



Kehila

Kehila is brought to you by



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

March 2018

We are delighted to welcome our member

JOHN BENJAMIN

Jewellery expert from *The Antiques Roadshow*



He will give an illustrated presentation of
'A View from the Coal Face'.

The story of John's career started in 1972 at Cameo Corner, the celebrated Bloomsbury antique jewellery shop, then to Phillips Auctioneers and beyond...



Sunday 22nd April 2018 at 8.00pm

Mosaic Jewish Community

39 Bessborough Road, Harrow, HA1 3BS

Tickets £12.50 to include drinks and canapés

Please apply for tickets from the synagogue website:

www.choosemosaic.org

or cheque to Mosaic Jewish Community Ltd

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Since our last issue

Children's birthdays are on page 8

MOSAIC REFORM

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Josh Banks

MAZAL TOV TO:

Leslie Kopitko on the birth of his grandson, Ziggy

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Jeremy Begner, 60

Betty Brand, 98

Janet Clifton, 80

Loretta Collett, 75

Val Fineberg, 65

David Fleming, 60

Susan Kamen, 75

Joan Lazarus, 80

David Safir, 70

Hilary Stanton, 70

Jeff Young, 75

Trudie Leibling, 98

Bernard Sinclair, 65

Richard Phillips, 50

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Karen & Stephen Glick on their 45th wedding anniversary.

Yvonne & Edmund Goldstein on their 50th wedding anniversary

Brenda & Ian Joyce on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Trudy & Bernard Segal on their 40th wedding anniversary.

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Viv Levinson

Kurt Simmons

Michael Reik

Colin Okin

CONDOLENCES TO:

Jean London on the death of her husband, Gerard.

Magdi Marer on the death of her husband, Andor.

.....

HEMS

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Jack Kushner, 88

Ethan Honey, 18

BEST WISHES IN THEIR NEW HOME TO:

Reggie & Alan Goldner

.....

MOSAIC LIBERAL

MAZAL TOV TO:

Our member Adele Rubinstein received an 'Outstanding Contribution' award from St Luke's Hospice for over 20 years of devoted service as a volunteer.

Linda & Jonathan Baum on the birth of granddaughter, Eliza Olwen Elliott, born 15th December 2017 to Rachael Baum and

Robert Elliott, a niece for Joshua Baum

GOOD LUCK IN YOUR NEW HOME TO:

Irene Klein

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

George Adams

Louis Chesner

Evelyn Felts

Rhoda Kohn

Sheila Martin

Rosa Zarahiah

CONDOLENCES TO

Condolences to the family and friends of Jean Coleman.

Condolences to the family and friends of Walter Harwood.

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Jeanette Shindler



Editors: Martin Simonis and Judy Silverton

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

Next issue

The next issue will be that for Pesach 2018 – copy date 4th March.

This will be distributed on 22nd March (note the long lead time). *If you would like to contribute an article to the Pesach issue, please email **robertpinkus@gmail.com***

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COMMUNAL SEDER



COMMUNAL SEDER

SATURDAY 31st MARCH

7.00 pm

Mosaic Members: Adults £27.00

Mosaic Family ticket (2 adults + up to 2 children under 16) £60.00

Additional children age 5-16 £14.00 each. Under 5s - free

Non-members: Adults £42.00

(Catered by Strudel Cafe under Masorti Judaism supervision)

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 15th March. Alternatively, pay via our website, www.choosmosaic.org

Please reserve:

.....	Adult member places at £27.00 each	= £	salmon/vegetarian
.....	Family Tickets at £60	= £	salmon/vegetarian (state numbers of adults/children)
.....	Child places (5-16) at £14 each	= £	fish/vegetarian
.....	Child places under 5	= Free	fish/vegetarian
.....	Adult non-member places at £42 each	= £	salmon/vegetarian

I enclose cheque/cash (payable to Mosaic Jewish Community Ltd) in the sum of £.....

Please complete the following **IN CAPITALS**

Name Tel No:

Address..... Post Code.....



