

Celebrate Chanukah at Mosaic

Saturday, 8th December

Join friends at Bessborough Road for lighting of the chanukiyah, storytelling, songs, sufganiyot (doughnuts), and a lot more.

Doors open 4pm Havdalah 5pm

Please bring your own chanukiyah and add some light to the darkness.



Do let the office know you are coming: **020 8864 0133** or email:
admin@choosemosaic.org.uk

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Since our last issue

MOSAIC REFORM

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Rose Mikardo, 92
Zicky Alpert, 75
Ilse Dokelman, 98
David Ruback, 70
Joan Woolfson, 93
Linda Graham, 70

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Marilyn & Roger Freeman on their 30th wedding anniversary.

CONDOLENCES TO:

Doris Fishman & Harry Levy on the death of their sister, Greta Reynolds.

Sheila Rosen on the death of her husband, Maurice.

GET WELL SOON

John Abrahams

MOSAIC MASORTI (HEMS)

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Sinead Mydat, 45
Joanne Fenster, 55

CONDOLENCES TO:

Alan Grossman on the death of his father, Jack.
Stuart Grabski on the death of his mother, Gloria.

MOSAIC LIBERAL

MAZAL TOV TO:

Sandra and Stuart Rose on the engagement of their son Ben to Lauren Midda.
Sandra and Stuart Rose on the birth of their fourth grandson, Cody Noah.

GOOD LUCK IN YOUR NEW HOME TO:

Gina & David Greenglass

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Esther Aronsfeld
Sheila Cohen
Irene Conway
Michael Judelson
Rosa Pinkus
Michael Richman

CONDOLENCES TO:

Barbara Jacobs on the death of her husband, Stanley.



Editors: Martin Simonis and Judy Silverton

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

Next issue

Next issue

There will be no issue produced for January. The next issue will be that for February 2019, Copy Date 20th January and distributing on 31st January. Send your articles, pictures, letters, etc to newsdesk@choosmosaic.org

Protecting our Mosaic Community

Everyone Can Play Their Part

From Jonathan Roback, Security Officer, Mosaic Reform

High Holiday Security 2018

To those volunteers and our dedicated team leaders thank you for your hard work and professionalism over the high holiday period, as well as a special thank you to the police officers and PCSOs for their support.

Providing security over the busiest time of the year, and where so many of the visitors are not known, this creates a different set of challenges.

When arriving at the service please greet the security team. Remember if you don't know the person doing security, they probably don't know you either, so don't be surprised if they ask you questions. Let's treat each other with respect and ensure that anyone who is not welcome can be kept out.

Next year, please volunteer or contact the security team if you have not been assigned a shift.

Pittsburgh Attack

Since the High Holidays we have witnessed the horrific attack on the Tree of Life community in Pittsburgh. To quote Dave Rich of the CST "Pittsburgh did not tell us anything new: it merely confirms the threat we already knew exists".

COMMUNAL



YOUR
COMMUNITY
NEEDS
YOU

What we can learn is that providing security for our community, controlling the front door and making sure that it is locked and that only approved visitors can come in will separate any problem from our families and community.

Over the last 18 months the UK has seen attacks from Jihadists and the Far Right, and, whilst not targeted at the UK Jewish community, the attacks seen in mainland Europe from France to Belgium to Denmark have seen the Jewish Community of Europe directly targeted.

Call To Action

We can all help to secure our community, at any age and regardless of our physical abilities.

When arriving at Mosaic be aware of your surroundings:

- Is there anyone suspicious in and around the area, in the car parks, in the streets?
- Is there anyone filming and taking photographs?

- Is there a suspicious vehicle parked or passing?
- Is there an unusual bag or package around or in the building?

If you see anything then report it to the security team or if no team then call the police and CST.

Always report your suspicions, if you don't flag it then it won't get fixed.

If you would like to find out more or develop your security skills, then please contact any of our security officers. There will be a series of meetings over the coming year and let us all commit to ensuring the security of our Mosaic Community.

