

Kehila is brought to you by:



# Kehila

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

December 2015



**Mosaic**  
Choose your Jewish life  
"Festival of Lights"

Chanukiah Lighting  
something 4 everyone



Come and celebrate with us  
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39 Bessborough Road, Harrow, HA1 3BS  
3.30 - 5.30 pm

Music and Songs  
Ma'oz Tzur



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for the group lighting up

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Chanukah inspired  
treats  
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## About our members

Children's birthdays are listed on page 22

### Mosaic Reform

#### MAZAL TOV TO:

Seth Bara on his marriage to Margherita Drago. Also to Judith and Basil Bara.

#### BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Victor Davis, 90  
Ilse Dokelman, 95  
Harvey Kesselman, 85  
Paul Rosenbaum, 75  
Joe Simon, 70  
Diana Warren, 80  
Joan Woolfson, 90

#### CONDOLENCES TO:

Elaine Sinclair (Ealing) on the death of her father, Szlama Jakob Marber (known as Kuba)

Howard Berger on the death of his father, Ronald

#### GET WELL WISHES TO:

Gabby Kessler

### HEMS

#### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:

Max Alexander

#### MAZAL TOV TO:

Lynne and Sam Charkham on the engagement of their eldest son, Ben, to Jess Elias.

Amanda and Ian Kersen on the engagement of their eldest son, Joel, to Katie Bobroff.

Michelle and Dan Honey on the engagement of Dan's daughter, Lisa, to David Beeby.

#### BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Max Alexander, 21  
Janine Brockiner, 50  
Irwin Spilka, 65

### Mosaic Liberal

#### MAZAL TOV TO:

Susan Saunders on the occasion of her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday

Susan and Vic Saunders on the occasion of their grandson Jonathan's Bar Mitzvah

#### BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Alan Bliss  
Marian Bliss  
Geraldine Kaufman  
Betty Leon  
Susan Saunders

#### BEST WISHES IN HIS NEW HOME:

Neil Rosen

#### CONDOLENCES TO:

The family and friends of Feo Kahn

The family and friends of Stanley Sussman

The family and friends of David Zarahiah

Copy date for January issue is 13<sup>th</sup> December

# A Rabbi's Word

By Rabbi Paul Arberman –  
Hatch End Masorti Synagogue



Portrait by Italiaander – www.italiaander.co.uk

## Is giving gifts on Chanukah really a Jewish practice?

The answer is no... And yes. The most common response is that the growth of Chanukah in general and gift giving specifically grew in reaction to Christmas practices.

Jonathan Sarna, professor of American Jewish history at Brandeis University, explains that American Jews used to exchange gifts only on Purim, but in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a shift to Chanukah in reaction to Christmas becoming commercialised. We wanted our own fun winter holiday with presents! The argument follows that English Jewry's customs followed a similar course.

On the other hand, how can we forget that the ancient Israelites brought gifts in the desert to help build the Tabernacle! This later developed into bringing gifts to the Temple in the form of fruits and sacrifices.

In the Chanukah story itself, when the Jews defeated the Greek army, they set out to restore the Temple and altar that the Greeks had defiled. They established the festival of Chanukah as a way to celebrate the rededication (Chanukah in Hebrew) of the altar that enabled them to once again offer sacrifices to God.

Everything changed after the destruction of the Temple in 70CE. Sacrifice was no longer possible and the understanding of how to worship God shifted from sacrifice to study and prayer. Instead of giving gifts to facilitate sacrifice, one would give gifts to

facilitate acts of study or prayer. Instead of giving a silver basin for the Temple, one might give a tallit or a Chumash.

Moreover, Jews have been giving 'gelt', money, as a present for centuries. The most popular explanation is that coins became a symbol of the holiday because the ancient Jews' ability to make their own coins was a symbol of the independence they gained in the battles that the festival of lights commemorates.

But in his book 'Holidays, History and Halakhah', Eliezer Segal argues that the earliest sources that mention gelt on Chanukah are about students in Europe giving gelt to their teachers. Segal suggests that this practice was perhaps inspired by semantic and etymological connections between the Hebrew word Chanukah (dedication) and the Hebrew word hinnukh (education/study).

In a sense, even this last type of giving is a continuance of our ancient practices. We first gave to the Tabernacle which was replaced by the Temple, which in turn was replaced by prayer and study.

