



Kehila is brought to you by

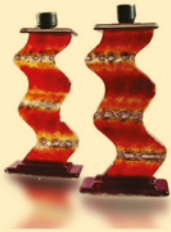
liberal  
synagogue

HEMS  
synagogue

reform  
synagogue

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

**December 2017**



## SHABBAT REVIVED!

Come and enjoy a Friday evening like never before!

Food for the body and food for the soul!

Seeing is believing!

You will be seated at tables with family or friends

Your complimentary\* meal will be interspersed with contemporary Friday evening prayers

You will enjoy live music (keyboard, guitar etc) throughout

Please come and join us at 6.00 pm on

# Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

And leave your pre-conceptions at the door!

For catering purposes, please register with the Mosaic office by 7<sup>th</sup> December

As this is Shabbat Chanukah, please bring your Chanukiah & candles

\*Thanks to a generous donation



## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

### Since our last issue

Children's birthdays are on page 7

#### MOSAIC REFORM

##### MAZAL TOV TO:

Val & Tony Fineberg on the birth of their grandson, Charlie  
Ron Tucker on the birth of his great-grand-daughter, Rena

##### BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Adam Rone, 60  
Shirley Alpert, 70  
John Ashmele, 70  
Ilse Braude, 93  
Eddie Donn, 75  
Dennis Goodman, 93  
Dennis Milstone, 92  
Sam Walport, 97  
Estelle Cligman, 85  
Emil Bloom, 98  
Martin Shaw, 85

##### ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Susan & Richard Freedman on their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Marlene & Harry Godfrey on their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Marian & Richard Kingsley on their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Cindy & Geoff Watman on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

##### CONDOLENCES TO:

Shirley Mendel-Lion on the death of her sister, Joan Merett.  
Harry Grant on the death of his mother, Hannah Grant.  
Daphne Myers on the death of her husband, Anthony.

##### GET WELL WISHES TO:

Stephen Flash  
Ruby Nerva  
**GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOME TO:**  
Judy & Philip Silverton

#### HEMS

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**  
Sheldon Grossmith

##### BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Helen Ellison, 65  
Leslie Dysch, 85

##### ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Andrew & Julie Dysch, 25

##### CONDOLENCES TO:

Shelley Cooper on the death of her father, David Cooper.  
Ruth Soetendorp on the death of her mother, Hannah Grant.

#### MOSAIC LIBERAL

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**  
Dena Cohen

##### SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Ronald Bernstein  
Marion Conway  
Irene Conway  
Norma Levy  
Rosa Pinkus



Editors: Martin Simonis and Judy Silverton

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

The next monthly issue will be that for January 2018 – copy date 10<sup>th</sup> December (NB – earlier than usual). This will be distributed at the end of December.

*The 'seasonal' Kehila editorial team is currently compiling a list of contents for the Pesach edition of the magazine. If you would like to contribute an article, or have any suggestions, please email*  
**robertpinkus@gmail.com**

##### Table of Content:

Communal	3-5
Upcoming Events	6-7
Education	8-11
Reviews	12-13
What we have been doing	14-16
Letters	17-18

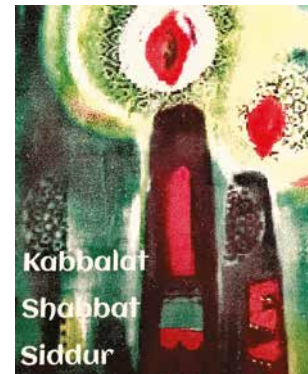
## Contemplative service goes monthly *from Kevin Ziants*

Mosaic Liberal's popular contemplative Friday Night service – *Kabbalat Shabbat* – is going monthly with the launch of a second contemplative service – *Kabbalat Shabbat 2*. From 5<sup>th</sup> January, the two services will run on the first Friday of alternate months.

