



The Mosaic community magazine | Monthly

March 2017

Everything you wanted to know about our festivals but were too afraid to ask...

Mosaic Adult Education presents

A voyage through our











Four sessions about the how, why and wherefore of our festivals



Tuesday 28 March

Shavuot

Tuesday 23 May

The Tishri Festivals

Tuesday 5 September

Chanukah

Tuesday 5 December

Come and join us for a fascinating insight into the origins and practice of the Jewish Festivals that we think we know so well

Each session will be held at Bessborough Road at 8.00pm

Refreshments available



ON A SERIOUS NOTE

Since our last issue

Children's birthdays are on page 14

MOSAIC REFORM

MAZAL TOV TO:

Carla and Andrew Morrow on the birth of their twins, Ria Faye and Nathan Al, and to Georgie and Stephen Levy on the birth of their grandchildren.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Betty Brand, 97 Stanley Carne, 85 Julia Convisser, 80 Marian Marks, 80 Anthony Myers, 91 Marilyn Sanford, 70 Trudie Leibling, 97 Ian Clifford, 70 Paula Rogers, 70

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Karen and Jeremy Begner on their 35th wedding anniversary

CONDOLENCES TO:

Ivan Aaronson on the death of his wife, Michelle
Lynn Bulka on the death of her mother, Mimi
Michael Harris on the death of his mother, Goldie.

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Jack Freeman Hilary Perry Sandie Simonis Magdi Marer

GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOME TO:

Adela Sefton Alexis Levy Katie and David Leigh-Ellis

HEMS

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:
Annette Benson

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Jonathan and Jo Fenster on their 30th anniversary

GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOMES TO:

Paulette and Mark Sachon Max Sachon

MOSAIC LIBERAL

MAZAL TOV TO:

Oliver Graves and Rebecca Lawrence on the birth of their son, Henry Alfred Leon, and to grandparents Patti and Simon Graves.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

George Adams
Mavis Carr
Louis Chesner
Senga Coburn
Ruth-Eva Fiegel
Walter Harwood
Rhoda Kohn
lan Spencer
Helen Sugarman

Rosa Zaraiah

CONDOLENCES TO:

Meborah Barda on the death of his wife Shirley.

John Trafford on the death of his wife Ursula.

June Cohen on the death of her husband Alan.

The family and friends of Rita Asbury.

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Rhoda Kohn Talia Solomon





Editors: Martin Simonis and Judy Silverton

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

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Kehila will be the 'Pesach special' – copy date 5th March for up-coming events, and distributing at the end of March.

After that, the copy date for the next issue of Kehila Monthly is 16th April. This will be distributed at the end of April.

Holocaust Memorial Education Day

At Mosaic

By Jane Harrison

olocaust survivor, Helen Aronson, one of only 750 Jews who miraculously survived the Lodz ghetto, spoke to a hushed audience of 49 pupils who attended Holocaust Memorial Education Day at Mosaic Reform on February 8th.

She spoke movingly of her father, who was tragically gassed at Chelmno concentration camp, together with all of her home-town's children, whom he had volunteered to accompany. She also described her lucky survival, and that of her mother and brother, who were all slave workers.

Based on the Northwood Holocaust Memorial Education Day, which has united a number of synagogues and reached out to over 3,000 youngsters in the past decade, the day included a Holocaust Memorial Trust film and workshops where youngsters were encouraged to take part and think about all the aspects of the Holocaust.

Helen was born in Pabjanice, near Lodz, Poland on 24 April 1927. In May 1942 all the Jews from Pabjanice were evacuated to the notorious Lodz ghetto. Helen, who went in, at the age of 12, with around 200,000 people, said: "It's a miracle that I am alive. At the end we hid in an underground bunker. It was twelve below zero and we had no food."

She said she raised a plank and stared into the face of a Russian soldier, on the very day she was about to be killed. She said: "I saw the graves that were ready for us. He said to us:'the war is finished and you are free.' I cannot describe that moment."

Her poise and girlish giggle belie the trauma and horrors she faced after a childhood she said was "sweet and carefree," adding: "It is not easy for me to record five years of hell in 45 minutes." She said the minute the Germans entered her town, only two days after declaring war on Poland, the "mayhem started." She spoke about the segregation of people who were unable to work, the old and disabled and trams arriving to take them away. She said: "There was screaming and shouting, people crying. It was a most terrible sight."

