

Kehila is brought to you by:



Kehila

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

October 2015



Mosaic Choose **SHABBAT**



Mosaic Challah Bake
Wednesday 21st October



Mosaic Erev Shabbat
Friday 23rd October
Coming to a home near you!



Mosaic Shabbat
Saturday 24th October
3 services : joint lunch : afternoon activities

All members of Mosaic are invited to participate in Mosaic Shabbat. We would also very much like to welcome non-members to join us for this special day.

Please apply by 15th October for all the above activities on the application form or via our website - www.choosemosaic.org



About our members

Children's birthdays are listed on page 14

Mosaic Reform

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Toria Landau
Chaim Bacon

MAZAL TOV TO

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

Diana Safir on the marriage of her son, Jonathan, to Abigail.

Toria Landau & Chaim Bacon on their recent marriage.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Lew Leaderman, 91
Victor Sinclair, 94
Aubrey Scott, 85
Sara Leigh, 95
Marion Bloom, 92

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Rita & Brian Beach on their 55th wedding anniversary
Michele & Roger Hart on their 50th wedding anniversary
Leila & Stanley Webber on their 60th wedding anniversary

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Sue Kessler

CONDOLENCES TO:

Claude Landes on the death of his wife, Margot, and Woolf Heymann on the death of his sister

The family of Harvey Rose
Sue Shupak on the death of her mother, Joan Berman

The family of Shirley Glass
Lawrence Frost on the death of his sister, Shirley Leighton
Ken Edward on the death of his brother, Geoffrey
Rosalie Tobe on the death of her daughter, Andrea (Andi)
Hilda Tichauer on the death of her sister, Eva Weill

HEMS

MAZAL TOV TO:

Sue & Neil Mendoza, on Neil's son Richard's recent marriage to Maguelonne ('Mag') de Brugiere.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Colin Berkovitch, 80
Sass Ezekiel, 60
Simon Glass, 60
Gill Ross, 60

Mosaic Liberal

MAZAL TOV TO:

Daniel Benson on gaining a place at Clare College, Cambridge, to read Economics.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Irene Klein

CONDOLENCES TO:

Bernard Spilfogel and family on the death of his wife Valerie Spilfogel

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Copy date for November issue is 18th October

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

Alan Solomon writes:

Sincere condolences to Bernard and Sam Spilfogel on the death of Val, a beloved wife and mother. Val was an exceptional person who worked tirelessly for WIZO over many years through three separate groups (one of which she founded), was awarded the Rebecca Sieff Long Service Award, raised large amounts of money for Israel, and was very involved with our Luncheon Club. She was an inspiration to many, and her deeply caring nature and great warmth will be sorely missed.

Refugees Are Welcome: Ways to help

Rabbi Kathleen writes: In response to the Migrant Crisis, the community will be most effective if members choose to join one (or more) of the existing projects mentioned below, provided by Tzelem. However, if any members wish to set up a specific relief project in the synagogue, their initiative would be welcome and supported as far as possible.

Tzelem: The Rabbinic Call for Social and Economic Justice in the UK is a cross-communal campaigning organisation on matters of social and economic justice in the UK.

It is founded on the Jewish principle that we are all created b'tzelem Elohim - in the image of God, believing that every person is equally significant before the divine, all human beings are equal, all human beings are unique and, most importantly, all human beings are of infinite value. Tzelem uses Jewish teachings to integrate Judaism into matters of social and economic justice.



The Rabbinic Call for Social and Economic Justice in the UK

This document is an attempt to assemble information about the various ways you can help the Refugee Crisis. The list is obviously not exhaustive.

World Jewish Relief has just launched an appeal to help those near to the country of origin.

Tzelem has compiled various Jewish texts and sources on these issues. Please email tzelem.uk@gmail.com if you require a copy.

A very helpful article in The Guardian (Sept 2nd) outlines ways to help - donating money or items, volunteering and protesting. The Independent (11th Sept) also has an article outlining five ways you can help refugees find safety in Europe.

Taking Action : Important Websites

Refugee Action: www.refugee-action.org.uk

The Separated Child website: www.separatedchild.org.

