




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

November 2019

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ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Since our last issue

MOSAIC REFORM

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Andrea Morris
Sophie Edwards

MAZAL TOV TO:

Lisa Kira & James Swede on their recent marriage.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Paul Davis, 60
Rebecca Flash, 70
Edmund Goldstein, 75
Michele Hart, 75
Lew Leaderman, 95
Ronald Ringart, 80
Lily Sheldon, 92
Alan Young, 85
Rita Beach, 80
Marion Bloom, 96
Adele Saffer, 75

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Naomi Hoffman
Mim Goodman
Jacqueline Briegal
Nat Levene
Gerry Amias
Joe Wayne
Harvey Kesselman
Iris & Basil Cohen

CONDOLENCES TO:

Simon Nathan on the death of his father, Aubrey (Nat).
The family of Hanne Freedman
Dita Lewis on the death of her mother, Cipora Marx.

Janet Byrne on the death of her mother, Celia Summercorn.

David Leibling on the death of his mother, Trudie.

BEST WISHES IN THEIR NEW HOME:

Mel & Simon Marsh
Debby Banks.

MOSAIC MASORTI

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

David Bright
Irene Lithman

MAZAL TOV TO:

Toby & Abi Ross on the birth of their daughter, Ellie Lauren. Mazal tov also to Gill & David Ross on the birth of their grand-daughter.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Samuel Taratooty, 90
Marvyn Ellison, 70
Henry Rockwell, 98

MOSAIC LIBERAL

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Geraldine Kaufman
Joscelyne Kenton
David Pearson
Alan Solomon
George Vulkan

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Lindsey Cohen
Vic Golding
Rosetta Muscatt
Phyllis Sanderson
Jeanette Shindler

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family and friends of Edith Horton.

Janet & Alan Solomon would like to thank most sincerely all their friends in the Mosaic community for their kind messages of sympathy and support following the recent very sad loss of their eldest son, Mike.



Editor: Martin Simonis

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

The next issue will be that for December – copy date 17th November, distributing 28th November. After that, there will be a short gap until the February issue – copy date 19th January, distributing 30th January 2020.

COMMUNAL



Our new shul

Your questions answered

We are currently awaiting decisions from Harrow Council regarding planning permission for our new home and the associated redevelopment of Bessborough Road. In the meantime, we understand that you may have questions. Please ask (via the Office) so that in each future issue of Kehila we will try to answer some of the main ones being raised.

Q. When are we moving out of Bessborough Road?

We don't know for sure. It depends on when the developers' plans are considered and approved by Harrow Council. This part of the timetable is out of our hands.

Q. If the plans are approved what happens next?

There will be a period of about 6 months when we stay where we are while notice is given and legalities are completed. Then there will be an interim period of about a year after we move out of Bessborough Road but before we move into our new home at Stanmore Hill.

Q. What happens in the six months before we move out?

It is "business as usual" at the synagogue. Services, Hamakom, Friendship Club, JACs, etc, the office, and other activities will all continue as normal.

Q. Where might we be in the interim year?

It's not finalised yet, but the venues will be appropriate for accommodating all the weekday daytime events plus the administration office, and meetings. It may be desirable to have one central location

which is the temporary HQ, or a number of smaller ones. Some club events could be held in members' homes if that is practical and those groups decide to do so. The location of the central location is not yet finalised – one option is Bushey Country Club.

Q. Will the social events continue on a regular basis?

Yes. The choice of venue(s) will ensure that all the regular weekday social events such as Friendship Club, JACS, Luncheon Club, Singing Seniors, Film Club, etc, continue during the interim period.

Q. What about Shabbat services?

Most likely the services currently held at Bessborough Road will be held at the central location. Friday nights could be there, or at members' homes.

Q. How will be people get to services and events during the interim period?

Transport will be arranged for anyone who needs it. Members will need to please make us aware of their transport needs. We are considering several transport options, including Dial-A-Ride in Harrow, mini-bus and taxi services at concessionary rates.

Q. Where will the Office be located during the interim period? Will the phone numbers stay the same?

The synagogue office will be based at the same location as the daytime weekday activities. The telephone numbers will remain the same: Mosaic Liberal: 020 8864 5323 and Mosaic Reform & Masorti 020 8864 0133.

Obituaries for Hanne Freedman

Hanne sadly died on 9th September. The following are edited versions of eulogies given at her funeral at Golders Green on 12th September.

Richard Bromberg's eulogy for his mother-in-law

Hannelore Freedman, known to all as Hanne, who has died at the age of 95, overcame many obstacles and achieved much in her extraordinarily eventful life.

She was born in Nuremberg in 1924, the eldest of three sisters, and is survived by her siblings Annemie and Grete. Initially educated in Nuremberg and Garmisch, she was forced to move schools by the Nazis and experienced the onset of anti-Semitic violence, when friends were forbidden to play with her and windows of her home were smashed by stones. Her family escaped Germany in 1937 due to the foresight of her father, Opa Mundel, and after a long and perilous journey arrived in the UK.

Interned as an alien on the Isle of Man for six weeks at the age of 15, she then served in the British Army's Auxiliary Territorial Service until her early 20s, working at HQ as a shorthand typist.

She met her husband Mick, who saw active service with the famous Montgomery 8th Army in Africa and they married in February 1949. She had a number of jobs as



a secretary whilst bringing up her two daughters, Ruth and Jackie, first in Perivale then in Pinner.

