



The Magazine of the **Mosaic Jewish Community**

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PESACH 2020/5780



Pesach Sameach

*Mazal Tov to the whole Mosaic Community
on the granting of planning permission
for our shul's new Stanmore home.
Now the work really begins*

About Our Members

Since our last issue

Children and teen birthdays on page 30

MOSAIC REFORM

MAZAL TOV TO:

Lynn Bulka on her marriage to Richard Harris

Pauline & Barry Pike on the engagement of their son, Daniel, to Sedge Beswick
Hilary Perry on the birth of her great-grandson, Elliott Daniel

Victoria de Magtige on her Bat Mitzvah, and to to her parents, David and Rabbi Kathleen (see page 31)

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Lisa Newman, 55

Rudi Braude, 96

Bob Cohen, 80

Benno Stern, 85

David Rauch, 70

Jonelle Roback, 50

Hilda Freeling, 95

Elaine Banks, 70

John Benjamin, 65

Betty Brand, 100

Peter Butters, 85

Arnold Gee, 90

Helen Schueler, 70

Rosalie Tobe, 90

Helena Grossman, 55

Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton, 50

Veronica Lansman, 75

Denis Hart, 93

David Mushlin, 85

Estelle Raynaud, 80

David Solomon, 75

Hazel Richman, 102

Jeffrey Rogers, 70

Lorraine Tureck, 60

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Caroline & Lawrence Chadwick on their 40th wedding anniversary

Margaret & Michael Abrahams on their 55th wedding anniversary

Dorothy & David Rauch on their 40th wedding anniversary

Hilary & Richard Stanton on their 50th wedding anniversary

Rachel & Joe Wayne on their 70th wedding anniversary

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Jeff Young

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family of Sheila Rosen

MOSAIC MASORTI

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

Chanan Shuall, 75

Jack Kushner, 90

Michael Marx, 60

Enrique Rafalin, 50

Ethan Honey, 20

Elaine Shoffman, 65

CONDOLENCES TO:

Sheila Morris on the death of her husband, Stanley

MOSAIC LIBERAL

MAZAL TOV TO:

Karen & Simon Nash on the birth of a grandson, Sidney Maxwell Nash, a first son for Gareth & Claire Nash

NEW HOME

Michael Richman

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

George Adams

Ursula Gross (see page 26)

Ruth Hart

Kenneth Herman

Millicent Levan

Brigitte Levin

Dennis Mitchell

Joy Pearson

Phyllis Sanderson

Stella Share

Jeanette Shindler

Richard Sontag

Howard Spencer

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Cynthia Green

Phyllis Sanderson

Rosetta Muscatt

Jeanette Shindler

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family and friends of Frankie Green

The family and friends of Helena Stone.

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Thanks to Gary Italiaander for the front page design
www.italiaander.co.uk

Next issue

Copy Date for the May issue is 19th April. This will be distributed on 30th April.

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

Our New Home

Progress Report

We are all very excited that the London Borough of Harrow has finally given the go-ahead for the development of our new home (see artist's impression, with overlaid matza on front cover). This good news has naturally increased the volume of questions we are receiving from members. The first two questions raised concern:

- Parking and transport at Stanmore Hill
- The interim year when we are between old and new buildings.

Parking and Transport

The parking arrangements at our new location will overall be significantly better than at Bessborough Road. While our new home will have 11 on-site parking spaces (compared with 18), nearby streets can accommodate at least 50 cars at the times / days we need them. We are also making arrangements with other nearby organisations who are willing to provide a significant number of parking spaces - this would provide parking for a further 40-80 cars within 3- 4 minutes' walk of the synagogue building. We will let you know when these arrangements are finalised. We are confident they will prove more than adequate for the vast bulk of our activities, and that parking will be convenient for our members and visitors, and not cause problems for our neighbours on Stanmore Hill. On High Holy Days, and possibly for a few other major functions, a further 120 car parking spaces are available to us at the Islamic Centre, Wood Lane, with a shuttle bus service from their car park.

It is also planned that there will be a car-sharing scheme for those needing to be picked up from their homes, and a pick-



up service from Stanmore Station and Uxbridge Road for those who use public transport. To request more information about transport and parking both at our new home and at Bessborough Rd, email: gettinghere@choosemosaic.org

The Interim Arrangements

Once the developer and the Council have finalised arrangements for both sites,

things may move quickly and it is possible we will be leaving Bessborough Road in early summer 2020. There will then be 12-14 months before we move into our new home. In this interim period all synagogue activities will continue to take place, predominantly in locations near our new home in Stanmore Hill. We are in discussions with a number of locations, and with the teams that organise our activities - once these discussions are finalised, we will let you know - all the locations will have parking and other transport options. The interim arrangements will specifically ensure that weekly Shabbat services, Hamakom religion school, all the social and support activities such as Friendship and Lunch Clubs, JACS, Film Mosaic, etc, and the synagogue office will continue to function without interruption.

As the move to our new home gets closer, we will continue to provide you with updates, which will be available in Kehila, online, and, in some cases, by letter and phone. There will also be open meetings for you to raise your questions and any concerns in person. We want to be able to communicate with you in the way that you find most useful and effective.

Please contact us with any thoughts, questions or concerns or, if you have any time available and would like to get involved in any aspect of this exciting project, phone the Mosaic office (020 8864 0133) or email: newhome@choosemosaic.org).

Moving on

by Bernard Fisherman

The ayes have it
The move is on
Papers signed,
Job done.

Our old home loved for years
Will be hard to leave
Without lots of tears.

Altogether, no one alone
We will pray and sing
And create a new home.

Let's pack our bags and cheerfully go
To Stanmore Hill where we can grow.

Rabbi Kathleen Middleton

From Purim to Pesach



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It is often difficult for contributors of any printed work, to find themselves entirely engaged with their literary offering, when in fact their focus is on very different things. As this edition of Kehillah drops through your letter boxes Pesach will be upon us, but at the time of writing this article, it is Purim that is foremost on our minds.

Purim and Pesach are bound together by the calendar. There is always precisely a month between them. Even when it is a leap year and we add a whole extra month to the calendar, Purim is always celebrated in the extra month (Adar II) rather than the original month of Adar, even though our tradition normally insists that we perform a *mitzvah* (such as reading the *Megillat Esther*) at the earliest possibility.

It seems odd that these festivals are connected, because there is very little similarity. It is true that both celebrate stories of redemption. However, many of our festivals celebrate a story of redemption. As the old joke goes most of our festivals can be described in three short sentences: 'They tried to kill us. They failed. Let's eat'

That is as far as the analogy goes, because there are significant differences in the redemptive stories of Pesach and Purim: Pesach defines us as a Jewish people as covenantal partners with God. God is an active character in this story. And the Seder teaches us that a covenanted partner with God should be able to empathize with everyone – even with their enemies (that is why we spill wine).

Purim's message is quite the opposite. In this story (which incidentally cannot be found in the Torah, but in the Tenach), God is notably absent and it stands out in its brutality: at the end of *Megillat Esther* not only Haman, the archenemy of the Jews, his sons and wife are killed in retaliation, but thousands of others as well. The underlying brutality of Purim is exacerbated by the claim that Haman is an Agagite – a descendant of the Amalekites, a people we are told we should have annihilated in its entirety.

It seems therefore odd that Purim, which rightly fills many of us with a sense of unease, is the only festival which, according to the *Midrashic Sages* (*Mishlei* 9:2), should still be celebrated in Messianic times, whilst all other festivals will be obsolete. They base this on Esther 9:28

which states: *And these days should be remembered and observed in each and every generation... [and] should not depart from amongst the Jews nor the memorial of them perish from their descendants.*

It seems extraordinary that a verse in the *Megillah* itself should lead to such an interpretation, when Purim isn't even mentioned in the Torah! But is this true? 'Isn't there any hint to the story of Esther in the Torah?', asks the Talmud. But indeed, there is! In Deuteronomy 31:18 we find written *"I am the Eternal who will surely conceal (Anochi haster aster)*. The word *aster* (I will conceal) is written exactly like the name Esther!

