



The Mosaic community magazine | Monthly

July 2019



LET'S TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Tuesday 2nd July, 7:00pm - 9:30pm

at 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow HA1 3BS

Mental health issues can affect anyone at any time.

Specialists in the field will share their professional experiences followed by questions and a panel discussion.

Please come along to learn more about services for adults, psychological treatment for young people and the promotion of wellbeing in schools.

Speakers include:

Tanya Paxton; Borough Director Harrow. Tanya takes the lead role in the Mental Health Unit at Northwick Park hospital.

Karen Millet; clinical psychologist for children and adolescents. Karen worked in CAMS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services) for over 20 years and now practises privately.

Julia Alberga; project manager for Jewish Leadership Council's Wellbeing Project. Julia will be accompanied by a wellbeing practitioner.

To reserve your place contact Gay Saunders communitycare@mosaicreform.org.uk or (020) 8864 0133

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Since our last issue

MOSAIC REFORM

MAZAL TOV TO:

Sarah Rauch & Daniel Jackson on the birth of their daughter. Mazal tov also to Dorothy & David Rauch on the birth of their grand-daughter.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Sylvia Berg, 92

Marie Heymann, 91

Steve Noble, 75

Marianne Snowman, 93

Paul Turner, 80

Eva Jacob, 70

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Ruth & Roger Cole on their 50th

anniversary

Veronica & Laurence Music on their

50th anniversary

Sue & Harold Shupak on their 45th

anniversary

Linda & Paul Turner on their 55th

anniversary.

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Michelle Singer

Judy Beckman

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family of Deborah Davis

GOOD LUCK IN YOUR NEW HOME

T0:

MOSAIC MASORTI

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

Lily Rafalin, 18

Irene Berkovitch, 80

Matthew Young, 50

Sharon Smith, 60

MOSAIC LIBERAL

MAZAL TOV TO:

Rosemary & Geoff Wolfson on the birth of their grandson, Abraham Joshua

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Lorraine Bouché

Angela Brand

Louis Davis

Ron Franks

Julia Lane

Valerie Saunders

Svlvia Vandervelde

Rosemary Wolfson

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Ruth Eva Fiegel

Vic Golding

Maurice Levan

Rosetta Muscatt

Mimi Rothart

Joanna Phillips





Editors: Martin Simonis and **Judy Silverton**

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

There will be no issue at the start of August. The next issue will be that for Rosh Hashana - copy date 1st September, distributing 19th September.

Rabbi Dr Frank Dabba Smith

From Daniel Brown, Chair Mosaic Liberal



www.italiaander.co.uk

COMMUNAL

fter twenty-two years of dedicated leadership and devoted support as the minister at Mosaic Liberal Synagogue, Rabbi Dr Frank Dabba Smith has decided that he will be retiring from the congregational rabbinate later this year.

Frank will actually be retiring on Saturday, 26th October when it is planned to hold a special service to wish him farewell and to recognise all that he has done for our community over the years. This means that, when he returns from his sabbatical, he will be with us to lead services over the High Holy Days.

As Mosaic Liberal's longest serving rabbi, Frank has not only led us spiritually, but has also served as a true leader of the community. With our support, he has faced up to and overcome many challenges. These have included making our services less formal and transforming our religion school soon after he arrived; helping to plan and manage two moves (from our old to new building in Preston Road and then on to Bessborough Road); transforming our multi-faith and social action programmes to be both locally and internationally renowned; and designing as well as leading a wide range of Jewish heritage and multi-faith journeys to four continents over the years. In sharing his

original academic research with us. Frank also contributed to our learning in an unparalleled way especially with respect to the subject of altruism during the Shoah.

Perhaps, even more significant, Frank's pastoral care for our members suffering illness. loss and emotional pain has been exemplary, showing empathy and understanding to all in times of difficulty and crisis.

During his retirement, Frank will continue writing two books as well as being involved with other academic projects as a Research Fellow at University College London (UCL) and teaching plus tutoring at Leo Baeck College. He will remain deeply involved with EcoPeace-Middle East as a member of the International Advisory Committee and liaison to the World Methodist Council and other faith organisations. Frank will also be engaging afresh with his internationally exhibited photographic pursuits and he will be enjoying much travelling with Cathy. Together, they will celebrate the growing achievements of their children, Miriam, Lewis and Sarah,

On behalf of the Synagogue Council and our members, thank you, Frank, for all that you have done for Mosaic Liberal Synagogue over the past twenty-two years.

