative approach
Saturday	16th	09:30	Danish and Daven (Book of Ruth with Michael Barnett)
		10:45	Shabbat Shira
Sunday	17th	10:00	Kids4Kids clothing collection (see page 12)
		16:30	Mosaic Community Annual General Meeting
			Copy date for June issue of Kehila
Tuesday	19th	20:00	Mosaic Photography group
Wednesday	20th	12:30	Luncheon Club
		20:00	Book Group ('City Shadows')
Saturday	23rd	09:30	Service taking - "Shaliach Tzibbur" training with RKdMM
		19:00	Tikkun Leyl Shavuot (see page 10)
Sunday	24th		Shavuot services
Thursday	28th		Distribution of June edition of Kehila
Friday	29th	19:30	Pot Luck supper
Saturday	30th	09:30	Torah Tots
Sunday	31st	15:00	Tea and Talk on Larry Adler (see page 13)

Every Week

May | June

Monday	11:00	Friendship Club (see page 7)
Monday	20:00	Group 326
Sunday	09:45	HaMakom

JUNE

Wednesday	3rd	20:00	Council meetings
Saturday	6th	09:30	Hebrew with Rabbi Frank
		09:30	Service taking "Shaliach Tzibbur" training with RKdMM
Sunday	7th	16:00	HEMS AGM
Tuesday	9th	20:00	Mosaic Photography group
Wednesday	10th	20:00	Wine, Women and a Gazelle (RKdMM)
Saturday	13th	09:30	Parashat haShavuah with Rabbi Middleton
Sunday	14th		Copy Date for July issue of Kehila
		14:45	Stone-setting - Deborah Berl - Cheshunt
		15:00	Discovering Jewish Music (see page 15)
Tuesday	16th	20:00	Wine Tasting evening (see page 9)

Some big, some small, and everything in Shul.

Wednesday	17th	12:00	Luncheon Club
Saturday	20th	11:00	Shabbat Shira
		13:00	'Elder Statesmen' - Dennis Goodman (see page 14)
Sunday	21st	19:30	Author Alex Gerlis in conversation (see page 11)
Thursday	25th		Distribution of July issue of Kehila
Friday	26th	19:30	Pot Luck supper
Saturday	27th	09:30	Hebrew with Rabbi Frank
		09:30	Torah Tots
Sunday	28th	14:00	Mosaic BBQ and Garden party

JULY

Wednesday	1st	08:00	Mosaic Golf Day at Hartsbourne
		20:00	Council meetings

Kehila Quiz No. 7 (Geography)

Compiled by Neil Goodman

- 1 Upolu and Sava'i are the largest of the islands that make up which nation?
- 2 The Sierra Madre is a range of hills in which country?
- 3 What is the administrative capital of South Africa?
- 4 Where would you find the Beaufort Sea, Franz Josef Land and the Fram Basin?
- 5 Which European country shares its border with the most neighbours (6)?

Answers to the right



KEHILA QUIZ NO. 7 (GEOGRAPHY)
 1. Samoa 2. Mexico (also Philippines)
 3. Pretoria 4. Arctic Ocean 5. Germany