Security – Addendum

From Lawrence Chadwick – Chairman, Mosaic Reform

As Chairman of Mosaic Reform, the Council and I would like to thank Jonathan for all the time and hard work that he puts into

the planning for the High Holiday period. It is not an easy job to train and bring together members of the community into a functioning unit that provides first line security cover during this period and indeed during the year.

The Pittsburgh Attack has heightened the sensitivity and need to provide visible as well as physical security to our Synagogues. With this, I appeal to the community to play its part in this; just leaving it to others is not a supportable option. I therefore ask that those members of the community that are asked to assist with security on Shabbat or special occasions play their part and do not casually set it aside.

Jonathan has arranged a series of workshops and meetings over the coming year, which will not only hone security skills and protocol but will give a greater insight into the security initiatives of CST.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2019

We are planning to hold our third Holocaust Memorial Day education event at Mosaic on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th January 2019 with local secondary students attending workshops and listening to a guest Holocaust Survivor speaker.

We are part of the Northwood Holocaust Memorial Day Education (NHMDE) programme, where over 3000 students attend various synagogues over two weeks to be informed on how the rise of antisemitism brought about the death of six million.

Mosaic is extremely proud to be

establishing itself with local schools and we rely heavily on our volunteers to make these facilitated workshop sessions both informative and valuable to the next generation.

We will have vacancies for volunteers on the two days to assist in the following areas:

- Security
- Catering
- Hosting
- Assisting workshop facilitators

If you are interested in finding out more and being actively involved in this important project, please contact Joan Noble or Barbara Grant via the Office.

Mosaic at “A United Act of Remembrance”

From Lawrence and Caroline Chadwick



(Above) Denis Hart on behalf of Mosaic Reform

As in previous years, but especially this year to mark the Centenary of the ending of the First World War, Mosaic was represented at Harrow Council's Remembrance Sunday held at the Civic centre Harrow.

Outside the gathering at the Cenotaph, this was the second biggest parade in London. Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton played a key part in delivering readings as part of the official programme, along with the other faith leaders.

We were also very honoured to be invited by the Mayor of Harrow to represent Mosaic Reform, with our member Dennis Hart who laid a wreath on behalf of Mosaic Reform synagogue.

It was a very moving experience with representatives from all faiths in Harrow, Scout groups, community groups, the emergency services, veterans and soldiers all present.

After the one minute's silence to mark the armistice, Rabbi Middleton delivered a prayer in Hebrew followed by the Imam from Harrow Central Mosque. All Faith leaders jointly read out the Interfaith Act of Commitment, then representatives for the local organisations laid their wreaths.

Further hymns, speeches and heartfelt poems were read by Harrow school children, followed by the National Anthem and the march-past parade.

Interfaith Act of Commitment

*“We commit ourselves
As people of many beliefs
To work together for the common good,
Uniting to build a better society,
Grounded in values and ideals that
we share:
Community
Personal integrity
A sense of right and wrong
Learning, wisdom and love of truth
Care and compassion, justice and peace
Respect for one another
For the earth and its creatures
We commit ourselves
In a spirit of friendship and co-operation
to work together
Alongside all who share our values
and ideals
To help bring about a better world
Now and for generations to come”*



Marvyn Ellison represented HEMS at the Pinner wreath laying. He also joined Mosaic at the AJEX march the following week – see following article.

AJEX Remembrance Ceremony & Parade

From Edwin Lucas

Today (18th November – one week after Remembrance Sunday) Mosaic Liberal, Masorti and Reform joined together at the AJEX march from Horse Guards Parade to the Cenotaph to remember the deaths of many service people who perished over the last 100 years in combat. The Chief Rabbi, along with other rabonim and high-ranking military personnel were also in attendance.

