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The **Mosaic** | community journal

PESACH 2019/5779



**HAPPY
PASSOVER**

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About Our Members

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MOSAIC REFORM

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Sandy & George Myrants

MAZAL TOV TO

Antonia & Howard Berger on the birth of their grandson, Zion Benjamin Manny.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Michael Abrahams, 75
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Woolf Heymann, 94
Mari Sved, 75
Mark Phillips, 55
Hazel Richman, 101
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ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Loretta & Geoff Collett on their 50th wedding anniversary.
Barbara & Arnold Gee on their 55th wedding anniversary.
Linda & Richard Joseph on their 45th wedding anniversary.
Micky & Paul Mendelson on their 45th wedding anniversary.

GET WELL WISHES TO

Jack Freeman
Gerry Amias

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family of Lionel Jacobs

NEW HOME:

Lynn Bulka

MOSAIC MASORTI

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

Maisie Balkin, 18
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Kezia Rosenberg, 20
Alan Goldner, 75
Robert Pinkus, 75
Julie Dysch, 55
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GET WELL:

Selwyn Langley

NEW HOME:

Maureen & Emmanuel Aharoni

MOSAIC LIBERAL

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Jeff Brookes
Frankie Green
Paul Hart
Edith Horton
Maria Landau
Mimi Rotbart
Anthony Share
Bernard Spilfogel

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Edith Horton
Maurice Levan
Rosetta Muscatt

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family and friends of Derek Bromberg.
Victor Saunders on the death of his wife, Susan.
The family and friends of Irving Harris and Jaki Harris.
To Phyllis and Harold Sanderson on the death of their daughter, Mandy Barash, and also to Steven Sanderson and Wendi O'Donnell on the death of their sister.
Toby Drage on the death of her husband Aubrey, and also to Michelle Drage on the death of her father.
To the family and friends of Louis Chesner.

From the Editor's Desk

Dear Reader


Well dear friends, as they say, all good things must eventually come to end! After more than a decade as editor of the seasonal magazines for both HEMS and Mosaic communities I am stepping down from the post. It has been a real privilege to serve the Community and show-case the talents, interests and experiences of so many people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Helen, our fantastic graphic designer, who is forever globe-trotting around the world but is always available thanks to the world wide web; the editorial group for their great support and guidance; and finally my gratitude to Martin Simonis, my partner in crime, who produces *Kehila* monthly.

Producing a seasonal community magazine pulls on the skills of many folk – not least the many Mosaic members who have generously given their time to share their stories. This magazine is an excellent example of joint teamwork across all three shuls.

Given that I will now be less busy, my wife Anne says that I can give her more time to change over the kitchen for Pesach – maybe its time for a re-think!!

Chag Pesach Sameach to you all.



Robert Pinkus



Next issue

The next issue of Kehila Monthly will be that for June – copy date 19th May, distributing 30th May.

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

What is Mosaic?

Mosaic is a vibrant Jewish community which comprises the members of three partner synagogues. The three synagogues represent the Masorti, Reform and Liberal strands of Judaism respectively providing Mosaic members with a choice of emphasis and ritual across the Progressive spectrum. Indeed, the providing of choice is a key Mosaic principle which extends beyond ritual. Mosaic provides its members with a wide range of social, educational, cultural and recreational activities designed to appeal to diverse interests and age groups.

There is an excellent religion school for younger members with innovative opportunities to extend Jewish learning beyond bar/bat mitzvah.

Most important, we look out as well as in and offer exciting opportunities to get involved with influential social action and inter-faith programmes, whether locally, nationally or internationally. Mosaic is living proof of what can be achieved with goodwill, mutual respect and a willingness to work together.

Find out more at www.choosemosaic.org or contact Membership Officer Mark Phillips on 07500 118 796

Rabbi Dr Frank Dabba Smith

*A time to Embrace
Both the Familiar and
the Unfamiliar*



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"Feeling warm and cozy with family and friends at Passover is wonderful. But it's only a small part of the story"

The Passover season begins in our home about two months in advance when Cathy and her cousins begin the process of deciding who is going to do what, when and where. This is accompanied by a discussion about the pros and cons of not having any meat during the festival in our household (much less hassle and more ethical, too). Then there is consideration of what sort of haroset should be made (some but not all are weary of the standard Ashkenazi variety) and also speculating about how much each box of the least-bad gluten free Matzo costs and what quantity should be bought. These are the familiar bits; all very cozy, warmhearted and of course including the voiced hints of anticipating the major and minor gastronomic aggravations to come.

As well as the customs revolving around familiar foods – and both the prescribed and quirky references – unique to this season, tradition demands that we embrace the

unfamiliar. We hear even more about welcoming and loving the stranger because we were once strangers in Egypt. This year, especially, we are obligated to take notice and care for the Other, those who are marginalised in some way such as poverty-stricken refugees, immigrants, long-term unemployed people and the disabled.

As humans, however, we seem somehow to be conditioned to shy away from the unfamiliar, the uncomfortable and the strange/r. Rather, during the Passover season, our actions must be preceded by examining our everyday fears, prejudices and hostilities when it comes to differences. If we are to live up to the tradition in a meaningful way, by embracing the unfamiliar, the challenging and the strange/r, then our usual kinds of thoughts and routines must be interrogated and changed.

Feeling warm and cozy with family and friends at Passover is wonderful. But it's only a small part of the story.



John Ashmele FGPT

Professional Toastmaster / Master of Ceremonies

For your simcha
(when you want everything to be just right)

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Introducing the beautiful Anita Dorfman House and Wolfson Assisted Living

Opening this spring and nestled in over 16 acres of stunning land on the Hertfordshire borders, this brand new care home with assisted living is part of Sandringham, a contemporary and vibrant Jewish community hub.

The home will offer 24/7 personal, dementia and nursing care. Additional on-site facilities opening in 2020 will include The Ronson Family Community Centre, Pears Court independent living, a synagogue, specialised dementia day centre, shop, hairdressers, restaurant and wellbeing facilities.

To find out more:
020 8922 2222 | helpline@jcare.org | jewishcare.org



Mosaic Moments

Looking back over the last 6 months



Jonelle Roback (centre) with June Kenton (left) and her daughter Jill, after very successful talk 'A Storm in a D Cup.'



HEMS members enjoy Gill and David Ross' Succah

Photo by David Ross



Rabbi Kathleen (centre) celebrates 10 years at Mosaic Reform



Wedding of Mosaic Liberal Members Zoe Freedman and Dan Henig

Photo by FDS



Dora Mandel, celebrated her 100th birthday in November



Mosaic Quiz Supper in November



CST wishes our whole community a safe and enjoyable Pesach

This Pesach, be proud and live the Jewish life you want.

These are difficult times, with the terrorist threat and the overall political situation causing deep concern to British Jews. This time last year, in the face of ongoing political antisemitism, the Jewish community gathered together in Parliament Square, to declare that "enough is enough".

When we released our Antisemitic Incidents Report 2018, our aim was to present the facts responsibly and without exaggeration or hype. CST exists to facilitate Jewish life, not to publicise antisemitism. We will always be honest about how things stand, without spreading panic or fear; and by placing antisemitism in the wider context of the positive reality that is normal, daily Jewish life.

After the appalling terrorist attack against the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, USA last year, it was humbling to be repeatedly thanked for keeping the UK Jewish community as safe as possible. Pittsburgh showed, in the most horrible way, exactly why CST does its work, and why it's done in total partnership with our whole community. CST works with Jewish communities across the UK to provide security and infrastructure that these difficult times require. After Pittsburgh, many were eager to support our work through donations and

become more aware of their surroundings to ensure they play their part as needed.

We must all share the responsibility of keeping our communities and families safe.

CST's aim is to encourage Jewish life, to strengthen communal resilience and to enable everyone to help oppose antisemitism. Please report antisemitism if you experience or witness it and report any suspicious behaviour in or around Jewish locations and neighbourhoods, first to the Police and then to CST. If you see something, please play your part and report it.

CST needs more volunteer security officers throughout our communities. We run a variety of courses and training is completely free. Volunteering for CST is a fantastic way to give something back while learning new skills, getting fit and joining a team of people who are passionate about protecting our community.

CST is a charity. Please consider making a donation. All our work, from monitoring antisemitism to giving security advice, providing highly professional volunteer security teams at communal events and training the community is free of charge. We cannot do it without your support.

www.cst.org.uk

[Community Security Trust](#) [@CST_UK](#) [CSTmedia](#)

National Emergency Number (24-hour) **0800 032 3263**

London (Head Office) **020 8457 9999**

Manchester (Northern Regional Office) **0161 792 6666**



Community Security Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (1042391) and Scotland (SC043612)

An Ideal Passover

by Rosemary Wolfson



Focus on human rights issues, or
Cinnamon Balls,
Matzo Fritters
Matzo Pudding, and
Passover Pouring Custard?

Or write letters on behalf of
prisoners of conscience?

Or shall we make rich
preserves of
dried fruits or beetroot, symbolizing the
sweetness of the land to which
the Jews turned their eyes when
they rejected slavery?

Shall we, this Passover, join
non-governmental organizations that
assert they can make
enormous leaps for human rights?

Or focus on karpas,
symbolising the springtime of
new hope, when
the Jews went toward their
promised land?

Or condemn groups who threaten
physical violence on
their captives?

Or do we only have time for the
preparation of the Seder meal enjoyed by
Jewish families on the
First Night of Passover,
enshrining the most precious memories and
exalted aspirations
of the Jews?

But what about the
Universal Declaration of
Human Rights?

Or shall we instead bake
Coconut Kisses,
Date & Walnut Kisses,
Passover Potato Latkes, and
Blintzes with potato flour?

And in the early afternoon on
the Eve of Passover, lay the table with a
snowy white tablecloth, and put
freshly polished candlesticks on
their tray?

But also write letters to free
imprisoned people in a rebellion against
tyranny and oppression?

But thou shalt remember that thou
wast a servant in the land of Egypt,
and the Lord thy God brought thee
out thence, by a mighty hand and
by a stretched out arm.

So perhaps better now prepare
with our own hands
Coconut Pyramids, and
halibut stewed with egg and lemon sauce
for the freezer, for the coming week, and
also cook our
Apricot Eingemachtes,
Kremslach, and
Matzo Brei and Kleis
and indeed remember
that for eight days only
a home observance
of the festival
can strengthen
family ties, and make
a memorial to an
ancient people, like flowers putting
forth shoots, of eternal hope during
these springtime rituals.

Mosaic Red Nose Day

by Jonathan Feldman

"Well done to everybody who took part in this very enjoyable event"



A most enjoyable evening was had by all as the Mosaic community came together for an evening of prayers, delicious food, games and good conversation all in aid of contributing to Red Nose Day.

It was an entertaining evening for young and old, and those somewhere in between!

Everybody made the effort to wear red, with some people opting for one garment of that particular colour and others resplendent completely in red, in true Red Nose Day tradition.

A lovely service conducted by Rabbi Kathleen, interspersed with quizzes, children's joke telling, giant connect four and table tennis matches.

Well done to everybody who took part in this very enjoyable event; it is a great example of the community coming together as one for charity, and enjoying a fun, rewarding and relaxing evening. We look forward to the next such event.



Rabbi Kathleen Middleton

10 Years On



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"The exercise of looking back made me realise that it isn't really the personal and literal growth of my children, or the staggering amount of grey hair one is able to amass in a decade that really surprised me..."

Having been asked to reflect on the past decade of being the Rabbi of what was Middlesex New Synagogue and is now Mosaic Reform has been an interesting challenge. Time is a strange thing... Part of me can hardly believe that 10 years have passed – and yet, when I look at my children, I realise that it must be true. When I came to MNS, I had only two children; the youngest was still a baby. Now, that baby has just started learning her Bat Mitzvah portion! Even looking at my own reflection, I am reminded that it only takes ten years to shift one's self-definition of 'still-just-fitting-in-the-young-adult-bracket', to 'middle-aged'. Labels are of course only just labels, because inwardly I don't feel I have ever aged much beyond 23, but those extra years have definitely brought new insights and hopefully, a touch of wisdom.

The exercise of looking back made me realise that it isn't really the personal and literal growth of my children, or the staggering amount of grey hair one is able to amass in a decade that really surprised me; rather, looking back ten years, I was truly taken aback not only by the tremendous changes Middlesex New Synagogue has gone through, but by how different society and the world that we now live in have become.