She helped found the Middlesex New Synagogue where she did much community work and she was also involved with the Association of Jewish Refugees where she was a social welfare officer for six years.

Her efforts were focussed on elderly and infirm people whom she visited in homes and hospitals. She trained as a bereavement counsellor, delivered Meals on Wheels, and also found time to work for Jewish Care, apart from delivering Bimah (the synagogue magazine) every month.

She was active in the MNS Ladies guild and became chairman of the RSGB Women's Guild. She was the first "Chairwoman" of the synagogue in the 1980s and served in this post for four years, during which time, she visited oppressed families in Russia, taking them clothing and funds at great personal risk, at one point being tailed by the KGB.

Despite all this, Hanne always had time for her family, who respected her for her kindness and wisdom and loved her for the total support she willingly gave. Indeed, nothing gave her as much pleasure as her four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren

to whom she was "granny Hanny".

Hanne had a wide circle of friends, sadly now mostly deceased, as is her husband Mick. In latter years she contributed to many social activities, notably the Synagogue Friendship Club where until quite recently as a 90 year old, she helped the "old dears" (aged in their mere 70s) at weekly gatherings.

A fiercely independent lady who was always immaculately presented, Hanne was very organised and acutely aware of her deteriorating condition, which frustrated and upset her.

Her daughter Jackie contracted MS almost 40 years ago and after a long, brave, fight passed away in desperate circumstances. During this deeply traumatic period, Hanne's dedication was absolute, assisting the care team at every opportunity and visiting the Nursing Home in Golders Green almost daily during the final three years until her daughter's untimely death.

For her whole life, Hanne gave so much to so many people in the community, both family and strangers alike, maintaining a close bond with her beloved sisters Grete and Annemie and with her immediate family Ruth and Paul, Adam, Sarah, Joe, Lisa, Tony, David and Stephanie and myself Richard.

In conclusion, Ma hated to be called "amazing" due to her humility, but as she is not here to stop me, I can say "Ma, you were amazing, and we will miss you".

Rabbi Kathleen Middleton's Farewell to Hanne

Hanne Freedman was a remarkable lady: she was feisty, funny, resolute, intelligent, practical, caring and always beautifully

turned out.

There was something tremendously endearing about Hanne, from her self-deprecating humour to her mischievous character and her tremendous zest for life, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

Hanne was a stalwart member of our community; having been actively involved from its earliest existence. According to Hanne's own accounts she and Mick became the 34th member unit of the newly formed Middlesex New Synagogue and showing her leadership qualities she became Chair of the Ladies Guild, Chair of the RSGB Guild, Board of Deputies Representative, vice-Chairman and finally in the 1980s the first female chairman of MNS.

She visited Refusniks in the Soviet Union at great personal risk. Many years later, about 6 years ago, she made the same trip again. She was impressed to see the differences and indeed to observe what had stayed the same.

What impressed me most about Hanne was her tremendous inner strength and positivity – despite the great sadness and helplessness she felt, faced with the cruel debilitating illness of her daughter Jackie – she always remained strong and liked to focus on the positives in her life, her grandchildren and greatgrandchildren – the love of her family, amusing stories from her past, and the fact that her sons-in-law called her 'the witch' a nickname which she wore as a badge of honour, and she found nothing funnier than being asked 'Nu, Hanne, what have you been cooking up in your cauldron this week?'

She could find the positive in even the most challenging

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Blowing the Shofar

Lay' sermon on second day of Rosh Hashanah

The following 'lay' sermon was delivered to Mosaic Reform by David Leibling on the second day of Rosh Hashana and looks at how and why we blow the shofar

We are all familiar with the blowing of the shofar as a waking call on Rosh Hashanah. It is of course the precise instruction in Leviticus for celebrating the New Year which gives it its biblical name Yom Teruah:

Speak unto the children of Israel, saying: In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall be a solemn rest unto you, a memorial proclaimed with the blast of horns, a holy convocation

It was particularly meaningful yesterday hearing the shofar being blown by Alexander upstairs passing the mitzvah from generation to generation. I thought I have never heard an explanation of the particular format we use – the combination of different notes in different orders – up to 100 times in total, so here it goes.

Firstly, just a few more reasons for the blowing itself according to the ninth century Babylonian teacher, Saadia Gaon–

- Earthly rulers have horns blown to celebrate the anniversary of their coronation, so God wants the shofar blown on the anniversary of the Creation
- Earthly rulers have horns blown to announce their decrees, so God wants the shofar blown to announce the beginning of the Ten Days of Return
- The shofar was blown when God gave the Torah at Mount Sinai

- The ram's horn reminds of the substitution of the ram for Isaac as a sacrifice

We also blow the shofar during the month of Ellul as we are preparing for the High Holydays as another call to prayer.

The precise commandment is to hear the shofar blowing, in order to fulfil the mitzvah. We stand for the two blessings – the specific one commanding us to hear the shofar and the regular one, shechianu for the first occasion of something – and we remain standing for the actual blowing

But why the particular pattern of notes and how do they get their names.

1. TEKIAH A pure unbroken sound that calls people to search their hearts, give up their wrong ways, and seek forgiveness through repentance. It is the calling note, calling your attention and holding you.

2. TERUAH A broken, staccato, trembling sound. It typifies the sorrow that comes to us when we realise our misdeeds and hope to change our ways. It must be at least 8 notes, most make 9 blasts so as not to accidentally do too few.