You will ask why we assembled under the Stoke-on-Trent banner. It goes back to 1978, when I used to work for a living and lived in Stoke on Trent. The community was tiny and not even as big as HEMS. The community was brilliant to me and they ignited my interest in Judaism and shul togetherness. The president of the shul came down every year to represent Stoke on Trent at the march. The weather was not always as sunny as today. When I moved to London, I started to join the president, who is known as Uncle Sydney. I marched with him every year, until he could not manage it any longer. It was often just the two of us. I decided that the best legacy Uncle Sydney left me was the march and to remember the community where my wife Linda and I were wedded in the mid 90s.

A few years ago, I mentioned the march to members of our shul and Marvyn Ellison joined me and the following year Alan Solomon from ML, joined our wee group.



We picked up strangers and then this afternoon, we had a major success with David Wyman from MR, Fred Stern from MR, Irwin Spilka from HEMS and Linda Lucas from HEMS who swelled our ranks. In addition, we picked up a couple from Kingston and one from Stanmore who is a cousin of our member Michael Morris. We were delighted with the attendance and we hit double figures. It was exciting, and we felt privileged as young adults, to honour those that had fallen. (Before my father-in-law, Fred Stern complains) he is 95 years of age and we took a wheelchair for him to use, but he discarded that and joined the rest of us in marching to step from Horse Guards Parade to the Cenotaph and back again.

Uncle Sydney would be proud of the contingent of ten, as I do not think Stoke-on-Trent has been so well represented since the 90s. I thank those that supported us in marching, and also as onlookers. Their support and interest was remarked on by the reviewing officer and by us marchers.

Online Grave search facility at Edgwarebury and Hoop Lane

Received from Rafe Thurstance, Office Coordinator and Burial Scheme Administrator for Liberal Judaism

An online grave search facility is available for Edgwarebury Cemetery (Edgware) and Hoop Lane Cemetery (Golders Green).

Searches at either or both locations can

be made by either forename or surname - there is no need to enter a year of burial.

The results provide the deceased's full name, community, plot indication, date of death and date of burial.

To use it, visit www.edgwareburycemetery.org.uk/burial-search/

2019 Mosaic Calendar

We are delighted that the 2019 Mosaic Calendar has been published and is included with this edition of *Kehila*. There is no charge for it, but if you would like to make

a contribution towards its cost, your donation would be very welcome.

Thank you to those involved with the production of this calendar and to all the 'posties' who have delivered them to you.

Mosaic Reform & the Movement for Reform Judaism (MRJ)

As you 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 31st December 2018, 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 or ring
020-8864 0133



Reports from Board of Deputies Divisions for October

From Michael Reik, Mosaic Reform BOD Representative

The Board is a member of the Claims Conference that provides monies to Individuals who are Holocaust Survivors. Monies in the billions of dollars have been provided, with the German Government providing the funds. The President of the BOD normally represents the Board. Interestingly, Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries have no organisation to provide monies for them.

A report from President of UJS advised of incidents at York and Plymouth Universities where Swastikas and Stars of David had been daubed. There was great concern that there

may well be anti-Jewish reaction during Israel Apartheid week.

I had a separate discussion with Gareth Thomas (our local MP) who advised that he was presently the chairman of the Co-operative Party, which is based in Manchester and has a number of Labour MP's among its members (including our own Luciana Berger). The Co-op party adopted the full IHRA Definition with all examples back in June. They have prevented membership applications from individuals with a history of anti-semitism. They have their own disputes committee to handle any form of racial discrimination.

Brainteaser

We regret to inform Mosaic Brainteaser fans that we will not be continuing with this feature in Kehila. We hope it has given some interest and amusement and our thanks go to John Ashmele for his compilation efforts over the last 2-3 years. If anyone would like to contribute something similarly amusing and challenging on a regular basis, we would love to hear from you.

Answer to November's Brainteaser...

Ian is GCHQ Agent 6, Nina is Agent 9, Tina is Agent 10, Anita is Agent 11, and Anne is Agent 12. What is Annette's GCHQ agent number? We are not giving the answer to this – it is a state secret! We will respond to specific requests!