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Pesach – a Festival for Time Travellers

by Rabbi Kathleen Middleton



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

“The ritual and daily recording of time only began with Pesach”

Time travelling is one the very few human fantasies which has not, as yet, been fulfilled. The unstoppable passage of time is arguably the only thing which keeps us humans vulnerable and mortal. If only we could break through the barrier of time, and travel back to the past or into the future, we could use hindsight to undo the consequences of past deeds. We could change the course of history. We could save lives, diminish suffering, and perhaps even increase our power and amass more wealth on the way! In fact, we cannot begin to imagine what would happen if we were, indeed, able to go back in time and withstand the urge to alter it to our own benefit. So time-travel remains a fantasy, with endless possibilities to entertain in literary fiction as well as in film, yet we would not necessarily expect it to be an integral part of one of our festivals.

Pesach stands out amongst all the other festivals in the manner in which it deals with time. Perhaps this is so because the ritual and daily recording of time only began with Pesach, as we find in Exodus 12:1-20, the first biblical marker of time in the form of a calendar: *This month shall be the beginning of the months [...] on the tenth of this month you shall take a lamb etc.*

Exodus 12 states emphatically that the ritual recording of this festival is for the benefit of subsequent generations Ex 12: 14: *chag l'adonai l'doroteichem chukat olam* (you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Eternal One throughout the ages for all time). The implication of Ex 12 is that this particular moment in the calendar is a kind of portal in which, past, present and future merge. Because it was a special night of vigil (*shimurim*) at the time of the Exodus from Egypt, it will remain so in perpetuity. *‘That was*

for the Eternal One a night of vigil (Leyl shimurim) to bring them out of the land of Egypt; that same night is the Eternal One's one of vigil for all the children of Israel throughout the ages (l'dorotam)'.

The continuous aspect of this night, and a certain amount of re-enactment of the events narrated in the Exodus story implicit in Ex 12, were interpreted by the

authors of the *Pesach Hagadah*, to mean that *‘in every generation one should see oneself as if one personally exited Egypt’ (b'chol dor va-dor chayav adam lirot'ot et atzmo k'ilu hu yatza mitmitzrayim).*

This led to various ancient traditions around the world in which certain moments of the Exodus story are re-enacted by one or all participants of the Seder: from dressing up ready to travel, knapsack and staff in hand (Iraq), to hitting one another with spring onions, like the slaves were whipped by the Egyptian taskmasters (Persia and Afghanistan).

But on Seder night, past and present fuse in a way that is far more extensive than simply recounting or re-enacting the Exodus story alone. The Seder takes us on a virtual tour from the very beginning of Jewish history. This story, as it is recounted, becomes relevant to the time and situation in which that particular *Hagadah* is produced. Thus, we find, for example, in the 1528 Venice *Hagadah*, Abraham crossing the Euphrates in

“We can break the cycle if we are really prepared to learn from history – and we don't need a time machine to do so”

a gondola! I also remember a particular *Hagadah* my father used in the 1980s which, in solidarity with the Russian Refuseniks, depicted the Egyptians as Soviet soldiers.

But the Seder does not only offer a one-way direction through time. The Seder is far more than just a fusion of past and present, in fact it is a portal that leads us into the future too, to right in front

of redemption's door! As we open the door for Elijah, we realise that we do not do so in a futile hope for a better future, or simply because four glasses of wine are too much for us. We do so because, by travelling through time, by turning past into present and *vice versa*, we suddenly realise that history does not have to be an endless cycle of power and oppression repeating itself over and over.

We can break the cycle if we are really prepared to learn from history – and we don't need a time machine to do so – just our own ability to empathise. What is more, Pesach offers us an alternative version of history to that of an endless cycle of violence; Pesach's version of history is as a progressive evolving of humanity's experience that leads inevitably towards redemption. Because redemption already happened once, it is inevitable that it will happen again. In fact, with some concerted effort, it could be right on our doorstep. That is why we end our Seder with the words: *L'shana haba'ah birushalaym hab'nuyah!* Next year in Jerusalem redeemed!