She was told she would be safe if she worked hard in an almost bizarre situation. She said: "We had money, concerts, hairdressers, but at the same time people were dying in their hundreds from hunger and illness. Every so often there would be transport for people sent away, we were told, to work in Germany. When the orphanage closed and all the children were sent out in lorries, some called my name, something that will stay with me all my life."

She said the aftermath was difficult. In 1946 she was brought to London by an



Holocaust survivor Helen Aronson

uncle, with no English, and eventually married George Aronson, also Polish, and has two daughters and two grandsons.

She has lived and worked mostly in London, except for a few years in the 1950s, when her husband worked in Nigeria. Helen spends much of her time talking to schoolchildren about her war experiences. She is active in the Association of Jewish Refugees and Age Exchange, which recently produced a play and a film of her life, acted by children.

She said: "I hope that my survival, and teaching children from different backgrounds and nationalities about the horrors of World War II, will remind them that we all must be tolerant, and seek out tyrants whose aim is to kill, for no reason at all."

Mosaic Reform rabbi, Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton, who welcomed everyone and thanked everyone involved in the day, said: "What a privilege it is to have a Holocaust survivor here to share her story. We want you to remember her words when you leave here and tell your friends and family what you have heard today.

"In the future, when you come across negative stereotyping and prejudice, remember Helen's life story. All of us are unique in some way or other. We all value people for being who they are. When those differences are not valued, then discrimination creeps in and can get out of control."

During the workshops youngsters were told Holocaust Memorial Day aimed to create a better, safer future. They explored why the Holocaust took place, who collaborated and who simply stood by and how the Jews were stripped of their dignity and identity to de-humanise them.

At the end pupils, from Preston Manor School, Wembley, John Lyon, Harrow-on-the-Hill and Queen's Park Community school, Brent, wrote their feelings and what they had learned on postcards which were passed on to Helen who lit a memorial candle during a minute's silence.

Here are some extracts from the postcards that the pupils wrote to Helen:

"To have a verbal explanation from a survivor was truly amazing"

Rayaan, The John Lyon School

"It really showed me how poorly people were being treated and how their human rights were taken"

Adam, The John Lyon School

"You made me realise how important it is to not take my family, home etc for granted. I have also now understood how simple words can lead to such disastrous events"

Saira, Preston Manor

"You should not discriminate people for who they are or be a bystander"

Ayah, Preston Manor

"I learnt today that experiences from the Holocaust should help the modern world to prevent this from happening and no matter what races, gender, sexuality everyone should be treated equally"

Siddeeq, Preston Manor

"I myself am from the Darfur region of Sudan and have seen the horrors of genocide. I admired your courage and bravery of sitting at the front and speaking"

Nazik. Queens Park

Jewish refugees and the Cypriot internment camps

By Michael Reik

n Thursday 19th January I was invited to hear Ms Eliana Hadjisavvas make a presentation to the London Jewish and Cypriot Community. She spoke as part of a Masters Degree she had taken at Birmingham University on the camps, during the period 1946-1949.

This was in the presence of the High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus, the Israeli Ambassador, Mark Regev, and Richard Veber, senior Vice President of the Board of Deputies.

My own personal interest centred on the fact that my aunt and uncle had gone to Palestine (from the UK) on a ship not untypical of 'The Exodus', and had been captured by the British and detained at these camps in 1947. They were only released after Palestine had been partitioned into independent Jewish and Arab States at the UN vote in November 1947.



Watchtower over the Cyprus internment camps

In 1939, the British Government decided that Jewish immigration to Palestine would be limited to 75,000 over five years. Any additional émigrés would need Arab consent. At the end of the war, the British agreed to issue only 1,500 certificates of entry each month. However there were many illegal immigrants (a number trying to arrive by boat) and from August 1946 these were sent to the camps set up in Cyprus. (Out of interest, there were also two other camps – one in Mauritius and the other at Atlit near Haifa)

Eliana explained that there had been 12 camps set up in Cyprus by the British from August 1946 to January 1949. 53,000 people were held in the camps during the three years. In fact 28,000 Jews were still being kept at the camps when the Jewish State of Israel was established on May 14th 1948.

For those in the camps many had only been liberated from the Nazi concentration camps two years earlier, so to see watchtowers and barbed wire again brought back horrendous memories.