The new service, created by Esther Aronsfeld, retains the same gentle rhythm, with new, uplifting music and chants, heart-warming prayers and time for personal *tefillah* and silent reflection.

Kevin Ziants, chair, Rites and Practices, said: 'From feedback I've have been getting since we first introduced our contemplative service in 2014, this kind of service offers people an opportunity to engage with the liturgy, with each other and with God in a more personal and meaningful way. It also provides an oasis of calm at the end of a busy week.'

The first Kabbalat Shabbat 2 takes place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm. Everyone is welcome.



The picture is of the recently re-designed book used for the Contemplative service.

## COMMUNAL

## Mosaic Reform & the Movement for Reform Judaism (MRJ)

As you may know, Mosaic Reform has an agreement with the MRJ whereby we receive a reduction in the amount that we are obliged to pay them, provided that we supply them with an updated membership list annually. The membership list is used by the Movement for direct fund-raising approaches to individual members. This notice is to give you warning that we intend to submit our list in January. If you do not wish your details to be included, you will need to opt out now. Please let the office know as soon as possible if this is the case. If we do not hear from you by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 we shall assume you have given your consent. Even if you have "opted out" in previous years, please contact the office once again to avoid any errors occurring.

Please email [admin@mosaicreform.org.uk](mailto:admin@mosaicreform.org.uk) or ring 020 8864 0133

## 2018 MOSAIC CALENDERS

We're delighted that the 2018 Mosaic Calendar has been published and is included with this edition of Kehila, if you pre-ordered a copy. There is no charge for it but if you'd like to make a contribution towards its cost, your donation would be very welcome.

Thanks are due to those involved with the production of this calendar and to all the "posties" who have delivered them to you.

## 'Faith Covenant' *from Rabbi Frank*

On the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017, representatives of the London Borough of Brent and local faith leaders signed the 'Faith Covenant'. Brent has followed Barnet to be the second Borough of London to take up this formal acknowledgement of the close engagement and trust-building that should occur between local government and faith groups.

Signatories included the leader of Brent Council and other councillors as well as members of the steering group of the Brent Multifaith Forum including Chairperson Aisha Khan and Rabbi Dr Frank Dabba Smith. Also present was Mosaic Liberal Synagogue member Alan Solomon who has supported the work of the BMFF. Our good friends at the Wembley Central Mosque, Imam Abdul Sattar and Sohail Ahmed, signed the covenant, too.



The Faith Covenant is based on principles including:

- Faith communities are free to practise their beliefs and religious observances without restriction, and to raise their voice in public debate and to be respected, within the framework of UK law.
- Public services and faith-based social action should respect service users from all backgrounds, with no distinctions on any grounds
- The voice, participation and solutions that faith communities bring are vital, and consultation should enable them to be brought to bear for the benefit of the wider community.

## Bat Mitzvah of Talía Solomon

Talía Solomon, daughter of Helen and Neil Solomon, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on 28<sup>th</sup> October (Shabbat Lech Lecha). Talía is shown here at the service along with other members and guests marking birthdays in October. Talía's grandfather is Alan Solomon, also on the bimah enjoying his October birthday!



Picture from Steven Sanderson

## Board of Deputies report *from Michael Reik*

### Notes of Plenary Meeting October 29<sup>th</sup> 2017

The meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> October to coincide with the AJEX march which took place on 19th November to correspond with Balfour Declaration Celebration.

The Holocaust Memorial construction has been agreed to sit outside the House of Lords and should open sometime in 2021. The educational side will include reference to other Genocides that have taken place in other parts of the world to include races other than Jews.

The Deputy for Golders Green Synagogue commended the introduction of the Golders Green Muslim Community Centre which now occupied the Hippodrome and had moved from Cricklewood. Concern was raised at the disturbing letters in the Jewish Press against this project.