Reform Movement opportunities for younger members

By Robin Goldsmith

This year the Reform Movement has pulled out all the stops to cater for our younger members!



Movement has much to offer, so here's a brief look at what opportunities are available to you.

RSY-Netzer

RSY-Netzer is the vibrant youth body of The Movement for Reform Judaism, running fun, life-enhancing events for 10–18 year olds, including camps and tours. These are some of the activities they offer:-

- A choice of 1-week, 10-day or 2-week residential or non-residential summer camps for different age groups, full of morning to evening activities.
- Three nights of fun at a residential winter camp for 8-15 year-olds.
- A month-long post-GCSE Israel tour spent travelling around the country for a unique experience, including swimming in the Dead Sea, hiking in the desert, visiting Tel Aviv and much, much more!
- A leadership programme for 15-17 year olds that teaches how to plan and organise events, manage discussions and inspire others.

From student support at universities, trips to Israel and help for young families, Mosaic Reform and the Reform Movement itself can assist you in your everyday life, whether you go to Shul or not!

The Movement for Reform Judaism represents over 40 synagogue communities in the UK. If you're at school, college or university or you're a young adult having left full-time education, being part of the

- A gap year scheme spending 8 months in Israel studying, volunteering, travelling, meeting similar young people from around the world and pursuing other interests.

RSY-Netzer is looking forward to a number of exciting events coming up over the next few months:-

- **2nd-3rd March:** Shabbaton Darom for school years 4-6, so sign up for a weekend of making new friends and having loads of fun with other Chanichim from different communities! Check out rsy-netzer.org.uk/southern-community-events for details.
- **2nd-6th April:** Pesach Garinim, a day camp for school years 1-5, will be held in both Radlett and Finchley.
- **25th-27th May:** Netzer Nights weekend, a Shabbaton for Reform youth from around the country.
- If a day or weekend isn't enough, then don't forget to sign up for a Shemesh Summer Camp via rsy-netzer.org.uk/shemesh-summer-camp.

There are also many ways that you can contribute to Shul life, including organising events for young people, participating in Shabbat Shira or alternatively helping community youth causes, so please speak to the Rabbi if you would like to become involved. You may even be eligible for the Jack Petchey Youth Award, provided by the Reform Movement!

Jeneration

Jeneration is a student network that provides Reform and Progressive Jewish students with opportunities to meet, socialise, pray and learn together. Activities include the



Reconnect retreat for Jewish students in the Peak District, a weekend dedicated to progressive Jewish learning and prayer (incorporating a musical Kabbalat Shabbat) and discussions on community organising and on-campus leadership. There'll also be a joint RSY trip with March of the Living in April and in summer, the movement will be hosting the third Progressive Birthright trip in partnership with Liberal Judaism.

Jeneration and the Alliance chaplaincy had an exciting last term visiting over 10 universities throughout Britain and are set to have an even busier future term ahead. Rabbis Daniel Lichman and Leah Jordan, the university chaplains for Progressive Judaism try to go to each of the big university campuses at least once a term. They offer Progressive Jewish students individual, personal and emotional support, help them organise group activities and assist in running inspiring sessions that bring Jewish wisdom to the questions that arise from university life. In November, the university chaplains and Maya Skaarbrevik, Jeneration Fieldworker, were educators at the Union of Jewish Students Summit. They spoke about the

Reform Movement Opportunities (continued...)

need for open Jewish spaces that welcome Reform and Progressive Jews and how this could practically be done in the future.

If you are aged 18-27 and not a member of a synagogue, but would still like to attend Shul over Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, then **The High Holy Day ticket scheme**, a joint project between the Reform synagogues, is able to allocate tickets via the Jeneration website.

Young Adults

If you are aged between 18 and 35, then engaging with Jewish life can compete with the demands of studying, building a career, socialising, bringing up a family or just enjoying life! The Reform Movement is committed to working with young adults, helping you on your journey, whatever your priorities. These might include support for mixed-faith relationships, learning programmes or youth/community leadership

training, for example.