So is gift giving a Jewish thing? Definitely yes. We have a long tradition of giving gifts. Our children even got coins on Chanukah — a modest gift. But then we followed or copied the commercialization of Christmas. Almost two thousand years after the first Chanukah, we are still working out the right balance of outside influence on Jewish life. And that's a good conversation to have.

Happy Chanukah!

Send your articles, pictures, letters etc to [newsdesk@choosemosaic.org](mailto:newsdesk@choosemosaic.org)

### Mosaic Reform & the Movement for Reform Judaism

As you may know, Mosaic Reform has an agreement with the Movement for Reform Judaism whereby we receive a reduction in the amount that we are obliged to pay them, provided that we supply them with an updated membership list annually. The membership list is used by the Movement for direct fund-raising approaches to individual members. This notice is to give you warning that we intend to submit our list in January. If you do not wish your details to be included you will need to opt out now. Please let the office know as soon as possible if this is the case. If we do not hear from you by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 we shall assume you have given your consent. Even if you have 'opted out' in previous years, please contact the office once again to avoid any errors occurring.



# WORLD PROGRESSIVE JEWRY EXPRESSES ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE FRENCH PEOPLE



The World Union for Progressive Judaism and the European Union for Progressive Judaism (vice chairman, Michael Reik – Mosaic Reform), representing almost 2 million Jews around the globe, expresses its solidarity with the people of France, and extends condolences to the families and friends of those who were brutally murdered in Paris.

The sheer horror of such mindless savagery, which has sadly increased in recent years, defies every sense of humanity. Those of good faith must unite around the world and support all those who are defending our security and strive to defeat those who promote terror and cause such pain.

This is an attack on our very freedoms and Judaism's basic ethics and beliefs. This second round of attacks in Paris in less than a year reminds us

that these are not isolated incidents. Pluralism and democracy require respect for the rule of law. Violence and inciting fear are unacceptable tactics for bringing change. We go to stadiums, concert halls and cafes to celebrate our freedom, not to surrender it.

To honor the memory of all those innocents who have become victims of terror, we must continue to stand up to this growing evil and root out terror and terrorists.

Jewish history teaches us that we dare not ignore these threats and acts of violence. Our wellbeing, and the very institutions that protect our freedoms, are under attack. Let us stand with those who treasure pluralism and protect democracy to bring an end to this cycle of evil.

*"And each shall sit under their vine and fig tree, and none shall make them afraid."* Micah 4:4.

## Obituary

### Feodore Kahn 1909-2015

*Mosaic Liberal bade farewell in October to a much loved member, Feo Kahn, who passed away at the wonderful age of 105 after a short illness. Her son Stephen has written this obituary.*

My mother was born in 1909 in Trier, Germany, the eldest of three daughters of Salomon, a cattle dealer, and Selma Joseph. Unusually for the times and their background, the two older daughters went to university (the youngest had her education interrupted). Feo studied French and English at Cologne with terms spent at Freiburg and Paris. As a young and recently qualified teacher, she taught at the Jawne, a Jewish school in Cologne. Her doctoral thesis, on the French Jewish poet André Spire, had sadly to be left unfinished – the family still has the draft. Many of her Jawne pupils came to England under the Kindertransport, and

some remained in touch with her until recent days.

Feo fled to England in 1938 with her husband Leo. Happily her parents, sisters and their husbands also survived, and for many years together they formed a tight-knit group in Wembley. She found a teaching job in a renowned girls' school, and continued this career successfully well beyond normal retirement age. While her main subject was French, she also taught German and, when needed, Latin and Spanish. In the early years in England she helped other refugees, including her own parents, to master English. As if teaching, raising (rather well) two children and running a household were not enough, she also managed to carry out other activities, such as occasional court interpretation, and lecturing in schools on her personal experiences under Hitler and then as a refugee. She was even interviewed for German television.

Without any formal link to a Jewish community since their student days, Leo and Feo maintained a strong Jewish identity, which they passed on to their children. In 1988 they decided to join Harrow & Wembley Progressive Synagogue

(now Mosaic Liberal). Somewhat to her surprise Feo quickly felt at home and made many friends. In more recent years she very much appreciated the support and companionship she received from members of the community. She continued to attend services and social events, especially the lunches, and went on some memorable trips led by Rabbi Frank.

Feo's mind remained clear, active and shrewd to the end, and her memory of detailed events from the First World War onwards fascinated a constant stream of visitors. A younger generation of Germans, keen to 'set the record straight' and establish worthy memorials, found their way to her, and she contributed much to articles, museum exhibits and a book about a

murdered uncle.