Mosaic Jewish Community (MJC) AGM

Why was this AGM different from other AGMS?

From Mark Phillips and Jeff Highfield - Co-chairs, Mosaic Jewish Community Limited

he 2019 AGM of Mosaic Jewish Community was quite a bit different. It opened with Co-chair Mark Phillips challenging the audience to find another person in the audience and discuss what would transform their Jewish life. This might be an idea, a problem, an opportunity, something we could be doing, or something we shouldn't! It could apply across Mosaic or within their own synagogue. The challenge then was to capture the thought on one small post-it note.

Mark has collated all the post-it notes, and you can read them on the Mosaic website. Some are attributed, some anonymous. If you weren't able to attend the AGM, we still want your ideas - please email chair@choosemosaic.org.

The approach taken at the AGM was inspired by thoughts from the Collaboratory – a network of next generation Jewish initiatives and Communities that Mosaic is affiliated to. You can find out more via the Mosaic Facebook page - let us know your thoughts.

There was some formal business at the AGM and we're delighted to tell you that Tony Fineberg was re-elected Treasurer of MJC, and that Elaine Glass was elected Chief Administration Officer. Other Board appointments were confirmed as:

Interim Community Coordinator:

Jane Prentice

Social Action Officer:

Adrian Cohen

Communications & Marketing Officer:

Pete Maginn

Ritual Events Coordinators:

Joel Abrahams and Phil Austin

We still have vacancies for an Adult Education Officer and a Community Events Coordinator - please email chair@choosemosaic.org if you think you can help.

The meeting closed with an impassioned plea from Woolf Heymann (one of the founders of Middlesex New Synagogue 60 years ago) for members of all 3 communities to involve themselves more deeply in community activities, and to broaden their commitment particularly over this time of change whilst our new home in Stanmore Hill is being built. We will be asking the synagogues to provide details of their planned activities schedule and where help is needed. In particular, Mosaic Masorti is planning 20 activities in 2020 to celebrate their 20th anniversary, so look out for more details soon.

Our aim is to get as many people as possible organising activities as well as coming to them so watch this space! In the meantime, if you're able to offer to help then please do contact us on **chair@choosemosaic.org**

High Holyday Tickets

MOSAIC LIBERAL – Please note that your tickets will be sent out with the Rosh Hashanah edition of *Kehila* on Thursday 19th September.

MOSAIC REFORM – The High Holyday Supplement is included with this month's *Kehila*. If your completed application form is received prior to 15th September, your

tickets will be sent out with the Rosh Hashanah edition of *Kehila* on Thursday 19th September. Applications submitted after 15th September should include a stamped, addressed envelope.

NB: 1st day Rosh Hashanah is Monday 30th September. Yom Kippur is Wednesday 9th October.

Mosaic Masorti AGM

The following were elected at the Mosaic Masorti AGM on 2nd June

TRUSTEES

Co chair: Edwin

Lucas

Co chair: Gill Ross

Hon Secretary:

Neil Mendoza
Finance: Dan Honev

Warden: Simon

Glass

COUNCIL

Jonathan Fenster Alan Goldner

Edward Kafka Jo Lewis Gillian Lucas Howard Smith

Traci Spivack

Contemplative Services at

ML

The next services will be: 5th July at 19:00 2nd August at 19:00 6th September at 19:00

Mosaic Moment



L to r : Steve, David, Anne, Rabbi Kathleen, Caroline, Lawrence at the Mosaic Reform AGM on 26th May (picture from Maurice Hoffman)

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COMMUNAL

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George Vulkan – a well-deserved honour

From Alan Solomon

osaic Liberal Synagogue is very proud to report that one of its members, George Vulkan, was honoured in June by the award of the British Empire Medal "for services to Holocaust Education and Remembrance". He was one of four Liberal Jews included in the Queen's Birthday Honours for their valuable contribution in this field. George has told us what prompted him to become involved, and has provided the following, rather modest, summary of the work he has carried out over many years.

