



# Kehila

*Mosaic*  
Choose your Jewish life

The Magazine of the **Mosaic Jewish Community**

**Chanukah**  
December 2019

## **Saturday Night at the Races**

**25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020 at Mosaic Jewish Community**  
**39 Bessborough Road, Harrow, HA1 3BS**

**Doors Open at 7:00pm**      **1<sup>st</sup> Race 7:30pm prompt**

*Pre Race Night  
Sponsorship*

**NAME**  
**A**  
**HORSE for**  
**£5**

**NAME**  
**A**  
**RACE for**  
**£10**

**Admission price of £17.50 to include:**

**Race card \* Snacks \* Fish & Chip Supper**

(Vegetarian option available if requested in advance)

**Dessert \* Soft drinks \* Cash bar**

**BOOK NOW**

[office@mosaicmasorti.org.uk](mailto:office@mosaicmasorti.org.uk)

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

See page 13 for an explanation of a Race Night

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

*Since our last issue*

### MOSAIC REFORM

#### MAZAL TOV TO:

Elaine Banks on her recent marriage to Dave.

#### BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Susan Freedman, 70  
Dennis Goodman, 95  
Harry Levy, 85  
Frank Manches, 75  
Dennis Milstone, 94  
David Pollock, 60  
Sam Walport, 99  
John Abrahams, 85

#### ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Val & Tony Fineberg on their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
Sylvia & Harvey Kesselman on their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

#### GET WELL WISHES TO:

Iris & Basil Cohen  
Ron Ringart  
Cynthia Berenson  
Joe Wayne  
Jeff Young

#### NEW HOME:

Elaine Banks  
Sonia & John Barnett

### MOSAIC MASORTI

#### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Danielle Brummell  
Debbie & Ian Nissenbaum

#### BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Michael Morris, 70  
Max Alexander, 25

#### MAZAL TOV TO:

Dan & Michelle Honey on the birth of their grand-daughter, Joni Eve Honey Beeby.

Henry Altman & Gill Ross who have been invited to Buckingham Palace to a reception hosted by Prince Charles in recognition of their charity work at Langdon and SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) respectively.

### MOSAIC LIBERAL

#### MAZAL TOV TO:

To Dora Mandel who was 101 in November

#### SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Marie Capitelli  
Gina Greenglass  
Brenda Hunt  
Barbara Jacobs  
Maureen Lubert  
Doreen Zentner

*Childrens birthdays are on page 23*

#### GET WELL WISHES TO:

Jeanette Shindler  
Phyllis Sanderson  
Vivienne Shreir

#### CONDOLENCES TO:

Daniel Brown on the death of his wife, Karen. Condolences also to Miriam, Ruth and Thomas on the loss of their mother.

In the February Kehila there will be an article about Mosaic Masorti/ HEMS co-Chair Gill Ross and walking group leader – Henry Altman – and their December outing to meet Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace over tea, in recognition of their charity work at SACRE and Langdon respectively. Edwin wonders if there will be sandwiches and scones. Wait until February to find out.



**Editor: Martin Simonis**

Send your articles, pictures, letters etc to  
[newsdesk@choosemosaic.org](mailto:newsdesk@choosemosaic.org)

There will be no issue in January. The next issue will be that for February 2020 – copy date 19<sup>th</sup> January, distributing 30<sup>th</sup> January.  
As always, please let us have constructive feedback on the magazine – we always strive to improve! Articles of wide appeal with a Jewish theme are always, always most welcome.

## COMMUNAL

# Simchat Torah – Mosaic Chatanim

*Mosaic Liberal*

### Hephzibah Hall – Chatan Torah

(Hephzibah writes) I attended shul for the first time in 1999. I have attended all 3 buildings. It was the welcome of Rabbi Frank and the members that attracted me. There was a lively and vibrant community. I was fond of the old building where major festival events were memorable.

Rather surprisingly, I have ended up on the Mosaic Board, the Mosaic Liberal Council, and the Rites & Practices & Kiddush Rota.

I enjoy the services and where possible social events. I enjoy friendships made, which have moved outside walls of Shul. As part of the furniture now, it is home from home in some respects.

The future for Mosaic Liberal could prove to be its most challenging and yet its most exciting. With our wonderful Rabbi leaving for ventures new (may he find great fulfilment and success) and our location change, we are moving into a more integrated existence with Mosaic Reform and Masorti. This will impact Mosaic Liberal in ways which I am sure will prove to be fruitful.

### Kevin Ziants – Chatan B'reishit

(Kevin writes) I joined what was then HWPS in 1995. This was largely due to the Liberals



**Kevin and Hephzibah**

being the easiest route for my then fiancé, who wanted to convert to Judaism. 22 years ago, when Rabbi Frank joined our community was the very same day the relationship ended – Frank's his first pastoral triumph here was to encourage me to remain in the community.

I am certainly glad I did. I was gaining a great deal spiritually and felt a sense of belonging. I am a great believer that if you gain something, it is right to give

something back. I was eased into various committees. I recall the very first R&P meeting – I hardly said a word. I believe I have more than made up for this since.