Feo rejoiced in her family, her two children, her four grandchildren and five great grandchildren. News of an imminent sixth arrived just in time! Although scattered geographically, they were devoted to her and made frequent trips to Wembley. Less than a year ago all gathered in a country house to celebrate her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday. Feo's comment afterwards was "When can we have the next party?"

With her passing a chapter of history closes. Over a long and eventful life, she contributed much. She was surrounded by the admiration of acquaintances, the affection of friends and the love of her family. Her memories survive in the memories of those she passed them on to. She loved and was loved.





# EVENTS

## FILM MOSAIC

At 8:00pm on  
Tuesday 15 December

### *THE BAND's VISIT* ('Bikur Ha-Tizmoret')

The Alexandria Ceremonial Police Orchestra arrives in Israel from Egypt for a cultural event, only find there is no delegation to meet them, nor any arrangements to get to their destination of Petah Tikva. They arrive, by accident, at the remote town of Beit Hatikva and get help from the worldly Dina, who offers to put them up for the night. What follows is a special night of quiet happenings and confessions as the band makes its own impact on the town and the town on them.

This 2008, Award-Winning Israeli Movie, is warm and funny, dealing with, as it does, relationships, cultural and personal.

(HEBREW with ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

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

## Harrow Friendship Club

Entertainment for the over-60s

### DECEMBER

Mondays: 11:00 to 14:30

Tel (on the day): 020 8423 2903

- 7<sup>th</sup> Chanukah Party with singer/  
guitarist Ronnie Goldberg
- 14<sup>th</sup> Return visit of singing duo  
Stevie and Georgia
- 21<sup>st</sup> Harry's taped selection of music
- 28<sup>th</sup> CLUB CLOSED

For further information call Bertha  
(contact via the Office)



## The BIG Fish & Chip Supper Quiz

Come to our BIG Fish & Chip Supper Quiz  
on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2016

The last two years have been a sell-out, so we have moved to a larger venue

**Mosaic Reform Synagogue, 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow, HA1 3BS**  
(There is no parking at the Synagogue, except for Blue Badge Holders if there is space – please book in advance. Parking available almost opposite in Vaughan Road Car Park and local streets. Only a 10 minute walk from Harrow-on-the-Hill Station. Served by bus routes H11, 114 & 140)

Welcome at 7.00 pm. Fish & Chips served at 7.30 pm.

Supper: Fish and chips\*, fruit, dessert, coffee and wine.

(\*Alternatives for particular dietary needs e.g. vegan/vegetarian available when booking)

**Tickets £19.00**

available from Bobbi Riesel: 020 8428 7977 [bobbi@riesel.co.uk](mailto:bobbi@riesel.co.uk) or from the  
Bereavement Care Office: 020 8427 5720 [admin@bereavementcareandsupport.co.uk](mailto:admin@bereavementcareandsupport.co.uk)

Buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment.  
Come alone, with a friend or friends or make up a table of eight.

*Bereavement Care provides support free of charge to bereaved adults and children  
in Harrow, Hillingdon and surrounding areas.*

*Thank you for your support.*

Registered Office: The Lodge, 64 Pinner Road, Harrow, HA1 4HZ Telephone: 020 8427 5720  
E-mail: [admin@bereavementcareandsupport.co.uk](mailto:admin@bereavementcareandsupport.co.uk)

## Adult Education Programme Autumn 2015



### *Skeptic Sessions:*

"Our Traditions and Acute Episodes of Doubt"

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> December, 09.30.

This session will be led by Rabbi  
Frank Dabba Smith

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

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> December at 09.30 will be  
led by Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith

### *God and Superheroes – Why so*

*popular today?* Rabbi Arberman will  
lead a lively discussion about the need,  
desire and attraction of super beings in  
contemporary society. There will be  
ample opportunity to ask questions and  
to put forward your own views. Light  
refreshments will be provided.

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> December 20:00–21:00



## DEFENDING THE FAITHS

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – 7.30 pm  
39 Bessborough Road, Harrow HA1 3BS



Jonathan Arkush –  
President, Board of  
Deputies of British Jews



Mark Gardner – Director of  
Communications at the  
Community Security Trust



Simon Ovens – Borough  
Commander, Harrow Police



Fiyaz Mughal, OBE – Founder  
& Director of Faith Matters

We will be entertaining four high profile members of the community who will explain in detail the major problems faced by the Jewish community in the United Kingdom and how this is dealt with on a day to day basis. We shall also learn specifically how all the local religious faiths are protected by the Constabulary and the interaction between our Community and those around us.