Happy Birthday

in December to:
Benjy & Max Maginn, 10



AFTERNOON TEA AND
A GLASS OF FIZZ WITH

JUNE KENTON

JUNE KENTON, director of lingerie firm Rigby & Peller, wrote *Storm in a D Cup*, revealing how she turned a once-struggling business into a global success and counted hundreds of celebrities and notables – including the Queen, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret – among her clientele.

Come and enjoy Afternoon Tea with June and listen to her tell her remarkable story



2:30PM TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2019
TICKETS £15 for early booking

(£20 after 5 February)

At Mosaic 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow HA1 3BS

Tickets can be booked via the mosaic website

www.choosemosaic.org

and a donation will be made to the MS SOCIETY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parent Support Group Workshop

Drug & Alcohol Use in Children & Young Adults
Sunday, 2nd December

Join HaMakom parents for this workshop from 10.00 – 11.30 am which will address the following:

- Signs to watch out for
- Scale of problem
- Current “trendy” drugs
- How to approach your child
- How to deal with peer pressure
- Where to get help

The workshop will be conducted by Chloe O’Connell of the Amy Winehouse Foundation and Eyal Remon, Manager WDS (Drug & Alcohol charity).

No charge for HaMakom parents; non-Hamakom Mosaic/Kol Chai members £4 each, others (by invitation only) £7. All attendees MUST register in advance by email or via the Mosaic website.

Film Mosaic

The STRANGER

At 8pm on Tuesday 18th Dec 2018

War Crimes Commissioner agent Wilson (Edward G Robinson) is tracking down Franz Kindler, a Nazi Holocaust Mastermind (Orson Welles), who has escaped justice by changing his identity and melding into the sleepy society of Harper Connecticut. By tracking down the Nazi’s contacts and chasing down the clues one by one, the Agent closes in for the kill.

Directed by Orson Welles himself; this is an intriguing movie, which was Oscar-nominated for best original story and earned Welles a nomination at the 1947 Venice Film Festival.
(SUBTITLES ARE **NOT** AVAILABLE)

CAMEO

(Come And Meet Each Other)

Have you suffered the loss of a partner, relative or friend?

Would you welcome the opportunity to meet others in a similar position to yourself?

Do you feel lonely and isolated?

Mosaic has a group for you!

Chanukah lunch

Sunday 9th December 1.15 – 3.30 pm

£10 to include lunch, drinks & some little Chanukah treats.

For catering purposes, please book your place.

We offer support and enjoyment to people with common interests.

If you are interested, please ring **020-8428 7977**

UPCOMING EVENTS



Mosaic JACS Programme

December - February



All events are on Tuesdays and start at 14:00 with tea and cake, followed by a talk and questions at 14:30.

4th Dec Richard Furnival – Harrods in Harrow! Then Chanukah candle lighting.

18th Dec JACS party - party with professional vocalist Hollie-Blue

8th Jan Will Bird - Laurel and Hardy, from soup to nuts

22nd Jan John Ashmele - The role of a Toastmaster

5th Feb Jonathan Grodzinski - 130 years in the baking

19th Feb Helen Fry - The life and death of Robert Maxwell

Senior Lunch Club



The Senior Lunch Club meets at 12.30pm, usually on the third Wednesday of the month (Please check the diary at the back of this magazine for the next date). There will be a delicious home-cooked 3-course meal and tea/coffee and entertainment all for £7. We look forward to seeing you all when we will be entertained by *The Good Companions*.

Contact Sylvia via the office for more info

Friendship Club

Entertainment for the over-60s

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

DECEMBER

- 3rd** Bill Smith entertains
- 10th** Singer/keyboard player Roy Blass
- 17th** Singer/guitarist Alex Samos
- 24th** CLUB CLOSED

JANUARY

- 7th** Harry’s choice of taped favourites
- 14th** Sidney Austin entertains
- 21st** Singer David Peace
- 28th** Return visit of entertainer Lynda Styan

Ian Austin MP interviewed by Steve Levinson

By Jane Harrison

Labour MP, Ian Austin, who is being investigated over his behaviour during a row about the party's anti-Semitism code, narrowly missed calling his leader an anti-Semite.

