



Kehila

Kehila is brought to you by



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

February 2017



*Pictures from the Mosaic Chanukah party
on 28th December*

Photos: Maurice Hoffman

Since our last issue

Children's birthdays are on page 14

MOSAIC REFORM

MAZAL TOV TO:

Jacqueline Gross on the birth of her twin grandchildren, Shahar Ze'ev and Libbi Ayala.

Jonquil Nicholls on the birth of her grandson.

Michelle Miller and Gary Miller on the birth of their grandson, Noah. Mazal tov also to Adela Sefton on the birth of her great-grandson.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Rudi Braude, 93
Sybil Kenton, 85
Doris Lee, 90
Marie Shapiro, 95
Hilda Freeling, 92
Pat Kaplan, 80

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Iris and Basil Cohen, 50th anniversary.
Susan and Norman Kamen, 50th anniversary.

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family of our member, Essie Harris.
Judy Smith on the death of her mother, Lorri Sinason.

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Doris Fishman

HEMS

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Amy and Daniel Sachon

MOSAIC LIBERAL

MAZAL TOV TO:

Rosemary and Geoff Wolfson on the birth of their grand-daughter, Deborah Hannah

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Max Birne
Ron Collins
Irene Conway
Gideon Fiegel
Ursula Gross
Neville Joseph
Edna Spielmann

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family and friends of Reginald Ballantine

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Rita Asbury
Sheila Martin

NEXT ISSUE

Copy Date for the next issue of Kehila will be 12th February



Editors: Martin Simonis and Judy Silverton

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



SAVE THE DATE

After the success of last year's event, put the date in your diary for the next

Mosaic red nose day!
Friday night Service,
24th March, 7pm

Followed by supper and an evening of fun

Wear something **red**
Minimum donation £8.50 (Under 13s free)

More details to follow

All profits will go to **Red Nose Day**

Rabbi Lionel Blue

6th February 1930 - 19th December 2016

First Minister of Middlesex New Synagogue 1961 - 1964

By Woolf Heymann

Founder member of MNS

Some personal memories

I met Lionel for the first time as a student of the newly created Leo Baeck College at West London Synagogue and our cordial relationship was immediately established. He introduced me to the East End, especially Whitechapel and the history of Eastern European Jewry. So when the opportunity occurred that he was available to MNS as a recently ordained student in 1961, we were all delighted. We had been a very fast growing community and the need for a spiritual leader was essential. What a scoop for MNS!

Lionel first started with us when we held services at the Congregational Church at Preston Road and quite a substantial cheder at a private school in Wembley, before moving into our present premises in Harrow. He was inspirational, eccentric and loveable and taught us to challenge our beliefs, ask questions and then to work them out for ourselves. As a sermoniser, he was unique, always talking without notes and never sending his congregation to sleep. I remember his last High Holiday service with us when he proudly presented me with a script which he immediately destroyed and then gave a memorable address by analysing line by line Pete Seeger's song of



Rabbi Lionel Blue when he was first minister at MNS

'Where Have All the Flowers Gone?' which all the old congregants will never forget.

He was a wonderful story teller, as my children still remember, as he introduced them to Christopher Robin as bedtime stories. He also introduced the community to other religions including a visit to a Mosque in Brighton.

All the students in the College regularly came to our Shabbat services. Lionel's outlook on festivals was quite controversial, e.g. Purim was a sombre occasion with a large slice related to Jewish persecutions

and the Holocaust. He had a wonderful relationship with the cheder, never talking down to either teachers or the kids but treating them as equals.

With great regret, Lionel left us in 1964 to pursue his interest in European Jewry and helping to revitalise it after the Second World War. However, he retained fond links with MNS, receiving our magazine monthly and visiting us on various memorable occasions, including our 50th anniversary.

The last time I saw Lionel was at the MRJ conference at Nottingham in 2014 where he again had us all sitting at his feet.

Rest in peace, Lionel, and I am sure you are listening to Marlene Dietrich's records and writing more books. Shalom.



Rabbi Blue in his later years

interviewed by Clive Lawton on Lionel's most recent book and autobiography.

I was personally taught at cheder by Lionel Blue in the 50s, when he and Michael Leigh were student rabbis at Leo Baeck College, and when Rabbi Van de Zyl was the rabbi at North Western Reform Synagogue at Alyth Gardens.

Lionel read from his book about his times as a young student travelling through Europe, meeting-up with people of many faiths. He spoke of his time as a broadcaster, his recipes and, in particular, many tales about his mother of whom he speaks very kindly. He also spoke quite openly of his homosexuality and discovering his tendency while on a date at Oxford University with a nice young lady. All his stories have a 'chaimisher' feel about them.