To book please ring 020-8864 0133 or email [admin@choosemosaic.org](mailto:admin@choosemosaic.org)

Entertainment & Deli Supper

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY Mosaic PRESENTS

**HOLLY HOLYOAKE**

**'LA BOHEME TO BROADWAY'**

WITH SUPPORTING ACT 'HARMONICA TOO'

SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY 2016 AT 7:30 PM  
39 BESSBOROUGH ROAD, HARROW, HA1 3BS

Supporting artists to include 'Harmonica Too' (Gary Italiaander & Steve Fordington)  
Admission will be by prepaid tickets only so call the office or book on line to reserve yours or your table

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Call: 020 8864 0133

Ticket Price £17:50  
includes 'Deli Supper'

Reserve & Pay 'Online'  
[www.choosemosaic.org](http://www.choosemosaic.org)

Follow links below  
for more details of the artists

Holly Holyoake <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2w-zqPQzXw> <http://www.harmonicatoo.co.uk/about.htm>



# Eco-Peace – A new perspective for progress towards peace

By Adrian Cohen, Chairman – Mosaic Liberal synagogue

Current events in Israel are once again disturbing with the spate of random stabbings and murders by so-called 'lone wolf' terrorists. Nothing justifies or excuses these murderous acts but if they are to be stopped without the imposition of a totally unacceptable 'apartheid' state we have to understand the underlying sense of hopelessness that helps feed the many festering causes of the present 'third intifada'. Perhaps we can look at things from a different perspective to the normal Israeli political narrative.

This is a short extract from a joint policy proposal of the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) in Israel and Friends of the Earth Middle East published in 2013.

Since the 1993 Oslo Accord all attempts at the peace process have been predicated on the belief that a comprehensive solution to the 3 most contentious issues – Jerusalem, borders and refugees – is possible. Unfortunately, repeated efforts seeking a simultaneous solution to

all 3 issues (i.e. 'nothing is agreed upon until everything is agreed upon') have failed.

*Eco-Peace believes that the best chance for reviving the defunct peace process is by first tackling 'easier' issues, particularly that of water.*

*Given the dire Palestinian need for more water; Israel's new water supply due to large scale desalination; and a joint need to deal with untreated sewage – restarting negotiations with water a first priority makes economic, ecological, and most importantly, political sense. An agreement on water would greatly improve the current living conditions of both peoples. For Palestinians, it would increase fresh water availability in every home; for Israelis, it would remove pollutants from rivers and streams that flow through its main cities. The agreement struck would be a Final Accord on Water and not another interim process. It is essential to build mutual trust to put the peace process back on track.*

The vital work of Eco-

Peace is not just theoretical, it is also entirely practical. Eco-Peace supports many cross border projects in Israel, Jordan and Palestine. One of its most high profile projects apart from the clean-up of the Jordan River and its subsequent impact on the Dead Sea, is its cross border water sharing initiative. This brilliantly simple plan encourages villages or communities that share a common water source but are divided by a national border, religion and culture, to overcome their mutual hostility and suspicion by learning to share their common resource. Ambitious but breathtaking in its vision. Hopefully from the closer cooperation between former enemies a larger peace deal can one day emerge.

Mosaic Liberal is proud to say that for the last four years we have supported Eco-Peace through our High Holy Day appeal. Rabbi Frank has led successful multi-faith trips to the area where cross-border relationships have been built and are continuing to be fostered.

# Who should Israelis blame?

**The following insightful article by Ari Shavit, published in Ha'aretz, has been drawn to our attention by Lawrie Nerva.**

Our fear was that one day a doomsday prophecy would become true – the occupation would become irreversible and the sovereign state of Israel would disappear into a bi-national Israel similar to Northern Ireland, South Africa or the Balkans. If the number of settlers reaches 50,000, we said Zionism would be in trouble. If their number reaches 100,000, we're doomed. The great achievement of 1948 (turning the Arab-Israeli conflict, bordered, Interstate conflict) would be cancelled out and the awful reality of the '30s (borderless, hopeless, inter-communal struggle) would be renewed.

If this happens, we warned, life in this country would become a nightmare.

Since then the conflict in Northern Ireland has been resolved, South Africa has fallen apart, the Balkans have undergone a war and peace. But the number of settlers in the West Bank has grown

steadily, reaching about 400,000. Reversible or not, Gush Emunim's monumental project defeated Israel and shaped a bi-national reality of a nation living within a nation and a nation living above a nation, instead of a nation beside a nation.