Ten years ago, the financial crisis and how it might affect our members, was one of our biggest concerns. Brexit was only an idea and even then, it was regarded as a solution, not the problem it is proving to be. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan embodied wars on terror; there was no notion that terrorism would come to roam the streets of Europe, no hint of the impending war in Syria, the rise of IS, the enormity of the refugee crisis ... Instead, many of us wanted to believe in the Obama era 'can-do' mentality; and the promise of the Arab Spring. The world we live in now seems so much more uncertain, and more polarised than it did back then. And in the midst of all that, even our own community has changed beyond recognition: Middlesex

New became Mosaic and now we are, hopefully, closer to realising our dream of moving to where our potential younger members are and finally, making Mosaic a reality.

When I joined 10 years ago, I set out to revitalise progressive Judaism in this area of greater London, and to attract new, younger members, and although the latter goal has as yet eluded us, the past decade has taught me that those younger members really aren't anywhere near where we are – and that we truly have to go where they are. And yet, despite the failure to attract younger members, we have managed to revitalise the community beyond recognition with the creation of Mosaic; this has brought us more activities and more footfall, new friendships and a greater sense of choice than there was to begin with. There are many days on which I find 39 Bessborough Road a hive of activities and a far cry from the quiet, empty building in which I installed myself 10 years ago... My office felt like an ivory tower, quietly hidden away in a dark corridor full of faded rooms, stuffed with unused relics of the past; the store room full of old football paraphernalia from those proud time MNS had its own football team and toys, from when it had a pre-school. The old youth room with its coloured disco lights, ever dirty bar and Religion School Resource cupboards with shelves sagging under the load of old faded resources, which no-one used anymore... It felt more like a museum than a community building, which children of members would come and visit for their trip down memory lane... but not the living, beating heart of a community, as the multi-functional Mosaic Room has become today.

One other thing which has changed is our Religion School. Today HaMakom is one of the most uplifting, dynamic places to be on a Sunday morning – and a far cry from the very tiny Religion School my eldest daughter joined 10 years ago; she was the only child in her class for two whole school years and the only girl at that...

The more I learned about MNS' past, the more I realised that it had been a community very similar to the one in which I grew up in Amsterdam, with its yearly, very successful jumble sales, cabarets, dinner dances, synagogue football team and youth club, and hundreds of children... Perhaps that was why I felt instantly at home at MNS when I joined. However, I also quickly discovered that the reality is that this is no longer the synagogue we are and, moreover, it isn't the synagogue we will ever be again, even if we attract many more young families, because society has changed dramatically. Communities used to thrive on the effort of its women's groups, but in most modern families, both parents go to work and the grandparents are often busy looking after the grandchildren. Social media has taken the place of the youth clubs and, despite our valiant attempts to create and maintain a youth group 10 years ago, we have come to realise that the time for youth groups has passed, at least for now. What is more, the majority of our children now go to Jewish day schools, which provide most of the social framework of the youth clubs and synagogue communities.

Over the past decade I have tried to figure out what the 21st Century Synagogue looks like and we are still not quite sure of the picture that emerges. What is sure, however, is that it is very different from the synagogue model in which I myself grew up and which inspired me to become a Rabbi in the first place. What is also sure is that Mosaic is at the vanguard of that change. The creation of Mosaic: the idea to combine three different denominations of non-Orthodox Judaism into one community has been inspirational to many other communities who find themselves in similar situations. However, whilst at the creation of Mosaic, our concept of inter-denomination seemed to be our unique selling point (which is why our strapline is ',') we have now come to see that the Jewish identity of many younger Jews has already moved on. Most of our younger Jews are post-denominational, driven by their own interests and personal foci.

Of course, in our 'Google' focused generation we are all conditioned to receive instant gratification, and personalised service. With the swipe of a finger, we'll find what we want or reject what we do not want. The habit of online shopping encourages us to discard any sense of loyalty we might have had for the institutions with which we grew up. We are encouraged to constantly seek easier, better, cheaper deals, which cater for our own personal, individual needs and interests. The choices Mosaic offers to our members, by presenting a plethora of different services, should cater somewhat to those needs, but we also realise that communities are, by definition, somewhat counter cultural. Because they are built on loyalty and a shared communal identity, they are built on giving (time, emotion, and indeed, money), rather than taking. Therefore, we will need to work much harder to get to know our new members, so that we learn to understand their passions and individuality and align theirs with our community', as well as help them see that membership, identity and a sense of 'homecoming' or belonging, only comes with personal investment and the sharing of ourselves and our passions.

Ten years on, society seems so much more complicated and because it is, so is the Rabbinate; more people struggle with their mental health and more people struggle with the concept of God, so there is more need for Rabbinic and pastoral care, more need to adapt tradition to the growing needs of self-definition. Yet at the same time, there is more scepticism regarding God and religion, less willingness to support institutions simply for what they are or what they used to be. We do not know what the next ten years are going to look like, but despite all the challenges that lie before us, the vision can only be positive, because as a community we are as best prepared to tackle these challenges as we ever can be.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE

Saturday

29

Sunday

30

Barbara & Harry Grant are delighted to be opening their garden for charity again this summer.

More details to follow nearer the time.



Pesach Biscuit Bake-In

Tuesday 16th April

Favourite family Pesach baking recipes will be made at 10am. The goodies will be enjoyed at our Communal Seder and during the Pesach kiddushim. Come and enjoy baking amongst friends old and new. Please let the office know if you are coming. Just bring an apron and digital scales (if you have them).

Robert Pinkus – Our Retiring Editor

By Gillian Gurner



Robert preparing for his final edition of Kehila

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

“One of the biggest challenges is how to manage Jewish Meantime”

I have known Robert for many years, originally when I volunteered at Jewish Care and then when we worked together at Norwood. He was actually influential in our joining HEMS because I had heard so much about the community from him.

Robert had a varied professional career, starting life as an Engineer, through the Probation Service and eventually working for Jewish Care and Norwood where he was responsible for a wide range of residential and social services. He and Anne joined HEMS shortly after it was established in Hatch End as an offshoot of Edgware Masorti. When the original Chairman left, Robert took over for a few years. With the support of a graphic designer, Elaine Glass took over the editorship of what became Neshama, winning two Jewish Chronicle awards for the best synagogue magazine during her time at the helm.

Robert took over the reins a few years later and further developed the HEMS magazine, again winning an award for best shul magazine. He says that his aim has always been to bring interesting features, in an attractive format to the Community. Robert's mantra is that almost everyone has a story of interest – it is just a matter of capturing it.

A further challenge came when Kehila was created, and it

was necessary to form a new editorial group with members from all three synagogues. The group meets six months before publication date to throw up and discuss new ideas and plan the new edition. Each member has responsibility for a specific areas such as synagogue liaison, or for finding contributors for the regular features. Of course, there are also articles from the Rabbis, and a wealth of Community news to report. One of the biggest challenges is how to manage 'Jewish Meantime' – making sure deadlines are met. In the summer Robert and Anne spend a lot of time away from home in their caravan, so wi-fi and 4G are a must if deadlines are to be met! The magazine is free to members, paid for by advertising. There are some regular advertisers but Robert still wants to attract more.

Working with Helen the graphic designer, Robert says the most rewarding time comes when the printer delivers the magazine to the Shul for distribution and he can see the finished article.

After 15 years in the job it's now time for Robert to pass on the editorship to someone else. He is very happy to support the new editor, as will the rest of the editorial team. He says it's quite straightforward, you just need a game plan and once that's been agreed, the articles will come in!



Birthright Israel UK is once again offering a Birthright Israel Progressive trip with Reform Judaism and Liberal Judaism.

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<http://bit.ly/BirthrightIsraelUK2019>

liberal judaism

REFORM JUDAISM

Meet Alan and Janet Solomon

by Jane Harrison



Between them, Alan and Janet Solomon have clocked up over forty years of service to their synagogue community. Whether it's Youth Clubs, Council, Women's Society, Book Group or administration of some sort, the couple have never turned down an appeal for help.

Members of Mosaic Liberal Synagogue, they first became involved in what was originally Wembley Liberal, then Harrow & Wembley Progressive, when it was based in Preston Road, Harrow. They both joined the Wembley Youth Club – which continues to hold regular reunions – in the 1950s, with Janet becoming secretary of the older age group, Huganu. A secretary by profession, she became secretary of the Friends of the Religion School and helped with the Shul's theatre group, which raised considerable sums of money over the

years. She says: "There were regular singing and dancing shows. I didn't have any real experience, but just got roped into it and it was fun. I once made a Pearly King and Queen outfit, and although I didn't know what I was doing, it worked. I was also able to rely on other people, which helped."

Janet served as secretary of the Women's Society, which was involved in anything from Kiddushim to jumble sales and helping other charities. She also became secretary of the committee, which started a care home in Edgware, Lily Montagu House.

She says: "I could use my secretarial skills, and it was just lovely helping the community. So many of the people we got to know from those days have remained close friends."

She served two spells on Council and was secretary of the Rites & Practices Committee for 25 years (!), but says she

"I think the move has worked out brilliantly. We have made a lot of friends in Reform and Masorti. The way the Liberal community has been received is great and everyone mucks in"

most enjoyed being Administrator and Accounts Manager: "because I got to know the whole membership and had a finger in every pie. I wasn't particularly good with figures, although I worked for an Accountant, but in those days, I used an adding machine".

Her favourite achievement was launching the HWPS Book Group in 2003, which is now Mosaic-wide and which she still runs today. She says: "I am very proud of that. It is something different. We have a nucleus of eight to 10, but even with four or five, we still have wonderful discussions. Members take it in turns to choose books, and the regular meetings are interspersed with themed evenings".

Alan played for Prestonians FC, formed by members of the Wembley Youth Group, and ended up as captain. He admits: "We weren't that successful, although I did enjoy it."

A retired Chartered Surveyor, he has been a member of the Shul Council, Chairman twice and Vice-Chairman a number of times, and is a Vice-President. He says: "During my first spell as Chairman in the 1980s, I was working full time and didn't really have the time to do the job as well as I would have liked, but it taught me a great deal. I hadn't liked speaking in public before then, but having to do it really helped me and gave me confidence".

He admits he was not very good at delegating, although there was one episode when he wished he had. He says: "Council decided the time was up for two somewhat elderly members of the choir, and it was left to me to tell them! One accepted the decision graciously, but the other was so annoyed, she and her husband left the Shul!"

Alan also served on the Administration Committee, which

dealt with all the problems of the original building at Preston Road, the Lettings Committee, and was for many years on the Shul's Rites & Practices Committee.

Outside the synagogue, Alan is on the committee of his old boys' association, the Old Elizabethans (Barnet), he is a member of Pinner Probus (for retired professional and business people), and of Middlesex CCC, and is a season ticket holder at Barnet FC. He helps out as a volunteer at Cannon Lane Primary School in Pinner. He enjoys playing badminton and tries to get to the gym once a week. Janet's comment on this: "He is very well looked after".

The couple, who are both in their late 70s and are proud of the fact that they come from families who have been in this country for many generations, were married at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in 1965. They have three sons, Mike, Neil and Paul, and ten grandchildren. While they enjoyed their time at Preston Road, both feel the Liberal move to Bessborough Road in 2011 has been nothing but positive.

Janet, who is a member of the Mosaic Community Committee, which organises all the social and cultural events, says: "I think the move has worked out brilliantly. We have made a lot of friends in Reform and Masorti. The way the Liberal community has been received is great and everyone mucks in".

Alan, who will be involved in our move to Stanmore Hill and the arrangements for the interim period, agrees. "At the joint Kiddushim, we all talk to the other lot!" They are both looking forward to the future.



Play Bridge at Mosaic

We would like to start a bridge group in the Synagogue on a Thursday afternoon

If you play bridge and would like to come along, please get in touch with
Gay (020-8864 0133) communitycare@mosaicreform.org.uk
or Esther (020-8864 5323) communitycare@mosaicliberal.org.uk
If you would like to learn, we may be able to organise a beginners' class at the same time. Please let us know.

Book Review

by Elise Italiaander



"My name is August, by the way. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse"

Sometimes there is nothing better than a good cry. With that in mind, the theme of these recommendations - both the books and their film adaptations - promises to give you the opportunity to shed a few tears!

'Choose kind.'

Last year, you may have seen posters for the film, Wonder, starring Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson and Jacob Tremblay, but what you may not have known is that it was a book first, written by Raquel (R. J.) Palacio. I think the best way to describe this book is with words from the protagonist himself, Auggie Pullman:

"I know I'm not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. I mean, sure, I do ordinary things. And I feel ordinary. Inside. My name is August, by the way. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse."

Born with Mandibulofacial Dysostosis, more commonly known as Treacher Collins Syndrome (TCS), Auggie's parents thought it best he was home-schooled, until now. Having learnt all he can from his mother, it's time for Auggie to attend a real school, with other children his own age. Auggie is terrified, as are his parents. How will the other students react to Auggie's uniqueness?