I mentioned my own times with him at cheder and, as the first rabbi at Middlesex New, I asked him for a suitable story. He came out with the old chestnut that, when he was burying a member of the community, he fell into the grave and had to be physically lifted out. In order to be resuscitated, he was provided with a wee dram of whisky.

acted-out delightful Jewish literary works during the event.

Gill and I went to two of the sessions, including readings by Henry Goodman and Andrew Sachs. We particularly enjoyed listening to Rabbi Lionel Blue being

Lionel Blue at Jewish Book Week (2007)

By Michael Reik

The following is an article that Michael Reik wrote 10 years ago about an interview that Lionel Blue gave. It seems appropriate to re-publish it now.

From 3rd to 13th March (2007), Jewish Book week was held at the Royal National hotel near Russell Square. Many top Jewish personalities spoke or

Holocaust Memorial Education Day at Mosaic

By Barbara Grant

A year ago, a few members of our community took part in the Northwood Holocaust Memorial Education Day programme. These events have been run extremely successfully for over a decade, growing year-on-year and now inviting over 3000 youngsters. Additional communities have been brought in, including Bushey United, Belmont and Watford synagogues. This year, we at Mosaic decided to reach out to new areas and to run sessions.

very clearly outlined by Northwood. The format includes a short film and small facilitated workshops, where the young people get to participate and think about aspects of the Holocaust.

After refreshments, they will hear a holocaust survivor relate their personal story. This year we are fortunate to have Helen Aronson from Pinner as our guest speaker. The afternoon will conclude with the lighting of a memorial candle, followed by a one minute silence for reflection on the immensity of the Holocaust and other genocides and the lessons pertinent to the students' own lives.

We have had an extremely good response for volunteers from the three Mosaic communities. Hopefully, next year the word will spread and we will have more students attending. Following this inaugural Holocaust Memorial Education Day event at Mosaic, there will be a full written report in the next issue of Kehila.

"The afternoon will conclude with a reflection on the immensity of the Holocaust and other genocides and the lessons pertinent to the students' own lives"

We were quite ambitious to begin with, thinking we would do four sessions. But it didn't quite materialise that way. Instead, we will have one session on Wednesday 8th February when three schools will attend with nearly 70 young people aged 14-15. We will run the event along the lines

A late Christmas tale

By Karen Pollak

“One Israelite should travel from the north-west of the town of Londinium to the Refugee Council in the East of that city, in order to distribute gifts gathered on the day that was Mitzvah Day”

And lo it came to pass that on the 19th day of the twelfth month, the angel Philipus Austinus decreed that one Israelite should travel from the north-west of the town of Londinium to the Refugee Council in the East of that city, in order to distribute those gifts gathered by a group of other Israelites on the day that was Mitzvah Day.

And with an outstretched arm the gifts were sent asunder to the hoards of young children and their mothers who were singing in celebration of the birth of an Israelite baby, Jesus of Nazareth. And it was good. Good for the people from the lands of Albania, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan and several other strange lands. Good for the mothers who feel strange in this faraway land of Britannicus and good for the children who became happy with their lovely gifts.

Some mothers, particularly those from the land of Albania, were studying hard to learn our tongue. But they were beset with problems as the courses they attend are for three days of the week and the Governors

of the land have just dropped the free childcare days from three days to two. This means they cannot attend their college course which is contrary to good wisdom.

Unfortunately, the taking of photographs was forbidden. It is not allowed for fear of graven images being reproduced on the book that is called Face. Madness hath descended over all the earth.

A feast was held before your scribe returned to the north-west, and all were happy. The people in the land of Stratford dispatched me with a message to thank all, particularly the children of HaMakom for their donations and for the lovely parcels which had been so beautifully wrapped.

And it was good, and all who saw or heard of it knew it to be good. In fact, good for these people who in the moment at least, felt valued and respected in a land where so many demonise their very presence.

Pringles and a Prayer

A tale of Inequality

By Daniel Brown



A few weeks ago a friend's mother died and I was asked to go to the shiva. I told one of our mutual friends – an Indian Catholic lady – about the shiva and she promised to attend on the second night.

As my bereaved friend was a member of the United Synagogue, this would be my first orthodox shiva for many years. So I got out my Pringles kippah (pictured) which my daughter had bought me on her school trip to Israel. I had worn it to a bat Mitzvah a few years back and was told by members of what was then Harrow and Wembley Progressive Synagogue (now Mosaic Liberal) that they thought I must be orthodox because of the kippah. So I knew

I would fit in at the orthodox shiva!

