

Kehila

The **Mosaic** | community magazine | Pesach 2016/5776



MOSAIC COMMUNITY PESACH GREETINGS



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HEMS

MAZEL TOV TO:

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BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Joel Rosenberg, 21
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Reggie and Alan Goldner on their 25th Wedding Anniversary

NEW MEMBERS:

Jonathan Brockiner
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MOSAIC LIBERAL

MAZAL TOV TO:

John and Linda Matlin on the birth of their first grandchild, Toby Freddie Leach, who entered this world on 16th February. Mother Susanna and Father Matt and baby are well, and grandparents ecstatic!
Stuart Rose on the occasion of his 70th birthday
Susan and Vic Saunders on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Philip Goodfellow
Ursula Gross
Brian Haberfeld
Janet Judelson
Nina Morris
Marjorie Monnickendam
Claudia Rose
Jeannine Stone
Gerald Wilton

CONDOLENCES TO:

Celia Hipgrave and family on the death of her mother, Michelle Latchman

GET WELL:

Ron Spiegel
Helena Stone

Dear Reader



It's rather strange that we Jews are always commenting about the lateness or earliness of our Festivals – so it shouldn't come as great surprise when I say that Pesach this year is particularly late! On the positive side, this occurrence has allowed us even more time to collect a wide variety of interesting stories

from inside and outside our Community. From someone who has found 40 members of his family in the last year, to a member dealing with Cancer, and a lawyer fighting anti-Israel propaganda, we have a wide range of features. As well as pretty hard hitting articles we also have included loads of photos – not least a two page spread on how are gardens looked last summer.

It's great that for both the monthly and seasonal magazines, more and more folk are coming forward with their stories – but we can never get enough! Light hearted or serious, we would love to hear from you. In particular we want stories from our younger members who have perhaps been on a special holiday, or started a new job, or experiencing university life for the first time. Kehila is our community magazine, and with a membership of over 850 families there must be plenty of stories out there.

Producing Kehila is a little like painting the Firth of Forth bridge, in that the task is never ending. As far as the seasonal magazine is concerned we are now collecting articles and stories for the New Year edition, so please speak to us if you have any potential ideas. At risk of repeating myself we have a little more time compiling the next edition as Rosh Hashanah is later this year!!

Wishing you a great Pesach
Chag Pesach Sameach

Robert Pinkus

Robert Pinkus
Editor
newsdesk@choosemosaic.org

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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 on 020 8420 7498



Report back from Mosaic Chairman Harry Grant



I am sure most Mosaic members will have seen the new weekly announcements. The revised format is lively, informative, and bridges all three synagogues within Mosaic. It really helps to generate a more cohesive feeling of ownership and involvement within our

wider Community. Sincere thanks are due to those dedicated few who worked so hard to get it off the ground.

Recent happenings at Mosaic have included, Holly Holyoak entertaining a packed house in Bessborough Road with her beautiful singing, and harmonica support from the very able Gary Italiaander. Mosaic Reform continues to hold fascinating Shabbat afternoon conversations with elder statesmen of the Community - bringing history back to life. We also held a most informative open meeting about 'Defending the Faiths', with a panel of four speakers representing Inter faith, the Board of Deputies, CST and the local police.

It is however a sobering fact that these events, and many others, are taking place successfully without members being prepared to take responsibility or ownership. As ever the success is down to the massive efforts of a few tireless individuals. There are two seats on our Board specifically allocated to members taking responsibility for Communal events. Both seats are currently vacant, and as yet there are no nominations to fill them at our forthcoming AGM. These events don't just organise themselves and without leadership they will be hard to continue.

You may be aware that Mosaic Reform recruited a Community Care worker a year ago, and she too has been making an important new contribution. In addition to her supplementing the pastoral work of MR, Gay Saunders has initiated two new projects

“ You are all more than welcome, not just to turn up, but to contribute to the discussion as well, and maybe even get more involved ”

within the Community which are open to all. The first is a programme called Singing Seniors, weekly sessions led by a professional musician focused on members with memory difficulties. Those who have attended have found it invaluable, but it needs more support if it is to continue on a permanent basis.

Gay has also laid plans for a JACS group to start within Bessborough Road. This is of particular emotional interest to me, as my late father was one time National Chairman of the Jewish Association of Cultural Societies, which I always referred to as an over 65s youth club. They will start meeting in April, and full details are in Kehila and our website.

And once again, these activities are open to the whole Community of Mosaic.

Our AGM takes place on 8 May, and as ever is an opportunity for all of you to challenge the leadership on what we're doing and the direction in which we are taking this unique Community. You are all more than welcome, not just to turn up, but to contribute to the discussion as well, and maybe even get more involved. Don't forget that, if you don't participate in running Mosaic, how can you expect others to do so on your behalf.

My best wishes to you all, and to your families, for a healthy Chag Pesach Sameach.



**WILL YOU HELP PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA
STITCH THEIR MEMORIES BACK TOGETHER?**

**IT COSTS US £1.1 MILLION A YEAR TO RUN OUR DAY
CENTRES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA.**

Memory quilts are just one way we help.

One in three people over 65 will live with dementia at some point in their lives. As we live longer, it will touch more of us.

Jewish Care is committed to giving people with dementia the best care they can receive anywhere. We can only do that with your help.

There is a significant gap between the funding we receive from hard-pressed local authorities and the cost of running our three centres for people living with dementia. We need your help to give everyone with dementia the care they need and deserve. Can they rely on your help today?

Please help people living with dementia this Pesach.

Call 020 8922 2600 or visit jewishcare.org/donate

Rabbi Paul Arberman reflects

My young son Gilad recently told me about a school incident where some of his friends were unkind to a classmate. He went on to say that a number of the kids had put a boy into 'cherem'. (A word that in the UK has a similar meaning to 'sending someone to Coventry' – meaning to deliberately ostracize someone by pretending that they don't exist.) When I asked Gilad how he reacted, he said that he would never do that to someone. He made a point of saying that even though his friends had been unkind, he continued to be friendly with the boy concerned. Whilst I was pleased with his response, I would say that my son acted kindly, but not boldly – he was not a hero. I think a hero is someone who goes beyond the call of duty to seek justice or fairness.

Remember the guy who was 'faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive?' In my book Superman is a true hero because he could have used his powers just to have fun, or for evil. Instead, he fights for truth and justice. That aside, I've always felt it fortunate that when Superman first arrived on planet Earth, his space pod didn't land in the cold-war era of the Soviet Union!

I would say that Moses is the closest thing we have to a historical Jewish Superman. In fact, both Moses and Superman are abandoned by desperate parents who place them in a safe vessel to transport them to foreign parents. Moshe's name means, drawn from the water, but Superman's native Krypton name was even more Jewish – Kal-el – and Kol-El, is Hebrew for "the voice of God."

Superman had his alternate identity as Clark Kent. In the past, Jews also felt like they lived lives of dual identities – the Jewish clothes at home and the Western 'costume' at work. So you could say, we are the people of the Book, but we are also the people of the comic book.

“Moshe's name means, drawn from the water, but Superman's native Krypton name was even more Jewish – Kal-el – and Kol-El, is Hebrew for “the voice of God” ”

It's perhaps not by chance that many of the early American comic book creators were Jewish – Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Mort Weisinger, Bob Kane, Bill Finger, Joe Shuster, Jerry Siegel, Joe Simon, and Martin Nodell. These Jewish men are responsible for Superman, Batman, Aquaman, Green Lantern, The Fantastic Four, X-Men, The Hulk, Captain America, as well as countless others. They were responding to alienation in their country, and the lack of power about what was going on in Europe.

In the Bible, there are super powers – generally granted by God. Look at Samson and Gideon, or Elijah in a flaming chariot, or Moses parting the Red Sea. Moses becomes the hero of the Israelites not because of his ability to work God's miracles, .but because he



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

stops an Egyptian taskmaster from striking an Israelite slave. He could have continued in his life of Egyptian luxury and not done anything – but instead he felt a driving need to end injustices perpetrated on his people.

When my son told me his 'cherem' story about the kid in his class, I complemented him on not following the others in ostracizing a fellow classmate. But I also put to him a challenge. "Whilst you are a good boy in that you did behave like the others, next time something nasty happens perhaps you can also think about ways to stop the other children from excluding him?"

Rabbi Paul Arberman

EXODUS

How has it come to be, that we have to flee the Enemy?
Our lives depend on it.
We cannot stay, to pray
That it will all end without bloodshed.
They are bearing down on us with weapons to destroy us.
They are on our heels, we must go now!
The Devil behind or the deep blue sea ahead? What kind of a choice is that?!
Hurry! What possessions should we take? What can we bear to leave behind?

How do we decide?
What can we bundle into a sack?
Food, jewels, we'll have to hide them...
All the clothes we can layer onto our backs.
Come children, we have to go now!

At Pesach we remember the Exodus from Egypt,
But Exodus is the story of many peoples, as well as our ancestors,
Over thousands of years, the world over, time and again and now!
What has happened?
"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it"
Are memories so short? Do battles have to be continuously fought?
What is the value of the human life?
What do we have to do, just to survive?

Again the escape from voracious devastation
We can only imagine the fear, the desperation,
the anxiety in the minds of the refugees ,
walking for miles and miles,
running with babes in arms, little children at their sides,
clinging with tears streaming down their faces
The freezing, turbulent sea, the crowded boats, the disorganisation.

The questions they are asking –
What will happen if we get to the other side?
Will all my precious family survive?
Will we get food, shelter, medicine, be welcomed with open arms ?
Or will we it be as bad as all that we've left behind?
Will we meet a new enemy or find friends to sustain us?
How can we start again, with almost nothing, except our own names?

In Exodus, it seems, there is no victory
For it is condemned to be a worldwide, living history

Simone Balkin (HEMS)



Mosaic moments

January - March '16



Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner's (Senior Rabbi to the MRJ) visit to Mosaic Reform on 30th January



Rabbi Michael Hilton from Kol Chai Shul presents his new book 'Bar Mitzvah - A History'



Mazel Tov to Robert and Vera Gellman on their 50th Wedding Anniversary



A great turn-out for La Boheme to Broadway



Holly Holyoake performing La Boheme to Broadway

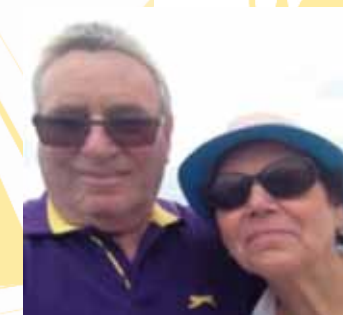
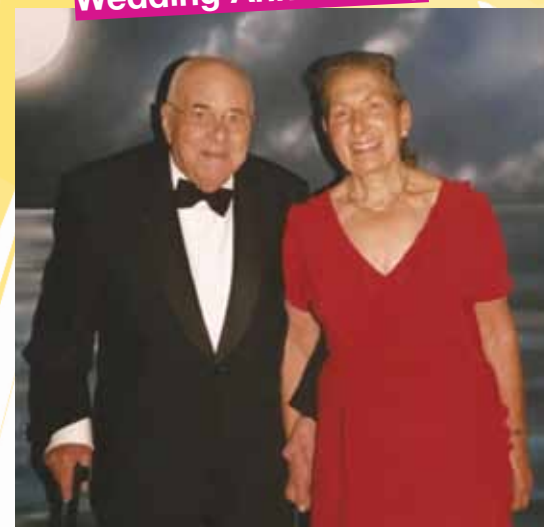


Harmonica 2 (Gary Italiaander and Steve Fordington) performing at Mosaic's La Boheme to Broadway



Mazel Tov to Lesley and Jeff Young on their 55th wedding Anniversary

Mazel Tov to Ruby and Lawrie Nerva on their 60th Wedding Anniversary



Mazel Tov to Alan and Reggie Goldner on their 25th Wedding Anniversary (Nice selfie Alan!)