One of the exceptional things about this book is that it is told from multiple perspectives, starting with Auggie. This was a wonderful surprise for me, because although this story is primarily about August Pullman, it is also about so much more. It is about family, friendship, morality, wonderment, and how Auggie touches the lives of all those around him.

R. J. Palacio wrote Wonder for a very important reason; she wanted to apologise for her and her child's reaction to someone with TCS, a scene she has written into the book. Raquel began to consider how her reaction would have affected this child and their family. As such, the message of the film was 'choose kind', something that resonates throughout. Funny, uplifting and moving, this book is one for the whole family.

Stephen Chbosky directed Wonder, but he is also the author of the next book I want to talk about; The Perks of Being a Wallflower. For anyone who doesn't know what a wallflower is, it describes a shy or excluded person, which is how I would have described myself growing up. One of my favourite things about this book is that it is a 'wallflower' in itself; it is a real word of mouth book passed on from one to the next.

A coming-of-age story 'that will spirit you back to those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up', it follows 15-year-old Charlie while he navigates his way through freshman year. Charlie, is an introvert, a wallflower, but his social awkwardness is put to the test as he experiences things for the first time; new friends, first dates, family dramas, and The Rocky Horror Picture Show, all while looking for a way to feel infinite.

In 2012 the film adaptation was released, also directed by the author. With a fabulous cast consisting of Emma Watson, Ezra Miller, Paul Rudd, Logan Lerman, Dylan McDermott, Nina Dobrev, and more, it captured the heart of the book and brought it into the mainstream media.

And later this year there's another adaptation ready to

capture the hearts of its audience; Garth Stein's The Art of Racing in the Rain. A poignant title, this tale is told from the perspective of Enzo, up-and-coming race car driver Denny Swift's dog.

Enzo is more than your average dog; he is empathic, intelligent, understanding and loyal. Enzo listens to his master, to all that goes on around him, and to the television, to educate himself. Enzo soon realises that racing is a metaphor: 'that by applying the techniques a driver would apply on the racetrack, one can successfully navigate the ordeals and travails one encounters in life'.

He tells the story of his human family how they nearly fell apart and what he did to bring them back together. His enforced muteness only refines his listening ability and

allows him to understand many of life's nuances that are lost on most humans. With humour, sharp observation and a courageous heart, Enzo guides the listener to the bittersweet yet ultimately satisfying conclusion: there are no limitations to what we can achieve if we truly know where we want to be.

In the same vein as Marley and Me by John Grogan, and A Dog's Purpose by W. Bruce Cameron - both of which have already been adapted for the big screen - The Art of Racing in the Rain is a beautiful story that will appeal to any animal lover. Starring Kevin Costner, Amanda Seyfried and Milo Ventimiglia, I'm confident the film will do the book justice. Get your tissues ready!

Memories in the Living Room

Memories in the Living Room offers a meaningful way to commemorate Yom HaShoah and to address its implications. It is a traditional way of gathering those who wish to come together in a relaxed setting to share stories through talking and listening. Jewish Care is organising events in Pinner,

Loughton, Golders Green and Hendon. The one in Pinner will be taking place at the home of Edwin & Linda Lucas on Monday 29th April at 7.30 pm. The full address will be provided upon registration. To book your FREE space, go to jewishcare.org/events or call Michael Sobell JCC on 020-8922 2908.



Top things to see and do in May

Curator's Talks: Jews, Money, Myth

1st May @ 2.00 pm - 2.30 pm

Uncover the myths behind Jews and money with these curator-led talks

Money and Daddy: Social Responsibility and Hollywood's 'Jewish American Princess'

8th May @ 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm

Dr Julia Ruth Wagner explores the representation of Jewish women onscreen; particularly young wealthy protagonists who use their privileged positions for social good.

Spitalfields: The Story Walking Tour

12th May @ 11.00 am - 1.00 pm

Discover the streets where fact has often merged with fiction. From 'The Children of the Ghetto' to 'The People of the Abyss' and 'Chicken Soup', the streets of the Jewish East End in and around Brick Lane have inspired Jewish and non-Jewish writers throughout the centuries to the present day

Jews Schmooze Podcast: Jews and Money

16th May @ 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm

Enjoy a thoughtful conversation about Jews and money in the live recording of this podcast featuring David Schneider, Rachel Shabi, Adam Wagner and Hannah Weisfeld

Belonging and Not Belonging: Émigré Artists in Britain after 1933

21st May @ 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm

This illustrated talk by Monica Bohm-Duchen, initiator and Creative Director of the Insiders/Outsiders Festival, will focus on the experiences of the émigré artists who found refuge in this country in the wake of Hitler's accession to power in 1933, examining not only their achievements and legacy, but also the challenges - not to say obstacles - they faced on their arrival.

For more information contact the Museum on:
020 7284 7384 / admin@jewishmuseum.org.uk
Jewish Museum London, Raymond Burton House,
129-131 Albert Street, London, NW1 7NB

‘You can take a child to the movies... *but you can’t take the movies from the child* ‘

by Tony Fineberg



“One thing is for sure. I’ll continue to hunt down and acquire some great films to show in our new home”

OK, I don’t mind admitting it. I am an addict. I’m not sure if there’s such a thing as ‘FilmHeads Anonymous’ but I probably wouldn’t join if there was. As Groucho Marx once said (and I paraphrase loosely here) “I wouldn’t want to join a club that would have me as a member”.

I love films; I have for as long as I can remember. I think the first film I went to was at a Drive In near Plattsburg NY and I saw the Greatest Show on Earth. I loved it then, watching all human frailty, bad acting and great acrobatics with wonder through a child’s eyes. I guess I still do.

That’s why nearly six years ago, when I was still teaching at Religion School and just having shown ‘A Fiddler on the Roof’ to a new class (I had seen it over 10 times by then) and shown ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ (yet again) and a documentary called ‘Paper Clips’, I decided that ‘The Movies, My Movies’ were something I wanted to share for fun.

I asked if I could use the Synagogue to show films that had a Jewish link or thread once a month, to raise Tzedakah and share my films with people who were happy to venture out on hot summer evenings, cold and wet winter nights and everything in between that the Great British Climate could throw at us.

If the audience enjoyed my choice then it was up to them if they wanted to put something in the bowl to go to a chosen charity. To date, I don’t think I’m exaggerating when I say the Film Mosaic crowd has donated well over £3,000.

Here’s the deal. I buy the DVDs myself (they form my own library) and Regulars Shuffle in (in the words of Billy Joel) and we all enjoy a movie together.

I have a simple belief. If I find and source films that I would (and do) pay to see others might enjoy those movies too. If those movies have some kind of Jewish Theme, are of Jewish interest, and more importantly are good, then its win win.

So, what have I shown to date - here is a list of just a few of the over 50 films we’ve watched at Film Mosaic.

- 1) To Kill a Mockingbird (the film doesn’t mention Jews once but boy is it all about Jewish values).
- 2) Son of Saul - about a cappo in a concentration camp, trying to get a Rabbi to bless the body of his child - Hungarian film that is shocking and dark.
- 3) The House of Rothschild (1933) - so far ahead of its time in dealing with anti-Semitism head on
- 4) The Frisco Kid - Gene Wilder and Harrison Ford. A comedy Western about a young Rabbi who has to be escorted West to his new pulpit in San Francisco.
- 5) Paper Clips - a documentary about teaching a group of mid-western American kids about the Holocaust
- 6) Gentleman’s agreement. Hollywood’s first public attempt at acknowledging Anti-Semitism in the USA

7) Yentle - Barbra Streisand as a would-be Yeshiva Broch. With Music. She Sings, She Leyns.

8) The Band’s Visit. An Egyptian brass band ends up in an Israeli settlement by accident. Very gentle and funny.

9) Size Matters. Israeli film about an Israeli Sumo Wrestler. Odd and funny. Like Cool Runnings on a Sumo mat.

10) Lost in Yonkers – by the late great Neil Simon.

Recently we watched Julia (Jane Fonda and Vanessa Redgrave), The Bespoke Overcoat and a Kid for Two Farthings (in a Film Mosaic Double Bill), Denial (Deborah Lipstadt’s Holocaust Denial case), The Zookeeper’s Wife, Alone in Berlin and Hunting Elephants.

Marathon Man and The Boys from Brazil were bought at the suggestion of one of the audience. I am not precious or a film snob. If someone fancies a suitable film, and we think others will like it too, then as long as it’s cheap (thanks Ebay), I’ll buy it and it will be shown.

While we’re still at Bessborough Road, I shall continue to pick out interesting movies to share. After that, and before we move into the new building, I’m not sure, but one thing is for sure. I’ll continue to hunt down and acquire some great films to show in our new home.

I shall probably slip into old age, (dis) gracefully, with a box of popcorn in my lap (and down my shirt), watching movies, in wonder, just as a child, I did over 60 year ago. The Greatest Show on Earth was definitely not the Greatest Film on Earth, but then did I care? Do I care? No, I shall continue to sit back and enjoy.

Film Mosaic

Proudly presents - For your entertainment & For One Night Only

The Boys from Brazil (1978)



At 8:00pm on Tuesday 16th April 2019

At 39, Bessborough Rd, Harrow HA1 3BS

Barry Kohler (Steve Guttenberg), a young Nazi hunter, tracks down a group of former SS officers meeting in Paraguay in the late 1970s. The Nazis, led by Dr Josef Mengele (Gregory Peck), are planning something. Nazi hunter, Ezra Lieberman (Laurence Olivier), is at first uninterested in Kohler’s findings, but when Kohler tells Lieberman something of their plan, he is eager to find out more. Lieberman visits several homes in Europe and the U.S. in order to uncover Mengele’s plot. It is at one of these houses he notices something strange, and makes a horrible discovery. Co-starring Lily Palmer and James Mason.

Directed by Franklin J Schaffner – Nominated for 3 Oscars.

This is an edge of the seat thriller from the pen of Ira Levin. DON’T MISS IT!

(ENGLISH SUBTITLES available)

Film MOSAIC is open to anyone, why not bring a friend.

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

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

Letter from Israel

To the Editor

Sitting in our garden in the warmth of an Israeli Shabbath it's hard to imagine that the country is in the midst of a toxic election campaign, advanced by almost nine months by a Prime Minister fighting for his political life. Even those who haven't fallen under his spell admit that he's a politician of extraordinary talent who has achieved much during his years in power. We don't know if he'll be indicted but in the meantime he uses his considerable verbal talents to vilify the political opposition and most of the Israeli public, calling them 'traitors' and 'Leftists'. It's almost surrealistic – the Israeli PM believes that anyone not supporting him is a traitor! Attacks by him or members of his party on every part of our vibrant democracy – the court system, the Attorney General, the media – are a daily event.

So many problems exist – the high cost of living, the appalling situation in the hospitals, the growing poverty, the lack of any political process with the Palestinians – and all we hear is that we are traitors!

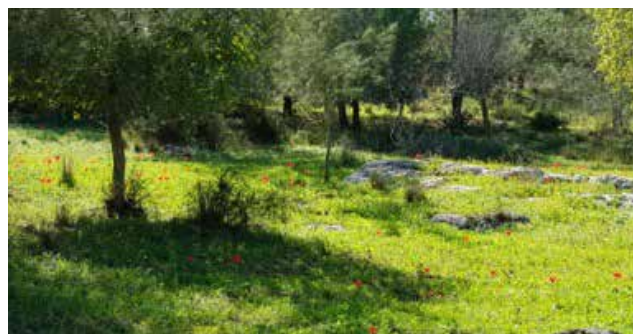
I immigrated in 1964 from the UK to join my boyfriend, an Israeli design student, whom I had met during his studies in London. My husband is right-wing and during the early years would drag me to Begin's demonstrations in Tel-Aviv, a far cry from my Labour Party supporting family in the UK! I've become the most loyal of Israelis despite my secular and non-Zionist background. We've lived through good and bad times, had three lovely children (two daughters and a son) born before or after wars in which their father fought, and were joined by my widowed mother who fell in love with the country as I had done. Happiness and great joy combined with stress and days of incredible pain – all this is a part of daily Israeli life. Our strength was our togetherness as a people and this is now in danger, real danger because of the toxic attacks on our democracy. Many fear for the country more than they did during the wars and terror attacks of the 1990s and we worry for our grandchildren's future without Israel's unique community spirit.

On a happier note January brought us record-breaking rainfalls and beautiful images of snow-covered northern Israel and the flowering fields next to Gaza.

I wish you well during these tense Brexit discussions and hope to see you all very soon!

Your loving cousin Ruth

February 2019



The fields next to Gaza, destroyed by Hamas fire-bombs, are green again and full of red anemones.



The Hermon Ski Resort opened to visitors who waited patiently in their cars to enter the area. Even one rocket launched from Syria couldn't stop the enthusiastic crowds who flocked to the venue after it was reopened. The heavy rainfalls also brought much needed water to the Kinneret which will also benefit when the overflowing rivers and snows reach the lake.