That is the whole point of the *Megillat Esther* and the celebration of Purim. It implies that despite (or precisely because) the absence of God's active presence in the Book of Esther, because God is hidden (*haster aster*) in history, and despite (or precisely because) the brutality displayed by the story's protagonists, the story remains relevant throughout time. For we so often wonder: 'where was God in history?' or 'how can we redress the sense of our covenantal relationship with God by acts of *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world)', precisely when we feel challenged, angered, saddened or scared by others.

Purim is the most challenging, but in many ways also the most modern, and therefore the most relevant of festivals. In our age, in which so many Jews feel deeply connected to their heritage but struggle with the concept of God, it is all the more important that we ensure that we nevertheless carry out God's work, by connectiveness to our tradition and in acts of *Tikkun Olam*, set within the ethical boundaries set out so beautifully in the Pesach story.

Pesach – The most Masorti festival?

by Matt Plen, Chief Executive, Masorti Judaism

Pesach is the festival of freedom, but the freedom under discussion does not seem to be the universal, liberal variety, whatever the creators of 'Prince of Egypt' might like us to believe. The story is about the establishment of the Jewish people and the dramatic emergence of an unbridgeable gap between Jew and non-Jew. The Hebrews are torn away from their Egyptian surroundings culturally, socially and finally physically with the passage through the Red Sea, where Egyptians drowned, and Israelites survived. The message is one of survivalism; in the words of the old joke, 'they tried to kill us, we survived, let's eat!' But do Jewish distinctiveness and survival have to come at the price of insularity and turning away from the non-Jewish world?

The rejection of Egyptian society and culture implicit in the Exodus story was not performed only for the sake of insularity. In the Torah reading for Pesach, Moses summons the elders of Israel and commands them: 'Draw out (וַיִּקְחוּ) and take (וַיִּשְׁכוּ) lambs for your families, and slaughter the Passover offering (Ex 12.21). Why the double verb? Rabbi Yose HaGlili interprets this metaphorically: the verse commands the Hebrews to 'draw out' their hands from idolatry before 'taking' or clinging to the commandments. The Israelites' rejection of their Egyptian environment was a preliminary to the spiritual transformation they were destined to undergo. Exclusivity was not the value at stake. The Israelites on their way out of Egypt were accompanied by an *erev rav* or mixed multitude, who also passed through the Red Sea and stood before Mount Sinai. And in later generations, any non-Israelite who underwent circumcision and threw his lot in with the Hebrew nation was permitted to eat of the Pesach sacrifice.

Judaism is not (or not primarily) tribal, nor does it value survival for its own sake. We are part of the Jewish people because we believe in its values, and membership of the group is a means to realising those values. The spiritual precedes the sociological, not the other way around.

Pesach embodies these values and, as such, it is an intensely Masorti festival. Our purpose as a movement is to develop Jewish communities, grounded in traditional practice



Pictured: Matt Plen

and modern values, where people can find meaning by connecting to Judaism and to each other. Connecting to Judaism means the religious ideas and practices that sustain us internally, but it also means the values of openness and making the wider world a better place. Connecting to each other means creating a thick web of relationships with other Jews, but without forgetting the importance of our relationships with and responsibilities to all human beings.

This year our team at Masorti Judaism has been working hard to realise this aim. Here are some of our achievements:

- **Rabbinic leadership:** we ordained 2 new rabbis and are now training 2 more
- **Jewish Learning:** over 50 adults and young people have taken part in intensive Talmud study through Masorti programmes in the UK and in Israel
- **Expertise:** The European Masorti Bet Din worked on 60 cases of conversion, divorce and kashrut supervision
- **Leadership:** 80 young people attended Noam's youth leadership training courses
- **Training:** 19 future leaders from 6 communities participated in our Jewish Community Organising course
- **Outreach:** we sent rabbis and chazanims to support communities in Leeds, Essex, Liverpool, Oxford and London, reaching over 500 people
- **Innovation:** we created and nurtured new models of community, such as the Havurah and Ohel Moed
- **Youth:** 450 young people attended Noam camps and tours in the UK, France and Israel
- **Students:** Marom programming reached 200 students across 13 university campuses
- **Social action:** Masorti Judaism supported Our Second Home, a youth summer camp for 35 refugees

To find out more, please follow us on Facebook ([Facebook.com/MasortiJudaism](https://www.facebook.com/MasortiJudaism)), Instagram ([instagram.com/masortijudaismuk](https://www.instagram.com/masortijudaismuk)) or Twitter (@MasortiJudaism).

שמח פסח from everyone at Masorti Judaism!

Torah:

A Love Story in Verse



Pictured: Rabbi Natasha

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At the Mosaic Masorti 'first timers' Shabbat on February 15th (shabbat Yitro), Rabbi Natasha delivered the following drosh (sermon) on the parasha in rhyme – in various verse forms.

Today is a day of many a first
For trying new tricks, with some trust
Which is why, you will see, that this speech is in verse
For I was told, a new thing is a must.
So please excuse if it's clumsy
Please excuse if I slip
Understand that I'm just not well-trained
I will try not to mumble
I will try not to trip
I have no expertise here to claim.
But beyond my own wish to take part in this tryst
Of new things with some nerves and some glory
This is the perfect portion for poetic distortion
To tell Torah as an epic love story.
Now this may sound strange, but I swear it sincere
That with heart and with ear just refined
The whole Torah can seem to an eye that is keen
As a romance with the Divine.

It has love, it has loss; it has drama, intrigue,
It has character growth and deceit,
It has pain, it has hope, it has sadness and glee
So hold on to the edge of your seat.
Here we are, here today, at the scene of Sinai
At what might be a kind of, well, chuppah

Under mountain and smoke and the widest blue sky
To take Torah - perhaps, our ketubah.
And like any love tale, any story worth reading
We all know that the twist, it is vital
But this story's turn is in details preceding
See, the problem is there in the title.
This significant story of love and elation
Led to Sinai by our leader Mo'
This here great moment of Divine revelation
Is entitled 'The Portion of... Yitro!'
It's perhaps unsurprising that the title today
Is the father-in-law of our hero
For each portion is named the first thing it might say
And in this case, it happ'ns to be 'Yitro'.
However
There are two reasons
Two facts
To ponder upon
The first, which is simple, at least:
Such a section celebrating Israel and her God
Is entitled for a foreign priest?!
A Gentile, a man who was not enslaved
And then saved from the might of the masters
No, this man spends his days as a priest giving praise
To his gods up there in the rafters.

How strange, how bizarre, how truly absurd!
But you're right - it's just a matter of chance
His name was simply the first major word
It's not delib'rate - it's just happenstance.
But ah, you see - that's where you'd be wrong
For here comes the point that comes next:
This tale of Yitro visiting the throng
Is out of place in the text.

Yitro does not belong here
It is a fact that is made clear
Through a careful perusal
Reading close here is crucial
Or the lending of an attentive ear

See this here story, of judgment and glory
Of teaching that leadership rating
Does not mean taking charge of the least and the large
But also of smart delegating,
Takes place in a space called 'the Mountain of God'
Understood to mean good old Mount Sinai
But this understanding is really quite odd
It seems something here is awry.
For where we left off back in last week's piece
Makes clear that they're still on the road
And they only arrive at the mountain of peace
After the story of Yitro.

Another reason
That we might be suspicious
Of this text's nature.
Moses's judgments
Use - and this is ambitious -
Laws given later.