Ya'ad is the Reform movement's leadership scheme for young adults aged 21-35. It's a fellowship programme for 10 young adults who are interested in building a stronger community in a Reform Jewish context and gives its participants the skills and development they need to realise new and exciting projects. The programme consists of three retreats as well as one-to-one meetings with Yael Roberts, Reform Judaism's Young Adults Community Organiser. Her role is to provide inspirational learning and programming for young adults across the country and she can be contacted via the website at reformjudaism.org.uk/young-adults, where further details on the Ya'ad leadership programme can also be found.

More information on any of the above can be found at reformjudaism.org.uk, or you can phone the Shul office to be put in touch with a contact that can assist.

Brainteaser

Compiled by John Ashmele



Brahms 1st, Elgar's 1st, Mahler's 5th, Schubert's 8th, Schumann's 3rd, Borodin's 2nd, Shostakovich's 9th, Bruckner's 7th; what completes the list?

Answer to February Brainteaser

If Broken, Purple, Rough and Baseball are red, and Sam, Garden, Golf and Fight are black, how many are in each? 13 in each – Heart, Diamond, Spade and Club suit of cards.

Happy Birthday

in March to:

Samuel Feldman, 11
Finley Vincent, 11



Pesach Services

HEMS

All services in the Girl Guide Headquarters, Hatch End.

1st day Pesach

Saturday 31st March – 9.30am

2nd day Pesach

Sunday 1st April – 9.30am

7th day Pesach

Friday 6th April – 9.30am

8th day Pesach

Saturday 7th April – 9.30am

MOSAIC LIBERAL

Erev Pesach

Friday 30th March – 6pm

1st day Pesach

Saturday 31st March – 11am

Erev 7th day Pesach

Thursday 5th April – 7pm

7th day Pesach

Friday 6th April – 11.15am

MOSAIC REFORM

Erev Pesach

Friday 30th March – 6pm

1st day Pesach

Saturday 31st March – 10.30am

7th day Pesach

Friday 6th April – 10.30am

Help! Volunteers Needed Please

Come and join Judy Silverton baking Pesach biscuits using family favourite recipes.

Tuesday 27th March

9.30am

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)



1st Night Pesach

Friday 30th March

If you would like to attend a seder on 1st night Pesach, please contact the Synagogue office on 020-8864 0133.

If you have a spare place at your seder table and could offer hospitality to another congregant, please also contact the office.

2nd Night Communal

Seder

Saturday 31st March

Booking form is on page 3 – **note the need to apply by 15th March, latest.**

COMMUNAL

Mosaic Luncheon Club

This is an invitation to all those who would like to spend a few hours in good company and enjoy a 3-course home-cooked meal and entertainment.

We meet regularly on the third Wednesday of the month for lunch and light entertainment, all for £6. Next meetings are 21st March and 18th April. For more information, please contact Sylvia Kemp via the Office at least a week before the meeting.



Mosaic Adult Education

Sat 24th March, 9.30am *A Culinary Voyage through the Festivals' (Pesach)*

Rabbi Middleton will explore the festival of Pesach and the origins of a variety of foods and customs from Jewish communities around the world. You are invited to share your stories behind favourite and unusual recipes and different customs within your family.

Note: This event has been postponed from 13th March and replaces the 'Danish and Daven' previously scheduled for 24th.

Sat 21st April, 9.30am *Parashat Ha-Shavuah*
– R. Dr. Frank Dabba Smith

Sun 29th April, 4pm *Presentation on Indian trip* – R. Dr. Frank Dabba Smith and group



Next two Contemplative Services:
2nd March and 6th April, both at 19:00

Purim Activities at Mosaic

On Wednesday 28th February 2018 members and friends are welcome at Bessborough Road to attend either or both of our two Purim activities

At 18.00 there will be a short service downstairs featuring the reading of Megillat Esther, led by Rabbi Middleton, followed by a pantomime with music and a fancy dress parade.

At 19.15 refreshments will be served in the Kiddush Hall.