Pesach Message

President Marie Van Der Zyl

Nissan 5779



"Although antisemitism is undoubtedly our number one challenge of the moment, we are not a single-issue organisation"

We live in challenging times. Over the past 12 months, it seems our community has been on the receiving end of more abuse, intimidation and insults than at any time in living memory. And the most troubling thing about this antisemitism crisis is that it does not emanate from the fringes of our society as in the past but from the main party of opposition.

There is a parallel to be drawn with the story of Pesach. Back in Egypt, we were slaves and we demanded our freedom. When this was denied, our people fled in order to make new lives in their own land. Of course, our situation is very different. While there is antisemitism in the UK, we are free here and our community has and continues to live happily and contentedly. And while many of us aspire to make lives in Israel, we are certainly not fleeing anywhere.

Antisemitism is a problem we are meeting head on. When this time last year we said, "Enough is Enough" and we demonstrated outside Parliament, we meant it. I and my team at the Board of Deputies will not rest until the evil of anti-Jewish racism is banished from our political discourse.

We cannot achieve this on our own. At tough times like these we need friends both inside and outside the community. We and our communal partners need to cooperate to find a way through this most worrying of times and we all need to display a united front against the antisemites.

Recently, our lobbying played a part in Chris Williamson MP being suspended by the Labour Party after one Jew-baiting remark too many. And it was our efforts and those of our communal partners which resulted in Labour

adopting the international definition of antisemitism after much prevarication last summer.

Although antisemitism is undoubtedly our number one challenge of the moment, we are not a single-issue organisation. We exist to ensure that the UK's Jewish community can live freely, happily and continue to practise our traditions. The Board of Deputies played a prominent role in campaigning for the terrorist group Hizballah to be banned in its entirety. I am happy to say that the Government listened and responded by ending the artificial distinction between Hizballah's political and military wings.

We made a significant intervention into the Government's legislation on organ donation. As we moved from an opt-in system to an opt-out one, we acted to ensure that Jews of all denominations were protected, by influencing Government to provide legally worded letters of guidance. We also managed to obtain compromises from the Department for Education on relationships and sex education that will allow all parts of our community to teach according to their ethos.

This is but a snapshot of the work we do week-in, week-out for our community over a vast range of issues. With your support we will carry on safeguarding our rights and speaking out on the issues that matter to us all.

This festival of freedom reminds us how our ancestors suffered, and how lucky we are in comparison. Our aim is to ensure our children and grandchildren continue to prosper.

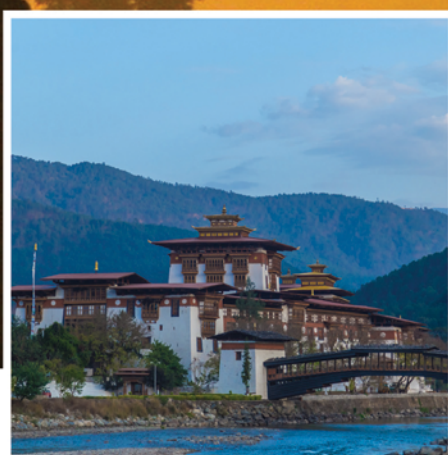
Chag sameach to you all.

ASIA

Don't just visit Asia, experience Asia.

Experience Jewish Asia like never before with a tailor-made itinerary or specialist small group tour from the award-winning indus experiences.

For 23 years, Indus Experience has been creating bespoke travel experiences for discerning travellers who want to see and understand Asia through local eyes. Join us on an unforgettable journey.



BHUTAN

The Land of the Thunder Dragon calls those with a sense of adventure high into the mountains of the Himalayas. Buddhism here is not just a philosophy but a way of life: government policies are created in pursuit of Gross National Happiness, monasteries and temples dot the landscape, and monks in burgundy robes are ever-present in the community. Visitor numbers are strictly controlled so that the local way of life and the pristine environment can be protected. Visiting **Bhutan** is an exclusive experience, and certainly one to be treasured. Trust Indus Experience to take you there.



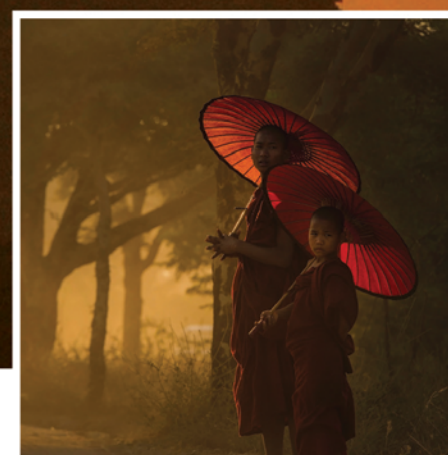
INDIA

The Jewel in the Crown seems like an entire continent within a single country. Everything you have heard, everything you have dreamed of, can be found here somewhere. You might want to take an architectural tour amongst the royal palaces, historic temples, and desert fortresses of Rajasthan. Perhaps what appeals is the Buddhist culture of Ladakh, visiting the UNESCO archaeological sites of Karnataka, or a laid-back expedition by houseboat along the waterways of Kerala. **India** has it all, and Indus Experiences' destination specialists will create a unique programme for you to make the most of your time and budget.



INDOCHINA

Prepare to be awed by the beauty and the variety destinations in Southeast Asia. Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam have their distinct identities, but in each place you'll find ancient cultures, dramatic landscapes, and a warm welcome from local people. The temples of Cambodian Angkor Wat are incomparable, but we're sure you'll be equally enthralled by Laos' Pak Ou Caves with their thousand Buddha carvings, and the magnificent temple of Chiang Mai, Thailand. Indus Experiences creates both detailed single country tours and programmes for you to explore the entire region, comparing and contrasting destinations across **Indochina**.



MYANMAR

Mighty **Myanmar** — known often as Burma — is still relatively unexplored in spite of its numerous attractions. Cruising along the Irrawaddy River reminds you of the importance of the water for irrigation and transportation; and on stunning Inle Lake you'll discover almost all aspects of life can happen afloat. Float across the temples of Bagan at dawn in a hot air balloon. Follow the road to Mandalay. And shop and people watch in the vibrant markets of Yangon. Indus Experiences' local guides will shape your experience of Myanmar to reflect your interests, helping you form unforgettable memories.



NEPAL

You'll fall in love with **Nepal** for its dramatic nature. Everest and a host of other snow-topped peaks rise strikingly above lush green valleys, meadows, and rivers. In the depths of the jungle stalk Royal Bengal tiger, and the Chitwan National Park is home not only to wild boar, leopard, and honey badger but also to more than 500 species of birds. Nepal offers serious opportunities for mountaineering, rafting, and climbing, but Indus Experiences also encourages more leisurely walks and picnics in the great outdoors. Breathe in the fresh mountain air, and survey the beauty of the natural landscape.



SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka — colonial Ceylon — is an island paradise in the Indian Ocean. The long white beaches are lined with palm trees, and inland you'll find jungles and tea estates, fascinating archaeological sites and living places of worship. Nothing beats the sight of the sun rising from holy Adam's Peak having climbed to the top with the pilgrims, or the mouthwatering flavours of fresh fish and prawns caught by local fishermen and cooked with local spices before your eyes. Sri Lanka may be small but the concentration and quality of things to see make it an ideal introduction to South Asia.



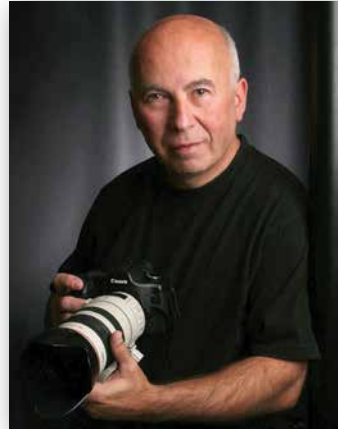
IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON OUR TOURS WITH A JEWISH FLAVOUR CALL US ON: 020 8901 7320

OR E-MAIL: HOLIDAYS@INDUSEXPERIENCES.CO.UK

Indus Experiences, Unit 4, Artisan Place, 23 Ladysmith Road, Harrow HA3 5FE

A Life on the Ocean Wave

Jane Harrison meets Gary Italiaander Kehila in-house photographer – a man with many talents



"Gary was asked to talk regularly about Larry and he wondered if his talks and harmonica workshops would be popular in the cruise world"

Think of a celebrity list as long as your arm and Gary Italiaander has probably photographed them.

Larry Adler, Lord Shinwell, Frankie Vaughan, Lord and Lady Sieff, David Jacobs, Alvin Stardust, are to name but a few. He has rubbed shoulders with members of the Royal family and had a studio at Harrods.

His clients have included members of all the Middle East Royal families as well as commissions for King Hussein, Queen Noor and the King of Thailand, and corporate commissions including the Nigerian national airline and Steinway – having owned one of the renowned pianos himself.

The photographer, musician and author has now added another string to his bow.

Gary, a member of Mosaic Masorti, is now giving photographic talks and harmonica workshops on cruise liners. It seems he has struck a chord with all ages – two sisters in their 70s dubbed themselves as 'Gary's groupies'.

A driven man, he admits he is always planning another project, and at 65 has no plans to stop working. After all, his father is still creating new oil paintings every day at 96!

But where did it all start?

Speaking from his camouflaged studio tucked away at the bottom of his Harrow home, he spoke about his love of the harmonica, which he first picked up at the age of six.

He said: "The beauty of the chromatic harmonica is that if you can play it well you can produce beautiful music. When I was aged nine, my headmaster (an organist) told my parents

that I was musically gifted so I started piano lessons and at 12 was invited to join the 'Junior Exhibitioners' course at the London College of Music with four hours study there every week". This led to a full-time, three-year performers course, also at the LCM where he was interviewed by Dr Lloyd Webber (Andrew and Julian's father).

Following this, he studied music at Reading University, teaching in schools for a number of years before picking up a camera at age 20... Surely not?

He said: "My father is a painter, so I grew up in a completely creative arena, and thrive on variety. I also have designed and built furniture including the HEMS ark".

He became a professional photographer in 1984 and 10 years later was invited to open the Italiaander portrait studio in Harrods where he spent four years making many substantial contacts.

Because of his love of the harmonica, Gary always wanted to meet Larry Adler and in 1995 was introduced to him by John Ratcliff, who was the international President of the Variety Club.

Gary said: "Larry gave me his phone number, we met and quickly became friends". So much so that after Larry's death, Gary wrote a book about him: Reflections, a Tribute to Larry Adler (incorporating reflections by Sting, Cher, Itzhak Perlman and many other well-known luminaries). This led to requests for him to talk about Larry's incredible life.

In recent years, "I also considered what it would be like to play the harmonica again as it's such a wonderful instrument



which you can take anywhere."

Following publication of the book (with the book launch at Stringfellows) Gary was asked to talk regularly about Larry and he wondered if his talks and harmonica workshops would be popular in the cruise world. Typically, he had a

contact and after a short audition which included playing the harmonica – "their eyes literally lit up" – he ended up on a 'test' Med cruise with his wife last June.

He said: "We had never been on a cruise before and were worried about being terrible passengers, but we both loved it. I had a good number of people at my talks who, from the feedback received, really enjoyed them. At the workshops, some people were musical, but most had never touched a harmonica before. "It's a difficult instrument to teach because once it's in your mouth you can't see the holes, but I had great cruise feedback".

Since then he has recently returned from a Caribbean cruise and is booked for another trip to Spain, Italy and Monte Carlo in May.

Gary is married to Tamar and they have two children, Elise and Simon. He was head of security at Mosaic Masorti and is now CST Regional Manager for Harrow and Hillingdon and is involved in the Kehila (seasonal) committee.

Ageing as a spiritual journey

An uplifting approach to growing older

by Esther Aronsfeld

At what point are we considered old? Is it 50, 60 or maybe 90? And who decides? The media? Your children? Your GP? Or yourself? And what kind of old age are we talking about? Body age? Emotional age? Brain age? Experiential age?

Contrary to today's youth-orientated society where old age is often seen as a liability, a problem and a drain on social and health care services, the Torah considers old age a virtue and a blessing. In Leviticus 19:32 we read: You shall honour the face of the elderly. Interestingly, the word 'elderly' in Hebrew (zakein) is a play on the meaning 'acquired wisdom'.

In his seminal book 'From Age-ing to Sage-ing, a revolutionary approach to growing older' Rabbi Zalman Schacter-Shalom holds that we all have the potential for living meaningful and fulfilling elder years.

Considered one of the foremost American Jewish thinkers of the 20th century and a trailblazer in the spiritual dimension of ageing, Rabbi Zalman writes: "If we are to make the third age matter, we must transform and revitalise the way we think about ageing". To do this, he says, we have to "pass through a gate of transformation from age-ing to sage-ing".