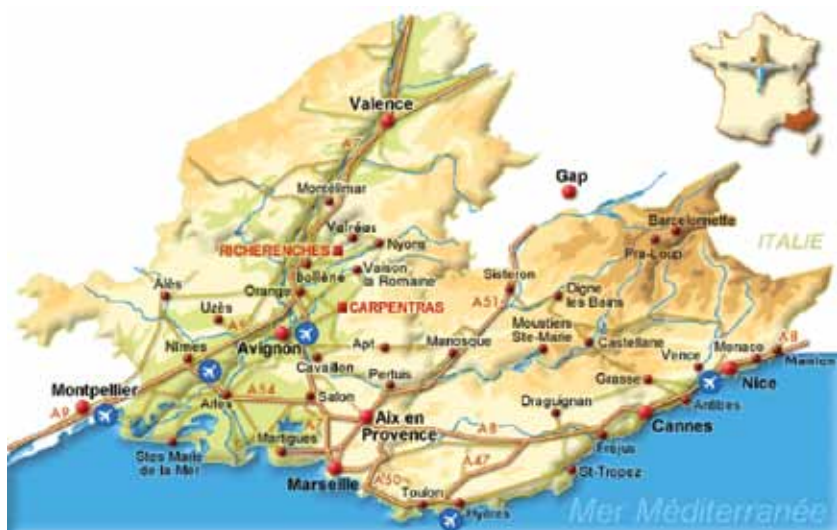


Coffee and Cake at the Mosque



A Jewish journey in Provence

Michael Reik recounts a cultural visit to France



Last May, 33 experienced intrepid travellers, including Gill and me, met at Marseille airport in the morning having just heard that the Conservative Party had realised an overall majority in the elections that had taken place the day before.

Off we went to St Maximum la St Baume to stand around 5 ancient arches with a plaque that confirmed that a number of Jews had arrived in 1303 having been removed from York in the UK in 1290. The first part of our trip would enable us to follow the trail of so many Jews that had ended up in this part of Provence invariably under the protection of the Comtat Venaissin and also for a period of nearly 100 years the papacy.

We journeyed that afternoon to Cavaillon, (not to see the melons) where we visited the old Jewish Quarter, the Carrière, and the Synagogue from 1774. At the entrance the old stone cartouche

has the inscription 'This is the gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter'. Of special interest was Elijah's chair set on high and the old bakery ovens in the museum under the Synagogue where Matzo was prepared for Pesach and Chalah for Shabbat.

We then travelled to Avignon, with our Shabbat evening service at the Avignon orthodox Synagogue, a rather long service including 6 times saying kaddish for the anniversary of loved ones.

The next morning we assembled at the rue de la vieille Juiverie, where in 1348 the Papal Authorities took over responsibility for its Jewish population. Here the Jews would depend for nearly 100 years on the good nature of the papacy. The only reminder of this time is the road sign still there today. After a visit to the Palais des Papes we held further discussions on the new rules for Jewish Life that were prepared

following the move of the Popes back to Rome.

In the afternoon we visited Carpentras, which in the middle ages had half of the Jews in the area being the Comtat capital. The Carrière here was almost 100 metres long. We sat outside the Cathédrale Saint-Siffrein contemplating the decisions of the Jews of the middle age deciding on whether to convert to Catholicism, or continue to live a life under continuous pressure from the Church Authorities. We then visited the synagogue, the oldest and one of the most beautiful in France, now with 70 members and growing.

The next morning it was off to Marseille, but on the way we visited the Les Milles Detention Camp, bringing us right into the 20th century. This was a transit camp where 2000 Jews were deported by the Vichy Government in September 1942 to Drancy by Paris and then onto Auschwitz. The building was an old tile factory and exists today as an 'Internment Memorial Museum'. At the far end of a path from the factory is a cattle truck that reminds us all of how the Jews were transported to Paris and then to Auschwitz.

We then moved to Marseille central station and learnt of the arrival of the many Jews fleeing from the east to a port of call from where they could escape to lands free. We learnt of Varian Fry, the American who at the Hotel Splendide arranged for up to 2000 people to obtain visas to escape mainly to the United States; this until an arrest warrant was put out by the Vichy Government for

“They all indicated how they felt Anti-Semitism within the Marseille area. All of them were bright teenagers able willingly to discuss with ourselves”

Varian at end of 1942.

In the afternoon we had the opportunity to meet up with seven Habonim enthusiasts aged 16-18 who discussed with us their future

plans, in the main intending to go to Israel once they had passed matriculation. They all indicated how they felt Anti-Semitism within the Marseille area. All of them were bright teenagers able willingly to discuss with ourselves.

The final morning we visited an area once a Jewish Quarter and within the old port. We learnt of Gloria Margolis originally from Istanbul, who set up her office at the Grand hotel Beauvaur at the dockside at Marseille port. From here she arranged for the emigration of Jews, who had no homes, and arranged for their transportation to the four corners of the earth in 1945.

This was and is part of the work of JDC, the Joint Distribution Centre who were also so directly involved in organising the illegal departure of so many Jews to what is now the

Land of Israel(but then Palestine under the British Mandate.) We have to remember at this critical time the British Government from 1939 restricted the entry of Jews into Palestine to a maximum of 15000/ year which was reduced to a trickle in 1945 despite repeated requests from the American Government.

We finished our Journey at the Contemporary Museum of European and Mediterranean civilisations, which identifies how the three faiths Christianity, Islam and Judaism have developed society, bridging between the Mediterranean and Europe. Another great Journey organised by Jeremy Leigh and Julian Resnick

Michael Reik

BOOK 39

Our original 'Book Group' started around ten years ago and we continue to meet every two months or so, taking turns to choose books for all to read and discuss. I am very pleased to say that our hard core of bookworms includes members of both Bessborough Road communities and one Kenton United member too. We usually meet at shul but once a year we have also had 'theme evenings' and these usually take place at our home in Pinner when we discuss favourite reads over coffee and cake. Our most recent theme evening took place in early September when we discussed 'Jewish writers'.

Books and writers covered during a wonderful evening included: The Holy Bible (in particular the story of David), Geraldine Brooks – People of the Book, The Hilltop by Assaf Gavron, Leon Uris – Exodus and Mila 18; the Marrying of Chani Kaufman by Eve Harris; Isaac Bashevis Singer – In My Father's Court.

Although we had a veto on Philip Roth (having discussed so many of his works over the years), he still had an occasional mention, as did Howard Jacobson. Stefan Zweig's The Impossible Exile was highly recommended. I was introduced to Isaac Babel

when an extract from 'The King' was read to high acclaim. Also recommended were The Red Country and The Odessa Tales, but best of all was the huge tome of his Complete Works. We also had Chaim Potok with various titles: The Chosen, The Promise, My Name is Asher Lev, The Gift of Asher Lev and Davita's Harp.

Saul Bellow was mentioned – Humboldt's Gift, The Adventures of Augie March and Mr Sammler's Planet. One book unknown to most of us was 'One Night, Markovitch' by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen, bought by one of our members at Jewish Book Week as a result of hearing the author speak.

My own recommendation was Meir Shalev, having read three of his glorious books centred on Israel, Four Meals, The Blue Mountain and My Russian Grandmother and her American Vacuum Cleaner.

It must have been a good evening as no-one went home until after 10.30 and one member described it to me as being between The Hay Festival and the final of British Bake-Off!!

Janet Solomon

Two sisters – two destinations



Sharon and Howard Smith off to explore

The two Cohen sisters – better known to HEMS and Mosaic members as Debbie Scott and Sharon Smith, both chose to go on animal-orientated holidays this year, but they travelled to different parts of the world.

Sometimes it's a good idea not to think too much about what you're doing; if Sharon and Howard had, they would never have embarked on their adventure to Tanzania and Zanzibar. They didn't think twice about booking, but on reflection: every drop of water had to come from a sealed bottle – even to rinse a toothbrush. Buffalos wandered through the campsite at night with the only protection of a tent canvas and a Masai warrior armed with a machete! And with stories of Somali pirates off the coast of Zanzibar, our loving family told us they wouldn't pay a ransom if we were kidnapped!

Our week-long safari experience enabled us to get close up and personal with the 'Big Five' in their natural African habitat: elephants, lions, leopards, buffalo and, yes, even the most critically endangered, the black rhinoceros (ours decided to relieve itself in front of us!). The timing was perfect, as we witnessed one of the 'Seven Wonders of the Natural World', the annual migration of over 1.5 million wildebeest.

We shot, but no animals were harmed, as it was with cameras: lionesses sleeping in trees, lion cubs playing in the long savannah grasses, baby elephants fighting, and just some of the 1100 species of birds. Our guide and driver got us to a 'kill', and when the lion left the scene, the observing scavengers, vultures and jackals, shared the remains.

“And with stories of Somali pirates off the coast of Zanzibar, our loving family told us they wouldn't pay a ransom if we were kidnapped!”

Debbie and her husband, Dave Scott, headed off in the same direction but travelled a further 3000 miles to Malaysia, to the Island of Borneo. The main attraction of their holiday was to see the Orangutans (from the Malay, Orang Hutan meaning 'man of the forest'). Borneo is one of the two only remaining natural habitats in the world (the other being Sumatra) which can guarantee the rare sighting of the



Debbie and Dave Scott enjoy meeting the monkeys!



little orange man. As you can see from the photos, they were not to be disappointed.

The trip included a visit to Kinabalu Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the highest mountain in Malaysia, Mt Kinabalu. It was only three days later on the 5th June that the earthed moved for them during the 6.0 magnitude Borneo earthquake. They assured us that they were not the cause; they hadn't stripped off for any photographs.

Ten minutes from Kota Kinabalu is Gaya Island, which they visited at the end of their holiday. Here they saw the Island's marine sanctuary and caught a glimpse of the turtles. One picture, which was not recorded, was the night of a beach BBQ, when they were joined by some uninvited guests: a wild boar and its two babies – fortunately, it wasn't a spit roast!

A Wedding picture becomes historical!



Joy Collins writes from Israel

At the beginning of 2011, the magazine of Hatch End Masorti Synagogue, *Neshama*, asked for contributions of wedding photos taken by Boris, Bennett – a famous photographer of the 30s and 40s based in Whitechapel – which could be included in the forthcoming article about him.

The pictures selected were all of

members' parents and grandparents with the exception of one – ours! Little did I know at that time how often our wedding portrait would re-appear in print!

Although still a student, with an income to match, my future husband insisted we used Boris to take at least one picture of us. It was quoted that you knew you'd arrived if Boris took your photograph.

As he had officially retired, a guarantee of an order of six portraits (not cheap!!!) was required, and we had to go to Bennett's photographic studios in Oxford Street.

After making aliyah in September 2011, we were then told that Michael Greisman and Frank Harris were curating a book about Boris. They sought our permission to use our picture as it was thought to be the last taken by him and, unusually, it

was in landscape format. Most of the wedding poses in earlier years had the same background, the same pose, and – in a joke – Boris was said to have quipped that you just had to change the faces. Apparently he would have often liked to 'mix-and-match' some of them!!!