At 20.00 there will be a study session in the sanctuary led by Rabbi Dr. Dabba Smith entitled 'The Leaders were Jackals and their Followers were Jackasses'

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(Salzburg) Salzburg Synagogue.

Vienna
What you will see: Judenplatz,
Schwedenplatz, Holocaust Memorial.

Bratislava
What you will see: Bratislava Old Town,
Holocaust Monument, Rabbi Chatam Sofer's Tomb.

Budapest
What you will see: Jewish District, Sankt
Stephan Park, Old Jewish Cemetery.



ITINERARY

VILSHOFEN TO BUDAPEST

DAY 1 - VILSHOFEN (OVERNIGHT)

DAY 2 - VILSHOFEN & PASSAU

DAY 3 - LINZ

DAY 4 - WEISSENKIRCHEN

DAY 5 - VIENNA

DAY 6 - BRATISLAVA

DAY 7 - BUDAPEST (OVERNIGHT)

DAY 8 - BUDAPEST



OVERVIEW

EMBARKATION

Vilshofen - 15 June 2018

DISSEMBARKATION

Budapest - 22 June 2018

SHIP

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Let My People Go

by David Pollak

Sermon given by David at the member-led MR service on Shabbat Bo (20th January)

“**L**et My People Go”. Iconic words from the mouth of Moses, our prophet and Peter Paul and Mary, American song-writers. No, don’t worry, I’m not going to burst into song – however much you’d love me to!



to live in freedom without fear, to practise their religion, to work and to express thoughts without fear of losing their liberty or worse still, their lives. Slavery by any other name.

Reading today’s parsha, I couldn’t escape the thought that while Moses, and the future children of Israel, secured their release

from Egypt by an ever-increasing cycle of punitive action against their oppressors, why couldn’t the Jewish people have been more proactive in the defence of their liberties in the centuries since their Exodus from Egypt. The alternative view might be that despite numerous attempts to remove us from this earth, we have survived, which could be through God’s protection, however invisible it might have seemed at the time. Throughout history, the Jews have been victims, suffering at the hands of persecutors. The time line of antisemitism makes depressing reading. I was going to mention some significant dates, when different rulers and regimes tried to enslave the Jewish people and eventually remove us from the face of the earth. However, there are just too many to mention. It’s quite clear that God’s intervention at the time of the Exodus didn’t leave a lasting impression!

And it’s not only Roman and Byzantine emperors, Moslem caliphs, French, Turkish, Spanish, Moroccan, German and yes, English rulers who have tried to exterminate the Jews. We need to look much closer to home.

There is a quotation from Thucydides, an

Athenian historian and general (460-400 BCE) who said “The secret to happiness is freedom... And the secret to freedom is courage”. How different might our history have been had our ancestors retaliated when their very existence was threatened. The courage of the Jewish people is best demonstrated in the years before the creation of the state of Israel, when Zionist pioneers fought for its establishment and successive generations since 1948 have continued the fight to defend Israel’s independence and freedom. We should all have the right to live life in peace and the freedom to express ourselves without fear. Nelson Mandela famously said “To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity”

There is much talk today surrounding equality between the sexes and the breakdown of gender altogether. How liberating must it feel to be able to share a life with someone of the same sex or to decide, as a man, that you’d rather be a woman or vice versa. Not so much Let My People Go but Let My Person Go.

Karen, my wife, has many talents, and two of her favourites are cooking and pottery. A French chef, Daniel Bouloud, once said “I love to create, and to me, the ultimate freedom of expression is a blank canvas or a block of clay to capture whatever emotions your imagination gives it.” I’m not sure what recipe he was following, and I hope it wasn’t a block of clay that was the main ingredient, but one cannot question the beauty of matching freedom to emotions and imagination.