Four years ago, I was appointed Chairman of our Rites and Practices Committee. I don't consider myself as a natural leader, but I feel a sense of pride at how I have personally developed in this role. With our small team, who endure my humour, we have managed to work imaginatively through the changing demands to serve our community.

Currently we are going through our most challenging time. While Frank will be missed as will this building (eventually), I am optimistic and enthusiastic about moving forward for what will be a different kind of existence for us.

# Simchat Torah – Mosaic Chatanim

## *Mosaic Masorti*

### **Jack Kushner – Chatan Torah**

(Edwin Lucas writes) Jack comes regularly to shul and he is a great asset. He is not the sort of asset that one finds in company accounts, or is mentioned at the AGM of companies as a fixed asset. He is a wonderful asset to HEMS. He is one of our most regular Shabbat attendees and is the “father of the house” of prayer. It is so appreciated. At HEMS we treasure and value our minyan



**Jack and Marvyn**

makers. Just like in the House of Commons where we need attendees to support the goings on in the House, so we at HEMS need the support of members too.

Jack is a keen member of the U3A. He organises theatre outings and with 2020 coming up, (yes another plug, as I know how my bread is buttered) Jack and Toni are organising the Sinatra evening for the 2020 group. Please make sure it is in your diary.

Jack has met many important people and, through his work, accompanied the then Canadian Ambassador to the UK to photograph the Queen. Jack took the official pictures and then boldly asked, if he could take a few more casual ones. The Queen was charming and said to Jack, “Just tell me where you want me to stand and click away”.

### **Marvyn Ellison – Chatan B'reishit**

(Edwin Lucas writes) Marvyn is a doer and volunteer and gives of his time freely.

The Ellison dynasty really helped me enjoy Yom Kippur. I had great fun learning about Jonah and whales and I hope they tested Marvyn on what a family of whales is called, how tall a whale is, which whales have teeth and what they eat – apart from Jonah. You have helped me think.

Marvyn came up with the idea of having tables, in front of the seats. I was a bit surprised at the positive take up. At my age, I have lots to learn. It is so good of Marvyn to teach us youngsters what to do, as everyone loves putting their chumashim and big siddurs, on the tables.

Marvyn, since retiring, has done a lot of chazzanut and it is a shame that his mentor, Steve Robbins, could not be with us, to be part of the Marvyn history. Steve, who he met at Wembley shul, has played a major role in Marvyn's shul life. HEMS have greatly benefitted from this. Thanks for all you do, davening wise, throughout the year and more recently over the High Holy Days.

Marvyn wrote in the last edition of Kehila and once he has done a few more, he will be eligible for an interview with Mosaic's Steve Levinson.

# Simchat Torah – Mosaic Chatanim

## *Mosaic Reform*

### **Woolf and Marie Heymann**

(Rabbi Kathleen writes): This year, our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we were delighted to honour Marie and Woolf Heymann as our Kalat Torah and Chatan Bereshit. Woolf and Marie are not only founder members of



**Woolf and Marie Heymann**

our community, having been there from its inception; they are also one of our most active and supportive couples. There are few days in the week that Woolf and Marie cannot be found on our premises, whether it is to help out at the Monday Friendship Club, join the Singing Seniors, help stuffing envelopes, sing in the choir, join us for our adult education, Woolf and Marie are guaranteed to be there, always ready to join in, add an interesting insight or share a related memory.

If you do want to know anything about the history of the shul, funny anecdotes of previous

rabbis, tried and tested ideas for services, Woolf will tell you! Woolf and Marie's contribution to the synagogue over the years has been so great that it will be impossible to relate all. Perhaps most impressive is Woolf and

Marie's ability to adapt and accept graciously and enthusiastically the many changes that have taken place over the past decades and which are still planned for the future. These range from whole-heartedly supporting our move from Bessborough Road, to picking up a bongo and drumming away with the little ones during our musical family services!

For Mosaic Reform, celebrating Simchat Torah and our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Woolf and Marie as our Chatan and Kalah has been a tremendous privilege and a joy.

## *Our new Home*

The applications for planning permission at the Stanmore Hill and Bessborough Road sites were due to be presented to the London Borough of Harrow Planning Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

However, that hearing was postponed. LBH gave the following reason: “Due to the upcoming election on 12<sup>th</sup> December and the election purdah period, the consideration of

this application has been deferred until after the election”.

We hope that the application will be heard at the first Planning Committee date in the new year as they do not sit in December.

**If you have any questions of general interest, please ask (Office or Newsdesk), and we will try to answer in the next edition of Kehila.**

## Mosaic Reform and the Movement for Reform Judaism (MRJ)

**M**osaic Reform has an agreement with the MRJ whereby we receive a reduction in the amount that we are obliged to pay them, provided that we supply them with an updated membership list annually. The membership list is used by the MRJ for direct fund-raising approaches to individual members.