Calaid is active in Calais: www.calaid.co.uk. They are also on Facebook and twitter.

Jewish Council for Racial Equality: www.jcore.org.uk

World Jewish Relief: www.worldjewishrelief.org/

The Association of Jewish Refugees www.ajr.org.uk/

You may want to read Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg's piece in The Guardian (2nd Sept) and Rabbi Sacks' response (Guardian 4th Sept) also Rabbi Danny Rich's statement in Liberal Judaism news (11th Sept).

EVENTS



Berakah Concert Sunday 22nd November

Guitarist and Composer Mohammed Nazam founded the new World/Jazz/Classical ensemble BERAKAH in summer 2005. Bringing together musicians of Jewish, Christian and Muslim heritage, Berakah is the first UK band of its kind. Featuring virtuoso musicians such as Nazam,

classical violinist Serena Leader, the soulful vocals of Chantelle Duncan and TV/film composer Mark Hinton Stewart, Berakah brings audiences together through music, challenging cultural stereotypes, raising awareness, creating understanding and building bridges. Now a charity, The Berakah Project uses music to bring together people from different faith communities and cultural heritage thereby truly creating harmony in more ways than one.

Details of how to purchase your tickets will be in the next edition of "Kehila".

John Benjamin (of "Antiques Roadshow" fame)
Will be talking about
"Faberge - The life and work of the world's greatest goldsmith"
On Sunday 1st November at 8.00 pm



John Benjamin is an independent jewellery consultant specialising in the identification, history and valuation of diamonds and fine gems. An established international speaker on the subject, he is the author of "Starting To Collect Antique Jewellery" and is best known for his regular appearances on BBC Television's ever-popular *Antiques Roadshow*.

This talk will be followed by a glass of wine and finger food.

Tickets @ £12.50 per person are available from the office or www.choosemosaic.org/events

Harrow Friendship Club

Entertainment for the over-60s

October/November

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

OCTOBER

5th CLUB CLOSED – HIGH HOLY DAYS

12th Return visit of singer Bill Smith

19th Vocalist Stephen Dunnett

26th 'Harry's choice'

NOVEMBER

2nd Leonie Paige entertains

9th Return visit of Roy Blass

16th HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB – Alex Samos entertains

23rd Fiona Harrison 'In Cabaret'

30th 'The Right Mix' entertainers Barbara and Alan

For further information call Bertha (contact via the Office)

FILM MOSAIC

At 8:00pm on Tuesday 20th October 2015

"A Matter of Size"

A group of fat people from the Israeli city of Ramla is fed up with the sanctity of diets and the 'Dictatorship of the Thinness' of the diet workshop they participate in. They leave it and discover the world of sumo, where fat people like them are honoured and appreciated. Through sumo they are connecting to themselves and to their fat body, each one in their own way.

This 2009 film is an Israeli, French & German co-production. Sit back and enjoy this very warm, humorous and sensitive movie.

(In Hebrew with English subtitles)

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

Getting older and managing the challenges



Wednesday 18th November
19:30-21:45

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

There will be presentations and a panel discussion. Topics to be discussed will include:

- Dementia; what it is, how to recognize it and current treatment
- How to decide whether to stay at home or move into residential care
- Powers of Attorney.
- Stalls to include: Jewish Care, Harrow Age UK and Right at Home

Everyone welcome

Refreshments will be available from 19:00

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

Together on a Thursday

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

09:45-11:15

Coffee and Chat for mums, dads and grandparents and their pre school aged children

11:30-12:30

Movement to Music gentle exercise to keep you fit – suitable for all ages

14:00-15:30

Singalong for people with memory problems and their partners or carers.

If you would like to come along to any of these activities please contact
Gay Saunders | 020 8864 0133 | communitycare@mosaicreform.org

Board of Deputies Report

By Michael Reik,
Mosaic Reform BoD representative)

Reports of Divisional Meetings on 9th September

Defense Division

Marie Van de Zyl, Divisional Chairman had invited two members of the Charedi Community to sit as observers. Jonathan Arkush President came in briefly before going to meet with Benjamin Netanyahu. The Election for Vice Chair then took place and Richard Benson, Deputy – who previously had been chief executive of CST – was selected.