He told a packed Mosaic audience: "I can't look into his heart and really know, but he has said and done things which are anti-Semitic. There is a long history of Jeremy mixing with terrorists and anti-Semites. Then there was the grotesque mural in East London."

The MP for Dudley North, whose father arrived in the UK as a 10-year-old boy from Czechoslovakia – his mum and sisters were murdered in Treblinka – said: "People think Jeremy has fought racism all his life, so when he is criticised, they think it can't be true and it has to be a plot. It's really insidious so many people are being sucked into saying things which are anti-Semitic in support of Jeremy."

Ian Austin, who was being interviewed by broadcast journalist and synagogue member Steve Levinson on Tuesday 13th November, is facing possible suspension after the argument with the party's chairman Ian Lavery, deemed 'abusive conduct.'

When asked what he actually said, he said it was a "heated discussion over the

(Photo: Sandie Simonis)



party's failure to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism. He said: "I probably used language you would not repeat in synagogue, but we have got ourselves into a terrible position."

"The Labour party thinks it knows best. The Labour party is the last party to be re-defining the definition. Do they really want a hearing about this? It's an attempt to silence me. If people try and shut you up you have to come out fighting and stand up for what's right."

He said he grew up listening to his father talk about the Holocaust. He said: "They have to kick the racists out. I am appalled and ashamed that the party I joined as a teenager has caused such offence. We should do everything we can to put it right."

"What we have now is way beyond the mainstream traditions of the Labour party. They want to turn the party into a hard-left Marxist party." When asked, he said he would not be confident on Mr Corbyn winning an election.

He said that in spite of the lack of Jewish people in his constituency, he was constantly approached in the street and told what the Labour Party was doing was a "disgrace", adding: "do not under-estimate the support

there is out there for the Jewish community."

Steve asked him if Labour had lost the Jewish community. Ian replied: "The Labour Party has been the home for the vast majority of the Jewish community, but a political party that has caused such offence cannot expect the support of anyone until it has sorted itself out."

"The Labour party is in a huge mess. It's a tragedy. The way you treat minorities shows a lot about your character. Anti-Semitism is an early warning about the toxicity in society."

He also spoke of the "bravery and courage" of Luciana Berger and other Jewish female

MPs who have borne the brunt of anti-Semitic abuse.

Mr Austin is a supporter of Labour Friends of Israel, a member of the Jewish Labour Movement and has worked closely with the Holocaust Educational Trust, helping secure Government funding for its Lessons from Auschwitz project in 2006. A donation from the evening will be made to the Trust.

Also at the event were Gareth Thomas, MP for Harrow West, and Sharon Hodgson, MP for Washington and Sunderland West.

Wembley Mosque visitors to Shabbat service at Mosaic Liberal



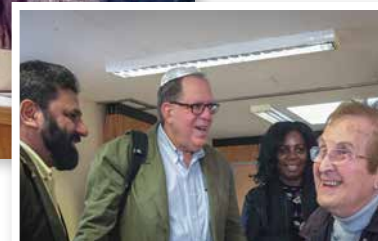
when he spoke to those assembled: 'All I want to say is that we are with you; anytime and anywhere.'

Over the years, Rabbi Frank has offered his firm support to the members of the Mosque when threats against the safety of Muslims

were made by right-wing terrorists. In the aftermath of the horrific incident perpetrated at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, this reassurance was firmly reciprocated. As Sohail stated, 'This is the spirit of Brent: be kind to each other, look after each other, have empathy for

each other.' Indeed, this is the spirit of both our faiths and we are all urged to live up to these core values as made clear by the ethical prophecies that we share.