This notice is to give you warning that we intend to submit our list in January. If you do not wish your details to be included, you will need to opt-out now. Please let the office know as soon as possible if this is the case. If we do not hear from you by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, we shall assume you have given your consent. Even if you have “opted out” in previous years, please contact the office once again to avoid any errors occurring. Please email [admin@mosaicreform.org.uk](mailto:admin@mosaicreform.org.uk) or ring **020 8864 0133**

## Mosaic Liberal – Current arrangements

*(Alan Solomon writes)* Following the recent retirement of Rabbi Dr Frank Dabba Smith, Mosaic Liberal Synagogue is currently advertising for a full-time rabbi to take up the position in early or Spring 2020. In the meantime, it is “business as usual” with Shabbat services continuing as normal and our Care Group staying in touch with those of our members who welcome their concern for them and their visits.

*(Kevin Ziants writes)* For those who are not aware, most of the Mosaic Liberal Friday

night services are currently being held in our members’ homes. This provides a homely feel with the emphasis on community spirit as we welcome in Shabbat.

If you are planning to attend a Friday night service and are unsure of the venue, please read the emailed Shabbat Notices. Alternatively, please call me on 07841 375458 for further information.

Many of our members who are unable to attend a Friday night service have appreciated having the service being brought to their homes. Please contact me if you are willing to host a service. If needed, we will provide candles and the necessary requirements for Kiddush.

## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Photo Book!!

After our superb Mosaic Reform 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event we are about to produce a 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative photo book, filled with the posters, timelines and other memorable images from that event.

We would like YOU to be featured in our Mosaic Reform 2019 members’ pages!!!

So, here’s what you need to do. Just come along on either Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January or Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020 between 1:30 and 2:30 pm to the shul, where David Ruback will be set up to take your photo (at no cost to you!)

We want to include Mosaic Reform kids and their parents, older members at their various seniors clubs and the rest of you as you wish... Please don’t be shy; all we want is your mug shot in our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary photo pages! SO COME ALONG AND SMILE PLEASE !



## Introducing the beautiful Sandringham with Anita Dorfman House and Wolfson Assisted Living

Nestled in over 16 acres of stunning land on the Hertfordshire borders, Sandringham will consist of a brand new care home and assisted living as part of a contemporary and vibrant Jewish community hub.

The home offers 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](mailto:helpline@jcare.org) | [jewishcare.org](http://jewishcare.org)





## Board President's Dinner – 3<sup>rd</sup> November

*Abridged report from BoD 'Community Briefing' of Tony Blair's address at the dinner*

Former Prime Minister Tony Blair told a packed audience at the Board of Deputies President's Dinner that antisemitism in Labour was "absolutely killing the party". Also attending were Home Secretary Priti Patel, actor Tracy-Ann Oberman, who presented this year's appeal film, parliamentarians from across the political spectrum, ambassadors, representatives of different faiths and the Jewish community's senior rabbinic and lay leadership.

Tony Blair, who received a standing ovation from the audience, said: "Let me be frank, there is going to be a complete battle in the Labour Party because what has happened over these past years – particularly over antisemitism – is absolutely killing the party."

He added: "I think in this election there will be more people who look carefully at their constituency candidates in a non-tribal way than at any election I can remember."

He went on to say: "There are really good Labour MPs that are standing in this election. People I know, people I've worked with. People who have stood up very strongly on antisemitism in the Labour Party, and I want to see them supported."

On Israel, he said there was "a need to explain

Zionism and the way Israel was created, and why it deserves support today... Israeli democracy is a real democracy".

Home Secretary Priti Patel, paid tribute to the Board of Deputies. She said: "The Board of Deputies has been tireless in educating British society about Judaism, building interfaith bridges, defending the interests of British Jews, and confronting antisemitism in all its awful guises. Your work ranges from the level of individual communities and synagogues, right to the highest levels of Government, as I well know. Your presence in our communities, and your advocacy of tolerance is more important than ever at a time when many British Jews are feeling uncertain about the future. So, I want to be clear – this Government is always on your side."

She added: "We will always support the work of the Board of Deputies, which has benefited each and every member of British society. It has won you the respect and admiration of many – myself included."

In her speech, Board President Marie van der Zyl said: "Whether it's the ongoing uncertainties over the General Election and Brexit; antisemitism going unchecked in the official opposition; far-right terrorist attacks on synagogues in the United States and

[Continued on page 14 >>](#)

## Mosaic Reform Family Friendly Fridays Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>

Starts at 6.30 pm

Start your Shabbat with some music at our  
**Family Friendly Friday** service.



Join in with the familiar Shabbat Shira music and learn some new tunes for Friday Night.

You are invited to the Installation of  
Rabbi Natasha Mann



@New London Synagogue  
33 Abbey Rd  
London NW8 0AT

5pm 1st December  
Reception to follow

RSVP:  
[www.newlondon.org.uk/events/xxxxx](http://www.newlondon.org.uk/events/xxxxx)  
or 0207 328 1026



## Obituary for Trudie Leibling

*By David Leibling*

**M**y mother – Trudie Leibling – died peacefully after a short illness on 23<sup>rd</sup> October at the age of ninety-nine and three-quarters. She had had a long and good life, a long marriage, three children, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Those few



words sum up someone who has universally been described as elegant, involved, upright, committed, interesting and widely known through the many circles in which she moved.