When *Vintage Glamour In London's East End* was published, it received glowing reviews in *The Mail on Sunday*, the *Jewish Chronicle* and the *Jewish News* followed by inclusion in the JC glossy supplement *Celebrations* in 2014. Our portrait appeared on every review! The Jewish Museum in Camden also had an exhibition of his work – and again – there we were!

A member of our family joked that I would have to start wearing dark glasses because of the fame we must be attracting!

My husband, Gerry, sadly passed away in 2012, but I know how delighted he would have been to keep seeing our picture from 60 years ago, still being shown. It's a testament to his insistence that we used the great work of Boris.

Alex Brummer in conversation with national broadcaster Steve Levinson



Sunday 22nd May
8:00pm
at Bessborough Road

Alex Brummer is City Editor of the *Daily Mail* and a regulator contributor to the *Jewish Chronicle* and *Jewish News*. He is author of five books including 'Bad Banks' published in 2015, a WH Smiths bestseller. A former vice-president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews he recently has become chairman of the Abraham Fund Initiatives in the UK and is also chair of the Jewish News.

To book please ring 020 8864 0133
or e-mail
admion@choosmosaic.org
Suggested charitable donation of
£3 on the night

Defending Israel – legally



David Lewis writes about his work challenging anti-Israel resolutions

Early in 2011 a small group of Jewish lawyers, deeply concerned about the growing campaigns to demonise and boycott Israel, and seeing this as a threat to the Jewish people as well as the Jewish state, sat around a conference table in a City law firm and decided to do something about it.

Having a local government background, I have found a role for myself in challenging abuses by local councils: mainly hostile motions and resolutions, and flying the Palestinian flag.

The motions are usually from Left-wing councillors, who move them a few days before the Council meets. They typically call for the council to impose an economic boycott of Israel, but their real purpose is to demonise the Jewish state by alleging deliberate targeting of civilians in war and other breaches of international law.

They vary in their malice and intensity, and they are sometimes passed with moderating amendments. One of the nastier ones, passed by Gwynedd in

October 2014, condemns “the over-reaction and savageness used” by Israel in Gaza, and effectively resolved “not to invest in Israel or that country’s establishments”.

Such motions, if passed as resolutions, are not necessarily outside the council’s powers, since they now have the legal power to do anything which an individual can do: even dabble in foreign policy. But public sector boycotts are illegal. Moreover, these resolutions are in breach of the public sector equality duty, which requires councils to consider the effect of their policies on relations between communities.

A number of councils flew the Palestinian flag on or near their main civic building during and after the 2014 Gaza war, and at least one municipality – Aberdeen City Council – aims to fly the flag of terror (as I call it) every year on 29 November, to commemorate not the anniversary of the UN General Assembly’s partition resolution of 1947 but the same body’s International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. These malicious and provocative activities also ignore the public sector equality duty.

I have sometimes been able to prevent hostile resolutions when I become aware of them in advance, but you rarely get much advance notice of flag-flying. I have never managed to get such a resolution rescinded, and of course you cannot do much about a flag which has been flown for one day and then taken down. However, rather than be continually challenging individual councils, I have been seeking

more effective ways to curb these activities, and I am pleased to see that government ministers are planning to outlaw local authority boycott resolutions.

I’ve also been helping a Jewish student at a northern university, who is complaining to the Vice-Chancellor about the pernicious social media activities of the Palestine Society (PalSoc), whose tweets and Facebook posts included blood libels accusing Israel of deliberately killing civilians (including children) and of other atrocities. He is claiming that PalSoc is in breach of its supposedly charitable objects, which enable it to receive funding from the students’ union, and that the university is making things worse by advertising Israel Apartheid Week, and other events demonising the Jewish state, on public and private screens all over the campus.

This student and I met the university registrar in October, and he and I await the Vice-Chancellor’s decision. Regardless of the legal outcome, our complaint has already had a significant effect since PalSoc’s social media output has become refreshingly anodyne and boring, and the university’s corporate screens are no longer used to advertise Jew-baiting events.

This work, as you can imagine, keeps me pretty busy for a supposedly retired 71 year-old. Not only legal but also political and managerial skills are needed. The work is sometimes difficult, but I feel privileged to be able to use my skills in the service of the Jewish people.

Lawyers (or people with a legal background) wishing to know more should contact david.lewis@adlew.com or ring him on 07887 757 606

This Seder night, please thank your CST volunteers



CST, Community Security Trust, is here to help ensure that Jews throughout the UK are protected and reassured. **We are a registered charity that wants every member of our community to be able to lead the Jewish lives of their choice.**

Sadly, we do live in a world where there are problems with both antisemitism and terrorism. This is why CST exists, but **our goal is to encourage Jewish life**, not for people to be scared by the presence of security measures and CST volunteers. We want to take action against the problems and **we want to empower everybody to play their part in that.**

Our work relies upon our local CST volunteers, who give their time to stand guard outside your synagogue, either during services or at special events. **Indeed, you yourself may be one of those CST volunteers: or they could be your husband,**

wife, son, daughter, friend or neighbour.

Alternatively, you may well be one of the many people who help to assist in our work, by joining security rotas at schools and shuls.

The fact is that **CST draws all of our strength from all of our communities.** We see no distinction between us and the community that we serve.

So, this Seder night, as we gather together with family and friends, bear in mind what Pesach tells us about where we once were as a people, where we are now and all the good things we have in our Jewish lives. Be grateful for that: and if you are one of the many people hosting someone at your Seder night who helps CST throughout the year, **then please make a point of thanking them, for what they do on behalf of us all.**

Yours, CST.



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Desert island discs

Our castaway this month is Richard Buchalter – a long-standing member of HEMS. We asked Richard to take eight records and one luxury item to his desert island

His choice of music clearly has a Celtic flavour, which comes as no surprise, as his formative years were spent in Dublin. Coming from a city close to the sea he should adapt quite well to life on our tropical island– or maybe not!

Richard said he found it difficult to limit the selection to just eight songs. He tends to listen to what's on the radio rather than to search out new sounds, never the less this is his list in no particular order of preference:

1 One – U2
Bono and the Edge at their best. The guitar instrumental is amazing.

2 Let's stay together – Al Green
Great soul song. A song to wind down to at the end of the day.

3 While my guitar gently weeps – The Beatles
The songs of Lennon and McCartney have become classics but George Harrison showed that he too was a great songwriter. Eric Clapton on guitar was memorable.

4 Joy of life – The Corrs
Brilliant instrumental uptempo traditional Irish music.

5 Sultans of Swing – Dire Straits
Love the live version. What a great rock tune with a unique sound. I believe the way the guitar is played is called finger style and that Mark Knofler is one of its greatest exponents.

6 Ireland's call – Phil Coulter
The nation's rugby anthem (Ireland). It would make the hairs on the back of my neck stand up if I had any.

7 Still Waters Run Deep – Skid Row
Irish rock band that I followed as a student fronted by the irrepressible Brush Shields. Played every Thursday night at the Baggot Inn. Phil Lynott used to jam regularly with them. Brush had a very distinctive voice.

8 Hollies – He Ain't Heavy he's my brother
Inspiring lyrics and a great melody. Like the Justice Collective charity version too.

My luxury item
With regard to a luxury item Richard said he would like to take a satellite radio with a limitless supply of batteries to the island, to keep in touch with the outside world in general, and Everton Football Club in particular.



Meet Max Alexander – Mosaic's Celebrity Chef!

Max is in year 10 at JFS. He has always had a passion for food, and in 2015 won the opportunity to be mentored by Ben Purton, the Executive Chef at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London. Max uses all his available free time away from school to develop his skills, in the hope that one day he'll be a top class chef.

When Max learnt that he was to be featured in Kehila, it was agreed by the hotel management that he could invite two people to observe him preparing and cooking food, I was delighted that Max chose Julie Dysch, who had also known Max from an early age, and myself to be his special guests. We arrived to find Max preparing dishes for 70 guests and although my diet says no bread – when offered a taster, my eyes and brain said yes, yes, yes!! It was a green olive ciabatta which was crisp and hot, with many olives – the added balsamic sauce was sweet and gave it a really exciting taste. We then had butternut squash, which was truly gorgeous, and the banana shallots were exquisite. I had to say a 'Shehechyanu', as it was the first time I had ever tasted them! Even the bottled water was bespoke with the name of the restaurant. It was called 'Island' and we felt like being on an island, as it was such a relaxing afternoon. The jazz music complemented the occasion. No wonder this restaurant has a 2AA rosette. No bustle, no hustle and it was wonderful to see the chef perform; what a bonus when he came out to meet us and check that all was in order. Not only that, Max explained how he had prepared some of the delicacies. It was not thrown together, but was well considered, to make sure it looked like a tapestry of ingredients that was symmetrical, colourful and

exciting to look at.

Max was amazed that we did not partake of the wine, but being teetotal, that was not on the menu! In any event, we wanted to savour Max's cooking, as that was the purpose of the afternoon. A pudding was served up, and a spectacular combination of colour and design unfolded in front of our eyes. I always thought of a pear being a pear – well not now! I had never seen pears so thinly cut and presented so expertly. The taste was to live for, as was the chocolate crèmeux. If you do not know what a crèmeux is, book into the Royal Lancaster and you will taste heaven



whilst on earth. The red raspberry coulis added richness and colour to the plate – it seemed a real shame to disturb the wonderful presentation, but disturb it we did!

Overall, the afternoon was like going to the theatre and meeting the star performer and the production director. Being introduced to Ben Purton, the Executive Chef was a great honour. Ben explained his philosophy of helping the young and how delighted he was with Max's work. He also informed us that he is taking Max as his sous-chef, to cater a private dinner party at the home of Stephen Moss, the Founder of the 'Springboard Charity', which encourages the young to develop skills in the restaurant sector.

So for the future, Max could be a new Jamie Oliver, maybe developing his skills to bring us kosher meals such as we have never seen before!

Remember, Kehila was the first magazine to discover Max.

Edwin Lucas

Nigel, wearing a blue and white shirt, is in the centre of the photograph



A Family Reunited

In conversation with Gill Gurner, Nigel Davis recalls how from being brought up as a single adopted child, he has found over fifty- five family members and is still counting!

Nigel Davis is a life-long member of Mosaic Reform, having celebrated his Bar Mitzvah and Marriage in the Shul. He says from an early age, I always knew that I was adopted, but not wishing to upset anyone, decided to postpone looking for my birth parents during my adoptive parents' lifetime. In the year 2000 I received a letter from an adoption agency, to say that they were transferring all their adoption papers to the London Borough of Brent. I saw this as a sign to start what would turn out to be an arduous, frustrating, but eventually, rewarding search.

My first contact was with the Brent Adoption Services, who

informed me that I couldn't see my records without first being counselled by a social worker. This was duly arranged and I soon discovered that I had an older brother and sister, and that my father had served in the Canadian Air Force (although I found out subsequently that there was no record of him in the Canadian military records). My adoption file also showed that my grandmother was buried in Marlowe Road Cemetery, East Ham, and a visit to her grave revealed that my birth mother was one of eleven children (I now know that there were fourteen children in total).

With little in the way of concrete facts, I decided to look for my

mother, brother and sister. It transpired that my sister was adopted through the same Society as me, however my brother was adopted through what is now called the Surrey Adoption Agency, a department of Surrey County Council. So, the next visit was to Surrey to find out what information they were holding. I was told that they had an address for my brother's adoptive parents, and that they would write and see if they received a reply. About a month went past and it was confirmed that my brother had been found. Initially, we exchanged letters and a photo and then we agreed to meet. On first sight my brother and I just looked at each other in silence. Eventually, his partner said: "Are you two going to speak or just stare at each other for the rest of the day?" This intervention broke the ice and we began to chat and talk about our lives. I also gave my brother the information I had found about our mother and sister, albeit at this stage it was very little.