Noam (who had participated in the Entebbe Raid in Uganda) the son in law of Sir Sigmund (Siggy) Sternberg explained how his son had donated 60 per cent of his own kidney so his father could live. He made the point that the Board should support Organ Donations as proposed by the Government. Richard Verber (Senior Vice President) then introduced four speakers to remember the Balfour Declaration that had been written by Lord Balfour on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1917.

(A) Mark Regev, the Israel ambassador, commented how pleased he was at how the Balfour Declaration was being commemorated in the United Kingdom. A major point made was how the only

state to provide full rights to Arabs in the Middle East was in fact Israel.

(B) Baroness Ruth Deech gave a history of the Jews in Arab Nations prior to the foundation of the State of Israel. She regretted the White Paper produced in 1939 by the British Government which froze emigration to Palestine for Jews. She believed that this might have prevented a major part of the Holocaust.

(C) Tim Vince, Chair of Balfour 100 Christian committee, then spoke as a Christian Zionist, about how his role was to change the views of certain Christians who are anti-Israel (and Jews generally) by pointing out texts in the Bible that state the contrary position.

(D) The Earl of Balfour, a descendant of Lord Arthur Balfour explained how the declaration came about. Arthur Balfour and Chaim Weizman first met in 1906. Arthur Balfour was interested in a home for the Jews since the offer for a Jewish Homeland in East Africa in 1902 had been refused. Weizman made the point that Jews could only be interested to live in a land that had once been their own. Arthur Balfour was sure the Jews would succeed in Palestine as they had both the skill and the knowledge to succeed there while having enough capital to succeed in supporting others.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Mosaic JACS Programme

All events are on Tuesdays and start at 14:00

*December / January*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Dec 5<sup>th</sup></b> The crop circle mystery – Andy Thomas</p> <p><b>Dec 19<sup>th</sup></b> Music through the Ages with Lynda Styan – followed by doughnuts and Chanukah candle-lighting with Rabbi Kathleen</p> | <p><b>Jan 9<sup>th</sup></b> The life and times of Frank Sinatra – Nigel Coleman</p> <p><b>Jan 23<sup>rd</sup></b> The Jewish East End – Tony Abrahams</p> |
|---|--|



### Adult Education

#### *Jewish Noir, Shtarkers and Redemption*

On **Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December at 8.00pm**, Rabbi Dr Frank Dabba Smith will explore Michael Chabon's classic novel, *The Yiddish Policeman's Union*. The talk is titled *Jewish Noir, Shtarkers and Redemption* and Rabbi Frank will share excerpts and discuss all manner of the outrageous plot and characters in this tale of gangsters and messianic delusion. Our hero is Meyer Landsman, an alcoholic homicide detective and the setting is the temporary Jewish homeland of Sitka, Alaska where the crime bosses are rabbis!

### Friendship Club

#### *Entertainment for the over-60s*

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



#### DECEMBER

- 4<sup>th</sup>** Joanna Ballard – Magic of the Musicals
- 11<sup>th</sup>** The Plonkers entertain
- 18<sup>th</sup>** Chanukah party with Alex Samos
- 25<sup>th</sup>** CLUB CLOSED

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FILM MOSAIC

*Film mosaic apologises unreservedly but...*

The entire FILM MOSAIC TEAM is taking a well-earned break in December  
So they won't be around to present a film in December

Normal services will resume in January with the film DENIAL on **Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January.**

### *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](mailto:teethyb@tiscali.co.uk)

### Are you a carer?

Do you look after an elderly relative in your own home, in their home or in residential care?

Do you care for someone with a mental health problem?

Do you help support someone who has a physical disability and / or a learning disability?

Mosaic Reform and Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue will be setting up a support group for all kinds of carers. It will be an opportunity to gain practical knowledge and to share information.

For further information, contact Gay Saunders: [communitycare@mosaicreform.org.uk](mailto:communitycare@mosaicreform.org.uk) or via the Office.

### Happy Birthday

in November to:

(Sorry you got missed last time!)