But now, don't you worry - it's no cause for concern
That the story might seem out-of-order
For our sages would say that from this we should learn
There's no before-and-after in Torah.
But it does beg the question, it does call to mind
Even if this is fine at the least
Why would it be that in this case we find
The section starts with this one foreign priest?
Yes, this is fine
It isn't an issue
Though why, if the story's misplaced
Right into the romance betwixt God and the Jews
Of all sections - why into this space?
Of course our commentators throughout all the ages
Have used this question to answer
And dear Ibn Ezra, pond'ring these pages
Says the reason is in last week's par'shah.
For last week concluded with Amaleik
Israel's first enemy since in Egypt
We thought we were done with the frightened foot-race
Until by Amaleik we were greeted.
And while God did save us, that's twice we're attacked
By some evil non-Hebrew foe
And so Ibn Ezra says that this piece is tacked
- here to contrast the goodness of Yitro.

There once was an evil troop
That attacked all the Jews as a group
So after that foe / the Torah brings Yitro
To remind us, not all gentiles are brutes
And, far beyond that lesson there
That Gentiles can be, well, gentle
It's worth a note, that should we care
There's another question to mull...
See sometimes, some places, if we follow the trail
We can see breadcrumbs of reversal
Though we think of the Torah as our great love tale
Still, we believe in a God universal.
And while 'priest of Midian' might seem to be pagan
Most read him as monotheistic
Meaning Yitro, though not one of us, though he's foreign
Gives us reason to be optimistic...?
That non-Jews can too have connection with God
That being chosen does not mean alone
And though that lesson here might feel odd
It is quite a nice thing to know.
But still, why would this be of import
Here in this one area?
Why would Torah wish to distort
The wedding of the millenia?
Perhaps, lest we might propose
That God is ours and ours alone.
Yitro's example
Says in our relationships
With God, the Divine.
We belong to God
God does not belong to us
None can say 'God's mine'.
As I've many times said, Torah's a romance
Between Israel and her Divine
But it's worth recalling that, in this great expanse
We just cannot say 'God is mine'.
It's a moment quite strange to serve as reminder
Of the Holy One's bond with all
Perhaps it could be a tiny bit kinder
To not make us feel quite so small.
But the truth is quite wondrous as it comes to teach us
To remember, even if it hurts
That as we reach to God, and God reaches us,
Relationships always take work. Relationships always take work.

And a relationship with the Divine
With the great mystery
With what is far beyond, Other, undefined
Still requires us to look and to see
That if we put in the work we will find ...
Something beyond what we already know.
And with that, I wish you: Shabbat shalom.

Holocaust Learning UK

by Jane Harrison



Alex Gerlis with Lesley Urbach

Whenever things became unbearable, Holocaust survivor and renowned sculptor Naomi Blake remembered a tiny star she glimpsed during her darkest days.

Her memories and experiences were recalled – and in some cases recorded – by her daughter Anita Peleg who spoke movingly about her mother to students attending the Holocaust Learning UK event at Mosaic Reform on 5th February.

Naomi Blake, the youngest of ten children, was born in Czechoslovakia. Her family were moved to a ghetto, then marched to a local brick factory to later board a cattle truck to Auschwitz.

Anita said: “Every day they would hear the cries for help from the cattle trucks. There was no food or water. My mother said the cries from the children were so terrible she wanted it to end. Then out of nowhere she saw a star; a glimmer of hope so, later, whenever things got really bad, she would conjure up that image. She told me how good that star was in helping her get through in Auschwitz.”

She explained how Naomi and her sister were stripped and had their heads shaven, panicking when they thought they had been separated. She said: “They didn’t recognise each other because of their bald heads.”

But in spite of the appalling conditions, lack of food and freezing weather Anita said her mother always remained positive even commenting about the bunk beds, with no

blanket or mattress, that ‘it was OK because we can squash together to keep warm.’

Naomi and her sister were later sent to work in a munitions factory in Brahnau where they were taught how to sabotage the bombs. She said: “She was very proud that she was hurting the Germans.”

Even in their darkest moments there was some humour. When Anita asked her mother what they used to talk about it was always food. She said: “They would argue about whose cheesecake or chicken soup recipe was the best. They promised each other that, when they were free, they would always keep a loaf of bread in their bag. While maybe not a loaf, there was always food in mum’s bag.”

It was during a death march to the Baltic Sea, when Anita was sure the plan was to drown them, that Naomi with ten other women made a run for it. They found a house with lights on and food on the table ‘like a miracle’ where they stayed until Russian soldiers arrived and told them the war was over and to go to a refugee camp.

But Naomi had always dreamed of going home, which she did to discover her home in ruins. She eventually went to the then Palestine and in 1952 came to England where she became a famous sculptor. Anita said: “she didn’t speak the language, so it was a means of expression. She wanted her work not just to be a memorial to her family, but to be a positive message about the future, not to let this happen again.”

Out of 32 members of her family, by 1945 only eight

“Each one of you has a role to play in speaking out when something happens that is not right: bullying, racism, anti-semitism, picking on someone who is different. You have a choice. You can speak out or allow that which is unacceptable become acceptable.”

members remained, the rest being murdered during the Holocaust.

Naomi, a Fellow of the Royal Society British Sculptors, has over 50 works on public display including Mosaic Reform’s ark doors and a stunning piece of work at the back of the shul.

Eva Wohl was one of 10,000 children whose lives were saved because their parents were brave enough to send them away.

Her daughter, Lesley Urbach said Eva was 16 and her aunt, Ulli, 13 when they were put on the Kindertransport, with their parents paying £50 per child. Lesley said: “Ulli could not stop crying but Eva was more excited. She didn’t understand she might never see her parents again. They had one suitcase each. They could not take money. Their parents said nothing. There was nothing to say.”

Her parents, who had planned to go to Chile, were later murdered in Auschwitz in 1943.

Eva and Ulli travelled via Holland to Harwich and ended up at a convalescent home in Sussex. Lesley said the girls were well-cared for, themselves helping to look after the younger ones who were terribly homesick.

Lesley said: “It was very difficult to get news. Their parents did get a letter from them through the Red Cross, but they were only allowed 25 words. You can’t say much in 25 words.”

“What a decision to have to make, to send your children away. It was not a great experience, but certainly a better experience than for those left behind. Had my grandparents not sent Eva away I would not be standing here today.”

“I call on all of us to stand together against hatred, persecution and injustice. If each of us does one thing against injustice what a better world we would have today.”

Her words were echoed by Mosaic Reform rabbi Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton who said: “People were targeted for being different. We said never again, but other genocides have occurred since. We are asking you to listen and learn and take away the lessons of the Holocaust so something like this will never happen again.

“Each one of you has a role to play in speaking out when something happens that is not right: bullying, racism, anti-semitism, picking on someone who is different. You have a choice. You can speak out or allow that which is unacceptable become acceptable.”

A series of workshops were held throughout the day for students from Harrow College, Harrow High School, Avanti House Secondary School and St. Dominics Sixth Form College. They explored the background to rising anti-semitism in Germany which ultimately led to the murder of six million Jews.

A film about the Holocaust and genocide throughout the world, to this day, was shown and a memorial candle and poems were part of closing ceremonies. The event was compered by Mosaic member Alex Gerlis (shown in the picture with Lesley Urbach – daughter of Eva Wohl).

Below is a small selection of the feedback cards completed by students attending the event.