In 2003, my brother applied

“ “Are you two going to speak or just stare at each other for the rest of the day?” This intervention broke the ice and we began to chat and talk about our lives ”

to see his adoption file, and discovered that our mother, who was called Sylvia, had never been married and had kept him for a year before he was put up for adoption. Letters on file from her, described the problems she was experiencing as a single mother. She recorded that her father had disowned her when she was pregnant with the first baby. When she became pregnant for the second time, my brother was put into a children's home in Surrey and put up for adoption, because a decision had been made that our mother couldn't cope with two children. However, she specifically asked that her children go to Jewish homes.

For the following ten years, I continued to research my family, but with little success.

Although I had the names of many aunts and uncles, searching was proving frustrating. In 2014, I happened to meet someone who put me in touch with the Post Adoption Counselling Service. There I was introduced to a researcher/counsellor, who was able to fully share my adoption file with me. We met several times and she was also able to carry out research on my behalf. In January last year, she disclosed that I had a cousin in Dagenham and another in Australia, but she couldn't give me any more information. She had also located other potential cousins.

From my own research, I had

also found a second cousin on the Roots website, who was now living in Watford. Her mother was my first cousin. At broadly the same time, the researcher had found another first cousin on the Genes Reunited website, and in April 2015, we all met up with our respective families, where I gained more information about my own family.

Last May, the researcher sent me an email containing four names, all with the surname 'Bierman' and all living in Surrey. She asked me to have a look and let her know what I thought. In the meantime, another cousin had found someone called Emma with a large family, including the name Bierman, which was my birth name. He sent Emma a message and she replied, asking him if his father had any other brothers or sisters. He listed all 13 chronologically! Emma confirmed they are cousins, and that her mum was Sylvia, and that she would like to phone him. He responded at once and asked if Emma could phone him straight away, as he had some information that she may find quite interesting! What a surprise for both of us, as my birth mother's name was Sylvia, thus making us brother and sister, and equally as important, that Emma has a sister called Sarah.

Emma and Sarah were brought up by Sylvia, who at the time was in a stable relationship. After Sylvia passed away in August 1983 (the same year in which I was

married), they heard from their aunt in Canada (who had gone with our mum to a mother and baby home in Surrey when my older brother was born), that they had an older brother; my sisters have been searching for him for the last twenty years. My sisters have told me all about mum. On 17 May, the three of us and our respective families (including three nieces and a nephew) met up, and we now speak every week. I now have a photo of my mother for the first time. On the 9 July, my sisters met our brother for the very first time.

I guess readers might find my background a little complicated so just to explain briefly, my birth mother (Sylvia) had six children. The older three were all adopted by separate families, my younger brother Mark, who passed away at the age of seven months, and my two younger sisters. The search continues for our older sister; our only information to date is that she is registered with a GP in the UK.

So, from growing up as an only child, in 2015 I was lucky enough to meet, speak to, or find out about, two younger sisters, a younger brother, three nieces, a nephew, one aunt, two aunts by marriage, twenty first cousins, twenty-seven second cousins, and their families!

This has been an incredible journey for me and my 'new' family. Who knows whether there may be future surprises in store?

Steve Levinson visits Romania



Botosani early 1900s



Botosani 2008

There's a town called Botosani in North East Romania near the border with Moldova. I had never heard of it a year ago, but then I started trying to track down long lost family roots and so began an incredible journey of discovery.

My research found and reunited remnants of a family which had just about survived the Holocaust, had endured slave labour camps, and even been sold for cash by a Communist regime. A family reunion party eventually brought together members from around the world who had never previously known of each other's existence, and had only faded photographs of people they couldn't identify.

But the discoveries led back to Romania and particularly the town of Botosani. A few weeks ago my wife Viv and I and some cousins, hired a local heritage guide and headed back to the town. Botosani is still a bustling centre, and has a Jewish community of 60. But a hundred years ago it had 25,000 Jews who made up 70% of the population. It was from there that my grandfather left and headed for London. (Romanian refugees – very topical!).

This is a part of Romania with a rich Jewish history. The Jewish cemetery in nearby Iasi has 100,000 graves. Botosani's large cemetery had, as I discovered, headstones of many family members. I found my great great grandfather, my great grandfather, a great uncle and great aunt. The latter of these contained an even bigger surprise – a broken porcelain cameo photo of her which had fallen out of the headstone and laid on the ground for decades. The cemetery is in surprisingly good condition and, as elsewhere in Romania, Jewish sites are being expensively restored with Government funding. Unfortunately there aren't many Jews around to enjoy the benefits. In its heyday Botosani had 62 synagogues, now there is only one. But it's astonishingly beautiful and happens to be the one where my family prayed in the 1800s.

Even if you have no family links there a visit to Romania will reveal a largely untold Jewish history. The surviving synagogues are beautifully restored, the architecture a spectacular mix of Latin and Moorish flare, and the reminders of a glorious Jewish past lurking around almost every corner.



Finding the dream job after redundancy: Jonathan's story

At some stage and for a variety of reasons many of us will find ourselves out of work or facing the threat of redundancy. That's when we feel most vulnerable and in need of all the help we can get.

Jonathan graduated with a Masters in Engineering, before moving into the jewellery trade. After a few years he was made redundant.

He'd had an ambition to go into accountancy and began studying, but redundancy hit him hard. 'I felt extremely low, of no value and without self-confidence. I had a young family to support and sending my CV to dozens of employers was getting me nowhere.'

Jonathan's experience with Resource, the Jewish Employment Advice Centre, marked a turning point. 'I had a fantastically supportive advisor, invaluable workshops and then, via

a post on Resource's Jobs Board for a junior trainee position at an accountancy practice, an introduction and a successful interview.'

Speaking recently, Jonathan said, 'I've been at my role ever since, thoroughly enjoying my job with Errington Langer Pinner. Through a lot of hard work and study I have just fulfilled my ambition and qualified as a Chartered Certified Accountant.'

Redundancy affects people in a number of ways. They may want to resume their current profession, perhaps consider a career change or develop abilities that may have lain dormant for years.

Resource is a professional charity that provides free advice and support, at no cost, to unemployed members of the Jewish community looking to get back into the work place, regardless of age, experience or qualifications.



Jonathan, Chartered Certified Accountant
Married with three daughters

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Photograph of the Fuchs family from 1887

An extraordinary family reunion

In July Jacqueline and I attended an extraordinary family reunion.

My great grandfather Hirsch Fuchs married Fanny Ottenheimer in 1854. They had 15 children of whom 12 reached adulthood. The photograph taken in 1887 shows 12 brothers and one sister Jenny who is holding my grandfather Friedrich. The family lived in Karlsruhe. My great grandfather and his sons established one of the biggest timber merchants in southwest Germany.

Hirsch and Fanny had 38 grandchildren and it is the majority of this generation who fortunately managed to leave Germany before the war. Only 9 members of the whole family were deported and murdered. The rest emigrated all over the world. My mother, Renate came to London in February 1939 and her parents in May 1939.

The family had always been very close. The cousins continued to contact one another wherever they resided. There had always been small family reunions. The first large reunion was held in Karlsruhe in 2009. The next one was in 2012, in Esterel, Quebec. This year was in Haarlem, Holland and was the first we had attended. The 'family'

“Three cousins who lived in Holland, Canada and New Zealand had organised a two day programme for about 100 cousins extending over 4 generations”

virtually took over the hotel.

Three cousins who lived in Holland, Canada and New Zealand had organised a two day programme for about 100 cousins extending over four generations.

The first morning was spent introducing ourselves. We were called up by 'tribes' of the original brothers and sister who had families. Jacqueline and I were the only representatives of my grandfather Friedrich but if my sister and all my cousins who live in Israel had managed to be present that number could have swelled to 35. We then had a talk from Paul Fuchs who related his father's experiences during the war in Theresienstadt.

In the afternoon we had time to discover the delightful city of Haarlem. We then all met together for dinner and more conversation with my long lost cousins. The evening entertainment was lieder

by the composer, Richard Fuchs who died in Wellington in 1947. The next day we all went on a cruise on the River Spaarne. Before the final dinner we assembled for group photographs. There was a splendid banquet with many speeches including votes of thanks and promises to meet up again in 2018.

During the reunion I met up with cousins from the USA, Canada, Mexico City, New Zealand, Holland and Switzerland as well as several from England who I had never seen before. It was sad but not unexpected that so many no longer practised their Judaism but most importantly the family had largely survived the Holocaust.

It was very heart-warming to see that the family still enjoy each other's company over such a long time and living so far apart.

David Wyman

A working life...

Meet Judge Jeremy Banks



When I mention I am a judge the immediate response is often to be asked about sending people to prison. But I always reply that I don't do crime (it doesn't pay), and that all my work is civil and family. It covers an enormous range of legal practice, including disputes about property, housing, contracts, employment, compensation for accidents on the road or at work, and, in the family sphere, divorce, maintenance, child arrangements and injunctions to prevent domestic violence. As the newspaper used to say, 'all human life is there'.

More misconceptions arise from seeing courtroom fiction on television. For one thing no English judge ever uses a gavel. It is also not correct for a witness to say 'I will take the stand'. 'No you won't,' one of my colleagues always replies, 'you will leave it exactly where it is.' The correct phrase in an English courtroom is that the witness will 'go into the witness box'.

It is always risky for a judge to use humour in the course of a hearing, because it may lead the parties to think that the case is not being taken seriously. Sometimes I can't resist it. I had been hearing a case about work to cut down some dangerous parts of a tree. (It made me think of Groucho Marx's mention of a tree surgeon who 'fell out of

“The appealing thing about the job is the variety, and the aim of finding a just solution to a real dispute”

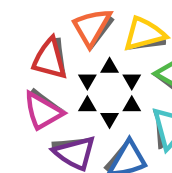
a patient'). One of the witnesses was a specialist arboriculturist, whose opinion differed from other witnesses. As I had to say, he was 'out on a limb'. Of course, when the judge makes a joke, everyone in court laughs dutifully.

Another case involved a woman who had just arrived at the airport and a taxi took her to where she was to stay. She thought the driver had taken an unnecessarily long route. At the destination there was an argument about the fare. The cabbie just wanted to drive away, but with the aim of stopping him she climbed onto the bonnet of the taxi, fell off and then sued for the ensuing injury. The dispute arose, as I said, because she thought she had been taken for a ride.

The part of the job I enjoy least is making people leave their own homes because they have not paid the rent or mortgage installments.

Every judge tries hard to give them another chance to pay. But sometimes the law gives me no choice, and they must go. I have to say, 'the law won't allow me to help you.'

The appealing thing about the job is the variety, and the aim of finding a just solution to a real dispute. The civil cases are mostly, in the end, about money, but in the family cases people's emotions and way of life may also be at stake. It all needs an understanding of people and businesses, good knowledge of the law, the ability to explain the decision, and the capacity to listen to the case patiently and be fair to both sides.



Mosaic
Choose your Jewish life

The Jewish teacher whose legacy has lasted over 30 years

By Steve Levinson is a trustee of the SFEF



Generations of bar and batmitvah children from Middlesex New Synagogue and, more recently, Mosaic, have somewhere in their homes books presented to them by the Sidney Fenton Education Foundation.

There have been hundreds of these presentations over the past 35 years, but few if any of today's Mosaic Community know anything about Sidney Fenton, or the Foundation that bears his name and which, to this day, continues to provide funding for the Jewish educational needs.