Conditions were harsh, with poor sanitation, overcrowding, lack of privacy and shortage of clean water.

On the positive side, 850 couples married in the camps and 2,000 children were born there. 80% of the camp prisoners were aged between 13 and 35. And 400 Jews died in the camps.

In January 1949, as the last 11,000 or so Jewish Internees in Cyprus – mainly men of military age – evacuated to Israel, an unspecified number of Jews who had escaped the camps and had remained at large in Cyprus, turned themselves in, so they could be sent to Israel with the last internees.

We are all descended from refugees...

By Lindsey Cohen

ome Mosaic members may have seen the publicity concerning South London Liberal Synagogue's plan to turn part of its shul into a flat to house a refugee family, as it has made headlines across the UK and Israel.

The Observer ran a lengthy article, which is available on its website. South London

Chair Alice Alphandary told the paper: "This is a very personal issue for a lot of our members. There is a sense that we as Jews have benefited from sanctuary in the past. For example, my father was a refugee in the 1950s. Now we want to repay that welcome to a new generation."

Danny Rich, the senior rabbi of Liberal Judaism and co-chair of the National Refugee Welcome Board, was also quoted in the article. Danny said: "Liberal Judaism has been a leading partner in the campaign to bring Syrian refugees to Britain. We have done so not only because our own history reminds us of the fate of families whom the world abandons, but because the single most repeated ethical injunction in the Hebrew Bible is: 'You shall love the stranger because you know the experience of being a stranger in the land of Egypt'."

£50,000 needs to be raised to refurbish a disused caretaker's flat in the synagogue building.

The issue was raised at Mosaic Liberal's last Council Meeting, and Council decided unanimously to donate the sum of £250 as a start to fundraising in our community. By the way, there is a connection with SLLS as our member, Nathan Godleman, is Student Rabbi there.

I urge you all to support this refugee project.

Please contact SLLS on www.southlondon.org where there is a link to make a donation

Famous people involved with shuls *By Edwin Lucas*



EMS is indebted to Stoke-on-Trent Hebrew Congregation who has lent them, on long term loan, a Sefer Torah. Without the man in this picture it might never have happened and we in the wider Mosaic community, as well as in every congregation in the UK, are all indebted to this man. He became responsible for our safety, long before CST came to help the communities and he has made going to shul safe, be you a walker, a 'walking talker' or a driver.

He was Jewish – something I only learnt today – and he laid the foundation stone at Stoke-on-Trent shul.

The question is 'who should lay the foundation stone of our new home at Mosaic?' It is never too early to think of the future and I pray that 2017 may be the year when the dream becomes a reality in our minds and hearts. I wish the Building Group well in their endeavours and I look forward to a 'Palwin' toast in the coming year.

To put you out of your misery the man in the picture is none other than Lord Belisha of belisha beacon and highway code fame.

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



MOSAIC VISIT TO THE NEW HEATH ROBINSON MUSEUM IN PINNER MONDAY 20th MARCH at 2.00 pm



Peter Higginson, Curator of the new Special Exhibition, "The Brothers Robinson", and chairman of the William Heath Robinson Trust, will tell us about William Heath Robinson and his brothers. Thomas and Charles, who were also talented illustrators. As a Robinson family descendant, Peter will fill in the details about the lives of the illustrious brothers. You will have a unique chance to see the work of all three in a tour of the Museum and the Special Exhibition.

Entry to the Museum including the Curator's talk will cost £10 per person.

This visit is limited to 15 people and can be booked by e-mail to admin@choosemosaic.org



COMMUNAL SEDER

TUESDAY 11th APRIL 7.00 pm

Mosaic Members: Adults £25,00

Family ticket (2 adults + up to 2 children under 16) £55.00 Additional children age 5-16 £14.00 each. Under 5s - free

Non-members: Adults £40,00

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 Thursday 30th March. Alternatively, pay via our website, www.choosemosaic.org

Please	reserve:
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Adult member places at £25.00 each = £ fried fish/vegetarian
Family Tickets at £55 = £ fried fish/vegetarian (state numbers of adults/children
Child places (5-16) at £14 each = £ fried fish/vegetarian
Child places under 5 = Free fried fish/vegetarian
Adult non-member places at £40 each = £ fried fish/vegetarian
I enclose cheque/cash (payable to Mosaic Jewish Community Ltd) in the sum of £
Please complete the following IN CAPITALS
NameTel No:
Address
Post Code

PCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS



Friday 24" March

MOSAIC RED NOSE DAY 2017 FRIDAY NIGHT

SERVICE AT 7PM FOLLOWED BY SUPPER

EVERYONE IS WELCOME, SO COME AND HAVE LOTS OF FUN AND HELP US RAISE AS MUCH MONEY AS WE CAN FOR COMIC RELIEF

WEAR SOMETHING RED

Supper Included with a Minimum Donation of £8.50 per Adult Under 13s Free

Please book your place by Tuesday 21 March as we need to know for catering purposes

> Book via the website www.choosemosaic.org Or contact the Mosaic Office 0208 864 0133

> > All profits will go to COMIC RED NOSE DAY RELIEF



SAVE THE DATE

Mosaic BBQ Sunday 14th May 2017

Mosaic Walk in Literary London

Sunday 19th March 11am Covent Garden

This short circular walk in Covent Garden is certainly one of the most pleasant areas in which to linger. The walk will include the haunts of many literary figures, as well as the club that regularly dips its hands into a pot of honey provided by one of its most famous members.

The walk will conclude with lunch (optional) in the Covent Garden Piazza. Numbers are limited for this walk, so please contact John Ashmele or e-mail john@ashmele.co.uk for further information as soon as possible.

There is no fee for this walk, but a suggested donation of £5 to a Synagogue charity would be appreciated.

We hope you will enjoy taking part in Mosaic Walk, but please remember that everyone takes part at their own risk and that Mosaic and its representatives are not responsible for any injuries, loss or damage that may occur during the walk.

Friendship Club

Entertainment for the over-60s

Mondays: 11:00 to 14:30 Tel (on the day): 020 8423 2903



MARCH

Gayathrie and Bill Patrick

Ronnie Goldberg entertains

Brian Nathan with his presentation on Jewish bandleaders of the 20s/50s

27th Return visit of Lynda Styan

FILM MOSAIC

At 8:00pm on Tuesday 21st March BROKEN WINGS (15)

(Knafayim Shvurot 2002)

This powerful Israeli/BBC Co-production and multiaward winning film tells the moving story of how a Jewish family reacts in the face of personal tragedy. The unexpected death of the family patriarch throws every member of the Ulman family off course. Preoccupied with their own misery, the family is barely a family anymore. When another tragedy strikes, will they be able to support one another? (Hebrew with English Subtitles)

This month, voluntary donations will go towards Mosaic's new Audio Visual equipment.



Domestic violence happens in this area

Jewish Women's Aid is here to help

Are you a Jewish woman affected by domestic violence or abuse?

Are you concerned that a friend or family member could 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 confidential and relaxed environment. No appointment necessary. The drop-in will also inform you about the range of support available.

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

NEXT SESSIONS:

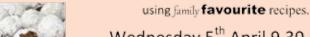
Tuesday 28th March 2017 10.00-11.30 and Tuesday 25th April 10:00-11:30

For more further information, please call Julie on 020 8445 8060 or 07710 023195

JWA Confidential Helpline 0808 801 0500 Registered Charity No. 1047045

Help! Volunteers Needed Please

Come and job Judy Silverton baking Pesach biscuits



Wednesday 5th April 9.30 a.m.

Please contact Ann in the office if you would like to come.

You only need to bring an apron and some digital scales (if you have them)

Also Hamentaschen bake-in at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 1st March



At our monthly birthday blessing for January, Gideon Fiegel was honoured on his ninetieth birthday while Thea Graves celebrated her second birthday. The pictures show Thea and Gideon along with some members of their families.



Mark, Mike and Jo

From Alan Solomon



Three members of the Kabbalat Torah class of 1982, at what in their day was still known as Wemblev Liberal Synagogue (now Mosaic Liberal), who have kept in touch over the years, recently met up again at Westminster. Left to right gre: Mark Bennister, still a member of the shul and Reader in Politics at Canterbury Christ Church University; Jo Coburn, now a member of Ealing Liberal Synagogue, daughter of Mosaic Liberal member Senga Coburn, and a regular presenter of 'Daily Politics ' on BBC Two; and Mike Solomon, a member of Belsize Square Synagogue, son of Mosaic Liberal members Janet and Alan, and a doctor of clinical psychology.