- Max Burzynski (4)
- Emily Grossman (12)
- Maia Leigh-Ellis (1)
- Tamar Noble-Bougay (12)
- Shachar Noble-Bougay (12)
- Naomi Witte (4)

In December to:

- Benjy Maginn (9)
- Max Maginn (9)



# New academic year at HaMakom

*from co-Heads – Toria Bacon and Viki Kenton*



**Toria Bacon (left) and Viki Kenton**

We started off our year by welcoming a new member of staff, Gillian Lucas. Gillian is currently training to be a teacher at the London School of Jewish Studies and has happily joined the HaMakom team, teaching Kittah Gimmel.



**Gillian Lucas with Kittah Gimmel**

Our Rosh Hashanah activity morning in September was led by Joel and Elinor from RSY Netzer. The whole school had a fascinating time learning, not only how it is celebrated today, but also the interesting history of Rosh Hashanah. We also looked at how Rosh Hashanah relates to other secular celebrations. The children then wrote down some fabulous New Year resolutions, which Joel took away with him. He will be sending

them back to us near to January 1<sup>st</sup> to see how well all the resolutions have been kept!

To celebrate Succot, we had a fun crafty morning at both Kol Chai and Mosaic. We used a variety of mixed media to create a range of autumnal themed artwork that we used to decorate the Succahs. They looked beautiful and inviting and we hope you loved the finished creations!



**Making the succah decorations**

This term we held our first ever Grandparent's morning where children were able to bring in their Grandma and Grandpa to HaMakom. On the same morning, the Museum of London visited to run a session on the Jewish history in London. Children, Grandparents, assistants and teachers worked together to compile a collection of artifacts and memories, some from their

own family history, into a display about our own HaMakom Jewish history. It was wonderful having two generations working and learning together.

Thanks to the Sydney Fenton Trust and the Jack Petchey Awards, we now have all our ipads ready for use at HaMakom. We look forward to running another training day with JiTap as we get all teachers and children up to date with the new technology.

We have a super exciting Chanukah activity planned and cannot wait to write all about it in our next article!



**Museum of London and Grandparents Day**

## Sufra Mitzvah Day at HaMakom

Mohammed Mamdani, the Director of Sufra, visited HaMakom to meet with children and adults making Chanukah gift boxes for those receiving aid from the Sufra food bank facility. Sufra is a community "Food Bank & Kitchen", based in the London Borough of Brent. It aims to support families suffering food poverty in

its neighbourhood. Mohammed also spoke to the adults about the issue of poverty in Brent and how we can volunteer in a number of ways to help. Rabbi Frank and Phil Austin are highly committed to Sufra and are leading the way for more Mosaic members to become involved.

**(Article and photo by FDS)**





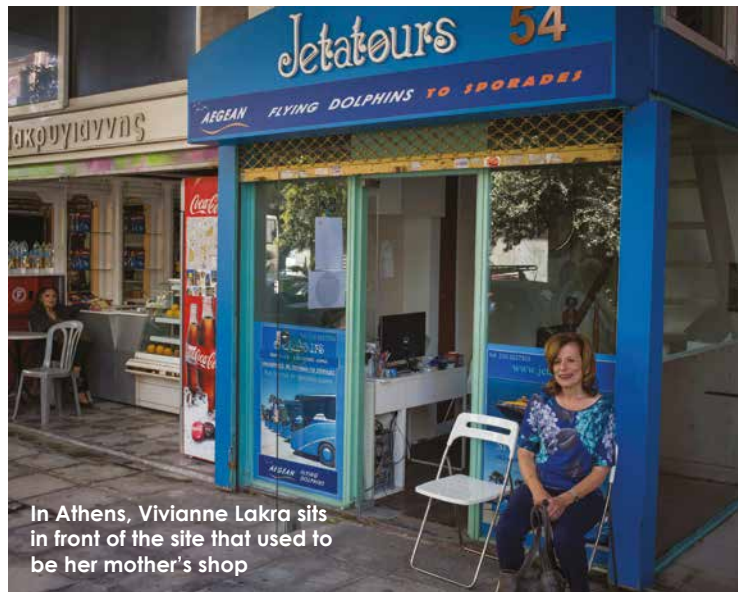
# Jewish Heritage Journey from Athens via Thessalonica to Corfu