David Ben Gurion's immense historic victory has become the ongoing downfall of every Israeli prime minister in the last generation. After we got to establish a small robust, defined, democratic Jewish state, we crumbled it with our own hands and turned it into a hybrid of freedom and occupation.

So the hideousness we're experiencing now cannot be attributed to the fanatic murderousness of the knife-wielders or to the panicky, bestial behaviour of the lynch mob. The human insanity we're living in is a direct, inevitable result of a 40-year-old political insanity.

The writing on the wall was gigantic. In the absence of a separating border, the Israelis and Palestinians will be caught in a whirlpool of blood. If Israel will not be condemned as South Africa

was, it will become what Kosovo became, where man turned against his brother, neighbours became enemies and family members attacked each other.

What the stabbings and car ramblings and shootings teach us today is that the reality we have concocted here is not viable. The nightmare predicted is becoming a reality.

True, withdrawals from the West Bank could also lead to violent outbursts. Dividing the land will also be agonizing. But while Israel knows how to protect itself from attacks from outside, the aggression from within is tearing it apart and turning it into a country spinning mentally and morally out of control.

Even if the present foul wave diminishes and disappears soon, the next menacing breaker is not far off. There is no knowing when, where and how disaster will strike us, but disaster is inevitable. We are closer than ever to the point of no return.

So the only question now is: Will we understand what is happening before we reach that point, or afterward? Will we wake up when it's still possible to put out the fire, or only when the flames are consuming our house altogether.



# The Abraham Fund – worthy of our support



By Michael Reik (Director of the UK Friends of the Abraham Fund Initiative)

**T**he Abraham Fund Initiative, an essential programme of our time in Israel

The recent conflict – Operation Protective Shield – has seen the deaths of many Palestinian residents in Gaza. This is a result of the fighting provoked by the rocket attacks by Hamas against Israel and this has again created strife within Israel.

Back in 2000 when the previous Intifada occurred, 14 Arabs were killed within Israel and there was fighting between the Israeli Police and its Arab population. During the current war with Hamas, 1500 Palestinian Arabs within Israel have been arrested, but there have been no fatalities. This has not been by accident.

In the intervening time, The Abraham fund has played a major role in addressing the issues. In particular, this has involved the building of trust between the police and the Arab community and on instilling a public-service approach to policing.

At the same time, the Arab communities have taken up a far more responsible attitude to the difficulties as they see them.

Main priorities of the Abraham Fund: to build a shared society of coexistence, inclusion and equality for Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens through a 4-strand strategy of Advocacy through Action:

- 1)** Education for a shared society – 'Diversity and Citizenship'
- 2)** Economic Development and Inclusion – 'One Country – One Economy'
- 3)** Equality, Access and Opportunity – 'Levelling the playing Field'
- 4)** Democracy and participation – 'Creating Shared Spaces'.

## **1) Education for a Shared Society**

In co-operation with the Ministry of Education, the Abraham Fund's aim is to improve the language skills within the Israeli Arab educational system to better prepare Arab students for

higher education and to improve their opportunities in the labour market. At the same time there is a programme of teaching the Arab language and Arab culture to at least 25% of Israeli Jewish public elementary schools.

## **2) Economic Development and Inclusion**

Work is in hand with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to raise awareness within Arab society and to combat anti-Arab discrimination in the workplace. The economic and social consequences of the early exit of Arab men from the workforce are also being addressed.

## **(3) Equality, Access and Opportunity**

The successful work of building-up the trust between the police and the Arab community will continue. The aim is to establish a specific mechanism for community volunteering for young Arab adults.

There is also a recommendation for equitable and fair security inspections at border crossings.

## **4) Democracy and Participation**

The Fund intends to recruit and train Arab women and young adults for civic and political leadership and to encourage young women to take up higher education and achieve qualifications, to enable them to compete in the job market. An annual and ongoing dialogue on the core issues in Jewish-Arab relations will be maintained.

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



*Many thanks to Howard Smith for constructing Mosaic's new Chanukiah that will be lit each evening of Chanukah in Bessborough Road, to wish passers-by a 'Happy Chanukah'. If you would like to join-in the lighting on one (or more) evenings, please check the website for lighting times each day.*



# Review of past events

## Shabbat UK

By Jane Harrison

**M**ore than 200 people from the Mosaic community took part in the nationwide Shabbat UK events last month.

Mosaic Reform, Mosaic Liberal and Hatch End Masorti kicked off events with a huge challah bake at Bessborough Road during the week (October 21<sup>st</sup>) – see page 16.