“I thought your presentation was really interesting and it inspired me to look further into the Holocaust and how it affected many. I am sorry for your loss – I think you should keep inspiring others, so history doesn’t repeat.”
(Year 9, Avanti)

“Thank you for reminding me that even in the bleakest and most atrocious injustices, people have the ability to carry on living in spite of their circumstances. The human psyche is very strong.”
(Year 12, St. Dominics)

“Thank you for sharing your mother’s story – it has greatly broadened my knowledge. It has made me realise how important it is to remember the suffering people went through and how it is up to us to stop this from ever happening again.”
(Year 12, St. Dominics)

“Dear Leslie, Thank you for the presentation – it must have been very hard just thinking about the events being a Jew yourself, much less speaking about it to a bunch of year 9 kids who might react in a rude way to your story. I’m incredibly sorry that such a horrific event happened to your family and your people. I hope you continue giving stories to other people my age. I hope that history doesn’t repeat itself.”
(Year 9, Avanti)

“I’ve always looked-up to people who have survived wars and especially those who come forward and speak about it. I learned a lot today and I wish to do something nice, to honour those brave people who’s lives got ruined because they were from a different race or religion. I hope your words inspire many more.”
(Year 9, Harrow High)

Working for our community

The following review of their recent activities was received from the Board

Rarely in living memory has there been such a sustained period of national turmoil in this country. Uniquely, this coincided with an upsurge of anti-Jewish racism which has caused huge anxiety throughout the Jewish community. Needless to say, the end of 2019 and the beginning of this year has been one in which Board honorary officers and staff have been working at full capacity in order to deal with the issues of concern to Jews in the UK.

The central event in this cycle was the General Election. It was the third in the last five years and The Board had been on high alert for much of the autumn. Within weeks we had finalised an updated version of the Jewish Manifesto. We wrote to candidates in all constituencies around the country asking them to sign up to the Ten Commitments, which gave the politicians a distilled version of the community's priorities. Dozens got in touch with the Board to let us know that they supported the commitments in full.

Running concurrently with the election campaign has been the ongoing antisemitism crisis in Labour, which became one of the key issues for Jewish voters. Following Labour's defeat and the announcement of Jeremy Corbyn's resignation as leader, the Board produced Ten Pledges on antisemitism, designed to give a route-map for the new party leader to rid the party of the disease of Jew-hatred. All leadership candidates had signed up to the pledges within days although, disgracefully, deputy leadership candidates Richard Burgon and Dawn Butler refused to align themselves to these basic steps to combat racism.

The 10 Pledges have become a pivotal part of the campaign and have been cited by all the leadership candidates. The Board is shaping the debate over antisemitism and, most importantly, showing the way forward for the next leader. We may have harsh words to say about the disgraceful lack of action to expel antisemitism from Labour, but we also have a constructive role to play.

The Labour antisemitism crisis provided the backdrop to the appearance of former Prime Minister Tony Blair at the Board President's dinner in November. Mr Blair, in conversation with TV journalist Natasha Kaplinsky, told

a packed audience "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."

Home Secretary Priti Patel was also a guest at the dinner. She said the Board was "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." The video played to guests that night, which is has since been released via YouTube, was a departure for the Board. This included actress Tracy-Anne Oberman's personal reflections on the impact that antisemitism has had on her life. Other interviewees, including Rachel Riley, Lord Mann and Dame Louise Ellman, also voiced their deeply concern about Jew-hatred and why they believe we need to act against the racists.

Amid the turmoil of a General Election, we had the happy privilege of helping with the organisation of the Prince of Wales' pre-Chanukah reception at Buckingham Palace. [see article in January issue – ed]. Around 400 guests were invited, with the focus on those who, through their community work and volunteering efforts, make a huge contribution to their communities. In his speech, the Prince of Wales commented on his decision to hold the reception. He said: "If I may say so, Ladies and Gentlemen, I see this as the least I can do to try to repay, in some small way, the immense blessings the Jewish people have brought to this land and, indeed, to humanity."

[The Manifesto, the Pledges and the video referred to in the piece can all be found via the Board website]

Pesach Message – Nissan 5780

by Board president - Marie van der Zyl

Pesach is a poignant time of year for all of us. It is the moment when we reflect both on the suffering of our ancestors in Egypt and also celebrate their freedom from Pharaoh.

For many years, we have lived free and safe lives as Jews in the UK. However, the antisemitism crisis in Labour has given Pesach an extra level of significance. For the first time I can remember, anti-Jewish racism has been at the front and centre of British politics. Heading into a General Election last December, it is not overstating matters to say that many in our community were feeling real anxiety, and, in some cases, even fear, over our future.

The Labour leadership election will be decided shortly before the start of Pesach. We are hoping that this moment will be a turning point for the party. This is the reason that, in January, we produced our Ten Pledges for Labour Leadership and Deputy Leadership candidates. The pledges identify the ten key points we believe Labour needs to sign up to in order to begin healing its relationship with the Jewish community.

This relationship, once rock solid, has been all but destroyed. It will take leadership, commitment and, most importantly, action. We expect that those seeking to move the party forward will openly and unequivocally endorse these Ten Pledges in full, making it clear that if elected as leader, or deputy leader, they will commit themselves to their full implementation.

We have been encouraged that all the leadership candidates have signed up to the pledges (although, disgracefully, deputy leadership candidates Richard Burgon and Dawn Butler refused to accept them). We are also hugely encouraged by the massive media coverage the pledges have received and the way they have compelled candidates to confront the antisemitism in their party.

Of course, antisemitism is not just a problem for Labour. We engaged with all the major parties during the election campaign when candidates made antisemitic statements or posts. We will continue to call out racism, wherever it comes from and whenever it happens, in a completely even-handed way.

Those who know the Board of Deputies will understand we are not a single-issue organisation. We exist to ensure that the UK's Jewish community can live freely, happily and continue to practise our traditions.

We are working to ensure that the Jewish community's interests are protected after Brexit, whether that is safeguarding UK-Israel trade, carrying over to UK law EU sanctions on groups like Hamas, or guaranteeing the same or better access to Kosher meat.

We are passionate about protecting our religious freedoms, whether the right to circumcise our baby boys in accordance with our tradition or to ensure that employees are able to take time off for Jewish festivals and follow their Jewish traditions within the law.

Through Pikuach, we supervise religious education in Jewish schools, and we travel the country with the Jewish Living Experience exhibition, educating non-Jewish children and adults about our way of life.

We engage with Government ministers, MPs, local councillors, diplomats, faith leaders and with a huge variety of public bodies on behalf of the community we represent.

This festival of freedom reminds us how our ancestors suffered. It is our aim to ensure that our generation of Jews continues to live safely and happily.

Wishing you all a Chag Kasher ve-Sameach,

HaMakom – Report on recent happenings at the Mosaic religion school

by co-headteachers Toria Bacon and Viki Kenton

Resilience Workshop

For the first time at HaMakom, we held an intergenerational workshop based around resilience. It was arranged and run by Sharon Daniels, who is the Wellbeing and Inclusion Manager for Reform Judaism. The other panellists were Jessica Overlander Kaye - the Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner at JCOS, Michael Benjamin a mental health coordinator and Ronit Gerber, an educator, coach and mentor.

It was a fabulous event that both children and adults thoroughly enjoyed.

Succot And Simchat Torah

This year the children celebrated Succot and Simchat Torah in their communities. There were lovely activities and the end result were two beautifully decorated succahs.

Mitzvah Day

This year the children had as much fun as ever doing good deeds for the wider community. The activities were run at Kol Chai and it was a very lovely morning. The children made fruit kebabs and took them round to The Haven for their elderly residents. They also filled bags with vital toiletries, which will be handed out to the homeless.

Chanukah Party

We ran a super exciting Chanukah party at HaMakom this year with a giant bouncy castle and a football shootout! The children all had a fabulous time, made even better by ending with hotdogs and chocolate coins; what was not to love?

KT Trip

The older children at HaMakom (pictured) went on a thought-provoking and exciting trip to Amsterdam, accompanied by Rabbi Kathleen and head-teacher Toria. They visited the Holocaust Museum and Deportation Centre (Dutch Theatre), where a short memorial service was held, the Anne Frank House, Esnoga - the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue and the Jewish historical Museum. The children were all very well-behaved and made us feel very, very proud.

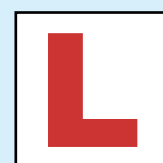
Thank you very much to The Sidney Fenton Trust who helped make this trip possible.