It is not just the provision of books. The trustees of the Foundation take a very wide view of what can qualify as Jewish education. Recently we helped send young members of the community with learning disabilities on a Norwood mountain trek in central Europe. One of them Shalev Nymark (pictured, left) is pictured with Norwood team leader Drew Needs. The group, themselves raising sponsorship for Norwood, touched base with many of the areas

from which Jewish families fled in the 19th and 20th century. They met Jewish families and added to their understanding of the Holocaust.

Others have benefitted from our support in being able to attend Israel tours and camps. The Foundation has also helped with the provision of equipment for the religion school, and even helped our Rabbis attend conferences and seminars in Israel and elsewhere.

Although we prioritise members of our own communities, we also help others if they meet our criteria and our focus on matters that are both 'Jewish' and 'educational'. In this spirit we have also sponsored discussions and debates on Jewish and Israeli issues.

This has all come a long way from the days when Sidney Fenton was a senior teacher at the Middlesex New Synagogue religion school in its early days. He died in 1978, at the relatively young age of 54.

Writing from Jerusalem in the Synagogue Magazine in 1979, Rabbi Adi Assabi described Sidney as "a

“Our philosophy is to help with small contributions towards a wide range of educational needs, rather than large scale projects”

perfect example of the committed Jew that is so needed for the survival of Judaism in our time.”

His widow Freda was one of the original trustees of the foundation and always attended meetings until shortly before she died in 2008.

Many members of our community have fond memories of a gentle and pious man. One of his fellow teachers, Pearl Simons, now 92, described him as “an East End boy” who had an orthodox background. “He was a very straight man, whose word was his bond. Like many of us from the East End, his social and political outlook was progressive. When the religion school was in its early days we had hundreds of children and we taught in members’ houses and bungalows.”

The Trust that was set up in his memory, continues its work to this day. It has a low profile but is open to proposals for educational funding. Our philosophy is to help with small contributions towards a wide range of educational needs, rather than large scale projects. Further information can be obtained from the Mosaic office who will pass on inquiries to Michael Harrison the Fund Administrator.

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A 'snapshot' of last year's gardens

There was an overwhelming response for pictures – sorry we couldn't include everyone



David Ruback



Adrian Cohen



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Supposing a Tree Fell Down



“I'm learning how not to be defined by cancer and how to enjoy living in that big grey area of unnerving uncertainty. “Supposing a tree fell down, Pooh, when we were underneath it? “Supposing it didn't,” said Pooh after careful thought. Piglet was comforted by this”

Sometimes I wonder at my sanity. I'm taking advice from a teddy bear who eats honey straight from the pot. Still, Winnie the Pooh is quite right. Given half a chance, I can while away hours in creating problems that don't exist or exaggerate problems that are already there. I kid myself I'm being realistic and indulge in a good wallow living through my self-made worst case scenario.

It came as something of a surprise, therefore, to find that when I received a diagnosis of incurable cancer, I was not at all sure how to respond. I couldn't work out whether it was a problem or not or how I felt about it, and still can't. Sometimes, I believe I live a charmed life. I'm the luckiest person I know. Somehow, things always turn out well which I put down to a combination of circumstance, timing, genes, inspirational example, faith, luck and more love and support than anyone is entitled to. Other times, I don't know what to do with my diagnosis. Does it change everything or nothing at all? Does the prospect of an early death fill me with fear, confusion, failure, doom, relief, blame, shame, isolation, or is it OK? Does the lure of Switzerland beckon or shall I continue with treatment? How do I resolve a conflict of interests?

Although this is my reality living with a terminal diagnosis, I feel very lucky. I am indebted to the kindness, sensitivity and skill of everyone I've encountered at Chai (Cancer Care) and as a result, I've discovered that the more I explore these questions, the less troublesome and confusing they become. I'm learning how not to be defined by cancer and how to enjoy living in that big grey area of unnerving uncertainty as well as how to navigate a path through constant change and loss. I have regained my temporary loss of identity, equilibrium and perspective. I was very pleased to be annoyed at losing a glove recently. That's a seismic shift as it is so easy not to engage with everyday irritations on the basis that none of them hold any significance in the face of a bigger blow. But they are the fabric of life on which we depend to maintain our balance. In short, I've been given the precious gift of learning how to override a pre-programmed fear of death that unconsciously underpins my being, and instead focus on acceptance of my path in life, taking each day as it comes.

Pooh's school of thought is sound. I can't change my situation, but I can opt for an enjoyable, fulfilling and peaceful life and certainly dispense with worrying about things that haven't happened. With exceptionally skilful guidance and care, I am acquiring the ability to train my mind to become less of a Piglet, and more like Pooh.

Michelle Singer

Daniel Baars and Noah Abrahams enjoy their Big Day

Daniel Baars

My Bar Mitzvah was on 5th December last year. It went very well. I was reading Parashat Vayeishev. I read three aliot and the maftir. The hardest part was the Shema; I had always found it hard to remember and got the giggles half way through it. I really enjoyed seeing everyone in synagogue, it was like a huge family reunion but a lot of other people were there too, so it was like a family and friends reunion. We had a celebration on the Sunday evening. It was great fun; instead of doing a waltz with my mum we did the Macarena. My celebrations coincided with the first day of Hanukah, so I got to light the candles with the rabbi. I thoroughly enjoyed my Bar Mitzvah even though I was scared at first!



Noah Abrahams

On the 12th December 2015 after a year of learning my portion, I stood in front of my family, friends and community and laying my Parsha: Mikeitz, which was pretty long as there were three scrolls, as it was Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh and Chanukah. It all went really well, and that is mostly due to Stefan Roos, my teacher, who devoted his time to making sure I knew what I was doing. I also appreciated it that Rabbi Kathleen was able to take time from her sabbatical to be there.

My bar mitzvah party on the Sunday topped off what was a fantastic weekend, which allowed me to celebrate becoming a man in such a memorable way. These memories and those feelings will stay with me for ever. My mum and dad put so much effort into all the organisation and I think I did them proud.



Board of Deputies report back



By Michael Reik – Mosaic Reform BOD representative



Defence and Group Relations meeting of Board of Deputies held Tuesday March 8th

A regulatory body is being set up by the Government in Medical issues and therefore it is essential that we (The Board) have an input (especially on issues such as Brit Milah)

The Board have produced Jewish Manifestos for the Northern Ireland/Welsh/ Scottish Elections and also for the London Assembly (This follows manifestos for the European and British General Elections).

Jonathan Arkush, Board

President is visiting Muslim Communities around the country to ensure good relations; though it is noticeable Muslim Communities are not giving any views on Israel.

There is a proposed visit to the Hindu Temple in Neasden on a Sunday. The meetings on Indian Jewish relations include meetings with the Sikh and Hindu communities. It was noted at Limmud there were events between Kurds and Jews.

The recent statistics from CST show that the Anti-Semitic incidents last year were from 60 per cent white, 30 per cent Asian and 10 per cent back members of the British Community.

13.4 million pounds has been set aside by the Government to

defend the British community (As announced by Teresa May at the CST dinner)

3000-5000 citizens have returned from Syria back to Europe from training there of which 700 returned to the UK. The far right are becoming more violent. Anti-Semitic actions have been noticeable within the Labour Club at Oxford University. Jewish Students have been far more in evidence at the Israel Apartheid week. A number of BDS motions have been put at various universities some very anti-Semitic, but most of the motions are defeated.

Later in the year the 80th Anniversary of the Cable Street Riots will be commemorated.

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Meet a family

Jane Harrison meets the Abrahams family from Mosaic Reform

It's not often the rabbi spills the beans when a man is about to pop the question.

That was how Carolyn Abrahams first discovered her husband-to-be, Joel, was about to propose.

Joel said: "I didn't know how to propose – well, I'd never done it before – so I wanted to ask Rabbi Franes what to say. I left a message for him to get back to me."

Carolyn said: "The next thing that happened was we got a message on our answer phone congratulating us on our engagement. I kept pressing the recall button. It was a bit of a surprise."

"She was shocked and tearful," added Joel.

The couple, who met at a 21st fancy dress party on a river boat nearly 30 years ago – Joel was a Cooperman and Carolyn, a schoolgirl – married at the then

MNS in 1997. They have both been involved in the running of the shul ever since, with Joel's father, Michael holding key roles, including that of warden for 12 years.

Joel, 49, was Barmitzvah at MNS. He has served as honorary secretary and vice-chairman, as well as warden for the past seven years.

Carolyn, 47, has been involved in the kiddush rota and handled vast amounts of food shopping. She introduced the concept of a light lunch for children on Yom Kippur, which has been so well received.

They have two children, Chloe, 16, and Noah, 12. Chloe is currently at West Herts College studying a BTEC in Public Services and plans to be a police officer. She is also a police cadet and life-guard at Highgrove swimming pool and enjoys horse-riding. Noah, 12, is at JFS, he loves footie and plays for Northwood

FC. He recently celebrated his Barmitzvah (see page 30).

This warm and fun-loving family also have three huge dogs; they ambushed me as I walked in. Two of them, Murphy, a bearded collie and Scooby, a collie cross are rescue dogs and Freddy, 'the posh one', is a Cockapoo and the least exuberant.

Joel assures me that Murphy can sing 'Happy Birthday' and to oblige, they all sing. Yes, he does join in.

The couple clearly believe that getting involved is the only way to encourage change. Joel, a research scientist for cancer developmental drugs at Imperial College Hammersmith hospital, said: "I think people have to step up to the plate. I have been a member for 36 years, so getting involved in council and becoming a warden was the natural step. If you want things done, you have to put your money where your

“The couple, who met at a 21st fancy dress party on a river boat nearly 30 years ago, married at the then MNS in 1997”

mouth is. I wanted to improve the shul and its family friendliness. The place to do that was on council. I enjoy being on the ritual committee and being warden and so did my dad. My mum, Margaret, was on the Ladies' Guild, so we have all been involved in the shul over the years."

Carolyn, who is a community administrator at Pinner synagogue and former member of Edgware Federation, said: "I like Mosaic, as I can sit next to Joel and understand the service."

Both felt more needed to be done to attract youth back to the synagogue. Carolyn said: "We need more things for older children. There really is nothing for young teenagers, especially once they complete their Barmitzvah. They don't want to come anymore. That is the biggest problem we have."

Joel said: "Once the Barmitzvah is over, they are in the wilderness years. We need to solve that. The shul has improved; it is much more vibrant and HaMakom has lots more kids than before. It is getting there, but the whole thing revolves round the new building."

"If we had a pool, a gym and care for the elderly, something along the lines of the Sternberg Centre that would be great. We need to get everyone together in one building; otherwise you can't build a community. Then we will become a focus, not just a shul."

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The other side of neutrality

History and memory – part I: Spies



Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland remained neutral for the duration of WWII. The reasons for Portuguese neutrality have no doubt been well covered in specialist historical works, but it is not difficult to list some of those reasons. Since 1935, Portugal had been ruled by a dictatorship that was sympathetic to the Nazi regime; on the other hand, its strategic position and that of the Azores in the mid-Atlantic, which has hosted an American airbase since the USA entered the war, made the country very attractive to both the Axis and the Allies. Portugal has had an alliance with Britain since the 15th century; the country was an unconditional ally during the Napoleonic Wars and WWI and had made a commercial treaty with Britain in the 18th century, which still stood.

Germany and Britain both had extensive commercial interests in the country, but the British ones were more public and more infrastructural: an Anglo-Portuguese tram company, an Anglo-Portuguese telegraph company and so on.