She was born in the East End to a milkman father, well known in the area, and a shoe-maker mother. Unfortunately, her father died when she was very young, and she and her brother and sister were dispersed amongst members of the family. She was an early pioneer for Habonim, spending time on the first David Eder farm in Kent and almost made aliyah to Israel. She met Harry, her husband to be, in 1939 when he fell on top of her jumping into a train at Brighton just as it was leaving. He spent the war working with General Montgomery and was awarded the MBE for what he always described as “helping the General on with his overcoat”. Their early married life was spent in Brighton where they were very involved with the Jewish community raising money for Youth Aliyah.

In 1955 we moved to Hendon and after a brief spell with the orthodox synagogue, we joined Hendon Reform, “Danescroft” as it was always known, and similarly became

deeply involved in the community. They joined MNS in 1988 when they moved to Stanmore. Mummy was a regular contributor to Bimah as the reporter of so many synagogue events and helping with the proof reading and postie deliveries too.

She was also very committed to the Council of Christians and Jews, attending both the local and national meetings.

She had a wide circle of friends who depended on her for making holiday arrangements and getting bridge tables together. When she took her month-long holidays to see her daughter and family in Florida there would be cries from the friends: “We can’t arrange anything – Trudie’s away”

Her earliest career was with British Home Stores. Then, when the family grew up, she returned to work at the Hendon Times newspaper where she was the production manager ensuring it appeared on time each week. In that role, she met Margaret Thatcher, the local MP. When she retired, she became secretary to a distinguished social psychiatrist and helped him edit an international journal, working well into her 80’s. She learned to drive when she was nearly 50 so that she could drive to see her first grandson, and only gave it up in her mid 90’s – fortunately without any argument.

Her niece, who looked up to her as a substitute mother said: “Trudie towered above the rest of us in that very valuable commodity

called “good behaviour” by which code she rigorously and graciously lived her entire life. Beautiful to look at and always beautifully dressed, Trudie drew the eye. But more than that she drew the soul; she had the gift of making everyone she encountered feel special and loveable.”

But I close with Trudie’s own words in a letter written to her three children in 2004 to be opened on her death. “I have had a fulfilled and interesting life and I am content. It was so sad

to continue without Daddy [who died in 1997] but he never left my thoughts and dreams. Thanks to the generous support of you three children and your love, my life without his physical presence has been happier than I ever expected, especially with your lovely families. That is why you are my treasures. I leave you with my prayer for your continued devotion and support for each other. May God bless you and keep you.”

## AJEX March

**M**osaic was well represented at the Annual AJEX March at Whitehall on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

Alan Solomon, David Bright, David Wyman and Edwin Lucas are seen before the march off, supporting Stoke-on-Trent, as usual. Claire Silverstone was also there but missed the photoshoot.

Why Stoke-on-Trent you may ask? It is 150 miles from London, and they have delegated Edwin, who lives on the doorstep and has been a member there for 43 years, to carry the banner

and show everyone that “out of sight, is not out of mind”. Martin Morris, the president of the Stoke-on-Trent Hebrew Congregation, asked for his appreciation to be passed on to all the Mosaicers who supported his community, as they could have, just as easily, marched with



other groups. His late father who HEMS know as Uncle Sydney, came down every year from 1945 – 2008, which is 63 times in sun, rain and snow. Edwin has another 23 to go, to beat Uncle Sydney. Keep the date free, to keep the 2020 marchers company.

A wreath was laid for Mosaic Liberal’s former Rabbi Harry Jacobi MBE, by his son and daughter, in recognition of all the good work he did at the commemoration services over many years.

The Masorti senior rabbi – Rabbi Jonathan

Wittenberg, who is visiting HEMS at Mosaic Headquarters on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December – led part of the moving service.

It was lovely to see the young people in abundance at the parade representing many schools, as well as youth organisations.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2020**



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### What is a Race Night??

Mosaic Masorti 'A NIGHT AT THE RACES' takes place on Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup>. The first race starts at 7:30 p.m. (see advert on front cover).

Participants stake money on the outcome of eight pre-recorded races, which will be projected onto a screen. Before the 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 will collect your winnings – the amount depending on the odds (the pre-race chance of your selected horse winning).

You can book your place by email at [office@mosaicmasorti.org.uk](mailto:office@mosaicmasorti.org.uk)



### Chess and Scrabble® Launch

*Calling all chess and Scrabble® lovers!!*

In January we will be launching two new social groups for members interested in playing chess and Scrabble®.

What better way to beat those winter blues, have fun and stimulate those little grey cells?

To register your interest please contact Esther at [communitycare@mosaicliberal.org.uk](mailto:communitycare@mosaicliberal.org.uk) or the ML Office



## Mosaic JACS Programme



*December - January*

**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.**

#### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

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

#### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December

The A-Z of Las Vegas Legends (cont.)  
– Roy Blass, plus Doughnuts & Candle Lighting

#### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January

The Tale of the Tulip – Russ Bowes

#### Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

Behind the Camera at the Movies – Judy Karbritz

## Film Mosaic

8:00pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

### *A Dangerous Method* (2011)

Suffering from hysteria, Sabina Spielrein (Keira Knightley) is hospitalized under the care of Dr. Carl Jung (Michael Fassbender) who has begun using Dr. Sigmund Freud's (Viggo Mortensen) talking cure with some of his patients. She is highly intelligent however and hopes to become a doctor and a psychiatrist in her own right. The married Jung and Spielrein eventually become lovers. Jung and Freud develop an almost father-son relationship with Freud seeing the young Jung as his likely successor as the standard-bearer of his beliefs. A deep rift develops between them when Jung diverges from Freud's belief that while psychoanalysis can reveal the cause of psychological problems it cannot cure the patient. Released in 2011 and shown at the Jewish Film Festival, it was directed by David Cronenberg. Intelligent and sumptuous to look at, the Movie is an acting tour de force by its leads and is not to be missed.