I got to the shiva shortly before prayers were starting and, other than the female mourners, all the women were sitting in the kitchen and the men were sitting in the front room ready for prayers. Whether or not this was by request, or just expectation, I thought that it was sad that in this important life cycle event members of the same family were being separated.

After much thought, I called my Indian Catholic lady friend. I explained that I didn't think the prayers would be a good experience for her because, rather than supporting a friend in his time of need, she would probably be exiled to the kitchen.

“It was sad that in this important life cycle event, members of the same family were being separated”

We decided together that probably the best thing for her would be to turn up about 20 minutes after the prayers started, so that she could be there to comfort the bereaved friend but would not have the indignity of being exiled to the kitchen.

It made me reflect on the values that we as liberal and progressive Jews hold dear – equality between men and women, particularly when it really matters at important lifecycle events such as bar and bat mitzvahs and the sad passing of members of our families. It confirmed for me my decision to be a member of a Liberal synagogue.

Purim Megillah Reading and Discussion

Saturday, 11th March



7.00pm Join us for a 'Shushan Banquet' to hear the reading of the Megillah led by Rabbi Middleton

8.30pm Discussion led by Rabbi Frank:

'Make Purim Great Again??'

Dress Code: Fancy dress please!

N.B. Eat before you come – elegant Persian banquets were not 3-course meals (not so much a meal – more a Kiddush)

The Tea Set

Ladies, do you often find yourselves on your own on a Sunday?

Would you like a cup of tea and some company?

Perhaps you'd like to join **The Tea Set**, a small group of women meeting in each other's homes on a Sunday afternoon?

No baking required!

**For further information contact
Gay Saunders 020 8864 0133
communitycare@mosaicreform.org.uk**



The Lionel Blue Memorial Lecture

Wednesday 15th March at 8.00pm



Following the death of Rabbi Lionel Blue in December 2016, the Leo Baeck College is honoured to be hosting the

first Lionel Blue Memorial Lecture as part of its 60th anniversary celebrations.

Dr John Sentamu, Most Rev and Rt Hon Archbishop of York, will be speaking at 8.00pm on 'Wisdom, Futility, Death and Time: The Voice of

Religion in the 21st Century'
at Alyth Synagogue, Alyth
Gardens, London NW11 7EN.

Pre-paid tickets are £10 from rabbibluelecture@lbc.ac.uk or by ringing 020-8349 5607.

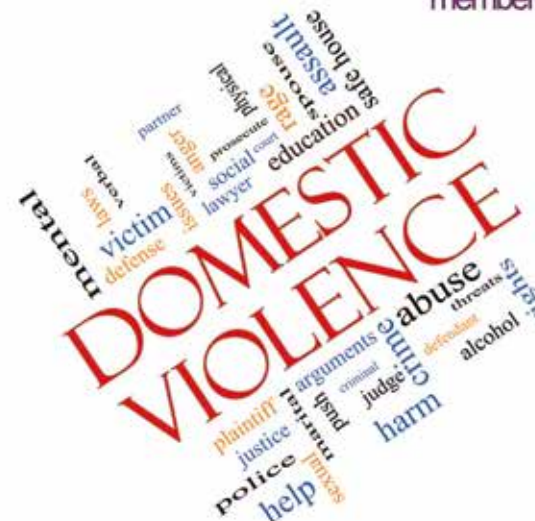
Tickets on the door £15



JEWISH WOMEN'S AID

Are you a Jewish woman affected by Domestic abuse...
Are you a woman concerned about a friend or family
member who may be experiencing
Domestic abuse or harassment from a partner or family
member?

If so, please come along to our new drop in service to talk things through in a relaxed environment and find out what support we could provide regarding different options



Sessions will be run once a month.

The next two will be on 14th February and 28th March,
10:00 - 11:30am

Mosaic Jewish Community, 39 Bessborough Road,
Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 3BS

If you would like any further information, please call Julie on 020 8445 8060 or 07710 023195

UPCOMING EVENTS



Mosaic JACS Programme

February

All events are on Tuesdays and start at 14:00

31st Jan Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith – Reflections on his work with the police and the Muslim community.

14th Feb Romance in novels – Liz Harris, author.

28th Feb Art Work in Prisons – Edwin Lucas – How art can inspire creativity and encourage personal and social change in offenders.