People often approach old age with fear and trepidation. But it doesn't have to be that way. Founder of the Spiritual Eldering Institute in America and a former mentor to Sage-ing International, he describes 'sage-ing' as a spiritual practice which involves:

- Examining our attitudes and fears about ageing and dying.
- Shifting our negative images and expectations that shape popular culture's view of ageing.

- Connecting to our inner wisdom through meditation, life review and journal writing,
- Drawing on the wisdom of our life experiences and sharing that wisdom with the younger generation.
- Identifying ways to serve as mentors, guides and healers to make the world a better place for future generations
- Repairing broken relationships by developing a spirit of forgiveness: forgiving those who have offended us, asking for forgiveness and practicing self-forgiveness
- Facing our own mortality with courage and serenity instead of staying in denial about ageing and mortality
- Engaging in life-long learning to challenge our brain with new ideas and ways of being
- Nourishing ourselves physically, emotionally, mentally, socially and spiritually

We are all growing older. We can't avoid it. But we can avoid feeling that life is only for the young. Long life is a sacred gift and we have been given the tools to make the most of it. So let's enjoy the benefits and celebrate moving from ageing to sageing.

On 12th May we will be holding a taster workshop based on some of the exercises in Rabbi Zalman's book 'From Age-ing to Sage-ing'. Numbers are limited. For details contact Esther Aronsfeld. communitycare@mosaicliberal.org.uk

A look into the past

courtesy of the London Jewish Museum



Open Letter from Ian Austin MP

The letter below from Ian Austin MP was initially sent to Gillian and Michael Reik and others. Michael Reik is our Board of Deputies representative. Michael and Gillian were instrumental in organising a highly successful talk by Ian for our Community last November.



"I learnt important values growing up in Dudley. The importance of our democracy, of fairness and tolerance. Knowing what's right and what's wrong"

I want to let you know that I have today left the Labour Party.

I grew up listening to my Dad – a refugee from the Holocaust – teaching me about the evils of hatred and prejudice. One of the main reasons I joined the Labour Party as a teenager in Dudley more than 35 years ago was to fight racism, and I could never have believed that I'd be leaving because of racism too.

I learnt important values growing up in Dudley. The importance of our democracy, of fairness and tolerance. Knowing what's right and what's wrong. Basic decent British values.

I have fought intolerance and prejudice all my life. My first campaign when I became an MP was to work with local councillors and community groups to drive the BNP out of Dudley. Last year I organised a Rally Against Racism in the Birmingham hotel where Enoch Powell made his "Rivers of Blood" speech 50 years before. I've stood with Muslim constituents targeted by the BNP or the EDL and I will always fight for a more tolerant and united society.

The Labour Party has been my life, so this has been the hardest decision I have ever had to take, but I have to be honest and the truth is that I have become ashamed of the Labour Party under Jeremy Corbyn.

I am appalled at the offence and distress Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party have caused to Jewish people.

It is terrible that a culture of extremism, antisemitism and intolerance is driving out good MPs and decent people who have committed their life to mainstream politics.

It is wrong that Luciana Berger has been bullied out

of the Labour Party by antisemites. It is wrong that the party threatened Margaret Hodge when she spoke out on antisemitism, like they threatened me when I raised the issue with the party chairman. They had to back down because we had done nothing wrong, but the hard truth is that the party is tougher on the people complaining about antisemitism than it is on the antisemites.

Jeremy Corbyn and the people around him have turned a mainstream party into something very different. He has spent his entire political career working with and supporting all sorts of extremists, and in some cases terrorists and antisemites. I always thought he was unfit to lead the Labour Party and I certainly think he is unfit to lead our country.

I think Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell cannot be trusted with our national security and would undermine our democratic institutions.

I could never ask people to make Jeremy Corbyn Prime Minister. That is why I have decided to leave the Labour Party.

Other decent MPs, councillors and members – good friends of mine – have chosen to remain. I know they share my concerns, it is not for me to call on them to leave and I wish them well in their fight to improve things inside the party.

I will be an independent MP but I will be working just as hard to stand up for Dudley and to speak up for decent mainstream politics in Parliament so please keep in touch and let me know if I can help or if there are things you think I should be doing.

Best wishes
Yours sincerely,
Ian

African Childhood

The story of Frances Howard – as told to Steve Levinson

“The house we lived in in Tabora had two storeys and I was comforted by the thought that snakes might not be able to climb stairs”

I was born Franziska (Franzi) Waldmann in Vienna in December 1935. Our family was very large and owned some of the biggest coffee houses in Vienna. My father's parents had a share in the Cafe Herrenhof and my parents, in partnership with my grandfather, had opened the Cafe Josefstadt, opposite the theatre of the same name.

My mother, being busy with the Cafe Josefstad, I had a “Tetta” or nanny who, when the ‘Anschluss’ came in March 1938, took me to stay with her parents in the country.

After some traumatic events my parents were lucky to get visas to Cyprus. We left Vienna in September 1938. My father's parents escaped to Cyprus a few months later but my mother's parents never made it.

In Cyprus we were still “enemy aliens” and when there was the threat of Cyprus being invaded we were transferred on the “SS Hanna” to Haifa where we arrived on 12th June 1941. We lived in Palestine for a few months, then in Cairo for a time and then sailed to Tanganyika. We reached Dar es Salaam (Haven of Peace) two days after my 6th birthday and were then dispersed to various places. My parents and I and my father's parents were sent to a place called Nzega where we doubled the European population.

My father, being a Civil Engineer, soon found employment with East African Railways and Harbours and was especially useful because many records and plans were in German from when Tanganyika had been a German Protectorate. We then moved on to Tabora, an important junction on the central rail line. The railway tracks were the German gauge which was wider than the British and I remember one of my favourite occupations was walking on these rails.

My education began with a correspondence course in English and somehow my parents had been given a large tea chest full of German books, mostly children and teenage books. I remember the first book which I learned to read was called “Die Wurzel Kinder” and I can still vividly remember the illustrations.

Later I was sent to boarding school in Arusha a cooler area in Masai – coffee growing country with a view of Mount Meru.



Franziska Waldmann

The school was half government and half Church of England. The journey took two days – one day by train to Dodoma and the next day by truck to Arusha. I remember that the truck had to go through a sort of shed with hanger doors to be treated with DDT against Teze flies.

My mother took a job at the school as a matron for three months to go with me and settle me in. The first term was a very long term six months with one week half term. It was not possible for me to go home so I had to stay at the school. Two teachers, Miss Newel and Miss Whily, were very kind to me and used to read to me from “The Pilgrims Progress” by John Bunyon. There was a shed storing onions and I used to pinch one and rub it on a wart I had. The food was not great, porridge with weavels, sweet potato with sand, I was a very poor eater and it was a trial trying to get rid of the food as one was supposed to finish it all.

There was a morning run before breakfast where one was supposed to sign a book. I spent a lot of time sitting on the side of the playing fields playing with fuschia flowers which I thought were like ballet dancers. I also spent a lot of the time in sick bay. One term we all had chickenpox and whooping cough so all the dorms were turned into sick bays. I remember once there was an earth tremor, and once the sky became black with a plague of locusts.

We had to have a number of immunisations – typhoid, yellow fever, smallpox, and later polio. We also had to take quinine and mepacrin against malaria which I once had very badly in my teens.

Once we were taken to see, not one but, two films in one day (Macbeth and Pinocchio). Lady Macbeth washing her hands and Pinocchio's nose getting longer I found quite frightening.

If I had realised it at the time our truck journeys (later a more proper coach) were spectacular with wildlife like giraffes, zebras, lions, and antelopes. But my memories of the time are more of my cousin Stefan drinking a whole tin of condensed milk and being violently sick, of being scared of the Manjara hedges whose white milk could blind you, and of having to



Left: Interior /Dance Floor of the Herrenhof Vienna 1934

Below: Franziska, late husband Monty Howard and Grandson

shake out my shoes in Dodoma in case there was a scorpion in them.

The house we lived in in Tabora had two storeys and I was comforted by the thought that snakes might not be able to climb stairs. The night my sister was born my father came home to tell us the news and took me to visit my mother and the new baby along narrow paths holding a paraffin lamp aloft to frighten away snakes. The house was close to the railway station and people often dropped in to see us. My uncle worked in the detention camp for Italian prisoners of war.

Drinking water had to be boiled and then filtered. We slept under mosquito nets which were very hot. At first we did not have a fridge and I remember big blocks of ice being delivered. Also the feet of the meat safe had to stand in tins filled with paraffin to stop insects.

Most of the refugees including my grandparents and aunt and uncle and cousins had to go back to Cyprus after the war but we were allowed to stay as my father was needed by the railways.

During our time in Tabora my father had his own carriage rather like a caravan so he could go up and down the line. I sometimes went with him but was always frightened they would forget to couple us on to the train which once happened. It was also very hot when the train was not moving.

We had servants who lived on the premises in separate huts. They did washing, cooked, looked after my sister, and served meals which always had to be on time as my grandfather had diabetes. I used to watch the servants beating peanuts in a large wooden mortar which they used as the protein for many of their meals as they could only seldom afford meat. They had it with vegetables and a type of rice. They did not use cutlery to eat but ate with their hands making neat mounds with their fingers to put in their mouths. The women also split dried leaves and plaited them in a very skilful way. I remember helping my grandmother to bake biscuits. We had wonderful fruit, papayas, mangos, something called custard apple, which the cook made into a delicious mousse, and also guavas, small yellow ones and large red ones.

I remember a trip to Mwanza on Lake Victoria – one had to be careful how to dry clothes as one could get Bilhartzia.



To go shopping one had to go out very early and be back by about 9 am before it got too hot. I wore a Topee which my mother lined with silver paper under the red lining.

Eventually we moved to Dar es Salaam and I went to a convent school. Later I went to the Kenya High School for Girls in Nairobi. I would have liked to do accountancy but the only firm of accountants in Dar es Salaam did not take girls as articulated pupils so my father suggested I do quantity surveying which I did, studying for my first exam by correspondence course. The intermediate exam was more difficult to do by correspondence course, so I saved for a year and came to England to study for a year at the College of Estate Management based at the time in Earls Court.

I then started working for a firm of quantity surveyors in Chancery Lane. I never took my finals as I found working full time and studying too much.

I met my husband Monty and we got engaged after about six months but waited nearly a year till my parents came over from Africa to get married in 1961. I continued working part time until I had my daughters Helena and Judi. I then stayed at home until about 1975 when I did a year's course to become an accounting technician. I now have three grandchildren, Daniel, Archie and Emily.

Frances is a member of Mosaic Reform, and lives in Pinner.

Gill Gurner's Bucket List



Hot Geysers



Glaciers and icebergs



Waterfalls

Top of my bucket list was seeing the Aurora Borealis and when a friend said it was something she had always wanted to do, we decided to go for it. After discounting lots of holidays to ice hotels or caves, driving husky dogs or cruising, we opted for an organised six day trip to Iceland in November – supposed to be the optimum time for seeing the Northern Lights.

So, fully kitted out as instructed with thermal underwear, woolly hats, hiking boots and crampons, we set out via Luton Airport for the three hour flight to Reykjavik. Landing late morning, we found it was warmer than the weather we'd left behind.

The population of Iceland is only 348,450 (the population of Harrow is approximately 253,000) with 126,000 living in Reykjavik. Populated originally by Norse settlers, Iceland eventually became part of Denmark until achieving independence in 1944. Although Reykjavik was the first inhabited place in Iceland, the city didn't start to grow until the 18th century and is now a mixture of attractive old buildings and modern blocks of offices and apartments, with a magnificent concert hall. We dumped our luggage and set out to explore, naturally finding the main shopping street first. Shops selling warm clothes and hiking gear, others dedicated to Vikings, huge variety of fridge magnets and key rings and stylish home and gift ware. But all, as we had been warned, very expensive. Still, we decided to check out restaurants for dinner and, after looking at one where the vegetarian menu was £70 (luckily closed that night) and deciding that the puffin and smoked guillemot on other menus weren't for us, we found a good street food restaurant in a fisherman's shack on the old harbour.

The next day, our adventure started. As it didn't get light until 10 am, our first stop was the Aurora centre to learn about the phenomenon and have our cameras set to take the best photos. We also took selfies of ourselves in front of a picture of the Aurora... just in case.