A presentation was made by the chair of the Jewish Students Union. He advised that, at the NUS Conference, there has been an increase in electing the 'hard left'. There were strong Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaigns taking place at Universities, in particular in Liverpool. There was general concern that, if Jeremy Corbyn were

“ In the first six months of the year there were 473 reported anti-Semitic Incidents. This was up by nearly 50% on the year before ”

to be elected as leader of the Labour Party, we can expect further increase of BDS at British Universities.

At the demonstration outside 10 Downing Street on 9th September, there were about 800 pro Palestinian demonstrators protesting at the visit of Benjamin Netanyahu.

There was recently an attack on four Jewish boys in Manchester where one of the boys nearly lost his life. This was a direct anti-Semitic attack.

In the first six months of the year there were 473 reported anti-Semitic Incidents. This was up by nearly 50% on

the year before. A CST representative reported that this is an increase in reported incidents as there have been a number of major events which have caused the public to come forward.

International Division

The new International Division Vice President explained his proposed programme for working parties and responsibilities through the year. He said the Board had invited all communities to a meeting the following day (10th September) to discuss the way forward for the Arab Refugee crisis in the UK.

Adult Education Programme

Autumn 2015



Jewish Culture

Text &
Context

Hebrew

Festival
Study

Shaliach Tzibbur Training

"Skeptic" Sessions: Our traditions & acute episodes of doubt?

Sat 17th Oct & 12th Dec, 9.30 am, led by Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith

Parashat ha'Shavuah: Pre-service shiur on Torah reading.

Saturday 24th October on Parashat *Lech- Lecha*.

Saturday 5th December on Parashat *Vayeshev*.

- 9.30 am, led by Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith

Danish & Daven: Little bites of Biblical scenes with a Danish.

Reading narrative from a literary perspective introducing themes of parental love, fraternal jealousy and deception.

- Sat 14th Nov, 9.15 am, led by Linda Holman

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 7th Nov, 9.30 am, led by Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith

Mosaic Shabbat 24th Oct - Study Programme

Morning:

Parashat *Lech-Lecha*

- 9.30 am, led by Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith

Afternoon:

- "3 Communities = 1 Mosaic". A session with our three Rabbis
- Beyond Mosaic - An informed look at Human Rights today and how we can help.
- Mosaic Meditation - pamper your soul - a practical approach to Jewish meditation.

Discovering Jewish Music

"White Christmas" and other Jewish tunes - exploring the Jewish contribution to musical theatre and Tin Pan Alley.

- Sun, 20th Dec, 3 pm, led by Michael Marx

Review of past events



Another elder statesman – and stateswoman

By Alan Solomon

The latest in the series of interviews with Elder Statesmen of the Mosaic community featured Michael Reik talking to two members of Mosaic Liberal – George Vulkan and Ursula Warner, following the Shabbat services and kiddush/light lunch on 5th September.

Ursula was born in Berlin in 1923 so was a teenager in the period leading up to the war. She talked of walking around Berlin with a friend speaking in French so that people would not realise she was Jewish. She of course remembered Kristallnacht in November 1938, and immediately afterwards was sent to England on the first Kindertransport train; the intention was that the rest of the family would follow, but they could not obtain the necessary visas. Ursula regarded her arrival here as a great adventure. She lived and went to school in Birmingham, and then met her future husband, Heinz (later Henry), when she asked this boy in the street to help close a

window at the house where she was staying! Ursula told us of her marriage, permission for which had to be obtained from the Court, at Singers Hill Synagogue in Birmingham, their life in Rugby and involvement with the Leicester Progressive Congregation, her teaching of German, their move to Wembley and joining what was then known as the Wembley Liberal Synagogue, and much later her visit to Clarence House to be received by the Prince of Wales with 25 other Kindertransport 'children' and having to pay £20 for a lunch which never materialised! But she did hear Prince Charles say that his own nanny had also been on the Kindertransport.