Earlier, I said that we should look closer to home for threats to our freedom. For nearly 60 years, I have been a member of this synagogue and for much of that time, I have been active in promoting and practising our style of

Judaism. It’s now about 200 years since Progressive Judaism was born in Germany. After all this time, there is still a significant number of traditional and “orthodox” Jews who refuse to recognise Progressive Judaism and will even go so far as to deny our right to call ourselves Jews. In Israel, Progressive Jews, and women in particular, are still denied fundamental rights and are denied access to holy places. Progressive Jewish marriages are not recognised and children born of parents married under a non-orthodox chupah are regarded as illegitimate. We have always shown courage and determination to stand up for our rights to be recognised. We might not be slaves but perhaps, as far as our critics are concerned, we are even less than slaves. We believe that we should be entitled to question traditional practices and beliefs and if not satisfied with the answer, to adopt a different approach. Can the absence of slavery be equated to freedom when there are those who deny our right to practise our Judaism as we wish?

If we are to remain faithful to the teaching of this week’s parsha, then perhaps we should stop trying to make life perfect but, simply, “give ourselves the freedom to make it an adventure, and go ever upward.”

“There is no easy walk to freedom anywhere, and many of us will have to pass through the valley of the shadow of death again and again before we reach the mountaintop of our desires.” Nelson Mandela’s words, his experience and his example should encourage us all. Let’s hope for a world where there is equal opportunity for everyone and a world in which no one will ever have to say again, Let My People Go.

Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Mosaic JACS Programme

All events are on Tuesdays and start at 14:00

March / April / May

6th March Graham Zeitlin – British Rail: nationalisation, privatisation and Dr Beeching
17th April The life and work of Clarence Cliff: Brian Philips

1st May The Royal Park at Greenwich, including stories about Buckingham Palace, Clarence House and Kensington Gardens: Jim Buttress – have all the inside information before the royal wedding!

15th May Parliament and beyond: Lee Scott
29th May Travels with my camera – Les Spitz



Mosaic visit to Beth Shalom *National Holocaust Centre & Museum* **Wednesday 11th April**

We will travel by coach, leaving Bessborough Road at 8.30 am, to the National Holocaust Centre, England's only Holocaust Museum, near Laxton in Nottinghamshire. This day visit includes a talk from a survivor, and time to spend around the museum exhibition and Memorial garden. We will leave Beth Shalom at 4.30 pm to return by coach to Bessborough Road.

Cost: £22 per person including return coach trip and entrance to Beth Shalom. This visit has been generously supported by the Sidney Fenton Education Foundation. Optional light lunch (to book in advance £6 per person)

At the time of writing, there are only 8 places left on this visit, so please book as soon as possible – via the website or office.



SAVE THE DATE

Special Mosaic Reform service and lunch on 14th April to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the creation of the state of Israel.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FILM MOSAIC

The House of Rothschild (1934)

Tuesday 27th March 8:00pm

Shot mainly in glorious black & white, this entertaining and fascinating movie was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Film in 1934. Starring George Arliss as Nathan Rothschild and Boris Karloff as the anti-semitic Count Ledrantz.

This is the story of the rise of the Rothschild financial empire founded by Mayer Rothschild and continued by his five sons. From humble beginnings the business grows and helps to finance the war against Napoleon, but it's not always easy, especially because of the prejudices against Jews. This movie was many years ahead of the rest of Hollywood in its depiction of anti-Semitism.

It has to be said that the sound quality is typical of films made soon after the introduction of the Talking Movie. There are no sub-titles. Nevertheless we heartily recommend the House of Rothschild as a great addition to the fantastic movies shown at Film Mosaic. Come, Enjoy!

Friendship Club *Entertainment for the over-60s*

Mondays: 11:00 to 14:30

Tel (on the day): 020 8423 2903

MARCH

- 6th** Gayathrie and Bill Patrick
- 13th** Ronnie Goldberg entertains
- 20th** Brian Nathan with his presentation on Jewish bandleaders of the 20s/50s
- 27th** Return visit of Lynda Styan

APRIL

- 3rd** Stevie Permutt
- 10th** CLUB CLOSED – PESACH
- 17th** CLUB CLOSED – BANK HOLIDAY
- 24th** Singer/guitarist Alex Samos