Rabbi Frank
writes:
Four warm-



hearted members of the Wembley Central Mosque joined us at our Sabbath morning service on 3rd November and Sohail Ahmed offered a strong message of reassurance



Men's Cooking Club



The Men's Cooking Club made vegetable strudel, apple strudel and chocolate and pear pudding at their October session, with excellent results.

Bereavement conference

By Jane Harrison

It's the little things that matter when someone you love dies suddenly.

A poignant moment in this year's Bereavement Annual Conference, chaired by Judy Silverton, 'All of a Sudden, the aftermath of unexpected death,' held at Mosaic Reform, on 31st October.

Many delegates were in tears as Rev Craig Fullard spoke of Jill's son, an organ donor and how he was treated by caring staff after his death.

He spoke movingly of his own heartbreak when he and his wife suffered two miscarriages and what happened afterwards. He said: "We never forgot or forgave how we were told to queue, with everyone else, for the next appointment with tears streaming down our faces, but equally we also never forgot the wonderful doctor who let us talk and cry for as long as we needed. Being

there is the ultimate thing."

Dr Anthony Kaiser, consultant neonatologist at St Thomas' hospital, said unexpected death among children was still very low in this country and talking about death was still a taboo subject. He said: "Our aim is to provide the healthiest outcome for the survivors: giving them some anticipation is helpful, keeping them well-informed, use honest and plain language, involve them as much as possible."

He spoke about the importance of the five Bs: be straightforward, be honest, be human, be flexible and be there. He said: "If you can really be there for the family and really listen, it is something they will remember for ever."

Ann Culley, chair of the Trustees for Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide, became involved in the charity after her brother, Gordon, killed himself. She said



The panel, L-R Ann Culley, DC Teresa Jimenez, Rev Craig Fullard, Dr Anthony Kaiser, Judy Silverton (picture: David Pollak)

she was still amazed at the methods some youngsters chose to end their lives.

Patrick Green, chief executive officer for the Ben Kinsella Trust, set up in 2008 after the murder of Ben in Islington, gave a video showing the events leading up to his stabbing and the anti-knife campaign run by his family.

He spoke about a new inter-active project in Islington which was having a positive impact on youngsters and how lessons

needed to be learned before they got into trouble.

DC Teresa Jimenez, a family liaison advisor with the Met, who has been involved in major incidents such as the London bombings and Grenfell Tower, said the most important thing was communication.

After the speakers the delegates took part in discussion forums to explore the theme of the day and how to offer the relevant support.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

Bereavement Care

Volunteer treasurer

Bereavement Care is a Harrow based charity giving support to people who have suffered grief and loss. We are looking for a retired treasurer who would like to volunteer and become involved in this very worthwhile charity. No previous experience needed, just the enthusiasm to work with others and keep the books in order.

Please phone David Griffiths on 020 8427 5720 and he will be delighted to explain what's involved

Saul at Glyndebourne

By David Wyman



Saul and David by Guercino

In August I was invited to see Handel's oratorio *Saul at Glyndebourne* in a production that had wonderful singers and an excellent chorus. However it was the virtuoso stagecraft of opera director Barry Kosky and his designer, Katrin Lea Tag, which really brought the drama alive.

Handel wrote it in 1738, giving the first performance in 1739. The music is superb and much credit must also be given to the librettist Charles Jenson (1700-73). He was a discerning connoisseur and patron of the arts and loyal friend to Handel and an ardent admirer of his music. Jenson skilfully condensed the story of Saul, David and Jonathan which extends over 26 chapters (I Samuel 15-II Samuel 5). He also collaborated with Handel in the *Messiah* and *Belshazzar*.