Friendship Club

*Entertainment for
the over-60s*

Mondays: 11:00 to 14:30

Tel (on the day): 020 8423 2903



FEBRUARY

- 6th** Geoff Bowden presents 'Reviewing the Situation' – the life and music of Lionel Bart
- 13th** Singer David Peace
- 20th** 'Switch the Wireless On' – memories of the Light Programme
- 27th** Return visit of singer Bill Smith

FILM MOSAIC

At 8:00pm on Tuesday 28th February 2017

(Upstairs at Bessborough Road)

Woman In Gold
(2015)

Maria Altman (Helen Mirren) seeks to regain a world famous painting of her aunt, plundered by the Nazis during World War II. She not only tries to regain what is rightfully hers, but also to obtain some tiny measure of justice for the genocide, destruction, and massive art theft perpetrated by the Nazis. Maria is helped by a young but reluctant Jewish American Lawyer (Ryan Reynolds). Released in 2015 this is an engrossing and enlightening true story.

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Back by popular
demand!*



Picture credit: By Robin Miller – Commons.wikimedia.org

The BIG Fish and Chip Supper Quiz

at Mosaic Reform Synagogue, 39 Bessborough Road,
Harrow, HA1 3BS

**Saturday 25th February 2017,
Reception 6.45pm for 7.00pm start**

Make up a table of eight, or we'll arrange it for you, and enjoy a delicious
fish and chip supper

Tickets £20

available from Bobbi Riesel, Tel. 020 8428 7977, bobbi@riesel.co.uk

or Bereavement Care Office Tel. 020 8427 5720 admin@bereavementcaresupport.co.uk

Bereavement Care provides support free of
all charge to bereaved adults and children in
Harrow, Hillingdon and surrounding areas
Thank you for your support

There is no parking at the synagogue except
for Blue Badge holders which needs to be
booked in advance. Parking is available almost
opposite in the Vaughan Road Car Park and

local streets. Only a 10 minute walk from
Harrow on the Hill station

Registered Office: The Lodge, 64 Pinner Road.
Harrow. HA1 4HZ Tel. 020 8427 5720
admin@bereavementcareandsupport.co.uk Reg
charity 1157002

Walking Group

*Mosaic Mob
marauding
Metropolitan line*

Tuesday walking group returning from walk from Croxley to Watford via Grand Union Canal and Cassiobury Park. New walkers always welcome.

Photo: Judy Silvertown



Israel Rally

Rally on 8th January, under the statue of George V, in support of Israel in the wake of the UK vote on settlements and ahead of the UN vote on 17th January.

Photo: Michael Reik

JACS meeting

Life as a female rabbi

Trudi Leibling reports: Forty people attended the JACS meeting in early December to hear Rabbi Middleton talk about her journey to become a rabbi.

Although we have a woman, the Queen, as head of the Commonwealth and a female prime minister, Kathleen had to fight a battle to wear a tallit. Her wish to become a rabbi started with her love of singing as a young girl and feeling in her element singing in the Synagogue. She studied at several schools before being ordained at the Leo Baeck college and constantly had to stand up for her belief in equality and desire to be recognised as a rabbi alongside male colleagues. Interestingly she has found that it is often congregants, rather than other rabbis, who have found it difficult to accept a female rabbi. Times have changed and today, when Kathleen's son was asked what he wanted to do when he was older, he said he could not become a rabbi because he was a man!

As Trudi says 'we left the meeting very enlightened by all the stories and happy to know that Rabbi Kathleen had reached Mosaic Reform with her delightful family to be our female rabbi.'

From Edwin Lucas

Thanks to Ava Kenton on her great Mitzvah Day report

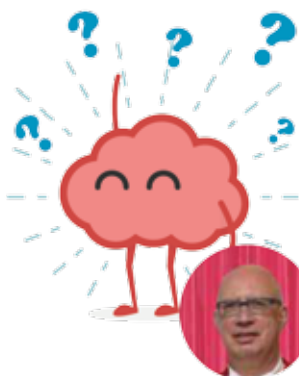
Well done Ava Kenton for having put finger to keyboard re Mitzvah Day [see page 10 of January issue]. It sounded lovely and your words, when brought out nearer the Mitzvah Day date in 2017, will inspire all ages to get involved. Well done and thank you.

From Andrew Betts

Deputy Head, Oak Farm Junior School

Thanks for accommodating a recent school visit

Thank you for organising Oak Farm Junior School's visit to the Harrow Mosaic Reform Synagogue yesterday. We had a thoroughly enjoyable visit and the children learnt an enormous amount from the different sessions. Please pass on our thanks to David [Pollak] and the other volunteers for being so welcoming, friendly and putting on such interesting sessions for the children to learn from. All of the sessions were very child-friendly and appropriately pitched and we would definitely be interested in visiting again next academic year.