3. SHEVARIM A wave-like sound of alarm calling us to stand by the banner of God. Shevarim in Hebrew is connected with the word “to break”, denoting breaking something and/or causing damage. It is the note for bustling, speedy activity, the signal for breaking up, for striking tents and breaking up camp. The shevarim blast is three medium-length notes that have been compared to the sound of weeping

4. TEKIAH GEDOLAH The prolonged,



unbroken sound typifies a final appeal to sincere repentance and atonement.

The original instruction in Numbers only refers to tekiah and teruah. The Mishnah describes how these notes were to be sounded, but the exact sound was never firmly established. After much discussion, later scholars came to the agreement that the tekiah was one long blast, the teruah was nine staccato notes and shevarim was introduced as a compromise of three undulating notes.

In our services we blow the shofar on four occasions – 14 times immediately after the Torah service as you have already heard and three groups in the Additional Service which we are about to hear.

- **MALKIYOT** The existence of God as ruler. 10 times
- **ZICHRONOT** God's divine justice. 10 times
- **SHOFAROT** God's revelation. 14 times

ending in a tekiah g'dola. A total of 48 blasts. Some congregations blow up to 100 blasts – possibly based on the Rabbi Meir's comment that a Jew must recite 100 blessings each day – by adding extra blasts at the end of the service. Another explanation is the number 100 corresponds to the tears which Sisera's mother is said to have shed when her son was killed in battle. And we have just said shevarim corresponds to tears.

Traditionally the shofar is not blown on Shabbat as it might lead to breaking the Shabbat rules of work because the person who is going to blow the shofar might wish to get last minute instruction from an expert and would carry the shofar to the expert, breaking the Shabbat rules. In both Israel and the diaspora Rosh Hashanah is a two-day festival so this is not a problem because the second day would be a Sunday when the shofar can be blown. For progressive Jews, who normally only celebrate one day Rosh Hashanah, we blow the shofar even if it is Shabbat as we feel the commandment to hear the shofar is more important than the very slight possibility of infringing the Shabbat rules.

Maimonides, the 12th century Spanish philosopher, says “The shofar has a profound meaning. It says ‘Awake you sleepers and ponder over your deeds. Remember your Creator and go back in penitence. Look well to your souls and consider your acts. Forsake each of you your evil ways and thoughts and return to God so that God may have mercy on you’”.

The various sounds of the shofar on Yom Teruah combine to remind us of the need to repent. The tekiah is sounded first to call our hearts to give attention and hear the following ‘sound’ of the shofar message. It is then followed by the teruah which is an instruction to break away from those activities which we know are wrong. Shevarim the broken sound reminds us that we have a job of “breaking” to do as well – the breaking of our evil inclinations. The tekiah which then follows, calls us to a new standpoint of faithfully following God's way of life.

Hopefully this has helped you to understand the purpose of the shofar blowing which we are about to hear again in the musaf service.

AJEX March – Sunday 17th November

By Edwin Lucas

Mosaic has supported the AJEX March at the Cenotaph and we are planning for the march again this year. In 2018 we had a great Mosaic turnout – at the young age of 95, Fred Stern from Mosaic Reform was our oldest marcher.

I would like to see if the mighty Mosaic can present 24 marchers this year. It is open to all ages from pram to centenarians. Any marcher who had parents or grandparents who fought in wars, can march and display their relatives' medals. It is a wonderful sight. The marching is not strenuous and, whilst we try to keep in step, it is not a prerequisite of attending.

PLEASE NOTE: This year, anybody on the march has to obtain a personal non-transferable ticket in advance. This can be obtained via the AJEX website or by phone (see the advert in the JC).

It is a real Mitzvah to the memory of our relatives who fought in the world wars to make Britain a better place. We march with Stoke-on-Trent who are a tiny community and need all the support they can get.

Please contact Edwin Lucas if you plan to come – he can advise on obtaining tickets and an appropriate meeting time and place.

Halle Attack

Rabbi Middleton received the following lovely letter from SICM. As their web-site says 'SICM is run by Shia Muslims in Harrow, SICM aims to create a welcoming environment for all – to develop the spiritual, mental and physical aspects of our lives'.

Human Rights Shabbat and the work of René Cassin

Mosaic Jewish Community co-chair Jeff Highfield (pictured) was recently appointed as treasurer of the London-based Jewish Human Rights Charity – René Cassin.

The Charity was set up in 2000 and describes itself as 'the Jewish Voice for Human Rights' with a mission "to promote and protect the universal rights of all people, drawing on Jewish experiences and values." It is named after the



eminent French Jewish lawyer M. René Cassin who was awarded the Nobel Prize for his work in helping draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. M. René Cassin was active in many Jewish organisations and was a strong believer in approaching the issue of Human Rights from a Jewish perspective.

Jeff recently met up with Alex Gerlis to talk about his work with the charity and started off by telling how he became involved.

"I attended a couple of the charity's events, including a lobby at the House of Commons to highlight the problem of the indefinite detention of migrants and asylum seekers. I was impressed with the work they do and when a vacancy for treasurer coincided with my retirement from full-time employment I applied and was successful."

AG: When did you start and how big is the role?

JH: "I started earlier in the summer. It's not a big charity, its income is a little over £100,000

and it's reliant on donations. It's by no means a full-time job – I'll have plenty of time for Mosaic! – but I have no doubt it is an important one."