## 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.**

### DECEMBER

2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Smith entertains

9<sup>th</sup> Return visit of Gayathrie and Bill Patrick

16<sup>th</sup> Party time with Nadie Keating

### JANUARY

6<sup>th</sup> Taped favourites with Harry

13<sup>th</sup> To be arranged

20<sup>th</sup> To be arranged

27<sup>th</sup> Singer/guitarist Ronnie Goldberg

## From Judith Russell – 'Shabbat Refreshed' – How wrong could I have been?

As a fairly regular shul attender, I was not looking forward to the service on Shabbat 9<sup>th</sup> November entitled 'Shabbat Refreshed'. I knew this was combining the Shabbat Shira music into the traditional service and, as far as I was concerned, this was for children and their families. As a member of the choir, I would not be singing the normal music. You may be asking why did I go this particular week? Well, I was on the 'meet and greet' rota and, as I travel a fair distance to come to shul, I would obviously stay for the service.

What I experienced was the most uplifting service led by our Rabbi Kathleen, with its upbeat music provided for us by those gentlemen, who many know as 'The Plonkers'. Tunes from my days at JFS came flooding back to me as I tapped my foot and sang along. The sadness was that there were only a handful of children present and I suspect some of the regular congregants stayed away with the same thoughts as I had. There was a dear little girl who sat on the carpet and played musical instruments the entire time with the correct rhythms and swapping instruments appropriately – a budding musician of the future I suspect. At one point I looked around at the adults and saw pure pleasure on many of the faces. If anyone didn't smile you could not resist 'Puff the Koshier Dragon' at the end of the service.

So why am I writing this article? It appears to me that in this climate of doom and gloom, daily news that depresses us, not to mention the 'B' word, dark nights and relentless rain, you couldn't do better than participate in this uplifting and joyous experience. Bring your children and grandchildren to 'Shabbat Refreshed' when you see it advertised and for our regulars – don't stay at home, you may just surprise yourself as I did.

Continued from page 8 (Board of Deputies)...

Germany; obsessive criticism of Israel; or even risks to the UK's supply of etrogs – it has never been more important to have a strong Board of Deputies, changing the narrative and leading the fight for our community."

Marie also paid tribute to Tony Blair: "When Tony Blair was leader of the Labour Party – and, indeed, Prime Minister – there was not the slightest question about any of the big parties being tolerant of antisemitism. Tony Blair has long been a true friend of our community, and

he continues to stand alongside us in our fight for justice. I know that he shares our horror that the Equality and Human Rights Commission – a creation of the last Labour Government – has launched a statutory investigation into whether the current Labour Party itself is institutionally antisemitic. When the dust settles after the election, I hope that the Party's current – or future – leaders will learn from his example that things can – and, indeed, must – change."



## Amusing wedding stories



For the next edition of 'seasonal' Kehila (Pesach 2020), we had the bright idea of putting together a collection of amusing stories about mishaps at members' weddings. You get the idea – stories involving forgotten trousers, lost speeches, chauffeurs getting lost, waiters tripping over, chuppas falling down, brides fainting, etc, etc.

Please send appropriate contributions to the NewsDesk in good time  
[newsdesk@choosmosaic.org](mailto:newsdesk@choosmosaic.org)



# Bereavement Care Conference

*By Jane Harrison*

“Men and women listen fundamentally differently” the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Bereavement Care conference was told.

Not surprisingly, this was greeted with knowing smiles by the predominately female members from synagogue, church and inter-faith groups. Spelling out the differences was

keynote speaker, Emmanuel Aharoni, a former accountant and recruitment consultant and later, before retiring, a management consultant, specialising in behaviour in the workplace.

The conference, organised mainly by Mosaic Reform and usually held at Bessborough Road, was held for the first time at St Helen's school in Northwood on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The theme was ‘Hear Hear! Exploring the art of listening’.

Mr Aharoni said: “When I told my wife I was going to talk about listening, she laughed and said you never listen to me”. “Most men can't talk and listen at the same time, and women can. From my experience I discovered that listening is taught least and used most.”

He said research in the USA had shown this is because the brain works differently in men and women and is the same reason women are better at multi-tasking. He added that it was really hard to listen properly. He said: “You have to pick up what's not said – tone, pitch, emotion. You will generally pick up the right emotion from (spoken) words, which you won't get in texts and emails.”



Emmanuel Aharoni presenting

He said there were similarities between recruitment and bereavement visiting. In both cases you need to ask open questions, avoid interruptions and use open and encouraging body language.

He said: “Don't assume people listen the same way as you do, ask for clarification; how do you mean, tell me more,

use your eyes.”