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CST wishes our whole community a safe and enjoyable Pesach

CST wishes all British Jews a safe and enjoyable Pesach.

At CST, our mission is to protect every shul and every community. We do this in partnership with you, because security depends upon everybody playing their part. Your local CST volunteer team needs you to sign up and join it; and everyone should be aware of their surroundings, knowing how to react should anything happen.

We wish that none of the security was necessary, but last year showed, yet again, that whilst terrorism is exceptionally rare, it sadly does happen and it can occur anywhere.

Last Yom Kippur, the synagogue in Halle, Germany, was attacked by a terrorist. He tried to shoot his way into the building but failed because the door had been closed. The rabbi and the congregation had followed the simple security instruction of shutting the door behind them. This saved many lives inside the shul service, but the terrorist killed a passer-by in the street outside, before then killing a customer in a nearby kebab shop.

On the last day of Pesach, a terrorist attacked the synagogue in Poway, California, killing one congregant and wounding others, including the rabbi.

Here in the UK, the most serious recent attack was in July 2018, against Britain's third oldest synagogue, in Exeter. A man attempted to burn it down and tried repeatedly to smash a window that the shul had strengthened, using CST advice and CST funding. When the glass at last partially broke, he poured petrol in as best he could, setting it on fire, but failing to destroy the shul.

The German, American and UK attacks were against relatively small Jewish communities, but the attackers knew them as being their nearest synagogues. The door being closed in Halle saved lives. In Exeter, the shul was protected because the community and CST had worked together, exactly as CST does with hundreds of others across the country.

This is why CST wants every community and every shul to work with us, to be aware of security and to join local CST security teams.

We do this because we want our local communities and shuls throughout the country to thrive, leading a full and confident Jewish life. Thank you and we wish you, your families and communities well over Pesach.

www.cst.org.uk [Community Security Trust](#) [@CST_UK](#)

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A Working Life

A Portrait of Woolfie Heymann

by Jane Harrison



Pictured: Woolfie and Marie Heymann

Woolfie Heymann's working life has ranged from working on aircraft parts, steelworks, offshore platforms and even a derelict pool at Buckingham Palace.

He has lived in Botswana, Denmark and Brazil and even had to learn Portuguese to further his career, but this stalwart of Mosaic Reform just puts his expertise down to sheer hard graft.

Now 95, he started his engineering career as an apprentice, aged 17, working for Siemens when he worked on equipment for coal mines, industrial x-ray machines etc.

"We also didn't have skilled glass blowers here at the time, so we had to get people from occupied Holland to blow our glass tubes for our X-rays machines"

As Woolfie was smart he was always given more responsibility, in spite of his youth. He said: "I often worked 12 hours a day, sometimes seven days a week and then went to night school to study. I slept three hours a night. You just got used to it.

"Being more educated, I never had to fetch the tea. I ended up as a superior apprentice. I was treated really

well. The others had to fetch rags to wipe oil off. I would be attached to heads of department."

He qualified in 1947 and started working for a water treatment company in research and development. This led to the visit to Buckingham Palace.

He said: "We had to re-install the water softening plant for this derelict pool. No one had used it for ages. I don't think anyone liked to swim. Of course, the security was nothing like it is today. They just knew I was coming, and I walked in."

He then worked for United Dairies and designed bottle-filling and -washing machinery in the days when bottles were recycled. Woolfie said: "If a bottle didn't last at least 30 times, they would be uneconomical."

He then changed career to design the installation and operation of iron and steel works all over the world.

Then followed perhaps his highlight when he and his wife, Marie, spent three years in Africa, working on the largest copper-nickel mining plant in Botswana. He said: "It was very successful, but you also have to build the infrastructure. It was interesting, but very hard work. You were

"I often worked 12 hours a day, sometimes seven days a week and then went to night school to study. I slept three hours a night. You just got used to it"

never free. The client expects you to work 24 hours a day. They own you.

He stressed how important it was to keep your family together. He said: "The majority of people who didn't go with their wives broke up.

"We lived in Johannesburg and we had a great time. We were very popular because we had a pool. Johannesburg was a very liberal city with a big Jewish community. I was involved in the shul within 30 seconds of arriving and chatting with the rabbi. I was immediately asked to take the service and get involved in the music and Marie ran the Judaica shop."

He knew it was time to go home when his daughter came home from school with a history book naming the three 'greatest people in history' as Julius Caesar, Napoleon and Hitler.

He then returned to Europe and joined John Brown and was heavily involved in the offshore industry designing and installing a great number of platforms all over the world. He was a senior planning and cost controller for the various projects and usually a nominated contract engineer, responsible for the planning for both fabrication and installation offshore.

Woolfie then spent time in Denmark, this time helping to design and install the country's first offshore platform, with Marie going out frequently. "I was always the second or third in command."

The couple then spent three years in Brazil, with Woolfie doing similar work. He said: "Marie was thrilled because she had always wanted to go there for a holiday, so she got her wish."

"That was very interesting work and Brazil was wonderful; a nation bursting with life with lovely people. We had to learn Portuguese, which was fine, except our lessons were at 6.30 am."

One of the founder members of Mosaic Reform, Woolfie has held most roles, including president and chairman. He also ran cheder classes many years ago and still sings in the choir, which he founded.

Always forthright in his views, he is ambivalent about the move. He said: "We need to move because we are not getting the members, but the new building will be harder for us personally to get to."

Married for 68 years, he and Marie, who live in Kingsbury, have two daughters - Anita and Lilian - (both brought up in MNS) and four grandchildren.

Mosaic Reform - 60 years project

Mosaic Reform Synagogue is putting together a special photo book to record the progress of our synagogue since its birth 60 years ago. As part of the project we would like to include as many photos as possible of current members, young and old. Some have been already taken but other members who wish to submit photos to be considered for the book should do so before April 29th. We require head and shoulder, passport-type photos of individuals (not groups). Please scan and send by email to **office@choosemaisai.org**, or by post to the synagogue.

Desert Island Discs

Jane Prentice



Most of my choices are from school days and university as I am afraid nothing has made my charts since the 1970s!

I have chosen discs that either have personal memories or will cheer me up in my desert island solitude, or both.

1. The Boxer – Simon & Garfunkel: Back to school and student days, and our youth group singing loudly in the buses on the YASGB tour around Israel, after A levels – happy days.

2. Time in a Bottle – Jim Croce: What a beautiful voice and melody, and you just have to read the words of this song to know why I chose it. Memories of first meeting Nick who introduced me to this song and many more

'If I could save time in a bottle
The first thing that I'd like to do
Is to save every day
'Til eternity passes away
Just to spend them with you'

3. So Long Marianne – Leonard Cohen: Again from school and student years, I adore his gravelly voice and I chose this particular track, after visiting a wonderful LC exhibition in New York last year, and reading more about this relationship – a story of enduring love between Leonard Cohen and his Norwegian muse, Marianne Ihlen

4. Planet Suite – Elgar: incredibly stirring music, covering seven movements and planets, with vibrant memories of many happy evenings as a teenager "promming" at the Royal Albert Hall (after queuing for hours). Nowadays, buying seats online, in advance! The concept of the work is astrological and the movements play on emotions in

very different ways; from the rhythmic drum beats of Mars (bringer of war) to the other-worldly, mystical music of Neptune (the mystic) and the rather eerie music of Venus (bringer of peace). Something for all moods on the island!

5. Blowin' in the Wind – Bob Dylan: Lyrics are important to me (as well as the music) and I think Dylan's work encompasses both. A Nobel laureate for literature, Dylan's (lack of) voice and poignant words have always impressed me and he uses language to try and influence people to think about the world – 'how many times can a man turn his head and pretend that he just doesn't see?' 'I grew up with this song and feel it is still prescient at this time of environmental and general world problems.