Salazar, the dictator, may have had his arm twisted by Britain, but, as a former Finance Minister, he must have thought that something could be gained by remaining neutral. With hindsight, it probably suited everybody, albeit some more than others, as was to be expected. The first ones to become fully employed for the duration of the war were the spies, namely the ones who were already spies during the fervid pre-war years and those who became spies, for example, embassy staff. Since most of the prestigious embassies were situated in an elegant part of Lisbon called Lapa, the British and German embassies could eye each other across the street. Spying operations took place mainly, but not exclusively, in two locations: Lisbon, the capital, and Estoril, a rather grand seaside resort some 20km west of Lisbon. In both places, hotel bars were preferred by one set of spies or the other. In downtown Lisbon, the Avenida Palace, favoured by the Axis, is still in existence; the other, the Aviz, favoured by the Allies has, alas, been pulled down.

In Estoril, it is certain that spies on both sides elbowed each other at the gambling tables in the casino. More luridly, they also tried their luck side by side with the other notable residents of Estoril: the deposed or exiled kings and queens from various European countries, and their retinues, idling their time away.

Except for the Portuguese working in these areas (who might even have benefited from such activities) and the Portuguese secret police (the PVDE), who were paid to do their own spying, the population would have been largely unaware of all this. It was largely a rural population,

with low levels of literacy and, in the main cities, a small, better informed but insular middle class. Even for those who could afford a newspaper, the official censorship covered everything, including films and radio. People were relieved that the war was out there somewhere and their main preoccupation was to manage the rations and, as a topic of conversation, the flourishing black market which most could not afford anyway. The radio, which was a life line in the UK at this time, did not exist in most houses. In my own, there was a second-hand one, but only years after the end of the war. In my extended family though, Dr.L. had a huge radio that he used mainly to listen to the BBC on long wave, which he only managed after much twiddling of buttons. That is how he heard firsthand about the fall of France, a great shock to him since he had done his medical training as a dermatologist in Paris. From then on, the household was forced to become Anglophile rather than Francophile, as hitherto.

As time went by, stories started to emerge about individual spies. There was the case of a shooting down over the Bay of Biscay, by the Luftwaffe, of a BOAC plane travelling from Lisbon to London; it was carrying only a few passengers including children. There were no survivors. It is still believed by some that this passenger plane leaving a neutral country was shot down because the actor Leslie Howard was one of the passengers and he was working as a spy for the Allies. Maybe that was the reason, but acts of war do not always have an explanation. The disaster, however, created another problem for the British government, that of how to

operate safely the transportation of 70 British children, then in Lisbon, to England.

Spying or, in this case, being a member of a secret service, could be the cause of family discord. It is said that this was why Nubar, son of the Armenian magnate Calouste Gulbenkian, became estranged from his father when working for the British Secret Service during the war. In 1942, the father had taken refuge in Lisbon from the bombing in London where he was residing. Was he concerned that he would be seen to compromise the neutrality of Portugal through the actions of his son? After all, he was only a guest in the country albeit one of the wealthiest guests in the world. He needn't have worried. The war finished, Salazar and his regime remained for nearly 30 years and Gulbenkian was allowed to stay undisturbed for another 13 years in the Hotel Aviz, where he occupied a whole floor, while another floor, it was said, was occupied by his cats.

In the end, he did the country proud, as he left his large collection of art and artefacts to the Portuguese nation and a handsome endowment for buildings and for continuing development and education in the field. Today, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is probably the foremost organisation of its type in the country.

Less exotic and closer to me, is the story told by a cousin on one of my regular visits to Portugal. For many years, as youngsters, we spent the summer holidays in a spa town 80km north of Lisbon. Later, when we met, we talked about the people we used to know there. He asked me once if I remembered Joana B. I tried hard and then, yes, I remembered that she sat with the young me and other women in the park café. Like them, she was working on an embroidery, the usual cover for their gossip circle, but she said very little herself, just smiling wanly from time to time. Well, said my cousin, she was a spy for the British during the

war after having fallen in love with an englishman who was staying temporarily in the town. I thought then that my cousin was in fantasy land. But thinking back, even if there was no love aspect, there was certainly the opportunity. Her father, a gloomy man, not much given to conversation, was one of the doctors in the town. He had a car and, being a doctor, he was exempt from petrol restrictions. He gave all the discreet outward signs of being an Anglophile. Why should he not help her by driving to the coast some 10km away, after dark, so that with her young eyes and a good pair of binoculars, she could watch for U boats skirting the coast line? After all, watching ships' movements was one of the jobs of the 'official' spies on both sides.

Maria Jose Landau

'The other side of neutrality', Part II-Refugees will appear in the Rosh Hashanah issue of Kehila.

KIEV KOPPERS UPDATE

April/May 2016

By Rita Asbury

During all Council and Rites & Practices Committee meetings, a voluntary contribution of £1 is encouraged. Since 2001, this has continued, and all the money goes to the discretionary fund of Rabbi Alex.

This money is so essential, to help poor people who sometimes do not have enough to eat, and to help to pay for any members of any of the communities who are in great difficulties. This is such an important part of a Rabbi's work.

This month I was able to send £100 to Rabbi Alex for this discretionary fund, from this money. Rabbi Alex was very grateful and every pound will be put to good use.

The Kopper Kollektion is still growing and all I can say is please...

KEEP THE KOPPERS KOMING!

Our totals to date are £15,800 for the coppers, and £1,340 for the discretionary fund!

Thanks to everyone who continues to support our dear friends in Kiev.



Children's Birthdays

Abigail Luffman (7)

Freya Luffman (7)

Max Newman (12)

Isabel Rafalin (13)

HaMakom Report

By Head Teacher
Jacky Martin

There have been some busy Sunday mornings at HaMakom this term. Each class has had a parents morning and so we have welcomed parents into the classroom to work alongside their children and allowed them to be involved in the activities.

Tu Bishvat was celebrated with a Seder. As well as having a chance to eat some healthy fruit to remind us about the festival, each class put on a presentation about an aspect of Tu Bishvat. Some of the classes reminded us why we need trees and how we need to care for the environment. After helping to plant a plant in a tub which HEMS have given, the children created their own Tu Bishvat tree which can be seen in the entrance Hall at Bessborough Road. Rabbi Paul was in London that weekend and taught us a Tu Bishvat song. Kitah Hay and Vav wrote some very thoughtful poems which you can read at the end of this piece.

On the first Sunday in February the Museum of London brought along some artefacts from their collection. They showed us some pictures of various Jewish items which they have in their collection and which you can see if you visit the museum. They had brought a collection of various things which had been found in the river Thames some of which dated back to the Romans. The session finished with the children thinking which of their Jewish items they have which if found in the future would show their Jewishness.

The Poetree
Underneath the Poetree
Come and read a while with me
And watch the way the words do weave
Between the shady Poetree leaves
The branches of the Poetree
Reaches throughout our community
So come and read or come and climb
But don't get hit by falling rhyme!

If I were a tree
I wonder what it would be like
Would I have feelings
Would I sleep through the night

If I were a tree
What would life be like
Would I watch football from a great height
Or would watching Man U give me a fright!

If I were a tree left outside all night
Would my leaves keep me warm
Would I be first to see the light
If I were a tree, would I want to be home
Tucked up in my bed, the world put to right.

Sam Latchman

I stand tall
No-one is as tall as I
When the wind blows
My leaves and limbs shake
But I'm not cold,
The weather has no effect on me
Because I can stand tall
No-one is as strong as I

Trees can be strong
Trees can be tall
Whatever kind
I love them all.

They give us oxygen
They give us air
We give them love
We give them care
Josie Sacks

The willow tree whispers
Weeping willow ... but
I am not crying.
Just bowing down to the Earth.
Kissing the ground with my leaves
Honouring the World with my love.

If Trees Could Talk
I am 90 years old and my birthday is now
But my friends are all gone and I'm living in fear.
Humans cut them down and threw them on a fire
A death of burning is not what I desire
I am happy, healthy and my leaves shine in the sun
But if they take me away my time on this earth will be done.

So please think of the trees this year
And hope as a tree I am not cut down which would end my career.

Rosy and shiny, juicy and sweet
Apples they're so good to eat
Crispy and crunchy, healthy too
No bit of apple will be left for you!

Far away by the Sea
There is a lovely Poetree
From above you can tell it needs love
Its words weave through its leaves.
Then one day a man in need
Came riding along on his trusted steed
He listened to its metaphors
which was enjoyed by his horse
And time by time there was a falling rhyme
And still people came
And there was still talk of the Poetree's fame
And from up above
You know it's still loved.

Emma De Magtige

Kitah Hay and Vav's song
(to the tune of 'Do you want to build a Snowman' from Frozen)
Do you want to plant a tree

Come on, let's show the world
Tikkum Olam, it is the way
Let's all make the change today.
Celebrating Tu Bi'Shvat
We used to do the gardening
But now we don't

We need to change our ways
Do you want to plant a tree
It doesn't have to be a forest
Just start with one.

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LA RAFLE
(the Round Up) 2010

1942. Joseph is eleven and after the Nazi occupation, he and his family learn about life on the Butte Montmartre, where they've found some kind of peace and shelter. At least that's what they think, until that morning on July 16th 1942, when their fragile routine collapses. From the Vélodrome D'Hiver, where 13,000 Jews are crammed, to the camp of Beaune-La-Rolande, from Vichy to the terrace of the Berghof, La Rafle follows the real destinies of the victims and the executioners; Of those who orchestrated it all; Of those who trusted them; Of those who fled and of those who opposed them. Every character in this film has existed. Every event, even the most extreme transpired on that summer of 1942.

(French with English Subtitles)

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

As usual there will be time for an informal discussion or a chat with friends, with tea, coffee and biscuits after the screening.

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





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There is a place for you at our Mosaic Sederim. This year we are offering 2 seder options and you are warmly invited to both.

- Enjoy a three course meal and celebrate Pesach with your family and friends at our traditional Second Night Communal Seder. Relive our freedom from slavery through storytelling, songs and of course by asking lots of questions.'

פסח
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COMMUNAL 2nd NIGHT SEDER - Saturday 23rd April at 7.00 p.m.

Mosaic Members: Adults £22.00 (Prices held from 2012!!!)
Family ticket (2 adults + up to 2 children under 16) £45.00
Additional children age 5-16 £12.00 each. Under 5s - free
Non-members: Adults £35.00

Book your place by completing this form & returning it, with your remittance and stamped addressed envelope, to Communal Seder, 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow HA1 3BS no later than 7th April. Alternatively, pay via our website, www.choosemosaic.org

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..... Adult member places at £22.00 each	= £	fried fish/vegetarian
..... Family Tickets at £45	= £	fried fish/vegetarian (state numbers of adults/children)
..... Child places (5-16) at £12 each	= £	fried fish/vegetarian
..... Child places under 5	= Free	fried fish/vegetarian
..... Adult non-member places at £35 each	= £	fried fish/vegetarian

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Student life USA style

Gillian Lucas manages to tear herself away from Cardiff, to spend her second university year in San Francisco!

As they say – a no brainer



Everyone says that university provides the perfect opportunity to get away from your parents and enjoy some independence, so what better way to do that than going 5,351 miles away! When I told people I wanted to spend the year in San Francisco, some told me to "just go for it!", whilst others said: "You have to be aware of the risk that once you go, all of your friends at home will forget about you and make new friends." I am still hoping that will not happen!