"When going through my father's papers after he died. I discovered a large and disturbing collection of letters from our family in Vienna written in late 1938 and 1939. They contained desperate pleas urging my father to do more to help them escape and emphasising how terrible conditions had become in Vienna. There were also copies of my father's replies explaining that he was doing all he could in visits to consulates, writing to potential sponsors, etc. Reading these made me feel I must do something and resulted in over 20 years of giving talks in schools and other organisations, as well as speaking at Holocaust Memorial Day events in local authority areas including Brent.

Most school visits at present are organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust and are



Above left: A young George with his cousins in 1938, shortly before their escape from Vienna. The little girl on the swing is Elsie Kohn, later Stein, the mother of Laurence Stein, who was very active in HWPS. She came on the Kindertransport, aged 6. The other girl cousins escaped to America.

Above right: A more recent picture of George Vulkan BEM

based on requests from individual schools, which are then passed on to volunteer speakers. Mostly I speak to Year 9 pupils in a great variety of schools; so far, I have never had a bad experience. Most students seem genuinely interested and this is particularly true of schools with a high percentage of recent immigrants. There are usually many questions of varying quality, among the most common being those relating to forgiveness and the effect on faith and belief in God. Israel has so far never been mentioned, even in predominantly Muslim schools.

The Holocaust Educational Trust and similar organisations are now giving serious thought to how to continue informing future students about the horrors of the Shoah as the number of first-hand survivors inevitably declines."

We are delighted to wish George mazal tov on his work being recognised by the award of this honour.

The Last Council...

n 11th June Ealing became the last of the London's 32 councils to finally adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of anti-Semitism. This is the core of the definition:

"Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/ or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

However, the controversy surrounding the definition comes from some of the examples it uses to illustrate what it means by anti-Semitism. Chief among those are the examples relating to Israel and Zionism. e.g. "Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g, by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour; Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation: Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g, claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis; Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis; Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel"

It is these examples that have been at the root of the problems in the Labour Party, but it is pleasing that so many councils and other organisations around the country have adopted the IHRA definition.

Quite why Ealing took so long is unclear. The Council is run by a predominantly moderate Labour administration which seemed set to adopt the definition last year. Some opposition

emerged, hence the delay.

The Board of Deputies and the Jewish Leadership Council were active in lobbying the council and at the end of March representatives of synagogues from the area met with Julian Bell, the leader of the Council and other councillors. A number of Mosaic members do live in the Borough of Ealing so a number, together with Rabbi Kathleen, attended. It was good to see Rabbi Kathleen presenting the case for the IHRA definition alongside Rabbi Janet Burden from Ealing Liberal and Rabbi Vogel from Ealing United.

The meeting went well and we would like to think it helped bring about the council's adoption of the IHRA definition.

The main opposition to this appears to have come from the Revolutionary Communist Group, who unsuccessfully petitioned the council at the start of the council meeting not to adopt the definition.

The RCG is so far to the left of the Labour Party it quite seriously regards Corbyn as some kind of quasi-Zionist. This from the leaflet they handed out before the meeting when it talked of: "concession after concession by Corbyn and his 'left' supporters in the Labour Party to the Zionists within and without." We talked with a number of the RCP supports (there were no more than a dozen of them) before and after the meeting and it was striking how they appear to inhabit a different universe.

We had pointed out to Councillor Bell in March that it would be unthinkable for Ealing to be the only council in London not to adopt the IHRA definition. It is pleasing this did not happen and that the Mosaic community was instrumental in helping to bring this about.



Mosaic JACS Programme VIACS



July - September

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

9th July

A nice cup of Tea, where does our tea come from

- Russell Bowes

23rd July Audrey Hepburn – Howard Slater 6th Aug

20th Aug

3rd Sep

17th Sep

The A-Z of Las Vegas legends — Roy Blass

Swinging London – Nick Dobson

40 years at Kodak - Tony Earle

From Succahs to Skyscrapers – Jews and their buildings – David Tomback

Film Mosaic

At 8:00pm on Tuesday 23rd July

This is where I leave you

(2014)

Released in the USA in 2014, this is a warm and funny movie starring Jane Fonda, Jason Bateman, Adam Driver and Tina Fey. When their Agnostic Jewish father passes away, four grown siblings, bruised and damaged by their respective adult lives, return to their childhood home for the "Shiva" and live under the same roof together for a week, along with their mother (Fonda) and an assortment of spouses, exes and 'might-have-beens'. They ultimately reconnect in hysterical and emotionally affecting ways amid the chaos, humour, heartache and redemption that only families can provide.