A series of scenarios to illustrate effective and ineffective listening were performed by actors, with feedback from members. Subsequently, discussion forums were held on listening skills.

Feedback highlighted the importance of giving a bereaved person space to talk, not having your own agenda, not assuming how someone feels, and how important it is to put any personal negative feelings aside.

Deputy mayor of Hillingdon Cllr Teji Barnes, a former Samaritan, said: “Your bereavement support service is very much recognised in our health and well-being strategy. We all experience the loss of loved ones at some stage in our lives and all cope differently with grief. We all need a listening ear and tight hug. In the current climate Bereavement Care is priceless and we value and appreciate you.”

Judy Silverton, from Mosaic Reform, who chaired the BC organising committee, thanked everyone for their involvement, not least the local sponsors and the amazing sandwich makers.

# Jewish Memories in Georgia

*By Michael Reik*

I went with 37 others on a ‘Jewish Journey’ trip to Georgia led by Jeremy Leigh on 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> September. This was the first trip we had been on to a country where Jews had not been persecuted and were seen only in a positive light.

Our first visit was to Mtskheta, the ancient capital. Here we learnt of the Robe (shroud) that was brought by Eliaz (The Jew) from the crucifixion and now lies in the Mtskheta cathedral. We also looked down on the site where the Jews arrived and camped at the time of Alexander the Great having fled from Babylonia.

The next day we saw major sites in the beautiful city of Tbilisi and joined the congregation of the Main Tbilisi Synagogue for Erev Shabbat (see picture 1).

The following day we set off for Gori, the birthplace of Joseph Stalin. Here we spent an interesting hour at the Stalin Museum, followed by an in-depth discussion on how the Jews were viewed by Stalin after the Bolshevik revolution.

We then moved on to Kutaisi the second city

of Georgia where we spent the next two nights. We visited the synagogue of Kutaisi (picture 2) and the site of a court room where the Russians tried, but failed, to bring claims of ‘blood libel’ against the Jews.

Our next destination was Oni in a most remote part of the Racha region in the Caucasus. Here we visited the oldest and most beautiful Synagogue in Georgia (pictures 3 and 4). There used to be over

1000 Jews there, but today there are barely a dozen. We prayed Mincha with the few men in the community. This was probably the only time in the past two months that they had had a minyan. We saw how World Jewish Relief (WJR) keeps this community going by fixing the homes of the remaining Jews and making them habitable.

We visited an amazing Jewish Cemetery that has survived the ages. It has delightful vertical stones showing an image of the person buried beneath in the most beautiful surroundings (picture 5).



## Tired of those dull, hackneyed Hanukkah tunes?

If so, try this...

By Michael Marx

Many of the finest composers and performers have been Jewish – indeed, many of the great Christmas songs, from *White Christmas* onwards, were written by Jews. So why is it, more often than not, that our liturgical and festive music is so tedious? As we approach Hanukkah, I dread having to dust off the cod Mendelssohn (*Maoz Tzur*), the leaden strains of *Sevivon* (Little dreidl, spin, spin, spin), the faux jollity of *I have a little dreidl* (I made it out of clay [and out of pure frustration, I threw the thing away! {alternative lyrics, MM}]), and the perverse popularity of Adam Sandler's truly awful *The Hanukkah Song*.

I would like to direct your attention towards a different Jewish composer, one who wore his ethnicity with pride and who wrote many pieces of music that drew upon his particular background. **Darius Milhaud** (pictured – born 1892) grew up in a French Jewish community in Aix-en-Provence, where Jewish religious practice was unique to its location.

Milhaud's Jewish lineage was neither Ashkenazi nor Sephardi (i.e., stemming neither from medieval German-Rhineland nor from pre-16<sup>th</sup>-century Spanish/Iberian Jewry), but rather, specifically Provençal—dating to Jewish settlement in that part of southern France as early as the first centuries of the



Common Era. His paternal great-grandfather, Joseph Milhaud, was one of the founders of the synagogue at Aix, and he wrote works on the Torah and conducted the census of Jews who had returned to France after the Revolution.

Particular for young Darius, who started out his musical career as a violinist, turning later to composition, was the fact that the Provençal community had developed its own musical *nusach*, so that the music of religious services would be unfamiliar to other communities around the world. Some of the music Milhaud would have heard in *shul* subsequently found its way into his compositions.

Milhaud wrote his autobiography, which, in his final years he re-titled *My Happy Life*. And indeed it was, though it could also have been entitled *My Lucky Life*, as, alongside a number of European Jewish composers and musicians, he managed, through his connections “in the business”, to re-locate to America in 1940, thus evading the terminal fate of many compatriots in the *Shoah*. He was a member of *Les Six*, a group of six (you don't say!) composers that coalesced around Eric Satie. a group that also included Poulenc and Honneger.

While in America, where he taught composition, his pupils included jazz pianist Dave Brubeck when Brubeck furthered his

music studies at Mills College in the late 1940s. In a February 2010 interview with *JazzWax* magazine, Brubeck said he attended Mills specifically to study with Milhaud, saying, “Milhaud was an enormously gifted classical composer and teacher who loved jazz and incorporated it into his work. My older brother Howard was his assistant and had taken all of his classes.” Brubeck named his first son Darius. Milhaud's former students also included songwriter Burt Bacharach. Milhaud told Bacharach, “Don't be afraid of writing something people can remember and whistle. Don't ever feel discomfited by a melody.”