The curtain rises to reveal the huge head of Goliath centre stage. The chorus of Israelites praise God for saving them through the leadership of Saul and the bravery of the

young shepherd, David, who was sung by leading counter-tenor Iestyn Davies. In the original production David was a trouser role sung by a mezzo. We are introduced to Saul's daughters Merab and Michal, and Jonathan who declares eternal friendship to David. This is followed by the chorus once again celebrating Saul and David but attributing the greater achievements to the latter. This triggers the jealousy of Saul and, despite David's attempt to soothe the king with music, is twice threatened with a spear by Saul. We see Saul's plan to secure the death of David in battle with the Philistines. Jonathan tries to calm the rage of his father. However what briefly appears to be reconciliation between Saul and David is a Machiavellian plan to have him murdered. Saul also turns on Jonathan when David fails to attend the festival of the New Moon. Saul in disguise consults the Witch of Endor to summon his mentor Samuel from the dead and explain Saul's fate. In subsequent scenes David receives news of the deaths of Saul and Jonathan. The Amalekite who gave Saul the coup de grâce is executed. The oratorio ends with a great eulogy. David celebrates Jonathan's love for him. David anointed as the new king, is blessed by God and will overcome all enemies and unify the nation through his exemplary virtue!

Laurence Cummings conducted and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment played Handel's score.

After seeing this performance, I was stimulated to read the book of Samuel and I was not disappointed. As a piece of literature, it is certainly 'a good read'. Apparently, it contains some of the finest examples of Hebrew prose in the Bible. It is a history woven with dramatic events when Israel becomes a united nation with the establishment of a monarchy.

Spanish Jewish History in the Making

By Marilyn Finester

For the second time the Southern Costa Blanca Jewish Community has made Jewish History in Spain. Our very hard-working lay leader Alan Harris and his even harder working wife Jackie arranged for our Community to hold our Simchat Torah Service at the recently unearthed Lorca Synagogue in the Region of Murcia.

The Synagogue had fallen into disuse since the Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492. Much of Lorca was devastated by an earthquake only a very few years ago which destroyed much of the beautiful old town including the magnificent cathedral. The town is overlooked by a very spectacular Moorish castle and it was within this castle that the remains of the Jewish Ghetto and Synagogue were discovered. It is quite an amazing archaeological site.

Our day started with a full coach pick-up for lunch at a local Parador in Totana after which seventy of us went on to Lorca.

Alan and Jackie had brought the Community's Sifre Torah, etc. which we use for our monthly Friday shul services and with everyone's help we were soon set up for this historic occasion. After every call-up the men danced around the 'shul' with a Sefer Torah much to the delight of the whole congregation, especially Jackie and Alan's three quite young grandsons.

During the aliyahs my husband, Stanley, was called up for his second Bar Mitzvah, a memorable moment for us and a historic one

for Lorca. He then received a special blessing under a 'chuppa' made of tallit. Together we then received a special blessing and a little later I was given the honour of reading the prayer for the State of Israel and the Israel Defense Forces.

The service eventually ended with Kiddush and old and new friends were saying what a great piece of history we had created and what a marvellous task Jackie and Alan had so successfully undertaken.

We hope other Jewish communities will follow our example or, at least, visit this most interesting piece of our history.

Bereavement Care Fish and Chip Supper Quiz

Saturday 16th February 2019

Reception 7pm; Fish & Chips 7.30pm

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

Tickets £21 available from Bobbi Riesel

bobbi@riesel.co.uk

Bereavement Care provides support free of all charge to bereaved adults and children in Harrow, Hillingdon and the surrounding areas

Pesach Down Under

By Mark Briegal – son of Mosaic Reform member Jacqueline Briegal

At the back end of 2017, my wife Clare (who works in sport) suggested that I might like to carry her bags to the Commonwealth Games in Australia in April 2018, and I thought that sounded like just the sort of thing a devoted husband would volunteer for. We also thought that we'd tack on a few days' holiday before the Games started and visit our very old friends who live in Hobart, Tasmania.

So far so good. until my Mother mentioned in passing: "Who's doing Seder this year?" (By way of aside, now that I am over 50, I am deemed grown-up enough to hold my own Seder.) I checked dates and, sure enough, we'd be in Tasmania for Seder night. So, Mother and grown-up children were instructed to sort themselves out and I hit Google.