(SUBTITLES available)

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

There will be no Film Mosaic in August. We resume in September after the Summer Break. Details TBC.

Friendship Club

Entertainment for the over-60s

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.

JULY

1st Singer/guitarist Alex Samos

8th Bill Smith entertains

15th Return visit of Roy Blass

22nd Singer Nadie Keating

29th Lynda Styan entertains

AUG

5th Return visit of Gemma Turner

12th Singer David Peace

19th Alex Samos entertains

26th CLUB CLOSED – BANK HOLIDAY

The Life of a Suitcase

By Paul Rosenbaum

he life experiences of a suitcase are closely allied to the life experiences of its owner.

I was born and brought up in Johannesburg, South Africa. My parents started saving for my university education when I was born, using an endowment insurance policy. When I graduated in 1963, they said some money was left over and I could spend a few weeks touring Europe. My first task was to buy suitable luggage for the journey; the start of this suitcase's life – 56 years ago.

The suitcase and I flew off to Europe. The aircraft in those days had to stop and refuel on the way. The airline operated almost as a hopon/ hop-off service and the suitcase stopped off in Athens, Rome, Munich, Paris and finally LONDON. It was the time of the World Cup and I had to keep changing my allegiances to match whichever pub I visited. Because of the length of the trip and the need to have formal clothing as well as normal clothing (In those days visits to the theatre required a suit and the opera required evening dress), my poor suitcase weighed just under the weightlimit of 44 lbs. Some of the walks at airport terminals were very long and I found I had to keep stopping to rest, as I carried the poor overloaded case. I swore that I would not suffer that way in the future and when I got back to South Africa I enrolled in a gym and told my trainer that my exercise regime should target my ability to carry a 44lb weight while walking long distances.

The suitcase then had a long rest until, in 1970, I emigrated to England, when the poor thing again had to carry the maximum load. A

few years later I got married and the suitcase had the pleasure of accompanying me on honeymoon to Amsterdam.

Over the next few years the case visited many cities in Europe. It also had the pleasure of carrying bright shiny ski-wear on a few occasions.

When we were planning a long touring holiday, my wife persuaded me that the time had come to switch to luggage with wheels and this poor suitcase was banished to the loft.

In 2019 it seems that this suitcase will begin a new life, travelling via a charity to a prison and then on to the outside world.

From Edwin Lucas: At the time of writing, we have received over 90 cases. Keep them coming as, just like Paul has said, they will be helping men "on to the outside world." What a wonderful practical mitzvah.

Mosaic Moment



Presentation to JACS on 'The History of the Jews of Italy' by Susan Kikoler on 28th May (pictures from Geoff Wolfson)

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Film star, at my age?!

By Lore Lucas (Mosaic Masorti member)

have seen BAFTA and the Oscars, but never been on the silver, or indeed any screen. It was really interesting, but took 2.5 hours setting up, lighting, sound checks, props, scene take and retake, to eventually see the finished product of five minutes. I was lucky that I had had my hair done by my own hairdresser and was really lucky that I did not have to undergo make up, or wardrobe. The walking scene had to be done five times and that was for five seconds on the film. You will be wondering why I chose to be a one-off film star at the age of 99.5...

I recently moved to Bushey after living in Glasgow for 72 years. Up there, we had telephones and I had my computer which I use all the time. One has to keep in touch with the outside world and Google is as important to me as my daily bread. It keeps me updated with what is going on around me and the wider world. I love getting the weekly shul bulletin, which I read from beginning to end. When I moved to Bushey, I tried to get a phone line but it was impossible. I knew that phones existed in the South, however only one company can provide a phone line to the block I live in. What made it worse was the fact that they could not install a phone line. I did not believe this, so set to work to find out what was going on. I enlisted my son who is better at complaining than me. He called the service department who were most helpful. After 11 calls to different people, at different call centres, who all failed, he got hold of a star who just happened to be Scottish and based in Dundee and was interested to help. We knew that from all the call centres around the globe, she would succeed. She just

said the right things and was empathetic. What we did not know was, that she would succeed in ten minutes after all her "helpful" colleagues had failed and failed miserably.