The next three days were exciting, each one providing

more spectacular sights. We saw geysers, one of which erupted every five minutes (surrounded by tourists holding their cameras or phones in anticipation, with a collective groan when they missed it). Waterfalls, glaciers, a glacial lake full of icebergs of the most amazing colours, a black sand beach covered with what we thought at first was an art installation, but as far as the eye could see there were enormous and beautiful chunks of ice of all shapes and sizes. We saw volcanoes (apparently, there are five active volcanoes, each one of which could erupt at any time), basalt columns like the Giant's Causeway, a location of Game of Thrones (yes, really) and a cave where people lived about 100 years ago – one room, two adults and three children with their livestock in another room – and they chose to live there!

Our last visit was to the Blue Lagoon, an enormous lake fed by geothermal hot springs. It was the worst weather that day; raining, windy, foggy, so there I was in the hot water, being battered by the elements, with a mud pack on my face that was supposed to make me look ten years younger. The glass of prosecco I had in the lagoon helped and I lasted for about 45 minutes.

The hotels we stayed in had a 'Northern Lights alarm' button on the room phones, but sadly the weather wasn't right and although we had our clothes ready for the 2 am call, it never came.

Our last day in Reykjavik was sunny and mild and we wandered around, taking in a couple of museums (the splendid Maritime Museum – remember the Cod Wars confrontations?) and a delicious brunch before leaving for the airport.

So no Aurora Borealis – that would have been a bonus – and I wore the thermals, not because it was so cold, but because I'd bought them. No crampons needed – apparently the glaciers are retreating, unmistakeable evidence of global warming. Lasting impressions – amazing sights, lovely people, excellent food.

HaMakom Happenings

January 2019

Celebrating Chanukah



Decorating tissue boxes on Mitzvah Day



A group photo



Decorating the Succah

We have just finished our first term of the new academic year and have been delighted to welcome some lovely new families at HaMakom, their children have settled in beautifully, quickly making friends and joining in with all the fun.

This year we ran Mitzvah Day activities at Kol Chai with the fabulous support of Jacky Martin. The older children worked alongside families from Northwood and Pinner Liberal clearing up litter and brambles on Croxley Common.

The younger children put together and decorated activity packs that were collected by the charity 'Goods for Good' and distributed to refugee children. They also decorated tissue boxes that were distributed to women's refuge centres, hopefully helping them smile in an hour of need.

Our highlight of the morning was taking some fruit kebabs and beautifully decorated bulbs to The Haven in Hatch End. There the children sang their hearts out and chatted with the residents before returning home. One of our youngest children, Summer, wrote the following:

"I liked my day because I sang to people and made cards for them".

We were delighted to have held our first Parents Support Group workshop – Kathy Philips has worked really hard to arrange some fascinating and important topics. On 2nd December Eyal Remon led a workshop on Drug and Alcohol Abuse in Children and Young Adults. It was open to HaMakom families as well as their friends and family.

It was a very hard-hitting topic, which unfortunately affects children and young adults from all walks of life. It was absolutely fascinating and we would like to thank Kathy and Eyal for all their hard work.

On Sunday 9th December we celebrated Chanukah at HaMakom. We began the morning by lighting the first candle and reciting the three brachot; after break we ran a fun Chanukah activity.

Each child was given a long sleeved plain white t-shirt and decorated it in the theme of Chanukah. We had music playing in the background to help create a 'party' atmosphere and provided a cooked lunch of vegetarian hotdogs and latkes for everyone. The doughnuts and chocolate coins went down well too!!

Viki & Toria

Meet a Norfolk Couple!

Anne & Aubrey Poberefsky – known to us as Uzi & Yafa

It all began in Hashomer Hatzair, a Zionist youth movement affiliated to Mapam with branches in various British cities as well as branches in Europe. In the 1950's and 60's it was well supported and quite a number of young Jewish people who were members went on aliyah to Israel with help from the Jewish Agency.

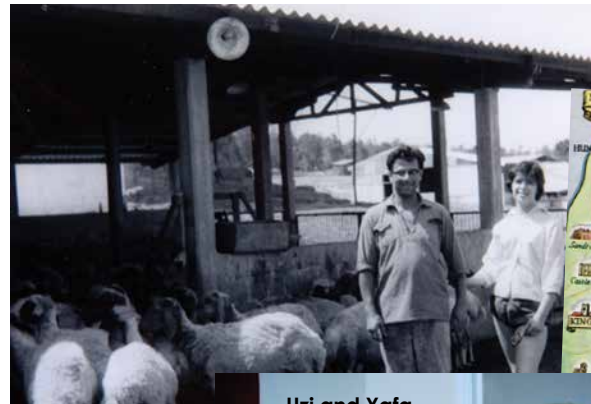
Uzi and I met at the North London bayit (branch) though he spent more time organising the Manchester bayit and working on the training farm (hacksharah) near Hatfield Heath in Essex. He was a number of years older than me and in 1959 was ready to go on aliyah. We decided to get married before we went but having very little money we kept it simple and had the reception in the bayit (after cleaning it up first).

Our honeymoon was a train journey through Europe to catch out boat from Naples. This was a great adventure as I had never been outside Britain. We stayed in cheap b&b's and went to amazing places including Munich and Rome where we were shown around by a friendly priest.

On boarding the Hertzl we were placed in steerage but Uzi explained to the purser that we were on our honeymoon and they gave us a really nice cabin. However, I was sick even before we left the harbour so spent most of the time curled up in bed feeling sorry for myself. Uzi, who never suffers from sea sickness, really enjoyed the food as we had little to eat on our journey due to limited funds.

Our arrival in Haifa was interesting as we had numerous possessions that we were taking in for our Kibbutz including a dentist chair! We got through customs without much bother and were picked up and taken to Kibbutz Nachshonim. This was near Petach Tikvah and near the Jordanian border. We joined up with chaverim from Holland and Belgium but needed extra training so spent some time on a more established kibbutz which Uzi and I thoroughly enjoyed. We worked milking sheep which was a challenge. Back at Nachshonim we had a mixture of jobs, none of them as interesting as the sheep. During this time I developed paratyphoid and was very ill. Some memories of this time include the inefficiency of the management, the elderly dentist who though had a good chair had a really primitive drill, the extremely limited supply of little luxuries like chocolate and brain-numbing work in the laundry darning socks.

Due to a family tragedy I returned to London after deciding

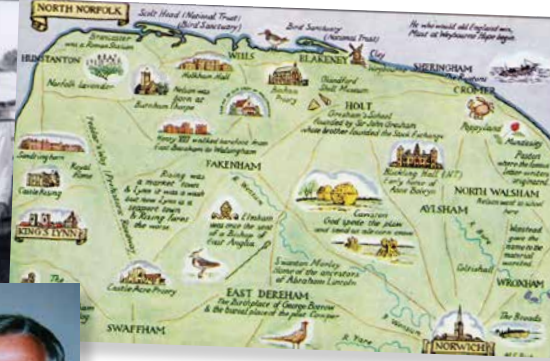


(Left) Uzi and Yafa on kibbutz

(Below) Old map of Norfolk.



Uzi and Yafa



that we would leave the kibbutz anyway. Uzi followed me a number of months later as neither we nor our families had money.

We then spent a number of years in London and Maldon in Essex before ending up in Scotland. At first we worked together running an adventure

playground on a large housing estate in Edinburgh. The children were great but the poverty was visible. We hoped that we enriched their lives a little. From there we moved to Glasgow and both completed professional training, me in social work and Uzi in youth and community work. Being qualified improved our financial situation immensely. We worked for about 9 years in Scotland before returning to our 'home' in London. Again we worked for many years in our chosen professions before we moved to Norfolk when Uzi had to take early retirement due to ill health. This did not stop him, however, from entering local politics and he soon became a District and then a County Councillor. One of his duties was as chair of County Farms where he could use his knowledge gained during our time in Hashomer Hatzair and while Chair he restructured the complete museum service and opened a brand new museum 'Time & Tide'. He got £16 million for the museums projects and the service then started to become profitable. This is an achievement that Uzi is rightly very proud of. Another use of the skills learned during his time in the movement was to run a local youth club based on the old ideals self fulfilment using hardly any equipment. I transferred to work in Norfolk but helped him in his political life. As they say behind every successful man is a strong woman! When I eventually retired I took on voluntary work and Uzi was recruited to help mainly working with people with dementia and their carers.

We now lead a quieter life with Uzi just being a Town Councillor (he still needed some excitement in his life). We enjoy going for coffee in Sheringham where we live and have made new local friends having moved here 3 years ago after 27 years living in Saxthorpe, a village 10 miles away where Uzi knew everyone!



COMMUNAL SEDER

SATURDAY 20th April 7pm

Mosaic Members: Adults £30.00*

Mosaic Family ticket (2 adults + up to 2 children under 16) £70.00*

Additional children age 5-16 £16.00 each*. Under 5s - free

Non-members: Adults £50.00*

Book your place by completing this form & returning it, with your remittance and stamped addressed envelope, to Communal Seder, 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow HA1 3BS **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY 4TH APRIL**. Alternatively, pay via our website, www.choosemosaic.org

***Nb: ALL PRICES DOUBLE FROM 5th April**

Please reserve:

Delete as appropriate

..... Adult member places at £30* each	= £	salmon/vegetarian
..... Family Tickets at £70*	= £	salmon/vegetarian (state numbers of adults/children) adults children
..... Child places (5-16) at £16* each	= £	fish/vegetarian
..... Child places under 5	= Free	fish/vegetarian
..... Adult non-member places at £50* 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.....

Jewish encounters in Canterbury and Detmold

by Maria Landau

At the end of October 2018 I joined a group for a four-day study visit to Canterbury. There were three main lecturers, two of which were archaeologists based locally. As a result, we looked mostly at architecture and history from their point of view. There is not much above ground evidence of the Iron Age settlements but the Roman invaders did use the settlers' skills in metal working and agriculture and in the building of the city's defensive walls. In turn these became the base of the medieval walls and successive invaders were equally skilful in using what was already there. In spite of this constant crisscrossing of different peoples, it is said that the inhabitants are welcoming to strangers. As an example, it was pointed out to us that, to this day, a separate area of the cathedral is reserved for regular services in French.

There has been a Jewish community in Canterbury since the Middle Ages but went into decline from the 1850s. The synagogue was closed in 1911, only to be opened during the First World War for Jewish soldiers stationed in the area. Cecil Roth, scholar and Anglo-Jewish historian, worshipped there. After WWI Jewish life in Canterbury died but it was re-established in 1975, largely as a result of the creation of the University of Canterbury in 1965. The Old Synagogue is maintained by the famous Kings School and used for rehearsals and recitals. Jewish services are held there periodically. Unexpectedly, time and somebody with a key were found which allowed us to visit the Synagogue in a quiet street near the centre. It was a most rewarding experience to see this well kept little garden and, within it, a soft coloured building in Egyptian style¹. This style continues inside around the Ark which is kept behind a beautiful silk patchwork curtain.

A guided visit to the Cathedral archives had been planned. It was very busy as it is accessible not only for religious works but also for those researching its collections on ownership and sale of properties, legal writs etc which go back to Anglo-Saxon times. The archivist had laid out some documents and books for us to look at leisure. One of them immediately caught my eye – a grant, circa 1180, from 'R. Reudone to Jacob the Jew for rental of business premises and a fine' (no explanation for the fine). This sealed document brought to life the interaction between communities in medieval times. This was also demonstrated in a research book published in 1862² that sets out in a pie chart how the communities were arranged within the city walls: there it was, the Jewish community side by side with other communities identified by their skills



Detmold – half-timbered barn built 1683; Jewish community bought it 1742; synagogue from 1905; listed 1979; restored 1982; Christian chapel since 1984



Memorial to the six million; Corinthian columns that survived the destruction of the synagogue on Kristallnacht, 10 November 1938, encased in larger modern, sandstone pillars



Top: Canterbury – Old Synagogue; Egyptian style; opened 1848

Below left: Detmold – detail of memorial to the six million

Below right: Detmold – named victims of Nazi violence in the town 1933-45



states. This small principality was notable for its dynasty of Court Jews founded by Isaak Heine. His family served the Lippe rulers for three generations. Most distinguished of its descendants were the financier Salomon Heine and the poet Heinrich Heine some of whose poems were put to music by Brahms, Schumann, Schubert and others.

In Detmold a community as such was not formed until the second half of the 17th century. A purpose built synagogue was built in the 1740s. Leopold Zunz a major influence on the early Jewish Reform movement was born in 1794 in Detmold and although he moved away his family must have worshipped there.

At its peak, the Jewish population was 240 in 1895 and 156 in 1933. The anti-Jewish discriminatory practices were implemented early on and deportations started in late 1941. At least 152 Detmold Jews perished in the Shoah. Detmold's new Jewish community founded in 1946 merged with nearby Herford in 1970.