Friday night saw chavurah suppers in congregants' homes and celebrations culminated at HEMS' base in Hatch End on the Saturday, (October 24<sup>th</sup>) with each synagogue holding its own service before coming together for a superb lunch.

This was followed by an 'Ask The Rabbis' panel, with questions ranging from what people should wear on Shabbat to how to make Shabbat a more peaceful day. There was also Mosaic meditation – a practical approach to Jewish meditation – and Mosaic Kidzone.

One highlight was a speaker from Rene Cassin, the UK Jewish Human Rights organisation. Rene Cassin was a French-



Jewish jurist, law professor and judge who co-drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948 and he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1968. Sam Grant, campaigns manager for Rene Cassin, spoke about the campaign for a time limit on detention, as the UK is the only country in Europe with indefinite detention. He talked about the inhumane treatment of detainees, mental as well as physical trauma and suicide rate. He said £76 million a year was spent on detention, with 30,000 people going through the system a year, with 51% being released. He said: "It's worse than being in prison, because at least then you know when you are going to be let out."

## Fabergé Evening

By Jane Harrison



**W**hat have King Edward VII, Tsar Nicholas 2nd of Russia and our Queen got in common? They all loved Fabergé – the Queen has 100 items of his work and the Tsar became his patron.

These and other amazing facts about Peter Carl Fabergé were revealed by John Benjamin, of Antiques Roadshow fame during what can only be described as a performance.

This was no mundane talk, as with slideshow and mic in hand, this charismatic man had us eating out of his hand, as obviously Fabergé had done with the rich and famous.

In 'The Life & Work of the World's Greatest Goldsmith – Fabergé,' he spoke about how people queued a mile down the road for his first exhibition at the V&A, how at the age of 14 he had outstripped his father with his expertise and how his marketing strategy would outshine many businessmen today.

He said: "His marketing

was brilliant. He told the Imperial Court he would remodel any old piece of jewellery free, so they queued up to get their jewellery done. The Tsar summoned him and asked him to make something special so he made an egg with a chicken inside. Fabergé gets his patronage and his success is sealed."

Fabergé had children working for him as young as seven, with a quality control that involved smashing anything that didn't come up to scratch. Out of the 155,000 Fabergé items, not all were personally made by him, but by his team of workers. He rarely signed the items he made.

Perhaps the most unusual fact was that he didn't just make eggs. His work ranged from cufflinks and fans to push bells and binoculars. All his materials were Russian and while many items incorporated precious gems and stones, his most notable material, enamel, was powdered glass, which cost him nothing.

John, who is a fellow of the Gemmological Association, Phillips auctioneers' international director of jewellery and runs his own jewellery consultancy, also spoke about the more whimsical items. They included a miniature desk for stamps and a tiny bidet for mustard.

He said: "When the Bolsheviks took over the Fabergé workshop in 1917, he was lucky to escape Russia with his life. He had to leave everything behind and became a nomad, drifting around Europe, floating around in utter misery."

He eventually died in Lausanne and was buried with his mother in Cannes. All rather sad after such a superlative life.

The evening, which included a wonderful array of food, was organised by Jane Prentice and her community team, helped by willing volunteers from Mosaic. She warmly welcomed John who gave the talk as a tribute to his parents, who were members of the former MNS.



# Challah Bake

By Trudy Segal

**A**s part of Mosaic's Shabbat UK activities, 27 would-be bakers took part in a challah bake on 21<sup>st</sup> October. We were guided by the winner of the 'Jewnior' chef of the year, 14 year old Max Alexander and his 21 year old assistant, Hannah Glass.

The pictures on the facing page show the 'production process'. With all the ingredients pre-measured and following Max's recipe, we progressed to the kneading and plaiting of the dough. Here various techniques were employed to achieve the right consistency, none of which would

probably feature on the 'Great British Bake Off' – but we all succeeded in producing three freshly made loaves. Two were for home consumption and the third was donated to the various Shabbat UK Friday evening home services and the three-way service held on the following Shabbat.

It was a great evening and we all felt a sense of achievement at the end of our labours.

Our thanks go to all those involved.