San Francisco is definitely different to what I imagined, one of the main things being the weather! When I thought of California, I imagined hot summer days on the beach wearing shorts. Instead, there is cold, windy, foggy weather and some days of sweltering sun, so I get completely burnt. People have said to me: "You're from London though, so should be used to the cold", but nobody told me I would need a woolly coat in California! Another aspect of America which has shocked me is that nobody

believes my accent is real. One person has told me that they thought I was faking it, another went up to my friend and said that the girl over there is being really rude as she is trying to fake a British accent, and an actual British person told me she thought I was making it sound 'harsher' than it actually is! I genuinely do not know how to respond to these people.

Some say I am my father's daughter and that is definitely apparent when it comes to his walking abilities. Neither of us enjoys walking around for hours at a stretch, especially when we can take the car instead, but since I have arrived here my cardio has improved tremendously, as unfortunately, my friends all like to walk. During orientation week, we walked for two hours towards and then across the Golden Gate Bridge. It was very tiring but definitely worth it, as the view at the end was beautiful; I had a view of the bridge, the bay and Alcatraz.

I have tried to get as fully involved with American college life as I can, so I went to some sorority events which are all about the sisterhood for life. My friend wanted me to get away from my American movie stereotypes and join one, but I decided they were not for me. Instead I joined the group I would definitely fit into better: Jewish Society. From being the President at Cardiff JSOC last year, which was quite small, it feels weird going to



“ The band continued to play as we threw our sins (bread) into the Pacific Ocean, which the seagulls really enjoyed ”

a bigger one, where I do not have to do anything for it. It is really fun though and they have different themed Shabbats, such as an Indian Shabbat, where they decorated my hand with henna. Even though I was away from HEMS for Rosh Hashanah, I still made sure I got my Jewish fill and I went to Tashlich, which was held on the beach. Lots of different Jewish communities in San Francisco attended and we were led down to the sea by a marching band! The band continued to play as we threw our sins (in the form of bread) into the Pacific Ocean, which the seagulls really enjoyed. For Yom Kippur I went to JSOC and we had breakfast to break-the-fast; this included waffles, whipped cream and ice-cream. Not my usual breakfast food but I can't complain as it was delicious!

It is definitely going to be a memorable year abroad and I am going to make the most of it, such as having a white post- Chanukah and New Year in New York City! I just need to cut down on all the icecream I am eating or I will come back a whale!

‘Seeing is believing!’

A true maxim or wonky wisdom?

By Phil Austin, Vice Chair, Mosaic Jewish Community

The saying, ‘seeing is believing’, is a good example of a piece of wisdom distilled to its essence. But is the sentiment always true?

This started to play on my mind after a recent chat with a Mosaic member. We were talking about the future and enjoying the prospect of being together in our new Mosaic home. Of course, whilst significant efforts continue to be made, our search for a new building is still ongoing and the member was concerned about the time it was taking.

I explained that finding the right building in the right location was not easy, but assured her that: “We will find our new home; it’s just a matter of time”. She responded with a wry smile and said: “I will believe it when I see it.”

Her comment made me ponder; why, for so many of us, is belief rooted in what we can see.

There is no doubt that, at certain times, the idea of ‘seeing is believing’ makes perfect sense – but equally, at other times, the notion can hold us back. As with all pieces of wisdom, knowing when to apply it is as important as understanding its limitations.

If the saying were to be tested in Court, how would it stand up?



The ‘case for’, M’lud

At first glance it does seem to be an eminently sensible piece of wisdom. If you can see something at first hand, the argument goes, then because its existence is self-evident, you can more easily believe in it.

Furthermore, relying on the opinion of others can be an extremely risky business. How many awful films have you seen thanks to a friend’s well intentioned recommendation? How many times have you got soaked by believing the weather forecast?

A marvellous programme, established in 1990 by HRH the Prince of Wales, has fully exploited the power of seeing something at first hand. The ‘Seeing is Believing Programme’ was born from a simple, but powerful idea

– to close the gap between the boardroom and the community. The Prince’s Programme enables senior business leaders to gain first-hand insight into pressing social and environmental issues. As part of the Programme, the leaders leave their plush offices and visit the ‘coal face’. With more than 25 years’ experience, the programme has proved to be a powerful and enduring process for supporting businesses to think and act differently.

The ‘case against’, M’lud

Unfortunately, we do not always have the luxury of visible evidence to support our beliefs. We may not have access to the evidence or the evidence may not exist. In either case, should we suspend our belief – or more pertinently, should we suspend our disbelief?

As Jews, our teachings ask us to believe in an omnipresent God whom we cannot see. For those that believe, the belief is real and it is not diminished by a lack of visual corroboration.

In olden times, when idol worship was in vogue, this wasn’t a problem. Every morning, for example, the Sun God would turn

“ Research suggests that we typically see what we want – and not necessarily, what we are looking at. We might consciously obscure the view or distort it into what we want to see ”

up like clockwork and believers would see the sun and pray. Unless you lived in England, of course, when you relied on a few fleeting glimpses of your God in August.

Another problem with the maxim, ‘seeing is believing’ is that we frequently do not ‘see’ what we are looking at anyway!

Research suggests that we typically see what we want – and not necessarily, what we are looking at. We might consciously obscure the view or distort it into what we want to see. Alternatively, we might be mentally engaged elsewhere at the time and unable to process what we are looking at.

If you stand between two rival fans at a football match, it will soon become clear that they are watching different matches, although both will most probably doubt the referee’s parentage!

What we see is filtered by our prejudices; if we think a person is daft, that person will look daft in our eyes and what he or she says will sound daft, because our ears apply a filter too.

How often, when driving to a destination, do you arrive and have no recollection whatsoever of the journey. Clearly, you must have been looking at the road, but your mind was busily chatting to you about other things.

Perhaps the saying: ‘take the

time to see what you are looking at’ is a useful complement to the adage ‘seeing is believing’. Think of all of the beautiful sunsets and stunning dawns you have missed, as the train rolls along and you are gazing out of the window, looking, but not seeing.

The Verdict: Is ‘seeing is believing’ a true maxim or wonky wisdom?

To apply the standard Jewish logic, the answer is both; it just depends on the circumstances.

There are times when seeing evidence is absolutely essential. For example, would you buy a car online? But there are also times when we are asked to believe in the possible and not what we can see and touch in the present. And at these times, believing in the possible can be crucially important.

For example, those who believed in the inception of our New Community several years ago were assured by many that it could never happen. These early believers were hoping for something that had no equal in the UK. It was a brave leap of faith. They believed in it then and they still believe in it now.

And of course, Mosaic was born – but there is still much work to do as we continue to develop our fledgling community and search for our new home. Sustained supplies of belief, goodwill and effort will be required to ensure that firm roots are put down.

One message is clear; by believing in the possible, from time to time, we enable the realisation of our hopes and dreams.



BOARD OF DEPUTIES Pesach Message

President Jonathan Arkush

Nissan 5776



“Pesach is a festival of renewal and this is also a year of renewal at the Board with a new team of honorary officers bringing a fresh approach to our activities”

Pesach is the festival of freedom and renewal and a time to look ahead with optimism. It is also a time to be grateful for the liberty we enjoy. For all the troubles and anxieties we face, we should acknowledge that we live in a country where our community continues to thrive; where we enjoy full freedom in an era free from persecution.

Pesach is a festival in which we celebrate the exodus from Egypt to independence and liberty in our own land. It is appropriate therefore to dwell for a moment on the miraculous rebirth of Jewish national sovereignty over the land that the Almighty intended for us when He took us out of Egypt with a strong arm and a mighty hand. Israel is a country which has flourished. It is one of the world's most advanced liberal democracies with a burgeoning economy, some of the world's most innovative minds and a constitution which respects the rights of all of its citizens and affords them all representation and protection under the law. If all countries in the Middle East were like Israel the world would be a far better place. There would be no

refugee crisis. Those brutalised by Islamic extremists and the murderous Assad regime in Syria can only dream of the lives led by Jews and Arabs alike across the border. Indeed it is a sign of the compassion of the Jewish state that among those at the forefront of aiding those refugees as they flee from tyranny in the Middle East is an Israeli charity – IsraAID – which has been praised at a Board event by Labour MP Yvette Cooper.

Pesach is a festival of renewal and this is also a year of renewal at the Board with a new team of honorary officers bringing a fresh approach to our activities. This team, which draws on a diverse pool of talent and also represents a mix of youth and experience, men and women, is symbolic of the positive direction in which the Board is heading. While the Honorary Officers and our almost 300 deputies debate and form policy on the issues that matter to Jews today, our energetic staff team – including the best public affairs team in the sector – are busy translating those policies and

concerns into innovative projects, publications, events and most importantly, robust advocacy on Jewish issues.

One of our most important roles is to ensure that our community is able to live free from antisemitism. We are fortunate to live in a country which has in recent years been hugely proactive against all forms of racism and as a result our society is a fair and tolerant one. However, pockets of antisemitism remain. There is a remnant on the right which we have to continue to confront – as we did in our cross-community initiative Golders Green Together last summer, which ensured that the people of Golders Green did not have to confront neo-Nazi incitement on their doorstep. While far-right racism remains, we are now having to confront Islamic antisemitism and the hate of those on the far-left who couch their Jew hatred as anti-Zionism. There have been problems in the Labour Party which have been widely commented on. We need to ensure that the Labour Party leadership takes responsibility for ridding the party of this fringe of extremists. There have been allegations of antisemitism, racism, bullying, intimidation, candidate misconduct - there should be no place for any of that in the Labour Party. Wherever these allegations emerge in whichever political party, we will always intervene.

Our community shows signs of vitality everywhere. The continuing strength of our central institutions and social welfare bodies are the envy of other religious communities as are our schools which are

expanding, with new openings planned. Our cultural life is extraordinarily rich and diverse and we at the Board are working hard to ensure that we continue to flourish. We were active at December's Limmud Conference in Birmingham with a bigger programme than ever before. Our education department continues to work both to ensure that the greater community knows about Jews and Judaism. To this end we recently convened the first ever conference for teachers delivering the new GCSE Judaism syllabus. Our Pikuach inspectors are striving tirelessly to safeguard the quality of religious education in Jewish schools. We are working with Government to ensure our

voice is heard on crucial issues including shechitah, brit milah, burial matters and coroners' services – all matters that make a difference to our lives. And we have produced an Employer's Guide to Judaism, launched by the Work and Pensions Secretary, which will ensure that both employees and employers with questions about Jewish culture and practice have comprehensive and authoritative guidance on all matters Jewish.

As free and as productive as our lives are in the UK, we should still reflect on the verse we recite every year at the Seder: *Vehi Sheamdah lavoteinu* "And this is that (promise) which sustained our fathers and us. That it is not one enemy alone that

stood up against us to destroy us. But that in each generation there are those standing up against us to destroy us. But the Holy One Blessed Be He saves us from their hand."

We will continue to meet whatever challenges are thrown at us while appreciating the freedoms that our forebears in Egypt crossed the Red Sea to attain.



Why will this Pesach be different from other Pesachs?

Because you're invited to a

COMMUNAL MULTIFAITH THIRD DAY SEDER

Sunday 24th April 15:00-17:30

at 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow

This exciting new venture will include members of local Muslim and Christian communities.

Cost is £5 per person and booking is essential.

Please make your cheque payable to Mosaic Jewish Community Ltd, mark the back of it 'Interfaith Seder' and send it to the office together with the names of people attending.

Alternatively you can book through our Website www.choosemosaic.org

(If you're attending both events, we're happy to accept one cheque)



Holocaust
Memorial Garden

Our man in Havana

Michael Reik recalls a trip to Cuba and shares some interesting facts



During a fascinating trip to Cuba, I organised a Jewish Interest tour. Our guide was a man named Louiz who told us that he had originally had an important job working as a marketing research manager for the Castro Government. However, on retirement, his income was reduced to the standard rate of \$10/month – his voluntary job as a guide supplements his income.