AG: can you give some examples of the work the charity is involved in?

JH: "Perhaps the main aim of the charity is to advocate for and protect human rights in the UK. To that end the charity campaigns to ensure the UK's Human Rights Act

remains in place. There are a number of other specific examples of work the charity gets involved with. We campaign against slavery and trafficking – shockingly, it's estimated there are some 136,000 victims of slavery or trafficking in the UK. We also campaign for a fairer asylum and detention system for refugees calling for the introduction of a 28 days limit on immigration detention. As part of our work on discrimination we are about to launch our 'CutItOut' campaign to raise awareness of the harmful consequences of hateful rhetoric against minorities.

AG: none of these seem to be specifically Jewish causes?

JH: "The charity seeks to bring a Jewish dimension to human rights causes. The idea is not to be insular: Jewish history has unfortunately given us a lot of experience of what happens when human rights are abused. Therefore, it is absolutely within Jewish teaching and

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Saturday Night at the Races

25th JANUARY 2020 at Mosaic Jewish Community
39 Bessborough Road, Harrow, HA1 3BS
Doors Open at 7:00pm 1st Race 7:30pm prompt



pre Race Night Sponsorship

NAME
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HORSE for
£5

NAME
A
RACE for
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Admission price of £17.50 to include:
Race card * Snacks * Fish & Chip Supper
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Dessert * Soft drinks * Cash bar
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WHAT IS A RACE NIGHT ?

Participants stake money on the outcome of 8 pre recorded races which will be projected onto a screen. Before each race starts you pick a horse you want to win by name or number, place your £1 bet, then cheer on your horse. If you pick a winner, you'll collect your winnings (the amount depends on the odds).




- Odds are the chances of your selected horse winning -

Mosaic Masorti 2020 events are designed to be self funding, any surplus funds at the end of the year will go to Mosaic Jewish Community

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mitzvah Day

17th November 2019

This year Mitzvah Day is Going Greener

We want all our communities to collect the following items instead of throwing them in the bin for landfill

- Felt tips and pens: TerraCycle and BIC will recycle these, then they are made into plastic boards and used for furniture
- Plastic bottle tops can be recycled and money goes to Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice.
- Ring pulls from drinks cans can be recycled by the Purple Community Fund, which helps poor families in the Philippines.

"Show You Care" Kits for the Homeless

We need items that answer the following question:
"If this was you, what would help you to preserve your dignity?"

We want to help people maintain their self-respect. Part of the difficulty of being homeless is the necessity to carry all of your belongings on your person at all times, so travel-size products would be very useful: toothbrushes, toothpastes, body washes, shampoos, conditioners, flannels, combs, hair brushes, cotton swabs, deodorants, lip balms, nail clippers, nail files. First aid is often out of reach for many homeless people, so please include basic medical supplies eg plasters, bandages, antibiotic creams, tissues and Ziploc bags.

Additional fun activities at HaMakom

- ALEH – Card Making** ALEH is Israel's largest organisation caring for people with disabilities. We will make cards and posters to send to Israel to decorate the residential centres.
- Making cupcakes for our senior members.
- Animal Rescue Centre** We will up-cycle old T-shirts to make dog toys

FOR EVERYONE

10am - 12:30pm Join Care 4 Free A local environmental organisation, to help to clear **Croxley Common Moor**. As well as taking part in a very worthwhile project, we hope to have a great deal of fun. The organisation will provide all the necessary safety equipment.

Come along and entertain the Residents of The Haven with the children from HaMakom.

MITZVAH DAY GENERAL INFORMATION

We need as many volunteers as possible for all the above activities. HaMakom activities on Mitzvah Day will take place at 434 Uxbridge Road. Goods can be left at Bessborough Road or at Kol Chai Synagogue labelled for Mitzvah Day. Please advise us in advance if you wish to help at Croxley Green or The Haven, Hatch End so we can give you details.

Come along and be part of the fun this Mitzvah Day – it's a mitzvah!

Most activities will take place between 10.30 – 12.30 at HaMakom (434 Uxbridge Road) unless otherwise stated.

Contact numbers:

Viki Kenton and Toria Bacon headteacher@hamakomschool.org.uk
 Kol Chai 020 8421 5482 admin@kolchai.org Mosaic Jewish Community 020 8864 0133 office@choosmosaic.org
 Coordinator: Jacky Martin 07831 346214

Simply INTERNATIONAL



**SPECIAL GROUP
RATE
ONLY**
£31.50
PER PERSON

Join us for an afternoon of music, song and dance celebrating Ol'Blue Eyes himself.

Sunday 1st March 2020

Doors open 2:30 pm Concert starts 3:00 pm

Royal Festival Hall

Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, SE1 8XX

Transport is not provided

Nearest Underground Stations:

Waterloo 200 metres or Embankment 600 metres

BOOK NOW

office@mosaicmasorti.org.uk

CLOSING DATE 31st JANUARY 2020



Mosaic JACS Programme



November – December

All events are on Tuesdays and start at 14:00 with tea and cake, followed by a talk and questions at 14:30. Contact the Office for further details.