Mosaic Men's Cooking Club

Quick recipe ideas for men in the kitchen from Joan Noble. Starting April. For further information people should contact Gay at communitycare@mosaicreform.org.uk

Mental Health Shabbat

Gay Saunders writes: Mental health awareness Shabbat (3rd February) was an opportunity for people to talk openly about mental health. Panel members spoke about different types of mental illness. They emphasised the effect on family members and the importance of love and support from friends and family and the resources available in the Jewish community, the NHS and elsewhere. There was an opportunity for members to share their own experiences, receive advice and consider different ways of meeting challenges. It was a valuable afternoon that opened-up an important conversation in the community.

Maurice Hoffman writes: the organisers must be congratulated on organising the event with a good and varied panel. It provided a valuable opportunity to hear about the clinical aspects of mental health and various ways to get support. The message is that within the Mosaic community and with organisations such as JAMI, people are willing to listen and provide support.

The panel l to r are: Judy Lee, Ann Freeman, Gay Saunders, Mark Greenfield, Geoff Isaacs



The Changing Face of the Board of Deputies

by Martin Simonis

On 4th February, a good audience saw Steve Levinson 'in conversation' with Jonathan Arkush – the soon-to-be out-going president of the Board of Deputies. It was a fascinating and instructive session as Steve steered Jonathan through the issues affecting the Jewish community in Britain

today and the approach the Board takes in responding to events as they arise.

Jonathan's outlook is optimistic – 'Britain is a brilliant place to be Jewish' – but he stressed the need to be vigilant and fearless in opposing any threats.

Much time was spent on 'anti-semitism' in



Michael Reik introduces Jonathan Arkush – President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews – and his interrogator – Steve Levinson (photo: Maurice Hoffman)

its various guises. Jonathan believes overt anti-semitism is not currently reflected in the lives of the majority, that the tendency is, worryingly, moving to the centre of politics and that its impact is hugely magnified by social media. He believes the threat today is greater from the left than from the right, and that there are many people of dubious intent around Jeremy Corbyn, but the Labour party 'doesn't really care...' To Jonathan and the Board, Zionism is simply the self-determination of the Jewish people, so they equate anti-Zionism with anti-semitism. On the other hand, the Board can and does criticise the Government of Israel, when it is appropriate to do so.

Jonathan, and the Board, spend much time and effort engaging with the Muslim community and countering the undisguised anti-semitic propaganda from Saudi Arabia that floods into the mosques. Most Muslims have never met a Jew, but respond very favourably when dealing with issues that we have in common – shechita/halal,

faith schools, coroner autopsies, etc.

Jonathan is extremely supportive of faith schools and the standards achievable by them, having set-up two himself. Jonathan and Rabbi Kathleen held much common ground on the topic of keeping children engaged after bar mitzvah and countering 'marrying out' and 'dropping out' (currently running at 26 per cent in the UK and over

50 per cent in the USA), which does not lead to sustainability and is a major concern, though not really part of the Board's brief.

The Board of Deputies is truly (uniquely) democratic – each affiliated organisation (nearly 300 of them – Mosaic has two) sends its own elected representatives who formulate policy and elect leaders. The Board tries to provide a single, unified voice of the Jewish people to government, agencies, the media, etc. As Jonathan says, 'it's a bit like Moses leading the disparate tribes of Israelites', but they do a far better job than other ethnic groups in the UK. During his time in office, Jonathan has seen the number of women and young people associated with the Board increase and this is a trend that he strongly supports.

At the end of the session, Rabbi Kathleen presented Jonathan with a token of our appreciation.

Thanks are due to Steve Levinson for asking the right questions and to Michael Reik for organising the event.

Mosaic Walking Group

by Henry Altman



Among the bluebells in Wippendell Woods. Our intrepid leader, Henry, is farthest right.

Our regular Tuesday morning walking group has been meeting for almost two years and we have now completed about 90 walks. With easy walks that are between three and four-and-a-half miles in length, we visit parks and countryside in North West London and Hertfordshire.