There were two Jewish congregations in Hobart (Jewish population 89) —one orthodox and one progressive. This reminded me of the old joke about the Jewish man marooned on a desert island who built two Shuls, so that there was one he didn't have to go to. Trying to remove from my mind the mental picture of frummers with massive fur hats with corks, I immediately contacted the progressive congregation who kindly invited us to join them for their Seder in the Shul on the first night.

We were staying with our dear friend Lindsay, who's not Jewish but who did work for Marks & Spencer for many years and therefore thinks she is, so she came with us! I scoured the local supermarkets for suitable ingredients, swept Lind's kitchen with an emu feather (this bit may not be true) and knocked up some macaroons_

cinnamon balls and coconut pyramids, whilst wondering whether Wallaby is kosher. (It's not, in case you were wondering).

Hobart Shul is a spectacular building dating from 1845 and is, apparently, the oldest synagogue in the southern hemisphere. We were made very welcome by the small but committed congregation. Although they have no rabbi, they seem to get on very well on their own and also with the small number of orthodox neighbours. The Seder was of course a little different, but we joined in with the food and the singing. and it was fabulous to celebrate Pesach in a new place with new people, as part of a wider Jewish community.

I was particularly amused that we were placed on the "Convicts' Benches". Tasmania was originally a penal colony and there were (who knew?) Jewish convicts. They were not allowed in the pews with the posh people and had to sit separately on the convicts' benches. The irony of this on Pesach, a freedom festival, did not escape me. I was also amused by the boards on the walls around the Shul, which not only listed who had given donations. but how much!

Australia is a long way away, Tasmania is a large island off the bottom of it and Hobart is at the bottom of Tasmania. It's pretty remote. but it is quite beautiful and is a wonderful little city, with amazing views. lots of artisan crafts, foods and drink and some brilliant museums and galleries. It's well worth a visit - and do visit the Shul whilst you are there.

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 11am – Friendship Club

Every other Thursday 2pm – Singing Seniors

Sunday (term time) 9.45am – HaMakom

DECEMBER 2018

Sat 1 st		Shabbat Veyeshev
Sun 2 nd	10.00	Drug & Alcohol workshop (see p 10)
		1st candle Chanukah
Tue 4 th	14.00	JACS – History of Harrods (see p 11)
Wed 5 th	20.00	Council meetings
Sat 8 th		Shabbat Miketz
	16.00	Mosaic Chanukah party (see front page)
Sun 9 th	13.15	Cameo Chanukah lunch (see p 10)
		8th candle Chanukah
Tue 11 th	20.00	Photo group
Sat 15 th		Shabbat Vayigash
	11.00	Shabbat Shira
Sun 16 th	09.45	HaMakom – term ends
Tue 18 th	14.00	JACS – party with vocalist (see p 11)
	20.00	Mosaic Film – 'The Stranger' (see p 10)
Wed 19 th	12.30	Lunch Club (see p 11)
Sat 22 nd		Shabbat Vayechi
Sat 29 th		Shabbat Shemot

JANUARY 2019

Wed 2 nd	20.00	Council meetings – Masorti & Reform
Fri 4 th	19.00	Contemplative service
Sat 5 th		Shabbat Va'era
Sun 6 th	09.30	HaMakom – term starts
Tue 8 th	14.00	JACS – Laurel and Hardy (see p 11)
Wed 9 th	20.00	Council meeting – Liberal
Sun 13 th	14.00	Stone-setting – Eddie Solomon – Cheshunt
Tue 16 th	12.30	Lunch Club (see p 11)
	20.00	Photo Group
	20.00	Book Club – "Comic Fiction". Books that make you laugh
Sat 19 th		Shabbat Beshallah. Shabbat Shira
Sun 20 th		Kehila copy date – February issue
Tue 22 nd	14.00	JACS – Role of the Toastmaster (see p 11)
Sat 26 th		Shabbat Yitro
Thur 31 st		Kehila distribution



The Mosaic office is
open 09.00-15.00
Monday-Thursday

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