She was amazing. Like with many issues, it is the simple things that people do not do. Do not laugh, but she phoned the care location that I live in and told them that the post code did not exist on the Royal Mail system. We all said nonsense, as the building has been in existence for six months and was getting mail. But she was right. It was sorted, as was the phone line and I now have my phone and the internet. I can now check up on my bridge results and see what is happening at my former bridge club in Glasgow too.

We congratulated this lady for her help, as she had brought me a lifeline, which she understood. She made life worth living. She had not realised how much I needed the computer to be able to keep in touch. As a result, her bosses thought it was a good news story, which should be told across her office. All 580 members of staff at the company in Dundee were shown the thank you letter and advised about customer care. The story went outside Dundee and went national and I was asked to do a film about the events for their internal training symposium, held at the NEC in Birmingham for 2,500 members of staff. I was up for it and whilst I enjoyed the experience of being a film star, I will not take it up as a career. There is too much pfaffing about and at my age, one does not have the time to waste time. Keep the bulletins coming to me, as it is a highlight on a Thursday. Thanks for doing things electronically.

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 July | September

Monday 11am - Friendship Club

Every other Thursday 2pm – Singing Seniors **Sunday (term time) 9.45am** – HaMakom

JULY

Tue 2 nd	19.30	Mental Health Information Evening (see cover)
Wed 3 rd	20.00	
Fri 5 th	19.00	•
Sat 6th		Shabbat Korach
Sun 7 th	12.30	Stone-setting - Leonard Silverman,
		Edgwarebury Lane
	15.00	80+ Tea Party
Tue 9 th	14.00	JACS – A nice cup of tea – Russell
		Bowes (see p8)
Wed 10 th	20.00	Mosaic Book Group
Sat 13 th		Shabbat Chukkat
	11.00	Shabbat Shira
Sun 14 th	09.45	HaMakom – Term ends
Wed 17 th	12.30	Lunch Club
Sat 20th		Shabbat Balak
Sun 21st		Stone-settings at Cheshunt
	13.15	Victor Sinclair
	14.00	Susan Rotter
	14.45	Jack Sheldon
	15.30	Philip Lewis
Tue 23 rd	14.00	${\sf JACS-Audrey\ Hepburn-Howard\ Slater}$
Fri 26 th	18.00	Mosaic Liberal at Sufra
Sat 27 th		Shabbat Pinchas

AUGUST

Fri 2nd	19.00	Contemplative service
Sat 3rd		Shabbat Mattot/Massei
Tue 6th	14.00	JACS: Las Vegas legends – Roy Blass.
Sat 10th		Shabbat Devarim
Sun 11th		Tisha b'Av
Sat 17th		Shabbat Va'etchanan
Tue 20 th	10.00	Honey Cake Bake-In
	14.00	JACS: Swinging London – Nick Dobson
Sat 24th		Shabbat Ekev
Sat 31st		Shabbat Re'eh

SEPTEMBER

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Sun 1st		Kehila copy date
Tue 3 rd	14.00	JACS – 40 years at Kodak
Wed 4 th	20.00	Council meetings, Masorti & Reform
Fri 6 th	19.00	Contemplative service
Sun 8 th	12.30	Stone-setting – Stanley Jacobs,
		Edgwarebury Lane
Wed 11th	20.00	Mosaic Liberal Council
Fri 13 th	18.00	Family Friendly Friday
Tue 17 th	14.00	JACS – Jews and their building
Wed 18th	12.30	Lunch Club
Thu 19 th		Kehila distribution
Fri 20 th	18.,00	Mosaic Liberal at Sufra
Sat 21st	20.00	Mosaic Liberal Selichot service
	21.30	Mosaic Reform Selichot service
Sun 22 nd	13.00	Stone-setting - Lilian Finniston,
		Cheshunt
Tue 25 th	20.00	Mosaic Book Group
Sun 29 th		Erev Rosh Hashanah
Mon 30 th		1st Day Rosh Hashanah

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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: During Rabbi Frank's sabbatical, contact the synagogue office in case of need.

Rites and Practices: Kevin Ziants 07841 375458

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Undertakers: Michael King

Funeral Directors

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JJBS: 020 8989 5252



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