## Situations Vacant

Do you have an hour or two of spare time each week? If yes then please contact us at [volunteering@choosmosaic.org](mailto:volunteering@choosmosaic.org) or 020 8864 0133 and we can discuss a number of the projects we have at the moment including:

- Supporting our team of teenagers who are selling members' unwanted items on ebay, proceeds to Cancer Research UK. They are specifically looking for help with collecting items and getting them to the post office once sold.
- Joining our journalist team to help create articles and posts for our magazines, website and social media (Facebook)
- Following the success of Mosaic Shabbat and 'joint' festival activities and services we are looking for people to join a cross community Ritual events team to help

plan and organise events around Purim, Shavuot, further Shabbatot, etc.

● If you have design skills then we could use your help for a few hours a month to join the team that produces publicity for Mosaic events and activities.

● Mosaic is looking to appoint an intern to work with the Community and Communications teams – professional training, support and development counselling will be provided. If you know anyone who might be interested please ask them to contact us at [communitydevelopment@choosmosaic.org](mailto:communitydevelopment@choosmosaic.org)

**For further information or to discuss any of the above, please contact us at [volunteering@choosmosaic.org](mailto:volunteering@choosmosaic.org) or 020 8864 0133**



Pictures from Jane Prentice



# Interfaith

By Karen Pollak

It was a pleasure to be among the representatives of the Jewish community at the Remembrance Day event at the Harrow Civic Centre on 8<sup>th</sup> November. Our particular group comprised people from the Jewish, Sikh, Hindu and Zoroastrian communities.

It was inspiring to see people of so many different nationalities and faiths, all joining together to show their respect for the fallen. Anyone who thinks that multi-culturalism doesn't work would have had those doubts removed. It was a truly moving experience

Off to a very good start

with our new Chairman, Jack Lynes, Harrow Interfaith is planning on putting on several events throughout the year, starting with 'Question Time with the Cops' on 1<sup>st</sup> December from 19:00 to 21:00 at the Harrow Civic Centre, HA1 2XY. This will be an opportunity to put questions to our local police on the subject of faith and race and it should prove to be a very interesting event. If you would like to attend, please contact Jack Lynes at [writeawayjack@aol.com](mailto:writeawayjack@aol.com).

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January there will be an evening entitled, 'Defending the

Faiths' (see advert on page 8). Four high profile members of the community will explain major problems faced by the Jewish community and how all faiths are protected by the constabulary. This event is to be held at Mosaic, 39 Bessborough Road at 19:30. For further details, contact [office@choosemosaic.org](mailto:office@choosemosaic.org) or call the Office.

We are delighted that the Harrow Metropolitan Police have become members of Harrow Interfaith. We would love to welcome new members and are eager to start up a youth group – a project that we hope to get our teeth into shortly. If you are interested in joining Harrow Interfaith or have any ideas, please let us know by contacting Jack Lynes via the Office or email as above. You can also look us up on our website 'Harrow Interfaith'.



## Harrow Heroes

The Harrow Heroes Awards Ceremony, organised by Harrow Council, was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November at the Byron Hall at the Harrow Leisure Centre, where over 100 individuals and organisations were honoured for their outstanding work in the community.

Our very own Bobbi Riesel (pictured) received an extremely well-deserved award in the 'Gold Star Lifelong Voluntary Awards' section for her work in the community for some 30 years.

Bereavement Care (of which Mosaic is a constituent) provides free-of-charge support to bereaved adults and children in Harrow, Hillingdon and surrounding areas. Bobbi has been associated with the organisation since 1987 and has been a Group Leader for most of that time. She served on the Management Committee in the early 1990s, became a trainer for the organisation some years later and eventually became Head of Training. Of course we know of her pivotal role in Bereavement support within Mosaic, but we are delighted that her contribution to the wider community has been recognised in this way.

## KIEV KOPPERS UPDATE

By Rita Asbury

This year we have been able to send £300 to help our children in the kindergartens in Kiev. This is a little less than last year but every penny is put to good use. Our money helps with teachers' salaries, extra toys for the children and many extras for all the festivals.

It is really wonderful that our Mosaic Liberal members realise how important it is to continue to support this great cause!!

The only way we can increase the amount of money we can send to help our Kiev children is to...