Brainteaser

Compiled by 'Toastmaster John'

If BAGG is William the Conqueror, who is BEJC?

(Answer next month)

The answer to last month's question about which London underground station has no letters in the word 'mackerel' is 'St. Johns Wood'. How many got that without Google?

Children's Birthdays

IN FEBRUARY



Victoria de Magtige (10)
Daniella Phillips (9)
Isaac Wolff (4)
Danny Ellison (8)

Mosaic Calendar

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

The times/locations of weekly services are as below, unless otherwise stated: Mosaic Liberal: Bessborough Road: Friday 19:00 Saturday 11:00

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

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

Every Week

Feb | Mar

Monday	11:00	Friendship Club (See p10)
Sunday	09:45	HaMakom

February

Wed 1 st	20:00	Council meetings
Thur 2 nd	14:00	Singing Seniors
Sat 4 th		<i>Shabbat Bo</i>
Sun 5 th		Kehila copy date
	09:45	HaMakom – meeting off-site
Mon 6 th	11:00	Harrow Friendship Club
Tue 7 th	20:00	Mosaic Photo Group
Wed 8 th		Holocaust Memorial Day Seminar for schools

Sat 11 th		<i>Shabbat Beshallah</i>
		Tu b'Shevat
	09:30	Adult learning with Rabbi Middleton
Mon 13 th	11:00	Harrow Friendship Club
Tues 14 th	14:00	JACS (see p10)
Wed 15 th	12:30	Lunch Club
Thur 16 th	14:00	Singing Seniors
Sat 18 th		<i>Shabbat Yitro</i>
Thur 23 rd		Kehila distribution
Sat 25 th		<i>Shabbat Mishpatim/Shekalim</i>
		Bereavement Care Supper Quiz
Sun 26 th	09:45	HaMakom
		Tombstone consecrations at Cheshunt
	14:00	Maurice Bloomfield
	14:45	Barry Freeman
Mon 27 th	11:00	Harrow Friendship Club
Tue 28 th	14:00	JACS (see p10)
	20:00	Film Mosaic – 'Woman in Gold' (see p10)

March

Wed 1 st	20:00	Council meetings
Thur 2 nd	14:00	Singing Seniors
Fri 3 rd	19:00	Contemplative service
Sat 4 th		<i>Shabbat Terumah</i>
	19:30	Harrow Limmud
Sun 5 th		Kehila copy date
	09:45	HaMakom
Mon 6 th	11:00	Harrow Friendship Club
Tue 7 th	20:00	Mosaic Photo Group

Wed 8 th	20:00	Mosaic Book Group 'The Miniaturist' by Jessie Burton
Sat 11 th		<i>Shabbat Tetsaveh</i>
	19:00	Purim event (see p8)
Sun 12 th	09:45	HaMakom
Mon 13 th	11:00	Harrow Friendship Club
Wed 15 th	12:30	Lunch club
Thur 16 th	14:00	Singing Seniors
Sat 18 th		<i>Shabbat Ki tissa</i>
Sun 19 th	09:45	HaMakom
		Mosaic Walk
Fri 24 th	19:00	Red Nose Shabbat
Sat 25 th		<i>Shabbat Vayakhel/Pekude</i>
	09:45	Adult learning with Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith
	11:00	<i>Shabbat Shira</i>
Sun 26 th	09:45 10:30	HaMakom – end of term Tombstone consecration – Daphne Lang. Cheshunt
Mon 27 th	11:00	Harrow Friendship Club
Tue 28 th	11:00	Tombstone consecration – Stanley Webber. Cheshunt
Thur 30 th		Kehila distribution
	14:00	Singing Seniors



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

Office **020 8864 0133**

Email: admin@choosemosaic.org

Address: **39 Bessborough Road,
Harrow HA1 3BS**

Chairman: Phil Austin

07801 495272

chairman@choosemosaic.org

New membership enquiries:

Lindsey Cohen **020 8420 7498**

membership@choosemosaic.org

Website: www.choosemosaic.org



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:

office@mosaicliberal.org.uk

Chairman: Daniel Brown
07884 941743

Vice Chairman: Alan Solomon
020 8866 0335

Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith
07878 936339 (to be used only in
case of emergency)

New membership enquiries:
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

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communitycare@mosaicreform.org.uk