He is known to have cautioned his students against what he called “overdevelopment” as a pretension to the profound. “It is false,” he told students, “that the profundity of a work proceeds directly from the boredom it inspires.”

Milhaud's personal Judaism as well as his family heritage informed a substantial number of his compositions, beginning with his *Poèmes Juifs* (1916) and followed by several pre-war pieces with overt Jewish titles and content. But it was in his later Jewish works that he relied frequently and specifically on the Provençal liturgical tradition that he knew from his youth in Aix-en-Provence. His Judaically related works from the period following his immigration to America include *Cain and Abel*, for narrator, organ, and orchestra; ***Candélabre à sept branches***; *David*, an opera written for the Israel Festival; *Saul* (incidental music); *Trois psaumes de David*; *Cantate de Job*; *Cantate de psaumes*; and—arguably his most significant Judaic work—*Service Sacré*, an oratorio-like full-length Sabbath morning service for cantor, rabbinical speaker, large chorus, and symphony orchestra, which was

commissioned in 1947 and premiered by Temple Emanu-El in San Francisco. His final work, *Ani maamin* (subtitled *un chant perdu et retrouvé*), on a text by Elie Wiesel, received its premiere in 1973 at Carnegie Hall, the year before he died.

Milhaud's music is relatively easy on the ear, unlike other music written around the same time that pursued a more Modernist approach. At the same time, it was also characterised by bi- and poly-tonality – that is, music written in more than one key. It is his ***Candélabre à sept branches*** that I recommend to you for festive listening at Hanukkah. It is a short suite of seven pieces for solo piano, based on his interpretation of the Menorah, the seven-branched candelabrum found in the Temple. He assigns a festival to each branch, as follows:

- No. 1, Le premier jour de l'an – *Rosh Hashanah*
- No. 2, Jour de pénitence – *Yom Kippur*
- No. 3, Fête des cabanes – *Sukkot*
- No. 4, La résistance des Macchabées – *Hanukkah* (the Maccabian revolt)
- No. 5, Fête de la reine Esther – *Purim* (the festival of Queen Esther)
- No. 6, Fête de Pâques – *Pesach*
- No. 7, Fête de la Pentecôte – *Shavuot*

You can listen to Milhaud's *Candélabre à sept branches* (Concert at 'Christ Church', Jerusalem 15 October 2008 – Pianist: Mattia Peli) on YouTube by pasting the link below into your computer's internet search engine.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2f5QQClpOqY>

Wishing you a more tuneful *Chag Sameach Hanukkah*.

## Prison Art

*By Edwin Lucas*

Inspiration, inspiring, inspirational are words that people use. Many of our community will use the words sparingly and I most certainly do. I have used it on occasions through my

Prison Charity work, where some prisoners and I am delighted to say some, albeit not many, ex-prisoners inspire me and show up my inefficiencies. People that know me say, that is not hard as my portfolio of inefficiencies is huge. I cannot draw. I cannot paint. I do not do technology. I do not do 'stay awake at all meetings, or services'. I am guilty as charged.

I do however, do chance and help and do have an open mind to seeing good in others and giving folk a second chance. Am I a mug, or am I a second chancer? I like to think the latter, as we all make wrong decisions, and all make wrong judgements. I felt privileged to go with Mosaic one mid-week afternoon, to the South Bank where we were shown round the Koestler 2019 Art and Poetry Awards exhibition. I have been before and loved it, big time. I am not a gallery chap, but the Koestler exhibition is not just any show, it is the show of shows and a must in my yearly calendar. Most years, it is the only art show I go to. Mahnishtano ha laylo haze, comes to mind. The artists at this show are not, in most cases, well known. They all have something in common and that is they have a past and in many cases a sad disruptive and disrupting past. All are looking to tomorrow for the sun



to shine, when they will be free to roam in the sunshine, without an escort, or security dogs, or fences, or curfews, or tags, or probation. How many of us know people who wear this badge? These artists have, in most cases, spent time in one of Her Majesty's 130 prisons,



or have been under a supervision order. The one thing all have in common is an interest in the wider topic of art and prose.

We were shown round the exhibition by a wonderful, confident, accomplished

guide, who knew her exhibits and could tell us a bit about many of the items and the background to the contributors. Who was she? Why did she do this? What motivated her? These were all questions our group wondered and asked. During the tour of models, photographs, craft, paintings and a whole plethora of different exhibits, this guide impressed us more by the minute. She explained what we would never have known, by a simple walk round. She proved to me that one really has to go around an exhibition with someone in the know, to get the full benefit of the exhibition. The guide was fresh. The guide was enthusiastic. The guide made the exhibits come to life.

I loved the group work which showed teamwork. I like the simple materials. Here is a picture of an item that struck me (picture 2). It made me think of the holocaust and the 6 million paper clips that were collected. Here was a picture of a background of darkness with the sun shining through. This was my image. I looked closer and it was a collection of buttons. I thought of one button per person. I thought of Holocaust Memorial Day and the Yellow Candle project.