*from Rabbi Frank*

This nine-day trip (17-26<sup>th</sup> October) was our first adventure in Greece and included elements of the history and heritage of the Jews of Greece as well as historical accounts of the families of our members. We also visited monuments associated with classical Greece. Our journey was conceived by Rabbi Frank and Paul Morris and planned with the help of Vivianne and Paul Lakra. We were accompanied throughout by our wonderful guide, Salvador Levy, who was joined by local specialists at several sites. In sum, each of us had an unforgettable experience.



(Above) The Holocaust memorial in Larissa, the home town of Rabbi Simon Franses z"l



In Athens, Vivianne Lakra sits in front of the site that used to be her mother's shop

At 8.00pm, Tuesday evening, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018, journey participants will present their individual perspectives and photographs at Bessborough Road. Please do join us!



(Above) The train station from where the Jews of Thessalonica were deported to Auschwitz. Our guides sang in Ladino in memory of these people and the unique multi-faith existence in this city.



(Left) Paul Morris and his cousin Elias Matzas in front of the famous bridge in Arta. Paul's mother, Nina Morris was born in Arta and survived the Nazi occupation, being protected by partisans in the mountains. Elias, a resident of Athens, joined us in Arta and nearby Iohanina where he was born.

(Right) Our group at the Holocaust memorial in Arta. Participants included: Rabbi Frank and Cathy, Gillian and Michael Reik, Adrian and Lindsey Cohen, Vivianne and Paul Lakra, Adrienne Green, Joy Katz, Paul Morris and Elias Matzas.



## Mosaic Adult Education 2017

### DECEMBER

- 5<sup>th</sup> Tues, 8pm **'A voyage through the festivals' (Chanukah)**  
R. Kathleen Middleton
- 14<sup>th</sup> Thurs, 8pm **'Jewish Noir: Shtarkers and Redemption': Reflections on The Yiddish Policeman's Union by Michael Chabon**  
R. Dr. Frank Dabba Smith
- 16<sup>th</sup> Sat, 9.30am **Danish & Daven**

## Brainteaser

Compiled by John Ashmele



Here is a list of animals, but which other animal is hiding?  
**Raccoon, Parrot, Lemming, Kookaburra, Aardvark, Linnet, Otter.**

**Answer to November Brainteaser:** Use three identical digits in a simple addition sum so that the total is 12, but you cannot use the digit 4.  
 $11 + 1 = 12$

# Cameo @ Sandy's Row

*from Jack Lynes*



Inside Sandys Row synagogue

**T**hey 'CAME AND MET EACH OTHER' at Sandy's Row Synagogue. And it was an exceptionally good place to meet. It was Remembrance Sunday and it was fitting that close by the end of our journey to Spitalfields, in the heart of what was once the 'Jewish East End', we could ponder a while (not too long, for this was the coldest day of the year so far!) at the statue depicting children of the kinder transport. This was the first outing away from the usual boundaries of our homes, for CAMEO, the group started by Bobbi Riesel some few years ago, to enable those who have lost loved ones, to find companionship with others in similar situations, to do just as its title suggests, and 'come and meet each other.' Tony Selman, himself a member of the group, with his Sandy's Row Synagogue hat on, welcomed us and introduced us to this hidden treasure, the oldest Ashkenazi synagogue in London.