12th November

The Experiences & Needs of Recent Refugees – Mallory Carlson from the International Organisation for Migration

26th November

Margaret Thatcher, The Politics of Conflict – Steve Levinson

10th December

A Four Sites Saga, A Short History of JFS – David Harris

24th December

The A-Z of Las Vegas Legends, continued + Doughnuts & Candle Lighting – Roy Blass

Film Mosaic

At 8:00 pm on Tuesday, 19th November

The Reader (2008)

Teenager Michael Berg becomes ill and is helped home by Hanna (Kate Winslet – Oscar Best Actress), a stranger twice his age. Michael recovers from scarlet fever and looks for Hanna to thank her. The two are drawn into a passionate affair. Michael discovers that Hanna loves being read to and the relationship deepens. Hanna is enthralled as Michael reads her many classics. Despite their intense bond, Hanna suddenly disappears. Eight years later, while the now older Michael (Ralph Fiennes) is a law student observing the Nazi war crime trials, he is stunned to find Hanna back in his life – as a defendant in the courtroom. As Hanna's past is revealed, Michael uncovers a deep secret that will impact both of their lives. Oscar Winner and nominee, *THE READER* is a story about truth and reconciliation, about how one generation comes to terms with the crimes of another.

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.

NOVEMBER

- 4th** Return visit of Julia K
- 11th** The Plonkers entertain
- 18th** PARTY TIME – celebrate the Club's Birthday – entertainment with Ronnie Goldberg
- 25th** A Geoff Bowden audio/visual presentation

Reciting Kaddish in Poland

By Alex Gerlis

You could spend a whole year in Poland and still have nowhere near enough opportunities to recite Kaddish. The memory of the three million Polish Jews murdered during the Holocaust along with the millions of others murdered in the German death camps on Polish territory is an unavoidable presence.

We were a group of thirteen cousins, mostly the grandchildren and great grandchildren of my paternal grandmother and her siblings. The purpose of our visit was to visit some of the places associated with our family: I don't think any of us quite expected the impact it would have.

The visit began in Krakow in the south of country which feels too much like a tourist attraction, chief of which is the nearby Auschwitz death camp.

We don't have a family connection with Krakow but were there to visit Auschwitz, where a relative was sent to in April 1944. Nathan Rozenblum was originally from Warsaw but fled Poland for Belgium in 1930 because he was an active Communist. He and his family went into hiding during the war and Nathan became a leader of the Communist resistance in Brussels before he was betrayed by a fellow Jew and sent to Auschwitz. He was sent to Gross-Rosen on one of the death marches and from there to Buchenwald, where he died just before the camp was liberated. *We said Kaddish for Nathan by the railway track in Auschwitz-Birkenau.*

Then we headed north, to the small town of

Chmielnik in central Poland, not too far from Kielce. The town did have a large Jewish population at one point, but the story of our family was typical. Some emigrated – the UK and the USA – and others moved to the big cities, particularly Warsaw and Lodz.

The synagogue in Chmielnik has been restored and is now another stop on the tourist trail. The synagogue features a remarkable glass bimah, installed as part of the restoration.

We said our second Kaddish on the bimah.

Our next stop was Lodz where some of the family moved to. We know some lived in the ghetto and either died in it or were transported to one of the death camps and murdered there. The cemetery in Lodz is vast, reputed to be the largest in Europe. *We somehow managed to find the grave of a distant*



The glass bimah in the synagogue in Chmielnik

relation and said our third Kaddish there.

Then it was on to Warsaw. The Polish capital is an extraordinary place. The city was more or less destroyed by the end of the Second World War. It wasn't just the Jewish ghetto that was levelled: a city with a population of well over one million in 1939 had little more than 10,000 residents by the time it was liberated by the Red Army in January 1945.

And yet despite that there's an abiding sense of history about the city and nowhere more so in areas associated with Warsaw's Jewish population, which approached four hundred thousand before the war and reached half a million before the deportations to Treblinka began from the Ghetto.

We visited the impressive Polin museum and the remains of the ghetto and it was there the remarkable story of another relation came to life.

Itzhak Suknik (it's also spelt Sukenik) was 23 when the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began on 19th April 1943. Itzhak was part of the main Jewish Fighting Organisation which comprised two groups, the socialist & non-Zionist Bund and the left-wing Zionists (he belonged to the latter). They accounted for around 800 fighters and were based at 18 Mila Street (known as Mila 18). There was also a smaller group of right-wing Zionists who took part in the Uprising. Itzhak had been conscripted into the Polish army and because of this was given a machine gun - various histories of the Ghetto Uprising mention him by name and credit him with the deaths of several Nazi soldiers. He also had a nom de guerre, Koza. Koza died on 8th May trying to escape from the Ghetto with half a dozen others through a sewer. We know they died near Mildowa Street, just outside the Ghetto.

That was where we recited our fourth Kaddish.

We also visited the vast Okopowa Jewish cemetery in Warsaw, still functioning today and on the edge of what was the ghetto. Much of it is overgrown, although a group of local non-Jews (one of whom acted as our guide) work hard to keep it under control. Prominent at the front of the cemetery is the grave of Marek Edelman, a modern-day Jewish hero.

He was the leader of the Bund in the Ghetto Uprising and managed to escape, working then with the Polish resistance. After the war he became a leading cardiologist in Lodz and an active member of Solidarity. When he died in 2009, his state funeral was conducted by the Chief Rabbi of Poland.

Deeper into the cemetery we found the grave of another relation, Chana Suknik (a first cousin of Itzhak) who died of typhoid in 1942 age 16. Her grave is in good condition: we discovered that another relation (in Sweden), of whom we were unaware, pays for its upkeep.