**KEEP THE  
KOPPERS  
KOMING!**

**And thanks to everyone  
who fills up the jar in the  
sanctuary!**





# Labouring Liberals

## Mosaic Liberals in the annual LJ inter-synagogue quiz

By Alan Solomon

It was with some trepidation that eight of us journeyed to St John's Wood last month to uphold the honour of Mosaic Liberal in the annual Liberal Judaism Inter-Synagogue Quiz. Our hosts, the Liberal Jewish Synagogue (last year's winners), are known for their erudition when it comes to quizzes. Did we live up to the (limited) expectations we had set ourselves? Sadly, no! Competing against teams from Elstree, Finchley, Kent, Kingston, LJS, Northwood & Pinner and South Bucks, our first mistake was in our choice of round in which to

play our Joker. 'Where or What?' turned out to be a series of four photos for each question, and we had to say which town or country was being illustrated. We should have gone for 'Bunsen Burners', obviously a science round; Danielle Sanderson and Leanne Snipper had no problem in answering questions on the lightest metal (lithium), which type of cloud produces the most rain and snow (cumulonimbus), etc. But by that time we had come a cropper on 'Gods and Goddesses', trying – and mostly failing – to recognise obscure figures from different religions shown on slides. And in the food

and drink round, entitled 'All Manna'(!), who knew that the most expensive coffee is civet? To Kevin Ziants' dismay, there was not a single sports question.

The LJS won – again(!), and there was a three-way tie for second place between Finchley, Kingston and Northwood & Pinner. And Mosaic Liberal, I hear you ask? We were just thankful that Kent found it even more difficult than we did. But we all – Danielle, Leanne, Diana Ayres, Frankie Green, Steven Sanderson, Kevin and Olivia Ziants, and yours truly – enjoyed the sandwiches and cakes, and left determined to do better next time.

## Biscuit Bake – in

The last Biscuit bake-in for 2015 is planned for Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00

If you have baked with us before, you will know that it is a fun couple of hours of team work, making home-made tasty biscuits for the community Kiddushim and

Shabbat welcome coffee.

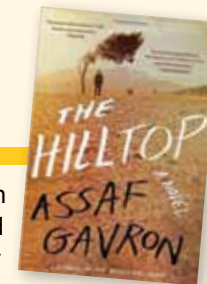
If you haven't participated previously, why not come along with an apron and your sleeves rolled up for a new experience?

Please contact the Mosaic office to let us know that you are coming.

Sue Pollock and Joan Noble

# The Hilltop by Assaf Gavron

Reviewed by Rosemary Wolfson



This is an unbiased review – however comments are welcome in the next Kehila!

Much of the story concerns an outpost of Israeli settlers near a West Bank Palestinian village. The two main characters are Jewish brothers Gabi and Roni Kupper each with his own reasons for living on the settlement. The former becomes religious, and the latter settles there, because he is impoverished.

A demonstration early in the novel against the security fence is controversial but witty. There are descriptions of participating left wing boys wearing Meretz party T-shirts, some anarchists, and silver-haired individuals from the Peace Now movement.

Roni builds up a relationship with Musa, a Palestinian in a neighbouring village. Roni hatches a plan with his Arab friend's agreement, to make an olive oil business from these crops. This is a mad venture without modern technology. They plan to sell to Tel Aviv yuppies. Later the government sends bulldozers in order to lay the ground to establish the security fence both through Musa's orchard grove as well as the illegal settlement. But there is a High court petition in place, and it is assumed "left-wingers and Arabs against the damage to the private olive groves" have filed it.

In a fictional Washington Post article there is a story of "the real-estate and money market tycoon with close ties to the Republican leadership" who took part "in a dedication ceremony for a playground he had donated." The article goes on to say that the settlement

"was established in part on private land that is owned by Palestinians."

In a heartbreaking episode Gabi's cabin which he had so lovingly and painstakingly built for himself, is destroyed. Yoni, a young Ethiopian and IDF soldier stationed in the settlement, but soon to leave is responsible. He had previously received much hospitality from the settlers. He takes this particular destruction upon himself as a result of a notice from the State of Israel suggesting people may have to be expelled from their homes. This was in revenge now for a racist remark from Josh, a settler.

As in real life there is great confusion, and there are unfounded rumours that the Arabs were really responsible for the destruction of Gabi's cabin. As a result Musa's olive grove is burnt.

There is also a conflict over the Electric Corporation laying a power line to help provide heating for the cold weather. There are government plans to raze the outpost settlement in two days time!

Towards the end of the novel the government makes another attempt to destroy the settlement at Purim. Battles occur with such characters as "Roni-Harry-Potter", "Shaulit-penguin" and "Othniel-Michael-Jackson" in evidence!

This is a fast moving, clever and absorbing work, partly based on personal experience. It is a very complex novel which can occasionally lead to a little confusion.

Mosaic has a book club that reviews a whole range of books. For further information contact Janet Solomon or [admin@choosemosaic.org](mailto:admin@choosemosaic.org)