Kindertransport memorial at Liverpool Street station

Tony, a member of Mosaic Reform, told us how, in the 1840s Dutch Ashkenazi Jewish migrants had begun arriving in Spitalfields, settling in and close by to Sandys Row, setting up businesses, mainly in the tobacco and diamond cutting trades. In 1854 fifty of the families formed 'The Society for Comfort of the Mourners, Kindness and Truth', forming 'The Parliament Court Synagogue', having bought the lease of a former Huguenot chapel in Sandys Row. Haham Dr Artom in his dedication in November 1870 described a temple as being "necessary, like the heart, sending blood, life and heat to all parts of the body." The synagogue remained open during the two World Wars. So well attended in the 50's on high Holy days, many congregants sat in the aisles, on the floor.

Now, as a trustee and a warden, Tony is seeing a slow but sure revival in the Shul's life as it attracts a new Jewish generation returning to the East End. Oh yes, by the way, many of us looked around and could fully appreciate the attraction of

the surroundings, that had quite recently been the choice for several weddings. Tony told us of their enthusiastic, good humoured, Chabad Rabbi, who walked, even sometimes running from his home, several miles, to lead the Shabbat services, at times having a police escort motoring alongside him.

And after so much food for the soul it was time to feed our bodies with delight in what the local Carluccio's had to offer. Our group left the warmth of the synagogue, and even on a cold day, there was a feeling

of warmth and welcome as we had listened to its history, and now enjoyed chatting, reminiscing, togetherness, around the reserved tables for our party. With a note that our next opportunity to come together would be on January 14<sup>th</sup> for a Post Chanukah Party, I believe that it will not be long before we embark on another 'out of the area' journey to a place of interest where we can enjoy the opportunity to 'Come And Meet Each Other'.

Thanks Tony for your input and to Bobbi for making it all happen.

## JACS presentation – Life at the JC



Picture by Maurice Hoffman

David Leibling writes:

**O**n 7<sup>th</sup> November, Stephen Grabiner (pictured, above) entertained JACS with an informative talk about his role as Chairman of the Jewish Chronicle and his relationship with the Editor, Stephen Pollard. He described the way the various sections of the paper were put together each week. Particularly interesting was his description of how they dealt with sensitive subjects as the JC is widely read amongst influential sections of the non-Jewish world to update them on Jewish opinion in Britain.



# Mosaic support for ITSA

*from Jane Prentice*

**M**osaic and friends collected a lorry load of computers and other IT equipment for IT Schools Africa – a UK charity, which recycles computer equipment for use in schools in Africa, principally in Malawi and Zambia. They also train teaching staff in IT skills, through charities set up locally.

We held a coffee and Danish morning on 29<sup>th</sup> October to collect the equipment and Nick Prentice gave a presentation explaining the work of this charity.

Well over 100 items including computers, tablets, smart phones, printers and screens were collected and driven to ITSA in Cheltenham.

Many thanks to everyone who donated equipment.

If you want to know more about this charity, go to: [www.itschoolsafrica.org](http://www.itschoolsafrica.org)



**Nick Prentice and Edward unloading collected computers onto the ITSA lorry to go to Cheltenham**

# Liberal Judaism Quiz

*from Paul Zatz*

**T**he Annual Liberal Judaism inter-Synagogue Quiz was held this year at Southgate on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

Mosaic Liberal's team consisted of Diana Ayres, Leanne and Russell Snipper, Brigitte and Ron Levin, Bernie Spilfogel and Pat and Paul Zatz.

Seven teams took part. The winners were from The Liberal Synagogue Elstree. Sad to report that Mosaic Liberal (by an

encouragingly small margin) came seventh.

It is always a very pleasant and informal occasion, and is one of the few regular events open to all congregants within Liberal Judaism.

Next year's quiz will be hosted by Beds and Herts. If you would like to be part of the team, please contact Alan Solomon through the Mosaic office.

# Walk through Brent for Sufra

*from Rabbi Frank*



**O**n Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> October, our small but hardy group walked 10km throughout Brent in aid of Sufra. We were received warmly at the Wembley Central Mosque and offered generous hospitality (see picture). We learned from the members present about the ethical ideals

of Islam. About half of those in our small group had never been inside a Mosque previously so this was a great initiation. We visited other faith venues along our journey through Brent and were welcomed joyfully at the Harlesden Methodist Church and the Shirdi Sai Baba Temple.