Having had our fill of seasonal street markets, mulled wine and hot chocolate, we wandered into a quiet side street and found ourselves in this 'secret garden'. Within, there was a niche and on its end wall a list of the Detmold Jews who had perished in the Shoah. Back in the middle of the garden, on an empty space, stood ornate columns that had been part of the synagogue. Strangely, there were also four plain columns at the corners of an almost perfect square and I wondered if they were part of a permanent chupah. More strangely even, they had a triangular shape like those in the Old Synagogue at Canterbury.

We took a passage between two buildings to reach a street, only to realize that one of the buildings had been the rabbi's house, its front bearing Hebrew script in gold above the ground floor.

The side street was quiet. We needed it to recover from our findings.

At the end of December 2018 I had the opportunity of visiting Detmold in Germany's North-Rhine Westphalia. Detmold is a tranquil town of about 70,000 inhabitants, three times as many as Canterbury but, like the latter, built on a watery fertile plain. It is the biggest town in what was the principality of Lippe. The prince of Lippe and the family frequently grace the town with their presence, staying in their schloss which is sometimes opened to the public. Detmold has a school of architecture and a renowned music school with its own concert hall. There is also an opera house with a permanent orchestra, choir and corp de ballet which are in demand in Lippe and beyond.

The earliest traces of Jewish settlement in Lippe date back to the 14th century and Jews seem to have enjoyed more privileges and security there than in other German

¹ Hezekiah Marshall, architect. Opened 1848

² William Urry, Canterbury under the Angevin kings. Athlone Press 1967

Holocaust Memorial Day

by Jane Harrison



"In order to obtain a ration card, I worked very hard from the age of 10 in a factory making socks for the army. A gallows was erected and Jewish men were hanged, randomly and with no warning. They let them hang for days"

Two Holocaust survivors spoke movingly about their ordeals to a hushed audience of over 100 local students.

Renee Salt spoke about a gallows where Jews were hanged daily and experiments carried out by Mengele and Harry Olmer told of his "hell on earth" after surviving three concentration camps and two munition factories.

They were both speaking at a Holocaust Memorial Day event hosted by the Mosaic Jewish Community at Bessborough Road, Harrow on 30th January.

Based on the Northwood Holocaust Memorial Day Education Programme, where over 3,000 students attended various shuls over two weeks, the day included a Holocaust Memorial Day Trust film, which also highlighted global genocide.

Synagogue members ran workshops during the day where pupils were encouraged to take part and think about all the aspects of the Holocaust and urged to fight against stereotyping in the future.

But it was the survivors who spoke about the rising anti-Semitism which led to the Holocaust, who held the young teenagers spellbound as they heard, first hand of man's inhumanity to man.

Renee, from Poland, spoke of being forced from her home and their possessions sent to the families of the German army. After being moved to a ghetto she said they had "to contend with overcrowding, starvation and no sanitation."

"In order to obtain a ration card, I worked very hard from the age of 10 in a factory making socks for the army. A gallows was erected and Jewish men were hanged, randomly and with no warning. They let them hang for days."

Finally, Renee, her parents and an aunt were taken to the railway station en route for the Lodz Ghetto. She said: "Of 30,000 Jews forced from the Ghetto only 1,200 survived, and I was one of only three children."

"On the way to the railway sidings, the cobbles turned as we walked over them and this was seen as a bad omen. A journey of 40 km took 24 hours – over 100 people suffocated."

"Two weeks later, a further 'selection' took place, during which my grandmother was taken and an SS officer noticed a heavy gold ring worn by my father. It was too tight for him to remove. The officer was about to fetch an axe when the ring rolled off my father's finger and landed at the officer's feet. I didn't see many miracles!"

Conditions at Lodz were appalling and she contracted typhus.

She said: "There was overcrowding, starvation and disease. People struggled to survive from one day to the next. People were dying like flies". She was in hospital when the SS came for all the patients, but she was "lucky" as they did not go into her contagious ward.

When she was put on a cattle truck bound for Auschwitz-Birkenau she said notes had been left by the cleaners that people were being taken to concentration camps and murdered. She said: "We could not believe it, but we should have done".

When they arrived her father disappeared and was never seen again. As the selection process began, beautiful music was playing. Renee said: "There was an electric fence and high watch towers. It was so frightening, impossible to describe. This was the place where people were taken straight into the gas chambers."

"I was with my mother as we were forced to strip, have our heads shaved, forfeit any remaining valuables and go to the showers. As we were needed for work, we were not gassed. The whole time you could see the black smoke and notice the sickly smell of burning flesh."

She spoke of having to share soup from a saucepan with five people as there were no bowls or spoons and the roll calls in the freezing cold until the guards were satisfied. She said: "People would collapse from hunger or weakness or drop dead and the soldiers would dance round them making fun of us."

"Medical" experiments were carried out, particularly on twins, like being injected with petrol, or operations without anaesthetic."

Renee said: "I saw Mengele once and noticed if he saw someone holding hands he would split them up. With a flick of his fingers he would decide who should live and who should die".

She was later taken to work in the Hamburg docks, where a camp for 500 women had been established. She said: "The washrooms had no soap or towels, it was freezing cold – our clothes froze to our skin – and rations barely kept starvation at bay. The work involved the demolition of buildings – it was very hard, dangerous and exhausting. One day a bull escaped from a nearby slaughterhouse and attacked my mother, and her face was badly cut".

Although, by 1945, the Germans were aware that they were losing the war, the persecution showed no signs of abating. Renee said: "Dead bodies littered the roads on the way to Bergen Belsen, which was full of walking skeletons and a deathly stench. Lice and disease were rife and it was difficult to distinguish between the living and the dead. I could not find my mother and began searching for her. There was no organisation in the camp, no food or water and no roll call. I found her two days after my arrival and she was barely alive. When we got there I gave up all hope of survival."

"One day I heard a tank in the distance. It was British. I collapsed and was unconscious for several days. I was taken to a tank training centre, where there were clean beds, German medical staff and a gradual re-introduction to food. 14,000 died in the following two weeks, including my mother. They were buried in mass graves."

With an aunt she returned to Poland to search for family survivors and with another aunt went to Germany and eventually Paris, where she met her husband. They married in London in 1949 and had two children and five grandchildren.

She said: "I feel driven to undertake this work so that the world cannot deny that the horrors of the Holocaust actually took place".

Also born in Poland, Harry Olmer, survived three concentration camps, the first, Plasnow, for one



Illustration by Cartoonist Rebecca Roher, who interviewed members of our Community

year, Buchenwald and finally Theresenstadt as well as working in two munition factories.

He said: "In 1942, all the Jews were expelled from their homes and we were forced to gather at a field next to a railway track at a nearby village where 2,000 Jews were held for four days. At the end of the 4th day there was a selection and all the females, children and older men were forced on to cattle trucks and taken away."

"After the train left another train arrived and the remaining young fit men and boys were sent to Plasnow concentration camp near Krakow. The living accommodation was horrendous. We were infected with lice and bed bugs and only had cabbage soup to eat. Typhus broke out and there was no medication. Many people died. There was one

man from the Krakow opera who used to sing to himself."

Speaking of one of the munitions factories, he said: "I was filling shells with explosives and manufacturing land mines filling them with picrene. Everything was yellow; the trees and the people. There was a terrible smell of decomposing bodies. It was indescribable. We had to carry steel shells with our bare hands and our skin would stick to the shells. This place can only be described as hell on earth".

He was liberated from Theresenstadt by the Russian Army on 8th May 1945, but was so ill he was kept in a hospital until the end of June.

On 14th July 1945, 300 (mainly boys and a few girls) were sent to a camp in Windemere to recuperate. One of his observations was he had "not seen white bread for a very long time". Finally Harry went to Glasgow university to study dentistry.

In 1954 Harry was conscripted into the British army for National Service and sent to Germany to run an Army Dental centre. He married in 1954 and has four children and eight grandchildren. Out of five siblings, three perished in the Holocaust.

He told the youngsters: "Please remember what I have told you. Nowadays people deny it happened. I am a witness to it".

Before lighting candles in memory of those who died, Rabbi Kathleen said it was a privilege for these survivors to share their history with us and urged the pupils to pass on their message. She said: "When you get home we want you to tell your friends and family what you heard here today".

She said: "Hatred and fear of the other, of someone who is different, can lead to a campaign of state sponsored, systematic mass murder. After the war people said "never again" but humanity is not conditioned to learn lessons of such magnitude. Today you are being given an opportunity to learn lessons from Renee and Harry."

"We are asking you to listen, learn and remember. Don't let the unacceptable become acceptable."

So what do you know about Stanmore?

Gillian Gurner Investigates

As our community is hoping to move to Stanmore, I thought I would take the opportunity to share some background to our new home:

- The name Stanmore comes from 'Stane Meres' or stony ponds, which are located near the top of Stanmore Hill, in Wood Lane. There are two ponds, man-made, dating back to Roman times and quite possibly earlier. The larger pond is known as 'Caesar's Pond' because a Roman Garrison was stationed here. Local legend has it that Boudicca and her rebel army also camped here and she would certainly have drunk water from these ponds.



- A Jewish man, Aaron Cappadoce, lived in an estate called the Grove, off Wood Lane, probably built towards the middle of the 18th Century and died there in 1782, at the age (it is believed) of 105. Eventually acquired by GEC in 1949, the Grove was occupied in 1971 by Marconi Space & Defence Systems until it was sold for private housing.

- In 1890, the Harrow & Stanmore Railway Company opened a branch from the LNWR main line station at Harrow. The company was controlled by Frederick Gordon, of Bentley Priory, to encourage visitors to his hotel. He tried to placate the parish council by building the red-brick Stanmore station, in Old Church Lane, in an ecclesiastical style and promising that there should be no Sunday service for 40 years. The station was in use until 1952.



- The peerage of the first Baron Stanmore was created in 1893 for the colonial administrator, the Hon Sir Arthur Hamilton-Gordon, the youngest son of the former Prime Minister, George Hamilton-Gordon, 4th Earl of Aberdeen. The title passed to his son, who never married, so the title became extinct when he died in 1957.

- A Georgian Brewery, Clutterbucks, was located at the top of Stanmore Hill. Brewing was discontinued in 1916. Some of

the former brewery buildings have been converted into flats, although the weather-boarded clocktower, with a cupola and a bell dated 1726, still remain.

- Clement Attlee lived with his family in a large house on London Road called 'Heywood'. Although the house has been demolished and the site redeveloped as Heywood Court, a brown plaque marks his former home. He was leader of the Labour Party from 1935 to 1955 and Prime Minister from 1945 to 1951. As PM, he enlarged and improved social services and the public sector in post-war Britain, creating the NHS and nationalising major industries and public utilities. His government saw the creation of the State of Israel upon Britain's withdrawal from Palestine and presided over the decolonisation of India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon and Jordan. It has recently been revealed that Attlee sponsored a Jewish mother and her two children, giving them the confidence and authorisation to leave Germany in 1939 and move to the UK. After their escape, he invited one of the children, Paul Willer, into his home. Attlee did not publicise his visitor, who renewed his bond with the Attlee family at the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport last November.



- George Frideric Handel was resident composer at Cannons, the home of the Duke of Chandos, from 1717 to 1719 and the organ constructed in 1717 which Handel played is still in St Lawrence's Church, Whitechurch Lane.



- Sir William Schwenk Gilbert, the librettist half of Gilbert & Sullivan, moved to Grims Dyke in 1890. On 29th May 1911, Gilbert was about to give a swimming lesson to two young women in the lake at Grims Dyke, when one got into difficulties and called for help. Gilbert dived in to save her but suffered a heart attack and died at the age of 74.



- Queen Adelaide, the dowager of William IV, lived at Bentley Priory from 1848 until her death in 1849.

- As the Headquarters of Fighter Command, Bentley Priory played a decisive role in the Battle of Britain, fought in the skies above Britain from 10 July and 31 October 1940, led by Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, who lived in a house called Montrose in Gordon Avenue.

Trent Park Museum - Cockfosters



"A new Museum is coming to Trent Park in Cockfosters, North London, which will bring to life the incredible story of how Jewish emigrés from Nazi Germany"

A new Museum is coming to Trent Park in Cockfosters, North London, which will bring to life the incredible story of how Jewish emigrés from Nazi Germany worked for MI6 during the war and helped in the defeat of Nazi Germany. Trent Park at Cockfosters is the former estate of the Bevan and then Sassoon families.