A decline in the Jewish Cuban population began during the Communist era, and is now down to around 750 people. However, entrepreneurial opportunities are now opening with the removal of embargos. Though a number of Jews will find Aliyah to Israel, others might be looking to emigrate to Spanish speaking countries.

“The most infamous Jewish resident in Cuba was a Myer Lansky who during the 1950's had intimate contact with the gangster and gambling fraternity”



The most infamous Jewish resident in Cuba was a Myer Lansky who during the 1950s had intimate contact with the gangster and gambling fraternity. Having made large amounts of illegal money, he purchased a number of properties including the high class Riviera Hotel, where many Hollywood films were shot. Also the National which

is still a highly rated Havana hotel. When Castro came into power in 1959, the hotels were taken into the State ownership.



In 1959 the Head of the Conservative Synagogue was an enthusiastic Zionist, supporting Israel. Castro asked him to remove all reference to Zionism from his headquarters. When he refused, Castro took the building away and it became the Central Arabic Cultural Headquarters! See photo below.



It is noteworthy that currently two Jews of notable importance in Cuba are Jacob Peison and Raffia Eitan. The former is the head of the National Bank of Cuba, and the latter is an ex-head of Mossad who is buying up many properties in the exclusive Miramar district of Havana – he called his first property Jerusalem!



Today, Cuban Jews are free to follow their religion. The centrally located synagogue Adath Israel of Cuba is also close to a Holocaust Memorial garden which can be used for private contemplation.

Central Arabic Cultural
Headquarters



EcoPeace
Middle East



The Endangered Jordan River: Precious to Jews,
Christians and Muslims

An Update and Discussion
with the Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli Directors
Munqeth Mehyar, Nader Khateeb and Gidon Bromberg

of

EcoPeace-Middle East Concerning Cooperative Environmental Activities and Peace in the Middle East

Sunday, 17th April 2016 at 16:30
Refreshments provided

Wembley Central Mosque
35-37 Ealing Road, Wembley HA0 4AE

(A five-minute walk from Wembley Central Bakerloo Line Station)

(Photograph: Copyright Frank Dabba Smith 2016)

Gareth Thomas MP

Gareth is always keen to hear from his constituents in Harrow West. If you live in the south or west of the borough get in touch at:

Email -
gareth.thomas.mp@parliament.uk
Phone - 020 7219 4243
Post - Gareth Thomas MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
Online -
gareththomas.org



From Harrow. For Harrow

MOSAIC LIBERAL SYNAGOGUE



'We are 900 Frenchmen...': Inscriptions by Jewish Prisoners at Ninth Fort, Kaunas

Jewish Heritage Journey to Lithuania

Thursday, 2nd June
Monday, 6th June 2016

Led by Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith and specialist guide Chaim Bargman

For further information, please contact the Mosaic Liberal Synagogue office

(Photograph Copyright Frank Dabba Smith 2016)

Neil's Brain Teaser



1. In 1990, a person is 15 years old. In 1995, that same person is 10 years old. How can this be?

2. Forwards I am heavy, but backwards I am not. What am I?

Answers: 1. The person was born in 2005 BC;
2. The word 'Ton'

Joke corner



It was a bright sunny day, so Chaimey Cohen decided to enjoy his Passover lunch outside in Golders Hill Park. He sat down on a bench and began eating. Shortly afterwards a blind man came by and sat down next to him.

Feeling neighbourly, Chaimey offered a sheet of matzo to the blind man.

The blind man ran his fingers over the matzo for a minute, and exclaimed, "Tell me – who wrote this?"

Whisky galore!

Hana Schlesinger reports back on a very enjoyable evening sipping whisky



On 9th March Steve Nicols hosted more than a dozen Mosaic members at an evening of whisky tasting. He introduced us to nine different whiskies by informing us of the name, place of origin, whether single malt or blended, proof, age and approximate cost of each bottle. Most were from different areas of Scotland but there was also a little known Welsh whisky, a young Penderyn and a Bourbon, a spicy

Jack Daniels.

Scotch whiskies vary in style depending on the water used and the flavouring. Some distilleries use peat and smoke, others go for a light and fruity taste.

Caramel adds a touch of sweetness as a base note.

In between the tastings we nibbled from plates of plain biscuits, crisps and popcorn and drank water to clear the palate and rinse out our glasses. The steady hand of Dhani the pourer was much appreciated, as she dispensed small to generous quantities of whisky as requested by each individual guest.

Whether an experienced aficionado or an occasional sipper, thanks to well-researched handouts

on the history of whisky production, notes on the different types of whisky and technical terms used in its manufacturing processes, we all came out better informed than when we came in.

Steve had started by reminding us to drink responsibly, so that while pink-cheeked and cheerful no-one fell over on the way out after a thoroughly enjoyable and convivial evening.

Thank you Steve, when can we do it again?



John Ashmele

Professional Toastmaster and Master of Ceremonies

** Graduate of the Professional Toastmasters' Academy **

Enlisting the support of John Ashmele as Toastmaster/ Master of Ceremonies can only enhance your event and bring that extra touch to the occasion

Wedding Receptions

Masonic Ladies Festivals

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Birthdays and Anniversaries

Civic Luncheons and Banquets

Award Ceremonies and Conferences

Corporate Dinners and Dinner Dances

Lions, Rotary Club and Round Table Functions

Why not contact John now to see how he can help you? t: 01923 827363 | m: 07710 400412
e: john@ashmele.co.uk

Knit - Natter - Nosh!

Do you knit, sew, or crochet?

Why not join our very friendly group which meets weekly in peoples' homes to knit, natter and nosh.

We make blankets, squares, and children's clothing for needy Jewish People living in Israel, Ukraine, and other former Soviet Union countries



Interested?

Please contact Barbara Altman on 01923 841424 / 07930 542559 or email teethyb@tiscali.co.uk



The Jewish Association of Cultural Societies

Harrow Branch – A new branch of JACS starts on Tuesday 5th April

The branch will meet fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons at 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow, HA1 3BS and our initial programme will include speakers on various subjects.

Do come along, whatever age you are! Help with transport can be provided.

Programme 5th April-14th June

Tuesday 19th April 14:00-16:00 The History of the Jews in England – Laurence Summers

Sunday 24th April 15:00-17:30 Communal Multifaith Third Day Seder

Tuesday 3rd May 14:00-16:00 East end Photography – Michael Bennet (son of Boris Bennet)

Tuesday 17th May 14:00-16:00 The Story of Chocolate – Professor Michael Spiro

Tuesday 31st May 14:00-16:00 Life as an Amateur Actor – Reg Wheeler

Tuesday 14th June 14:00-16:00 Boys Town, Jerusalem – Stuart Stanton and Ian Kamiel

Cost (including tea and cake!): JACS members £4.00 per year and £3 per meeting, £5 per meeting for non JACS members

For further information please contact Gay Saunders via the Office or communitycare@mosaicreform.org.uk



Tea parties on a Sunday

Mosaic Reform, together with Jewish Care, would like to bring people together for a cup of tea once a month on a Sunday. There are many people in the community who live on their own or have relatives who are busy at weekends – Sundays can often feel quite lonely. A cup of tea and a chat can make a big difference.

We would like to be able to hold these tea parties in members' homes and so we are looking for volunteer hosts from all Mosaic Synagogues who are willing to open up their homes for a tea party. We will also need volunteer drivers to transport people to and from the parties where necessary. Training will be provided, which will give all the information needed to become one of our Tea Party Volunteers.

What's On!

Some big, some small, and everything in Shul.

Unless otherwise stated, all events take place at 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow HA1 3BS. The times/locations of weekly services are as below, unless otherwise stated:

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

HEMS: Girl Guide Headquarters (GGHQ), Hatch End: Saturday 9:30 am

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

Every week:

Monday 11:00

Harrow Friendship Club (See below)

Monday 20:00

HWPS Group 326

Sunday 09:45

HaMakom

April

Thursday	14 th		Kehila distribution (Pesach edition)
Sunday	17 th	09:45 11:00	HaMakom – new term Mosaic walk
Tuesday	19 th	14:00	Harrow JACS
Wednesday	20 th	09:30	Pesach Bake-In (see p18)
Thursday	21 st	20:00	Mosaic Liberal AGM
Friday	22 nd		Erev Pesach – 1 st seder
Saturday	23 rd	19:00	1st day Pesach Communal seder
Sunday	24 th	15:00	Communal multifaith 3rd day seder
Monday	25 th		Friendship closed – PESACH
Thursday	28 th		Erev 7th day Pesach
Friday	29 th		7th day Pesach
Saturday	30 th		8th day Pesach/Shabbat Achare Mot

MAY

Monday	2 nd	Friendship Club – BANK HOLIDAY
Monday	9 th	Return visit of Stephen Dunnett
Monday	16 th	Singer/keyboard player Roy Blass
Monday	23 rd	Alex Samos entertains
Monday	30 th	Friendship Club closed – BANK HOLIDAY



Mosaic
Choose your Jewish life

Mosaic | 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3BS | 020 8864 0133 | admin@choosemosaic.org | www.choosemosaic.org

Company number 8825132 | Charity registration 1157109

Get in touch!

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



Office 020 8864 0133

Email:

admin@choosmosaic.org

Address: 39 Bessborough Road,
Harrow HA1 3BS

Chairman: Harry Grant 01923 711 991

Email: chairman@choosmosaic.org

Membership Officer: Lindsey Cohen

020 8420 7498

Email: membership@choosmosaic.org

Website: www.choosmosaic.org



Masorti Synagogue

Office 020 8864 0133

Email office@hems.org.uk

Chairman: Neil Mendoza

07710 146 353

Hon. Secretary: Edwin Lucas

07973 312851

Rabbi Paul Arberman (via email in

Israel): rabbi@hems.org.uk

Burials Officer: Edward Kafka:

020 8904 5499

JJBS: 020 8989 5252



Office: 020 8864 5323

Email: admin@hwps.org

Chairman: Adrian Cohen:

020 8420 7498

Vice Chairman: Alan Solomon:

020 8866 0335

Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith:

020 8864 5408

Membership Secretary: Lindsey

Cohen: 020 8420 7498

Rites and Practices: Kevin Ziants:

07841 375458

Care Co-ordinator: Joy Katz

020 8904 8037

Liberal Judaism: 020 7580 1663

Undertakers: Michael King Funeral

Directors 020 8368 7453

07595 956 936



Office: 020 8864 0133

Email: admin@mosaicreform.org.uk

Chairman: Barbara Grant:

01923 711 991

Hon. Secretary: Juliet Grainger

01923 822 682

Rabbi Kathleen Middleton:

020 8866 9225 (use only when Office

is closed)

Bereavement Support (Bobbi Riesel):

020 8428 7977

JJBS: 020 8989 5252

Free transport to Shul

HWLS and Mosaic Reform members who are unable to travel to Shul for services are welcome to use a specially funded minicab facility. Please contact Lindsey Cohen on 020 8420 7498 or the Synagogue office on 0208 864 0133 for more information.



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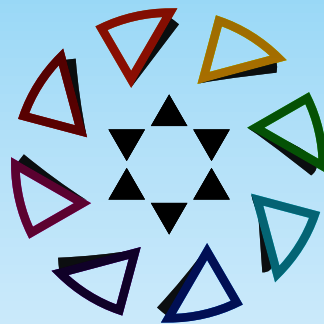
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