MOSAIC CALENDAR

From Lawrie Nerva

On the passing in the Knesset of the Outpost Legislation Bill

Israel's Knesset has passed the outpost legislation bill, a disastrous piece of legislation which retroactively legalises the building of settlement outposts and housing units on land privately owned by Palestinians in the West Bank. Up to 4,000 housing units in settlements and 55 illegal outposts, built without Government permission on private land, will now be given retroactive approval. Senior Israeli Government ministers have described this as the first step towards the annexation of the West Bank and the end of the two-state solution.

Many in the UK will be appalled at the current Israel government action and the likely consequences and I urge those so concerned to use their own method of communicating with the Israel Government to register their views.

From Gideon Fiegel

Thanks for good wishes

To Rabbi Frank and all our friends: Heartfelt thanks for all your warm and kind good wishes on the occasion of my 90th birthday.



Compiled by 'Toastmaster John'

"The day before yesterday I was 45 and next year I will be 48." This statement is true on only one day. What day is my birthday?

(If you can't wait until the April edition for the answer, then send an email to the Editors)

The answer to last month's question: BAGG is William the Conqueror (1066, based on A=0, B=1, etc), so BEJC (1492) is Christopher Columbus.



RUMMIKUB IN WEMBLEY

One of our members would like to start a Rummikub group in the Wembley area. If you are interested, then send a message to Gay at Community Care. 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 Mar | April

Monday 11:00 Friendship Club

Every other Thursday 14:00 Singing Seniors

Sunday 09:45 HaMakom

MARCH

	Wed 1st	10:00	Hamentashen Bake-In	Tue 28 th	11.00	Tombstone consecration –
		20.00	Council meetings			Stanley Webber, Cheshunt
	Fri 3 rd	19.00	Contemplative service		20.00	Adult Learning with Rabbi Middleton
	Sat 4th		Shabbat Terumah			- 'All you want to know about Pesach'
			Mosaic Reform Bar Mitzvah	Thur 30 th		Distribution of Pesach issue of Kehila
			- Daniel Grossman	APRIL		
		19.30	Harrow Limmud	Sat 1st		Shabbat Vayikra
	Sun 5 th		Kehila copy date	Tue 4 th	20.00	Mosaic Photo Group
			HaMakom	Wed 5 th	10.00	Pesach cook-in (see p12)
	Tue 7 th		Mosaic Photo Group		20.00	Council meetings
	Wed 8 th	20.00	Mosaic Book Group 'The Miniaturist'	Sat 8th		Shabbat Tzav. Shabbat HaGadol
	0-144#		by Jessie Burton	Mon 10 th		Erev Pesach – 1 st seder
	Sat 11 th	40.00	Shabbat Tetsaveh	Tue 11 th		1st Day Pesach
	14. 1.4 5th		Purim event (see p8)		19.00	Communal Seder (see p9)
		12.30	Lunch club	Sat 15 th		Shabbat Chol Hamoed
	Sat 18 th		Shabbat Ki tissa		11.00	Shabbat Shira
			Mosaic Reform Bat Mitzvah – Emma de Magtige	Sunday 16 th		Kehila copy date
	Sun 10th	11.00	Mosaic Walk in Literary			7 th night Pesach
	ouii 13	11.00	London (see p11)	Mon 17 th		7 th day Pesach
	Tue 21st	20:00	Film Mosaic (see p 11)	Tue 18 th		8th day Pesach
	Fri 24 th	19.00	Mosaic Red Nose Day event (see p10)	Wed 19th	12.30	Lunch Club
	Sat 25 th		Shabbat Vayakhel/Pekude	Sat 22 nd		Shabbat Shemini
		09.45	Adult learning with Rabbi Frank	Sun 23 rd	09.45	HaMakom – new term begins
			Dabba Smith		15.00	Yom HaShoah event
		10.30	Shabbat Shira	Tue 25 th	14.00	JACS
	Sun 26 th	09.45	HaMakom – end of term		19.30	Mosaic Reform AGM
		10.30	Tombstone consecration –	Thur 27 th		Kehila distribution
			Daphne Lang, Cheshunt	Sat 29th		Shabbat Tazria/Metsora
						Mosaic Reform Bar Mitzvah –
						Max Newman



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

Community Care:

communitycare@mosaicreform. org.uk