6. Wonderful Tonight – Eric Clapton: Another favourite of Nick's and mine – I love Clapton's voice (we saw him recently and he still has the same guitar playing magic) I could easily have chosen many of his, for example 'Layla' from his Derek and the Dominoes days, but I love these words – I suppose, I am a romantic at heart!

7. Pavane For a Dead Princess – played by Julian Bream and John Williams: evocative and peaceful music, either to just enjoy or to reflect and ponder the universe. It is a sad refrain, but at the same time lifts the spirit

8. Les Miserables – musical soundtrack: this is a slight cheat, as I would like the whole soundtrack of this, my No. 1 favourite musical. I don't sing in the shower, but if I did, it would be these tunes. Lots of happy memories of seeing 'Les Mis' (many times) with family and friends. Philippa and Kate made the mistake of buying this for me one birthday and then had to suffer the tracks being ruined by me singing along on their school runs! [Continued on page 30 >>](#)

Anne Frank inspired Nelson Mandela



Michael Italiaander at work



The finished Anne Frank – Nelson Mandela portrait

The following is an abridged version of a Press Release dated 20th January. Michael Italiaander is, of course, the father of Mosaic Masorti member (and creator of most of the 'seasonal' front page designs) Gary.

On the eve of the 75th Anniversary of the Holocaust, an important new painting by artist Michael Italiaander – commissioned by the Anne Frank Trust UK – depicts how Anne Frank's diary affected Nelson Mandela.

An important new work of art has been created for education, at a time when hate crime around the world grows in a most alarming way.

The artist – Michael Italiaander – has a truly unique story. His parents were both from Amsterdam but met in London where he was born in 1923. At the age of around three years he started painting and drawing, which led to art college and then to him becoming (most likely) the youngest propaganda artist in the UK during WW2, creating paintings that recorded wartime missions for the Ministry of Information. He was then a member of the British forces serving in the 8th army in the Middle East before returning home to continue his service in Army Education.

Throughout the main period of his working life, Michael was Creative Director for major advertising agencies, as well as working as an illustrator. He has created many significant works of art and his painting of HRH Prince Edward, is in HM The Queen's private collection.

Michael has always had the belief that all people should be treated equally, whatever their race or religion.

In 2019, when the Anne Frank Trust UK became aware of Michael's background, they commissioned him to create this portrait of Anne Frank with Nelson Mandela, depicting the story of that period when Mandela was imprisoned on Robben Island. During his time in prison (and in the years ahead), Mandela read and was inspired by Anne Frank's Diary.

Michael commented: "The design of the painting is based on the effect Anne's words have on Mandela. He reads her diary and sees how the tragedy that was hers was also his. RACISM – that horrible curse that so many people have. Whatever the level of racism, whether turning people into murderers or just, a lesser 'mild' racism, it is all unacceptable.

Hatred of the way that God made us, is totally wicked. God produced a variety of people, of animals, of plant life, of weather. After all, if there was no wind, seeds would just drop instead of being scattered in all directions. That is just one of the incredible gifts given to us but, like all gifts, it's how we use them. Being decent to one another is not difficult. In fact, there is nothing like it to make us feel good!"

The painting shows Anne writing about her experiences while being hidden in the attic to avoid capture by the Nazis. Writing incredible thoughts for such a young person who should not have been placed in that terrible situation. Behind her is the line of prisoners going to their deaths. In the foreground, Nelson Mandela clutches the diary to his chest while his facial expression relives the horrible truth. The portrait is oils on canvas and measures 24" x 20".

Michael Italiaander created the painting at the age of 96 and on 8th January 2020 he turned 97, on the same day that he and his wife Doris celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary.

Mosaic Masorti starts their 20 for 2020

by Edwin Lucas

2020 is a special year for Mosaic Masorti, which many of our members still refer to as HEMS, as it is our 20th anniversary of inception. We have planned 20 events in 2020. I must be honest, as this was not my thinking but was the brain dream of our now youngest council member, Gillian Lucas. She had a vision a couple of years ago, to celebrate our anniversary. She is a HEMS babe and came to HEMS when she was a wee lass of two years of age, when we were a satellite of Edgware Masorti Synagogue. She became a regular attendee and those members from that time, will remember how she used to sort out the chumashim and siddurim and then, as she grew taller and older, she could be found in the kitchen helping with the kiddish. She did not do a lot of quality control – unlike her relative.

Gillian came up with the concept of 20 events and formed a team of volunteers to see if they could put some meat on the bones of vision. Now, as we write this article at the end of February, we have celebrated three events. The first was an Israeli style Friday night, where the home of Elaine and Simon Glass was transformed to be like an Israeli market. There were flags and bunting and it looked fabulous. Dan and Michele Honey ran the evening and we had the best attendance we have had at a Friday night for years. The evening was lovely, and everyone enjoyed Hannah Glass's cooking. Hannah is our in-house catering empresario. She has cooked for film stars on the big screen, so we feel really privileged to have her cook



1. Jo and Gidon managing the bookie department. There were no disputes
2. Looking at the form
3. Beverley and Caroline were delighted with their horse knowledge at the race night
4. Hannah, a happy director of catering at work
5. A selection of punters ready to have fun at the Bessborough Road race Meeting

a race evening, we should look at a competition for the best dressed lady at the races. The seven races were tremendous. We were lucky to have Gidon and Jo on the tote. The shul benefitted from the racing



with and for us. I use the word with, as she allowed some of the community to help her, as understudies for the Israeli event. Edwin, Elaine, Gill, Linda, Lore, Michelle, Shelley, Simon, Toni and Traci took part, and, despite their inexperience, the end-result was fabulous. Shredding lamb is an art and the trainees need more experience to be a real help for Hannah.

After the success there was the Night at the Races when Bessborough Road Synagogue had the atmosphere of Kempton or Doncaster. It was nothing like Ascot, as there were no hats worn by the ladies. David Benson and Jonathan Fenster did however look very smart in their attire – hats and all. Now, next time we run

a race evening, we should look at a competition for the best dressed lady at the races.

The seven races were tremendous. We were lucky to have Gidon and Jo on the tote. The shul benefitted from the racing

and more importantly a great evening was had by the 132 attendees. Everyone enjoyed the catering and so they should have. It was fabbydabbydoo. There was no waste and no leftovers. The fish and chips was served in special boxes and the fountains for dessert were amazing.

Our First Timer Shabbas was awesome. That is a word I learnt from our nearly Canadian relatives. It is so descriptive. We had 100 folk attending and 46 first time participants. Our thanks go to Elaine Glass, Gillian Lucas and Traci Spivack. Alan Goldner and Jonatan Fenster were also big influencers.

The age group of the 46 club, ranged from two with the Mydat twins, up to Lore Lucas who is 98 years older. The decorum was excellent, and Rabbi Natasha delivered a first also. We wondered what she could do. She came up trumps with her dvar in verse (see page 6). I will never forget Mo and Yitro.

We were delighted that Ian Morris stood in for his now late father, who was very ill in hospital. We thought about Stanley and out of sight was, in mind.

So, where next? Gillian Lucas, who was the Exel spreadsheet aficionado for the service, wants contributors to repeat their successes. The telephone is still around, and she has said she will call folk to come forward again. It would be wrong to single people out as everyone did so well but if your first name starts with the following letters A,B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, P, R, S and T, be prepared for a phone call. It is more personal than Facebook, email or texting.

By the time Pesach comes we will have celebrated another two events. There is more to come in 2020, so come along.

Passover Thoughts

by Rosemary Wolfson



Pictured: Rosemary Wolfson

the exuberance of joy
experienced with family and friends,
cinnamon balls
almond cake with jam filling,
and matzah lasagne for
mid week suppers?

And bread again -
with freedom of thought,
do people question
what is recited
towards the end of
the traditional

Passover Haggadah:
"Midian was destroyed by a
loaf of barley bread, measuring
an Omer on Passover"?