As a charismatic and witty host, Sir Philip Sassoon designed Trent Park to be the perfect venue for political and social entertaining. His guests in the 1920s and 30s included notable figures such as Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson, Charlie Chaplin, TE Lawrence, Sir Winston Churchill, the Queen Mother, King George VI and a young Princess Elizabeth. Before his death in 1939, Sassoon served as Under Secretary of State for Air – a role in which he made dramatic improvements to the Royal Air Force's fighting ability in preparation for the war with Nazi Germany. However, at the outbreak of War the estate took on an altogether different role, granting it special historic importance as it became home to Britain's 'Secret Listeners'. Trent Park Mansion was run as 'special quarters' and transformed into a state-of-the art surveillance centre, wired with a complex network of bugging devices. The German generals were also encouraged to relax and engage in conversation with undercover interrogators. British Intelligence bugged the conversations of nearly 3,000 German prisoners of war, and from 1942, Hitler's captured generals and senior officers. By the end of the War, 59 German generals were living in comfort in the mansion, little aware that the whole site was wired for sound. The secrets they inadvertently revealed helped turn the tide of the War.

Information from Trent Park contained some of the very first reports to the Allies of the holocaust and Nazi atrocities to Europe's Jews. Teams of Secret Listeners worked in the basement, in a special room codenamed the "M Room" (M for 'miked'), recording the conversations taking place above. Intelligence officers (both men and women) worked alongside them translating and processing the information, some of which was sent directly to Churchill. The Secret Listeners were German émigrés (the majority Jewish) who had fled Nazi persecution for Britain, transferred from the British army's labour unit (the Pioneer Corps) for vital intelligence duties with British Intelligence. Trent Park was part of an extensive intelligence partnership, working with Bletchley Park from 1939, and former sites at Latimer House and Wilton Park, as well as with Air, Army, Naval and American Intelligence. The Naval Intelligence team was recruited and overseen at the Admiralty by Ian Fleming (later to become the author of the James Bond novels).

Sworn to secrecy under the Official Secrets Act, the majority of these unsung-heroes never spoke about their extraordinary contribution to the war effort. When the War ended, the house and estate served a variety of uses. Finally, in 2015, after some years left unoccupied and a successful public campaign, Trent Park was purchased by Berkeley Homes who granted the Trust the unique, once in a lifetime opportunity to develop a Museum across the evocative ground floor and basement of the Grade II listed mansion to tell Trent Park's extraordinary history, and to educate schoolchildren about the wartime period of history and the Holocaust. For more information or if you wish to contribute to the museum funding appeal, please visit: www.trentparkmuseum.org.uk

Refugee Kitchen

*Karen Pollak reports on her work for the
Refugee Community Kitchen*

"I met a 10 year old Syrian boy who was traveling on his own. I can't imagine what circumstances he came from and, a year on, I can't stop thinking about him. I just pray that he survives."

Some of you may be aware that I go to Calais with my daughter to work for the Refugee Community Kitchen (RCK). For those of you who don't know, I have not long returned from my eighth visit. This wonderful charity supplies clothing, tents, sleeping bags, toiletries and, most importantly, food. We cook 1,500 wholesome, nutritious meals every day (and 600 more on a Tuesday when we deliver food to Belgium). We also supply wood from our woodyard to enable people to cook for themselves and their families and to also keep warm at night. Wonderful local tradespeople and farmers have supplied us with wood and pallets (and, at one time, an ancient barn). You can feel the testosterone bristling as you walk past the woodyard.

RCK came about when the refugee crisis became a matter of urgency in northern France. During the time of 'The Jungle' in addition to the food supplied to the many thousands of refugees resident in The Jungle, RCK took vans of hot food wherever the refugees could be found and we fed up to 2,500 people a day as well as distributing fresh food for thousands more who wanted to cook food for themselves and their families. We also supplied clothing and toiletries to all those in need of such items.

As well as supplying food and other essentials as described above, RCK work with a team called Utopia who help refugees with problems such as emotional problems, counseling needs, discrepancies with their papers and, unfortunately, problems with the police and CRS (the French riot police).

We help with the needs of people from many countries. Syria, Somalia, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Libya and on and on. We do this without judgement and with love. On one occasion, during food distribution, I met a 10 year old Syrian boy who was traveling on his own. I can't imagine what circumstances he came from and, a year on,



I can't stop thinking about him. I just pray that he survives.

Our attitude when feeding people or donating clothes is "if it's not good enough to give to a friend then don't give it to a refugee". These people display dignity and pride and have, on

the whole, come from the most awful situations and have had to make decisions in circumstances that we couldn't imagine.

RCK is by far the most generous charity I have worked for. Everyone working at their base in Calais and elsewhere does so on a voluntary basis. Just a few, who work for extended periods, take a stipend. A good number of volunteers return. On my first trip I met a group of medical students from Bristol, who are now fully qualified and working all around Britain, but regularly get together to come to Calais. I met them again on my last visit. Another three ladies from Cambridge "pop over" whenever they can, and a family from Canterbury who, when they have a free weekend, get into their caravan, head for the ferry, do their mitzvah and then return on Sunday night. It has been a life-changing experience to be part of the RCK family and I feel privileged to have met so many wonderful people.

I could write about this charity and the work they do forever. If you want to find out more about RCK please go to refugeecommunitykitchen.com RCK relies totally on donations so if you would like to donate, then all the better. If you want to donate clothing then please contact me on karen@artinteriors.co.uk or, easier still, look up Facebook on the page where people are offering lifts. They will have room in their cars. It's also easy to become a volunteer. Don't be shy. I can assure you it is an experience you won't forget.

As we approach Pesach we should all remember those who are in the same situation that us Jews were some 5,000 years ago.



Mosaic JACS



April - June 2019

All events are on Tuesdays and start at 14.00 with tea and cake, followed by a talk and questions at 14.30

30th April

The history of sweets - Jenny Plummer

14th May

Kindertransport, my story - John Fieldsand

28th May

The Dirk Bogarde story - Nigel Coleman

11th June

What the Quakers did for the Jews of Nazi Europe - Peter Kurer

CAMEO

(Come And Meet Each Other)

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

Do you feel **lonely and isolated?**

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

Mosaic has a group for you!

**Sunday 14th April, 2-6 pm,
Bessborough Rd**

Tea, Chat & Games.

We offer support and enjoyment to people with common interests.

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

Happy Birthday in April and May to:

Lennon Mydat, 2
Mackensie Mydat, 2
Benjamin Hipgrave, 8
Abigail Luffman, 10
Freya Luffman, 10
Chase Vincent, 10
Archie Hipgrave, 10
Isabel Rafalin, 16



Friendship Club

Please join us to enjoy a warm friendly atmosphere every Monday with a 3 course lunch/tea and biscuits followed by professional entertainment. 11.00 to 14.30. Please contact either Bertha Levy on 8421 2233 or Trudy Segal on 8423 3209 for further information or just come along.

APRIL

- 15th Singer/keyboards player Roy Blass
- 22nd Club closed - Bank holiday
- 29th Return visit of Alex Samos

MAY

- 6th Club closed- Bank Holiday
- 13th David Peace entertains
- 20th Return visit of Gemma Turner
- 27th CLUB CLOSED – Bank Holiday

Pesach Services

MOSAIC MASORTI

All services in the Girl Guide Headquarters, Hatch End.

- 1st day Pesach
Saturday 20th April – 9.30am
- 2nd day Pesach
Sunday 21st April – 9.30am
- 7th day Pesach
Friday 26th April – 9.30am
- 8th day Pesach
Saturday 26th April – 9.30am

MOSAIC LIBERAL

Erev Pesach
Friday 19th April - 6 pm

- 1st day Pesach
Saturday 20th April - 11.00 am
- Erev 7th day Pesach
Thursday 25th April - 7 pm
- 7th day Pesach
Friday 26th April - 11.15 am

MOSAIC REFORM

- 1st day Pesach
Saturday 20th April - 10.30 am
- 7th day Pesach
Friday 26th April - 10.30 am

EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Your immediate support could help us provide emergency relief such as:
• Shelter • Food and water • Medical and hygiene kits • Sanitation



A devastating tropical cyclone has swept through Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe destroying almost everything in its path, killing and injuring thousands of people. Roads, bridges and crops have been washed away and homes have been submerged, forcing people to take refuge on rooftops. Torrential rain and wind storms are continuing to hit the area. An estimated 2.6 million people are affected in what the UN says could be the worst such disaster to hit the southern hemisphere.

Please give generously to WJR:

Oscar Joseph House, 54 Crewys Road, London, NW2 2AD
info@worldjewishrelief.org / Tel (0)20 8736 1250
Support WJR appeals – helping the poorest Jewish communities and responding to global disasters.

Services and other events

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

April

- Monday 11am – Friendship Club
- Every other Thursday 2pm – Singing Seniors
- Sunday (term time) 9.45am – HaMakom

APRIL

Thursday 11 th	Kehila distribution
Saturday 13 th	Shabbat Metzora/HaGadol
	11.00 Shabbat Shira
Sunday 14 th	11.00 Tombstone consecration – Rosa Zarahiah.
	Edgwarebury Lane
	14.45 Tombstone consecration – Michael Gurner.
	Cheshunt
Monday 15 th	11.00 Harrow Friendship Club
Tuesday 16 th	10:00 Pesach Biscuit Bake-In
	20.00 Film Mosaic – “The Boys from Brazil”
Friday 19 th	Erev Pesach. 1st Seder
	18.00 Mosaic Liberal service
Saturday 20 th	1st day Pesach
	19.00 Communal Seder
Sunday 21 st	2nd day Pesach
Tuesday 23 rd	20.00 Photo Group
Thursday 25 th	Erev 7th day Pesach
	19.00 Mosaic Liberal service
Friday 26 th	7th day Pesach
	10.30 Mosaic Reform service
	11.15 Mosaic Liberal service
Saturday 27 th	8th day Pesach (Mosaic Masorti)
	Shabbat Achare Mot (Mosaic Liberal & Reform)
Sunday 28 th	09.45 HaMakom
Monday 29 th	11.00 Harrow Friendship Club
Tuesday 30 th	14.00 JACS

MAY

Wednesday 1 st	20.00 Council meetings (Reform & Masorti)
Thursday 2 nd	14.00 Singing Seniors
Friday 3 rd	19.00 Contemplative service
Saturday 4 th	Shabbat Acharei Mot
Sunday 5 th	09.45 HaMakom
	15.00 Mosaic Liberal AGM
Monday 6 th	11.00 Harrow Friendship Club
Wednesday 8 th	20.00 Mosaic Book Group
Saturday 11 th	Shabbat Kedoshim
Sunday 12 th	09.45 HaMakom (not at Bessborough Road)
	14.00 Tombstone consecration – Humphrey Phillips, Cheshunt
	15.15 Tombstone consecration – Peter Gordon, Cheshunt (Woodland)
Monday 13 th	11.00 Harrow Friendship Club
Tuesday 14 th	14.00 JACS
	20.00 Film Mosaic – Gett: The Trial of Viviane Amsalem
Wednesday 15 th	12.30 Lunch Club
Thursday 16 th	14.00 Singing Seniors
Saturday 18 th	Shabbat Emor
	11.00 Shabbat Shira
Sunday 19 th	Kehila copy date
	09.45 HaMakom
Monday 20 th	11.00 Harrow Friendship Club
Tuesday 21 st	20.00 Mosaic Photo Group
Saturday 25 th	Shabbat Behar
Sunday 26 th	14.30 Mosaic Reform AGM
	16.00 Mosaic Jewish Community AGM
Tuesday 28 th	14.00 JACS
Thursday 30 th	Kehila distribution
	14.00 Singing Seniors
Friday 31 st	18.00 Mosaic Liberal at Sufra



The Mosaic office is
open 09.00-15.00
Monday-Thursday

Office: 020 8864 0133

Website: www.choosemosaic.org

Email: admin@choosemosaic.org

Address: 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow HA1 3BS

Joint Chairmen: Jeff Highfield and Mark Phillips
chairman@choosemosaic.org

HaMakom (Religion School):

Toria Bacon and Viki Kenton
headteacher@hamakomschool.org.uk



Chairman: Daniel Brown
07884 941743

Vice Chairman: Hana Schlesinger
020 8863 3417

Rabbi: Rabbi Dr Frank Dabba
Smith
07878 936339 (to be used only in
case of emergency)
rabbismith@mosaicliberal.org.uk

Rites and Practices: Kevin Ziants
07841 375458

Liberal Judaism: 020 7580 1663

Undertakers: Michael King Funeral
Directors
020 8368 7453 / 07595 956 936

Community Care: Esther
Aronsfield, communitycare@mosaicliberal.org.uk



Joint Chairmen:
Edwin Lucas – 07973 312851
Gill Ross – 07428 162473

Burials Officer: Edward Kafka
020 8904 5499

JJBS: 020 8989 5252



Chairman: Lawrence Chadwick
07798 935873

Hon Secretary:
Caroline Chadwick
07746 718390

Rabbi Kathleen Middleton
020 8866 9225 (please use only
when Office is closed)
rabbimiddleton@mosaicreform.org.uk

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JJBS: 020 8989 5252

Community Care: Gay Saunders
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