# Biscuit Bake-In

*from Mandy Roos*

**On 8<sup>th</sup> November a group of us came together to bake biscuits for kiddush and for Shabbat 'meet-and-greet'.**





# Bereavement Care

Judy Silverton (pictured, right), Chair of the Bereavement Care Conference Planning Group with guest speaker Jim Kuykendall, an inspirational Gestalt therapist, at the Bereavement Care conference at Bessborough Road on 1<sup>st</sup> November.



Picture by David Pollak

# Mitzvah Day

The Mosaic group at Stanmore Common clearing small trees from grassland. (Picture from Pat Zatz)



### *From Harry Grant and Ruth Soetendorp*

#### **On the death of our mother**

Together with our siblings and wider family, Ruth Soetendorp and Harry Grant thank our friends across the whole Mosaic Community for your kind wishes, thoughts and visits on the death of our mother.

Hannah Grant touched the lives of very many, so very positively (unless you were

Oswald Mosley's horse or a prying officer from the KGB). She was a force for good and, despite her fragility in recent months, will leave an unfillable gap in all of our lives. The support of so many from our diverse community has given us strength, for which we are grateful.

With our thanks and best wishes.

### *From Judith Bara*

#### **Reflections on how the British party system might change**

As an academic analyst of the party scene in Britain for over forty years, I would like to offer a few reflections on Michael Reik's discussion (*Kehila Monthly*, November) on how the British party system might change.

The political system in Britain is unlikely to be conducive either to the coming together of 'centrist' elements of Labour, the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats or to a Macron-style movement. The political culture of Britain has traditionally favoured a two-party (or two-and-a-half) party system in which contending parties are clearly based on recognisable and competing sets of values and policies. This is reinforced by the 'first past the post' electoral system and the layout and conventions of parliament.

The only example of a 'new' centrist entity in Britain in recent memory was the Social Democratic Party of the 1980s and that comprised a handful of disaffected Labour MPs and one Tory. Their modest success in vote terms was helped by an 'alliance' with the then Liberal Party. When Liberal leader David Steel

forced a formal merger after what he considered to be a disappointing result at the 1987 general election, this resulted in the formation of the Liberal Democratic Party. However, this split the old Liberal party and the Liberal Democrats actually did worse than the sum of its parts.

With regard to the recent spectacular rise of Macron's movement, En Marche, in France, this was based largely on non-partisan support for a presidential candidate; Macron's success was in any case triggered in considerable part by fear of the far-right Front National gaining power. In any case, the political system in France is very different, being semi-presidential in nature thus affording the President considerable authority as well as traditionally sporting a fragmented party system. The party and electoral systems are also different.

It is also worth noting that the window of opportunity for a 'new' party of the left of centre in Britain has passed. If it was to happen, it would have happened in 2015-2016 – but there was insufficient appetite on the Labour back benches whilst the Liberal Democrats turned inward to lick their electoral wounds.

Views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Mosaic Jewish Community

## From Lawrie Nerva

### Refuting anti-Semitism at the Labour party conference

Replying to the claims made by Michael Reik (November issue). He refers to "blatant anti-Semitism that is part of the Corbyn phenomenon". Such remarks do a disservice to hard working Jewish MPs like Louise Ellman, Luciana Berger and Ruth Smeeth. Has Michael obtained actual Labour documents that have influenced him to form such a judgement or has he relied on the biased press that can't be relied on?

Michael asserts that "Jews in this country, I believe have to be afraid at the possibility of Corbyn becoming Prime Minister". It would seem the fear arises because it is believed that Corbyn is anti-Semitic. I find no evidence to

support this view.