That's where we said our fifth Kaddish.

I was leaving Warsaw on the Saturday afternoon and as I had Yahrzeit coming up decided to go to synagogue in Warsaw to say Kaddish for my father: it somehow seemed appropriate to do so, in the country his family had come from. I decided to go to the Nozyk synagogue: before the war there were over 400 orthodox synagogues in Warsaw. The Nozyk somehow survived when the Ghetto was destroyed: it was located in an isolated section in the south of the Ghetto which was deserted by 1943.

It's a remarkable synagogue, led by the Chief Rabbi of Poland, Michael Schudrich. The congregation was a mix of old Polish Jews, younger ones discovering their roots, Israelis, Americans and a few other Europeans. There was a very real sense of being transported back in time. The sermon was a short one, lasting no more than five minutes and delivered in a mixture of Polish, Hebrew and Yiddish. I didn't understand a word but was gripped by it.

And that was where I recited Kaddish for the sixth time in Poland.

Former liberal youth leader lands top UJIA job

By Alan Solomon



Mosaic Liberal is proud to report that a “child” of the Synagogue has been appointed to a very prestigious position in the Jewish community in the UK. Mandie Winston, the daughter of Liberal member Brenda Hunt, has been appointed as the next Chief Executive Officer of UJIA, the key Israel organisation for British Jews. For the past hundred years, UJIA has been building meaningful connections between the UK Jewish community and the people of Israel, whilst in Israel itself, UJIA's educational and welfare initiatives impact tens of thousands of lives each year.

Mandie (pictured) is the first woman to hold this high-profile communal role. She attended the Synagogue's cheder at our old building in Preston Road, and was then a *mazkira* (leader) of Liberal Judaism's youth movement (now known as LJY-Netzer), was a graduate of the *Machon* programme, and after making *aliyah* was an educator on gap year programmes for British Jews.

She joins UJIA with more than 20 years of programme and management experience strengthening Jewish communities, assisting vulnerable populations around the world, and building ties to Israel and Israeli innovations for humanitarian ends. She is currently a member of the senior professional leadership team

of JDC, the leading global Jewish humanitarian organisation, where she has been serving as Executive Director of its disaster response and international development arm. Among her key accomplishments at JDC, she has led flagship emergency response and disaster recovery programmes in Haiti, the Philippines and Nepal, and has been involved in aid efforts for Syrian refugees. She has played a significant role in the launch of a new cutting-edge international development initiative which addresses poverty among farmers in Africa through access to Israeli agricultural technology and Jewish philanthropy. Mandie has also served as JDC's Regional Director for Africa and Asia, and was Country Director for India; represented JDC's efforts in Sri Lanka following the Indian Ocean tsunami; and was Deputy Director of JDC Moscow and Central Russia where she helped build emerging Jewish life and with external relations, and founded women's health programmes.

Mandie holds a BA from UCL and an MSc in international relations from the New School in New York. She has lived in Israel for the last 23 years. Together with her partner Itamar, she has two children aged nearly nine and five - they will be relocating to the UK in January. We wish her a hearty *mazal tov* and good luck in her new role.

Chloe Ellison's Bat-mitzvah - The importance of a handshake

By Edwin Lucas

Chloe Ellison has been coming to HEMS since she was a wee bairn. She was frightened of me. Is that possible? Am I a giant? Am I an ogre? I think I am a regular guy, but my trademark is a handshake. Why? My late father introduced me to one of his suppliers when I was around seven years old.

He gave me a handshake and I reciprocated. He was horrified and said his hand was not a dead fish. He taught me what to do. I still remember where this took place. That is a memory from 60 years ago and it seems like last week. Folk now describe me as the fellow with the memorable handshake. That is great and I am delighted.

One has to stand out and becoming bar or bat mitzvah is when all the celebrants become adults. If that is the case, they should develop adult skills.

“A good firm handshake is a universal sign of strength and assuredness which is why everyone (yes, bar and batmitzvah celebrants too) should have one. A firm (but not crushing) handshake is a sign of mutual respect from both parties. It immediately sets the tone for any meeting. A strong handshake sets the tone and the perception of your abilities. Impart a strong first impression on your Bar and Batmitzvah co-celebrants as well as Rabbis Kathleen and Natasha and the guests in shul. This will also put you in good stead for when



Chloe and Edwin shake on it

you apply for part-time jobs - like a teaching assistant at Hamakom like Connor. It will set you up for later life too. Remember to offer your hand and look the other person straight in the eye when offering a greeting or introducing yourself.” Connor has known what to do for ages and clearly his handshake technique, like

his sister before him, must have impressed the Vickis and the job was theirs.

The limp handshake, according to Dr.Glass, exemplifies a lack of interest. “If you lack all firmness, it tells the other person you don't care; you're not into them.” Well, that is one good reason. On the other hand – that is your left one, even if you are left handed prominence, an overly-firm, finger-crushing handshake might be a person's way to establish dominance. But it can actually be a way to hide / compensate for a sense of weakness or ineptitude. One does not want to be known as a bone crusher. The Lingerer handshake is one that lasts longer than it should. A lack of social skills could be perceived if you practise the Lingerer, so try and make sure you are around the ideal 3 second time frame.

It is as important to practise this art, as it is to practise one's sedra. Try it out at your lessons and see which handshake you like best and which best engages your recipient.