Hearty brown cedar wood -
the sharpness of multigrain!
Do we want freedom from
this lovely brown bread?

Or celebrate Israel's
feast of redemption with
its promise of
great days of liberty
to those who still chafe
under the yoke of oppression, or
just maintain the traditional
predominant feature
of Passover:

And consideration of
the festival marking the
birth of the Jewish people
which is frequently emphasised in
the Torah,
drinking four cups of wine,
and thinking of
the four sons each with
their predicaments.

Also freedom,
liberty, independence,
an unshackled people,
and being one's own master?

(But in actuality
for eight days dream
longingly for
the sweet aroma of
freshly baked bread?)

Or count ourselves lucky
that some of us live in places
where our unenslaved fathers
would be able to buy
a goat for two zuzim
without any trouble.

Wedding Stories



Read the small print!

Philip Silverton writes: When Judy and I got back from our honeymoon at the end of October 1973, we had an urgent message to contact the wedding secretary at Edgware Reform Synagogue. They had made a mistake on our Ketubah: In Hebrew, Judy had been recorded as being Yehudit ben Yacob and I was noted as being Faisal bat Emanuel (at least there was one of each sex which was the norm at the time!).

Phyllis Butchins told us to destroy the original Ketubah and she would send us a new correct version. Had we actually been married? Yes, in English law as the civil certificate was correct BUT she couldn't be sure about Jewish law (or was she winding us up?).

We have never destroyed the original 'illegal' Ketubah... you never know if it might be useful (Judy has just thumped me!).



Why was I the best man?

David Lobb writes: It was 1972. The Shah was still in charge in Persia. My friend Trevor was to marry a beautiful Jewish Persian girl in Manchester. The wedding was to be a very formal affair - dinner suits for all the men and top hats for the groom and best man.

Philip (who was to be best man), Roger, Jack and I drove to Manchester the evening before the wedding. We dined out in the city centre - but on returning to the car it had been broken into and Philip's dinner suit had been stolen. ONLY THE TOP HAT REMAINED!

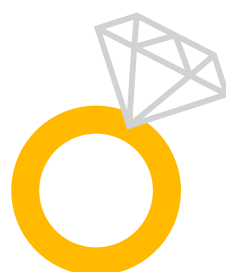
Obviously, Philip could not be best man - but somebody had to be. How to choose?

ANSWER - who did the top hat fit?

A rapid trying-on session was set up. The others all had small heads - not me - the hat fitted perfectly! So, 24 hours later I was under the chuppah - wedding ring in pocket - and top hat sitting perfectly on my balding head!

Still happily married

John Ashmele writes: Wedding car arrived late; chauffeur wanted to take photographs (No!); drove off in the wrong direction with Annette holding ribbon that came loose; car wouldn't start after chuppah; still happily married.



Best man's trousers

Edwin Lucas writes: It started on 19th August 1995 when 100 folk from London trekked to the only shul in Staffordshire for a weekend away. There are not many shul tourist attractions outside Bevis Marks, but this one was a big draw.

The bride and groom arrived safely after the groom had a puncture picking up his calle to be. Good thing they did not leave it till the last minute.

The best man was not prepared for the trip and his wife said, "David, check your suit fits". He left it late and ran into Marks and Spencer, Marble Arch to buy a new suit. He picked up a jacket and a pair of trousers and headed North. He did not try it on. Mosaic member David Lobb used to be the buyer of Mens Suits. He would have said, try it on, but David did not till Shabbas after shul. Well it was too big on the waist and way too small on the leg. What could be done? Uncle Sydney was the shul macher, the shul president, as well as local tailor, for the city. Just like Fiddler on the Roof, Uncle Sydney took his needle from his jacket and got to work on altering the trousers. A sigh of relief.

Groom's trousers

Edwin continues: T'was on 20th August, one day later, when Linda from Mosaic Masorti was a single lass, without a care in the world, having breakfast with her Uncle Sydney - same one as above - when she had a visit from her bridesmaids. They were sworn not to worry their auntie saying that Uncle

had lost his trousers. No trousers and no wearable spares, as this was a Simcha. No kilt - what was to be done? By now everyone was wondering where they were. Borrow a pair - no way, Jose. So the groom and best man went to shul in unmatching shorts. Rev Weisman, who was officiating, was not delighted. This was the first wedding at the shul in 39 years and it was going to be a wedding with an insanely different difference. Knowing of their plight, a guest told Uncle Sydney and he altered David's original trousers, so they fitted the then skinny groom. No one who did not know knew anything. The wedding went ahead...



Missing Ketubah

Still Edwin continues: Now the wedding was going along fine and Uncle Sydney's son Martin, who is now shul President, prepared a guidebook of what was going on for the non-Jewish guests. Thank goodness. Then calamity hit. Where was the ketubah? Uncle Sydney thought we had brought it. Rev Weisman thought Uncle Sydney had it. Well nobody had it. Martin came to the rescue as he had printed a ketubah in the guidebook. So, the bride, groom and officiants signed the guidebook. Novel and different. They went through a signing 3 weeks later. They now have two ketubahs for the same wedding.

Car tax overdue

Another from Edwin: One of the guests discovered his car had run out of tax. Could he drive back the 150 miles? So, Marks and Spencer manager, Simon Rosenthal lent the guest his company car, so the guest could drive to Trafalgar Square and get the car tax from the only Post Office that was open.

Disasters Averted!

John Ashmele FGPT writes: At my first engagement as a Toastmaster / Master of Ceremonies at Grays in Essex it rained, and it rained, and it rained. The car park at the venue was flooded, and water was pouring into the foyer. The staff were manning the pumps and bailing out furiously, and I'm thinking "How am I getting my couple into the venue?". I retrieved the golf umbrella from my car, located the side entrance to the venue, and waited for the Couple to arrive from the church. When they arrived, I directed the chauffeur to the side entrance and escorted them to their reception, safe and dry. A disaster had been averted.

On another occasion, I deputised at short notice for a Toastmaster who was unwell. My responsibility at a wedding reception is to ensure that the banqueting room is prepared before the bridal party arrives, so I arrived early to check the top table layout against the table plan; all seemed okay. During the drinks reception I discovered that a full place setting had been laid on the top table for the Bride's eight-week old baby(!). I quickly called the Banqueting Manager, and between us we rearranged the table before I called the bridal party and guests to tables. Another disaster had been averted.

The moral of all these stories is to check, check and recheck. That is the same advice for brides AND GROOMS. Mosaic Masorti will be issuing a recheck list to their engaged couple for their big day.





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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 2021 will include The Ronson Family Community Centre, Pears Court independent living, a synagogue, specialised dementia day centre, shop, hairdressers, restaurant and wellbeing facilities.

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



Mosaic JACS



April – May 2020

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 synagogue for further details.

Tuesday 21st April

Making the BBC News – Rob Nothman, Journalist

Tuesday 5th May

5 days in Warsaw – David Harris

Tuesday 19th May

Agatha Christie, Queen of Crime – Nick Dobson

A Concert

By the London Jewish Male Choir

Sunday evening May 24th

Conductor: Joseph Finlay

Soloist: Yoav Oved

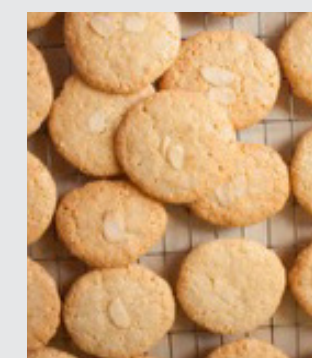


Further details to follow but do 'Save the Date'

Please join Judy Silverton

Baking Pesach biscuits

Using family-favourite recipes



Thursday, 2nd April 9.30am

Contact Ann in the office if you can come. You only need to bring an apron and some digital scales (if you have them)

Film Mosaic

Sadly, there will be no presentation in April, as the projectionist/archivist is away.