Corbyn became Labour leader with some questionable baggage. After 32 years as a back bencher Corbyn had associated himself with many Palestinian-supporting individuals and organisations, holding policies some of which I can support.

During the much-derided Labour conference, a rule change initiated by the Jewish Labour Movement, for the first time specifically mentioning anti-Semitism as part of a new anti-racist programme, supported by Corbyn, was overwhelmingly passed.

Many like-minded Jewish Labour members will remain in the Party to fight their corner and will not be deflected by the somewhat naive proposals made at the foot of Michael's letter.

## From Michael Reik

### Response to letter from Lawrie Nerva (above)

May I say, first of all, that I mentioned Louise Ellman, and Luciana Berger as two MPs for whom I have total respect and with whom I have had discussions. I spoke to Louise recently during the week of the centenary of the Balfour Declaration.

My comments regarding Jeremy Corbyn and his own form of anti-Semitism reflect his frequent comments of never being able to state the word Jew or Jewish without reference to another race and not being able state the country (Israel) without having to refer to another country.

I also define Corbyn's anti-Semitism and anti-Israel stance by the company he keeps (i.e.

associating with blatant anti-Semites).

He has condoned anti-Semitic literature such as that produced at the Labour Party Conference and will never speak against any specific incidents of anti-Semitism that occurred in the UK. I am not sure whether he supported Luciana Berger in the terrible attacks against her, without reference to other forms of racism.

The motion put forward by Jeremy Newmark and passed at the Labour Party Conference was, in my opinion, to enable Corbyn to have Labour Party Jews on side should Labour come into power.

Finally, anti-Semitism does not have to be defined only by what people say but also by what people do not say.

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

Dec | Jan

**Monday 11:00** – Friendship Club

**Every other Thursday 14:00** –

Singing Seniors

**Sunday (term time) 09:45** – HaMakom

## DECEMBER

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>		Shabbat Vayishlach
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup>	14.00	JACS – Crop circles (see p 6)
	20.00	Adult Learning – Chanukah with Rabbi Kathleen (see p11)
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	20.00	Council meetings
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>		Shabbat Vayeshev
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>		Kehila copy date
	09.45	HaMakom – end of term
Tue 12 <sup>th</sup>		<b>1<sup>st</sup> candle Chanukah</b>
	20.00	Photo Group
Thur 14 <sup>th</sup>	20.00	Adult Learning "Jewish Noir: Shtarkers & Redemption" with Rabbi Frank (see p6)
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Chanukah bake-in
	18.00	"Shabbat Revived" including supper
	19.00	Mosaic Liberal @ Sufra
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>		Shabbat Mikkets
	09.30	Adult Learning: Danish & Daven
	11.00	Shabbat Shira
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	14.00	Stone-setting – Mimi Bulka – Cheshunt
Tue 19 <sup>th</sup>	14.00	JACS – Music through the ages (see p6)
		<b>8<sup>th</sup> candle Chanukah</b>
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Lunch Club
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>		Shabbat Vayigash
Thur 28 <sup>th</sup>		Kehila distribution
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>		Shabbat Vayechi

## JANUARY 2018

Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	20.00	Council meetings
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>		Shabbat Shemot
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	14.00	JACS – The life and times of Frank Sinatra – Nigel Coleman (see p6)
	20.00	Photo Group
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>		Shabbat Va'era
	11.00	Shabbat Shira
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>		Kehila copy date
	09.45	HaMakom – new term
	10.15	Stone setting – Rita Asbury – Edgwarebury Lane
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup>	20:00	Heritage trip to Greece – debrief by participants (see p10-11)
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Lunch Club
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>		Shabbat Bo
	09.30	Parashat ha'Shavuah with Rabbi Frank
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup>	14.00	JACS – The Jewish East End – Tony Abrahams
	20.00	Mosaic Film – "Denial"
Thur 25 <sup>th</sup>		Kehila distribution
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>		Shabbat Beshalach/Shira





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