George Vulkan, described by Ursula as a youngster having been born in 1929, had a comfortable childhood in Vienna; he initially attended a state school but had to move to a Jewish school after the Anschluss, and told us that he was attacked by the Hitler Jugend each day on his way home. George told how he had to listen to the Austrian Chancellor in March 1938 declaring the end of Austrian independence, clearly a traumatic moment. His school was closed down shortly afterwards, and in September 1938 he and his parents left for Paris. His uncle managed to get to Paris later, but unfortunately returned to Vienna to bring out his wife and mother-in-law and never returned. The family moved to London in February 1939, and on the outbreak of war lived in one room in Swiss Cottage. George's father worked in a timber factory, and two of his uncles actually fought in the British Army.

He met Mary on a CND march at Aldermaston, and they married in 1967. Having graduated as a physicist and after working in the Research Departments of London Transport and the National Coal Board, George's main career was in the Scientific Branch of the Greater London Council. He later specialised in noise and

air pollution, and ended up heading the Environmental Services Division. He has been interested in Israel since 1947, and still gives talks to schools through the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Ursula and George also told us of their families and their involvement with Harrow & Wembley Progressive Synagogue (as was) over many years. It was fascinating to hear their stories and their clear recollections of both the sad and humorous events in their lives.

Mosaic: Walk in Literary Bloomsbury

By John Ashmele

The second part of the Mosaic Walk in Literary Bloomsbury led us from Holborn underground station to the first stop, Red Lion Square. Here a plaque commemorated John Harrison, the inventor of the marine chronometer and the subject of Dava Sobel's delightful book, *Longitude*. "Time is to clock as mind is to brain. The clock or watch somehow contains the time. And yet time refuses to be bottled up like a genie stuffed in a lamp."

Through Red Lion Square, along Lamb's Conduit Passage and crossing Theobalds Road, we passed into Northington Street (see photograph), and the one-time home of Dorothy L. Sayers. In her novel, *Have His Carcase*, Lord Peter Wimsey said: "I always



have a quotation for everything – it saves original thinking."

From Northington Street, a short walk took us to the Church of St. George the Martyr in Queen's Square, where Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath were married, and to 18 Rugby Street, where they spent their wedding night, described by Sylvia Plath as 'a slum'. Nearby, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children was bequeathed the royalties of *Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie, and was mentioned (albeit not by name) in Charles Dickens' *Our Mutual Friend*... "a place where there are none but children; a place set up on purpose for sick children; where the good doctors and nurses pass their lives with children, talk to none but children, comfort and cure none but children."

Crossing Southampton Road and Bloomsbury Square Gardens, Great Russell Street led us towards the British Museum, formerly the home of the British Library. Here studied and worked the likes of Shaw, Hardy, Browning, Kipling and Karl Marx, who wrote in 1868: "Everyone who knows anything of history also knows that great social revolutions are impossible without the feminine ferment. Social progress may be measured precisely by the social position of the fair sex (plain ones included)."

Further along Great Russell Street, we stopped by the sites of the Poetry Bookshop and the antiquarian bookshop, Jarndyce, a name taken from Dickens' *Bleak House*. Turning into Museum Street and past the Atlantis Bookshop, which specialises in the occult, we came upon St. Georges Church in Bloomsbury Way, where Anthony Trollope was baptised. The last stop on this literary walk was Pushkin House, a Russian cultural centre, named after Alexander Pushkin, who is generally accepted as the greatest Russian poet and the founder of modern Russian literature.

Letter to the Editor

Ishmael Khaldi – Israel's first Bedouin diplomat – who is keen to return to his Israeli home. Sent to Michael Reik. See his book 'A Shepherd's Journey' (www.ishmaelkhaldi.com)

Israel's retiring Bedouin diplomat

Dear friends,
Apologies for writing this mass email, but I'll write in person to each of you, later.

Very few of you already know – three and a half years since I arrived in London to start my posting at the Israeli embassy, I'm moving on – I'm going back home!

Three and half years for an Israeli diplomat in London is a long time – for an Israeli and Bedouin diplomat, it's too long...