Our walkers come from across the Mosaic community – we usually welcome between fifteen and twenty people. A visit to the Whippendell Woods last spring revealed the carpet of bluebells and delighted us all. A later walk to Northala Fields at Northolt, the man-made mounds adjacent to the A40, showed views right across London to Docklands, and the North Downs. Walking from Pinner, we followed the course of the River Pinn, with a visit to the delightful ‘secret’ walled garden at Eastcote. We often visit the Aquadrome and



(Left) In the ‘secret’ garden in Eastcote.



(Below) In the sunshine at Rickmansworth Aquadrome.

nature reserve at Rickmansworth for walks around Bury, Batchworth, and Stocker’s Lakes. The path beside the Grand Union Canal is also an excellent route for us as we head for Cassiobury Park. Our walkers often bring carrots to feed the deer that we pass on our way through the woods at Bentley Priory. For aerobic exercise we had a steep walk climbing from the Uxbridge Road to Old Redding, with a much-needed stop for refreshments at Squires garden centre. Ruislip Lido presented easy walking and some lovely views, with reminders of the film ‘A Night to Remember’, where the model boat work for the first Titanic film was completed.

Our walks change weekly, and we try to provide sunshine. Details of the next walk are always given on the Mosaic website and in the Shabbat notices. Please do join us.

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

March | April

Monday 11am – Friendship Club

Every other Thursday 2pm –

Singing Seniors

Sunday (term time) 9.45am – HaMakom

MARCH

Fri 2 nd	19.00	Contemplative service
Sat 3 rd		Shabbat Ki Tissa
Sun 4 th		Kehila copy date (Pesach edition)
Tue 6 th	14.00	JACS – ‘British Rail’ (p14)
	19.15	HEMS meeting with Rabbi Weiner
Wed 7 th	20.00	Council meetings
Sat 10 th		Shabbat Veyakhel-Pekude/Parah
	11.00	Shabbat Shira
Sat 17 th		Shabbat Vayikra/Hachodesh Mosaic Reform Bar Mitzvah – Jonathan Goldsmith
Tue 20 th	20.00	Mosaic Photo group
Wed 21 st	12.30	Lunch club (p12)
Thurs 22 nd		Kehila distribution
Sat 24 th	09.30	Adult Education: A Culinary Voyage through the Festivals – Pesach (p12)
Sun 25 th	10.00	Stone-setting Philip Sladen (father of Lynne Charkham), Bushey
Tue 27 th	11.30	Stone-setting – Nora Sher, Edgwarebury Lane
Fri 30 th		Erev Pesach. 1 st Seder
Sat 31 st		1st day Pesach
	19.00	Communal Seder (p3)

APRIL

Wed 4 th	20.00	Council meetings
Thur 5 th		Erev 7 th day Pesach
Fri 6 th	19.00	7 th day Pesach
		Contemplative service
Sat 7 th		Shabbat Shemini. 8 th day Pesach
Wed 11 th	08.30	Mosaic visit to National Holocaust Centre & Museum (p13)
	20.00	Yom HaShoah service
Sat 14 th		Shabbat Tazria-Metzora (HEMS Shemini)
	11.00	Shabbat Shira
Sun 15 th		Kehila copy date
Tue 17 th	14.00	JACS – ‘Clarence Cliff’ (p14)
	20.00	Mosaic Photo Group
Wed 18 th	12.30	Lunch Club
	20.00	Mosaic Book Group
Sat 21 st		Shabbat Achare Mot- Kedoshim (HEMS Tazria-Metsora)
	09.30	Parashat haShavuah – Rabbi Frank
Sun 22 nd	20.00	John Benjamin – ‘A View from the Coal Face’ (see front cover)
Thur 26 th		Kehila distribution
Sat 28 th		Shabbat Emor (HEMS Achare Mot- Kedoshim)
Sun 29 th	13.30	Stone-setting – Rita Foreman. Edgwarebury Lane
	16.00	Adult Education: Presentation on the trip to India (p12)



Mosaic office is at 39
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