I am open for [Continued on page 18 >>](#)

Continued from previous page (Bat mitzvah handshaking)...

handshake practise sessions and if you come to Mosaic Masorti shul on a shabbas, we can practise on the HEMS congregation when you meet them. They will welcome you with open arms and be pleased that you have come

along to meet us. That is a great way to say Hi to folk in an adult manner. Chloe knows what to do, so just check with her. Charlie and Harrison are learning in time for them to greet their guests in 2020.

Continued from page 5 (Hanne Freedman)...

of situations. Interviewed for one of our synagogue's so called 'Elder Statesmen Series', she told the interviewer that she was interned on the Isle of Man as an enemy alien. "That must have been very difficult", said the interviewer. "Oh no" answered Hanne. "I had the time of my life! For the first time smoking and wearing lipstick."

And she was always there for everybody, that was why it was so upsetting, to suddenly see her sad and defeated at times when her own condition started to deteriorate and the consciousness of it seemed to overwhelm her

and she became continuously apologetic for no longer coming to shul... In all the years that I had the pleasure and privilege to have known her, I had not ever seen her sad or defeated not even when she was deeply upset about something.

Hanne was a real *eshet chayil* - a woman of strength, and she will be tremendously missed by all who knew her, most of all her family. And we pray that her memory will be to all of you as it will be for us, an abiding blessing and inspiration; *zichronah liv'racha*

Continued from page 9 (Rene Cassin)...

values that we should use that experience to benefit others. You could argue that in the 1930s and 1940s in particular not enough was done to help Jewish people, but at the same time many people did help – Kindertransport and the Righteous Gentiles being obvious examples – and we believe it's incumbent on us now to help people who need it."

AG: Are there any specifically Jewish causes the charity is involved with, for instance relating to Israel/Palestine?

JH: "The remit of the charity is to work on campaigns relevant to and within the UK. The charity is involved with Holocaust education and teaching people about genocide. It is important people learn from the experience of what happens when human rights are denied

on such a horrific scale."

AG: Tell us about the plans for Human Rights Shabbat?

JH: "Human Rights Shabbat is held on or around the anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This year it is on 7th December and focuses on the theme of Hate Crime and poses the question: 'what does a Jewish campaign to tackle hate crime look like?' We believe that with hate crime - including anti-Semitic incidents – on the increase this is a human rights issue which is particularly important to the Jewish community. We hope to reflect this in the synagogue on 7th December and would urge as many people as possible to come along then to support us."



(Above) Alan Solomon celebrating his 80th birthday with Rabbi Kathleen on 5th October' (picture: Maurice Hoffman)

(Above) Simchat Torah at MR (picture: Maurice Hoffman)



(Above) Havdalah service after YK at ML. Picture includes George Vulkan who was 90 that day and Alan Solomon who was 80 the Shabbat before. With 90+ Ursula Warner and 80+ Paul Zatz. Together with young Rabbi Frank, we have 400 years of life experience in this shot (picture: Kevin Ziants)



(Above) Olivia and Kevin Ziants, with Olivia's mother – Mabel – at the ML Simchat Torah service (picture FDS)



(Left) Kathleen demonstrating the art of lulav-shaking to the Hamakom children (picture: Maurice Hoffman)

Mosaic Reform's 60th anniversary

By Jane Harrison

Over 100 past and present members joined forces to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Mosaic Reform, formerly Middlesex New Synagogue on 20th October.

Photos of events over the years, including rabbis, weddings and founders, lined the walls of the synagogue. Among the guests were long-standing synagogue supporters Honorary Alderman Keith Toms and Harrow's deputy mayor Cllr Ghazanfar Ali

Alex Gerlis interviewed Ann Simon, whose father was the founder chairman of MNS. Ann has worked as secretary and administrator at the synagogue for over 30 years - with six rabbis.

Ann spoke of Mosaic's history, from a small group from West London Synagogue, first meeting in a Wembley church hall, then moving to the then girls' school based on our current site, as well as the future plans to move to new premises.

She said: "When the community started it was more important to have a rabbi than premises, a very brave decision. I don't really know why we came here. It was never really a Jewish area."

She spoke of the characters who stood out, like rabbi Lionel Blue, who was so "looked after" by the ladies that they even ironed his shirts for him. And he treated Ann to her first ice-cream soda on her birthday.

"He was so amazing for the community; his

impact far outweighed the three short years he was with us".

She remembered how congregants at first struggled to understand Rabbi Simon Franes' Greek accent.

She spoke of a community who had "given unstintingly of their time. This community, from day one, has been blessed by its volunteers and by a group of people who set up this community off the beaten track. It needed real visionaries. We have been lucky to have the leaders of today who have built on the achievements of the leaders of yesterday. This community will go from strength to strength because we have the people who will make it work. This is a people place."

Rabbi Kathleen praised the "faith and dedication of founder members, achievements of our rabbis and the hard work" of everyone involved over the past 60 years.

She said: "This community was always more than a group of friends from West London."

Speaking about plans to move to new premises, she added: "We are a community that is not afraid to change and adapt to the needs of the moment."

Mosaic Reform chairman Lawrence Chadwick thanked everyone involved for their hard work and Cllr Ali said how delighted he was to be involved with Mosaic and praised the local community for its inter-faith work.

He said: "We should all live in peace and harmony and help each other. I pray Harrow

will become a beacon to other boroughs and countries."