They were challenging years with wonderful experiences – I travelled the country, met people, spoke, listened, argued, 'fought' back (MOSTLY behind the scenes) and I coped with it all...

But to be honest – London is an expensive city, and more than anything, it's the loneliness...

I hope to put it all in a short memoir/book once I return home.

Mosaic moment



Mosaic Liberal member Ron Collins's delightful grandson – Archie – received his blessing on 28th August.

Left to right: Ron's wife Ashoka, Ron, Ron's daughter Nicole and her husband Robert who is holding Archie. (Picture FDS)



Mosaic
Choose your Jewish life

What is Mosaic?

Mosaic is a vibrant new Jewish community which comprises the members of three partner synagogues. The three synagogues represent the Masorti, Reform and Liberal strands of Judaism respectively providing Mosaic members with a choice of emphases and ritual across the Progressive spectrum. Indeed, the providing of choice is a key Mosaic principle which extends beyond ritual.

Mosaic provides its members with a wide range of social, educational, cultural and recreational activities designed to appeal to diverse interests and age groups. There is an excellent religion school for younger members with innovative opportunities to extend Jewish learning beyond bar/bat mitzvah. Most important, we look out as well as in and offer exciting opportunities to get involved with influential social action and inter-faith programmes, whether locally, nationally or internationally.

Mosaic is living proof of what can be achieved with goodwill, mutual respect and a willingness to work together.

Find out more at www.choosemosaic.org or contact Membership Officer Lindsey Cohen via the office

Thoughts from Edwin Lucas – an 'awake' HEMS member



© Portraits by Italiaander

What will happen to schlepping when HEMS has a new building?

I am reminded of an old song from the 1960s by Cat Stevens, which I loved. Most people are too young to remember: "Up at 8, you can't be late for Matthew and Son..." For me, it is: "Up at 8, you can't be late for HEMS and Cong; they won't wait..." and why should they wait? G-d wants us to start on time and the community, who are the bosses, want to finish by the time the clock strikes noon and that includes Kiddush.

We do not have a caretaker at HEMS, but we are possibly the only Shul with a 'Schlepper'. It is not an Official Council post, but at HEMS, schlepping is so highly regarded that it not only is a Council post, but a trustee one too. What an honour! Now, if Mosaic Reform or Liberal want to know about schlepping, they can come along to HEMS at 08.45 when the schlepper arrives like a jailer with the keys to the estate and does a perimeter check.

The schlepper checks the undergrowth – yes, we have that in the suburbs of Harrow; bins for undesirables and flower pots, and opens up the security exits. Is this not exciting? He makes a trip down the back alley and then inside the building to look into cupboards, ovens, under the stairs, fridges and lots more. It is so exciting and it is a way to keep fit, as things need to be ready for the Kiddush setter uppers at 09.00. Now, you will say that is easy and I bet it is a routine. Not for Mr Schlepper, as a few weeks back, he found a package in the flower pots. Was it Bill or was it Ben or even Little Weed? It was a package and CST training came to the fore, although he was delighted it was nothing to worry about. But, the checks were done and the congregation came and went without a care in the world.

28 blue chairs, side panels, Ark, second cupboard, wall hangings, Ner tamid, Bimah,

lecterns, Torahs, Rimmonim, Yads, Breast plates, Mural all fly round with schlepper and helper, as we like to give out Shabbat Mitzvot to all able bodied and strong, young and not so young males. We are not sexist, but schlepping is not a job for ladies, unless you know different. We then daven and daven more and more and by the time kiddush comes, we all need a 'l'Chayim' before the schlepper wakes up and, just like all good schlepping, help is on hand from trainee schleppers to put everything back to how we found it, for another week.

When a new building comes along, will the schlepper be able to retire and will it be progress? We know it will be great, as the song will be changed to: "Up at 9, you can be fine at HEMS with wine". That is something to look forward to and the extra Palwin will be a bonus for the old schleppers to reminisce about the olden days of schlepping at HEMS.

May the first brick of the new Shul be laid soon! L'chayim to one and all!