I looked in the display cabinet and saw these carvings (picture 1). What were they? What sort of medium were they? They depicted detail and imagination and took up no space. They were carvings and if you look closely, you will see each one is different. They were made from crayons that all our children and grandchildren use. Now I look at crayons differently.

The guide walked round the 150 exhibits which were selected from the 8,000 entries. Each artist had under a two per cent chance of reaching the South Bank. I wondered who the contributors were and then the guide asked if we would like to hear a poem. We said yes, as it would have been rude not to listen. I do not like poetry, but this lady had me travel from my schooldays of disinterest, to being gripped

by an unknown person, delivering the poem off by heart. She was like an actress, without being on stage. There was no prompter and no music – just her in the hall. It was wonderfully delivered and then she asked if we wanted to hear about the poet. We naturally said yes, and she told us that she knew the poet, who was on her third husband and had four children and only started writing poems when she went through the court system and landed up on probation.

We had questions and she cut across them by answering them in four words. "I am the poet". There was silence. There was inspiration and one of our group asked if she would perform at an exhibition she was running. No CV. No Interview. No networking. But a job well done has opened a door for her. We were all moved. I know the person who offered her an opportunity and am waiting to hear if the poet is going to walk through the door of opportunity and maximise her potential and be a poet laureate of tomorrow. The Mosaic 2019 group will be able to say, "We saw her when she started her journey of freedom". Mazeltov to her and Mazeltov to all the entrants. If it was in shul, I would say Shkoach to the guide and it was 'oh' so much deserved.

## *When is your next book out?*

**A**dele Franklin (pictured) has written an interesting piece about how she managed to see herself in print, as a follow-up to her writing history piece in the Rosh Hashana edition. Sadly, for reasons of space, this has had to be held-over to the next issue of Kehila.



(Below) Henry Altman represented Mosaic Masorti/HEMS, to lay the wreath at the Pinner remembrance service. It was a lovely event – resplendent with sunshine and a huge crowd. CiCi and Harrison Rutstein represented the HEMS younger generation wearing their Brownie and Cub uniforms – Bella Rutstein behaved beautifully too. The rabbi from Pinner shul recited El Melech Rachamim (EL).



(Left) Caroline Chadwick laid the wreath of remembrance on behalf of Mosaic Reform at the Harrow remembrance service.



(Above) Russell Bowes presenting 'Dig for Victory' to JACS on 12<sup>th</sup> November (picture Geoff Wolfson)



(Above) Thanks to Maurice Hoffman for this picture of Rabbi Frank making his last blessing over the challah and wine at his farewell service on 26<sup>th</sup> October.



(Above) Lots of people we know at Singing Seniors on a Thursday afternoon

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 **DECEMBER** | **JANUARY**

**Monday 11am** – Friendship Club

**Every other Thursday 2pm** – Singing Seniors

**Sunday (term time) 9.45am** – HaMakom

## DECEMBER

Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	17:00	Induction of Rabbi Natasha Mann (see p 9)
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	19:00	General Election Hustings
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>		Shabbat Vayetze
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	14:00	JACS – Four Sites Saga (see p 13)
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	18.30	Family Friendly Friday (see p 9)
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>		Shabbat Vayishlach
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	14.30	Stone-setting – Lionel Jacobs – Cheshunt
	19.30	Evening with Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg
Tue 17 <sup>th</sup>	20:00	Film Mosaic – 'A Dangerous Method' (see p 14)
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Lunch Club
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>		Shabbat Vayeshev
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>		<b>1<sup>st</sup> candle Chanukah</b>
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup>	14.00	JACS – Las Vegas Legends (see p 13)
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>		Rabbi Natasha at Mosaic Masorti
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>		Shabbat Miketz
	17.00	Havdalah & Chanukah candle lighting
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>		<b>8<sup>th</sup> candle Chanukah</b>

## JANUARY 2020

Fri 3rd	19.00	Contemplative service
Sat 4th		Shabbat Vayigash
Tue 7th		Fast of Tevet
Fri 10th		Rabbi Natasha at Mosaic Masorti
		Launch of HEMS 2020
Sat 11th		Shabbat Vayechi
		Mosaic Reform Bar Mitzvah – Alex Landau
Sun 12th	09.45	HaMakom – start of new term
	13.00	Stone-setting – Susan Saunders. Edgwarebury Lane
Tue 14th	14.00	JACS – Tale of the Tulip (see p 13)
Wed 15th	12.30	Lunch Club
	20.00	Book Group
Fri 17th	19.00	Joint Service – Mosaic Liberal joins Mosaic Reform
Sat 18th		Shabbat Shemot
Sun 19th		Kehila copy date
	13.30	Photo session for Mosaic Reform 60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary book (see p 6)
Sat 25th		Shabbat Va'era
	19.00	HEMS 2020 – A Night at The Races (see front page)
Tue 28th	14.00	JACS – Behind the Camera at the Movies (see p 13)
Thur 30th		Kehila distribution

## Happy Birthday

Asher Leigh-Ellis, 1  
Benjy Maginn, 11  
Max Maginn, 11



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