There was also, of course, plenty of food as well as entertainment from resident member-musicians - the Plonkers, a hilarious 'rabbinic' performance from Howard Berger with borrowed robes, a wonderful sketch from

Harry Grant with Michael Barnett, and songs from Hamakom (the song, composed by David Pollak for the occasion, can be found on p 22)

Thanks must go to Jane Prentice and her team for an incredible spread, which included a table of retro food, and to Benje Noble-Bougay, who acted as master-of-ceremonies.



(Above) Alex Gerlis interviewing Ann Simon



(Above) David Pollak and the Hamakom children entertain. See p 22 for the words of the song composed by David for the occasion

(Right) Acting rabbi(!) Howard Berger



MR chair Lawrence Chadwick with Cllr Ali and Alderman Toms



Harry Grant and Michael Barnett are a 'couple of swells - Harrow Yiddles'

One For All

Written by David Pollak to the tune of Time of My Life by Green Day on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Mosaic Reform (formerly Middlesex New Synagogue).

In 1959, a synagogue was born We proudly had our kings and queens But hardly any pawns But quickly did we grow And with our Rabbi Blue It didn't really matter that we didn't have a clue We pulled together all for one We listened for the call Our synagogue was truly one for all	The people they kept coming And they liked what they did see It wasn't very long before our building came to be We pulled together all for one We listened for the call Our synagogue was truly one for all With rabbis Blue and Goulston And Assabi they made three And next came Rabbi Standfield Who made some history And then beloved Simon Franes Stayed for 20 years And next our rabbi Kathleen Who is brave and shows no fear They pulled together all for one	We listened to their call Our synagogue was truly one for all When MNS joined forces We chose to take a break The time had come to change our name And lo, there was Mosaic Our Harrow home has run its course But memories will last We're looking to the future But we won't forget our past We'll pull together once again We'll listen to the call Our synagogue is truly one for all
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The bridge club has launched!

There are still spaces available for beginners on Thursday mornings from 10.30 - 12.00 midday. More experienced players are invited to come from 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm. The sessions are supervised by Mosaic Masorti member, Paulette Sachon, who is a professional bridge teacher. Please contact Gay Saunders to register.

Visit by Harrow Somali community

The Harrow Somali community visited Mosaic Reform on Shabbat Shuva to say a local thank you for the help given by Finchley Reform Synagogue over the last six years when the Somali Bravenese Centre in Finchley was burnt in an arson attack. The new centre was opened last month. Many of us were very moved by the kind gesture. We sincerely hope that it is only the beginning of a fruitful, inspiring and lasting friendship [KdMM]



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 **NOVEMBER** | **DECEMBER**

Monday 11am – Friendship Club

Every other Thursday 2pm – Singing Seniors

Sunday (term time) 9.45am – HaMakom

NOVEMBER

Fri 1 st	19.00	Contemplative service
Sat 2 nd		Shabbat Noach
Thur 7 th	19.30	Adult Learning with Rabbi Natasha
Sat 9 th		Shabbat Lech Lecha
	10.30	Shabbat Refreshed
Tue 12 th	14.00	JACS – Recent Refugees (see p 13)
Sat 16 th		Shabbat Vayera
Sun 17 th		Kehila copy date
		Mitzvah Day (see p 11)
Tue 19 th	20.00	Film Mosaic 'The Reader' (see p 13)
Wed 20 th	12.30	Lunch Club
	20.00	Book Group
Fri 22 nd		Rabbi Natasha at Mosaic Masorti
Sat 23 rd		Shabbat Chaye Sarah
Sun 24 th	19.15	Mosaic Supper Quiz (see front cover)
Tue 26 th	14.00	JACS – Barry Buttenshaw (see p 13)
Thur 28 th		Kehila distribution
Sat 30 th		Shabbat Toledot

DECEMBER

Sat 7 th		Shabbat Vayetze
Tue 10 th	14.00	JACS – JFS (see p 13)
Fri 13 th	18.00	Family Friendly Friday
Sat 14 th		Shabbat Vayishlach
Sun 15 th	14.30	Stone-setting – Lionel Jacobs – Cheshunt
	19:30	Evening with Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg
Wed 18 th	12.30	Lunch Club
Sat 21 st		Shabbat Vayeshev
Sun 22 nd		1st candle Chanukah
Tue 24 th	14.00	JACS – Las Vegas Legends (see p 13)
Fri 27 th		Rabbi Natasha at Mosaic Masorti
Sat 28 th		Shabbat Miketz
Sun 29 th		8th candle Chanukah

Happy Birthday in October & November to:

Adam Feldman, 11
Ava Kenton, 12
Sophie Kenton, 10
Sam Landau, 10
Amy Phillips, 8

Tilly Wolff, 12
Max Burzynski, 6
Maia Leigh-Ellis, 3
Naomi Witte, 6





The Mosaic office is
open 09.00-15.00
Monday-Thursday

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Email: admin@choosemosaic.org

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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: Contact the synagogue
office in case of need

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:
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Gill Ross – 07428 162473

Burials Officer: Edward Kafka
020 8904 5499

JJBS: 020 8989 5252

Rabbi Natasha Mann
rabbinatasha@mosaicmasorti.org.uk



Chairman: Lawrence Chadwick
07798 935873

Hon Secretary:
Caroline Chadwick
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Rabbi Kathleen Middleton
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