Joint Study session

Sunday 29th March 7.30 pm



Rabbi Kathleen and Rabbi Natasha are delighted to invite you to their first joint study session.

For further details please see the website or contact the office on 020-8864 0133

Friendship Club

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

APRIL

- 6th** Return visit of Gemma Turner
- 13th** Bank Holiday – NO CLUB
- 20th** Bill Smith entertains
- 27th** Singer Julia K

MAY

- 4th** Bank holiday – CLUB CLOSED
- 11th** Alec Samos
- 18th** Gayathrie and Bill Patrick
- 25th** Bank holiday – CLUB CLOSED

Meet the Authors

plus cookery demonstration

Tuesday 26th May at 3pm

Jackie Rose (general practitioner) and Judi Rose (chef and food writer) talking about, and demonstrating from, their new healthy Jewish cookery book 'To Life : Healthy Jewish Food' Further details to follow.

Save the date and watch out for future booking information



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Mosaic Moments

Scott and Alexis Buchan Wedding

Alexis Buchan writes: It meant so much to Scott and myself that Kathleen was able to play a part in our wedding. Her kind words will always be remembered. The magical wedding reception and dinner hold some of the most precious memories: the beautiful, heart-warming speeches, the romantic photoshoot, the fun and laughter filling the room and simply being surrounded by family and friends who celebrated with us. Not to forget our gorgeous son Ezra, who also played an important part in our wedding.



Alex Landau Bar Mitzvah

Alex Landau writes: My Barmitzvah was the most incredible and special event of my life. I loved every single second of it from the service at shul to the party the following evening.

Standing on the Bimah, with my new blue Talit on and with Rabbi Kathleen and Stefan beside me, felt so uplifting. Being called up to the Torah and singing my Maftir is definitely one of the most memorable moments of all.

I loved my party too, especially when I sat on the chair and I was launched up in the air! I loved being able to see all my friends and family, gathered in one room, celebrating with me.

Ursula Gross' 100th birthday

Queen for the day. Mosaic Liberal's Ursula Gross celebrated her 100th birthday in style surrounded by cards, including one from the Queen, flowers and a giant balloon. Among the many well-wishers were Ursula's two daughters, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



An abundance of Shehechyonus

by Edwin Lucas

Reaching 100 is a milestone for one and all. The day is special and to reach 100 in good health is something we all crave for. Mosaic Masorti member Lore Lucas reached 100 years of age in January. There used to be an expression that life begins at 40. In her case it is a bit later. She has had a number of Shehechyonus to take part in and is being challenged to do 100 in her 100th year. That is a tall order.



Lore Lucas and friend

Shehechyonu 1

Lore had a great birthday and was joined by the queen in not the form she had expected, at Elton Hall where she moved to from Glasgow at age 99. She had a great day and was delighted that Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg – the Senior Rabbi of the Masorti Movement, whom she has known since he was a bairn, could come along. The deputy Lord Lieutenant came too, to add gravitas and brought along a telegram from the Queen.

Shehechyonu 2

When Rabbi Natasha, the Mosaic Masorti rabbi comes for shabbas to HEMS, she is always there for havdalah. In January, after Lore's three figure birthday, Rabbi Natasha went to Elton Hall to lead Havdalah. This was a first for Lore as she had never been to a havdalah service in her 100 years. It was a first for Rabbi Natasha too, as she had never been to Elton Hall and Elton Hall had never seen havdalah carried out before. It was a great success. The three-wick candle performed magnificently and some of the residents were worried about the smoke alarm going off, as the candle shone bright with might and it was amazing. The evening celebrants were supported by Ann Simon, Traci and Richard Buchalter, Rachel Kalb and Lore's family from the community. Ann met a former colleague at the event, whom she had not met for many years.

Shehechyonu 3

Lore went to the races. She knew what a horse looked like but had never seen horses run before. Her granddaughter

Gillian is on the Mosaic Masorti Council and as a congregational motivator for the shul's 20th anniversary, had organised a race outing with a difference. Lore did not have to brave the cold, or the rain, or do lots of walking, as she could sit at her table and, just like the Queen, could watch the races from the comfort of her special seat. It was a shame that Mosaic HQ does not have any boxes. Is this something for the new building on Stanmore Hill? Just like the Queen, Lore had people come to say hello and chat to her about the form of the horses. Sadly, their advice was not the best but Chanan Shuall and David Bright from Mosaic Masorti did do well on the night.

Shehechyonu 4

Took place at a Shabbas service in shul. Our readers will not think that is surprising, as shul is a place for celebrating special occasions and communally reciting the Joint Chair's favourite brocha. This Shabbat was different, as it was Mosaic Masorti's first timer's shabbat. Well, what is so special about that? This shabbat had 46 shehechyonuisters – new word, and it was so special. There is a separate article about it in the magazine. Lore, who is not a regular shul attendee, was asked by her granddaughter, if she would like to take part at the event and, as she is feeling so much better within herself, agreed. She was called up to the Torah for the first time in her life. Alan Goldner, who called her up, said that it was not just a shehechyonu for Lore but also for the community, as the community had never called up someone before who was over 100 years of age. Rabbi Natasha smiled as she said it was amazing to hear the brochas these days in Ashkenazi style. The tree does not shed apples far from it and why should she be surprised as the apple can only do Ashkenazi. Lore was loud, crisp and accurate and was very much part of the success of the day.

There will be other Kehila's during the year and we wonder what other shehchyonus will come to pass. We cannot imagine abseiling or bungee jumping!

Book, Film and Theatre review

by Elise Italiaander



Elise Italiaander BA MA was a member of HEMS for many years and works in the publishing world. Her first job was with Audible, the audio book specialists, and she now works for DK as a specialist developing an audio section for them.

Welcome to 2020! A New Year and with it, New Year's Resolutions. I've challenged myself to read 40 books this year (though I'm hoping to exceed this), visit the theatre more than I already do and watch everything I want to watch, of which there are a lot, of TV shows and films piquing my interest! So, this time I'm going to give you a recommendation for each.

The Wreckage

by Robin Morgan-Bentley

First time crime writer Robin Morgan-Bentley's first book, *The Wreckage*, is a must read.

I'll admit, I'm lucky enough to call Robin my friend. We worked together during my time at Audible; I started in 2013 and Robin in 2014 and by 2015 we were working together on the Content team. I looked after the relationships with the publishers relying on us to sell their audiobooks by working closely with the merchandising, social media, marketing and PR teams, and Robin managed the additional promotion, including interviewing authors and narrators and creating bespoke videos. Doing this, we both gained knowledge on what books sell well. One day Robin told me he had an idea for a story that wouldn't leave him,

and he just had to write it. I told him he should. And he did. He was disciplined and determined and I'm so proud that he is able to share *The Wreckage* with the world.

This is a gripping crime thriller with an intriguing protagonist at its heart. For Ben, it's just like any other day; he's driving on the motorway, on his usual commute to the school where he works. A day like any other, except for Adam, who in a last despairing act jumps in front of Ben's car and, in killing himself, turns the teacher's world upside down. Wracked with guilt and desperate to clear his conscience, Ben develops a friendship with Alice, Adam's widow, and her seven-year-old son, Max. But as he tries to escape the trauma of the wreckage, could Ben go too far in trying to make amends?

Written with dual narration - hearing Alice's point of view as well as Ben's - Robin is able to perfectly show the two perspectives of these characters, exploring the vulnerabilities of two flawed individuals and what happens when three broken people's lives collide in the most tragic of ways.

Although I no longer work at Audible, Robin and I have remained good friends and he invited me to the launch party at the beginning of February. It's been amazing to see the reviews coming in and to know that other people are enjoying his book as much as I did!

"A genuinely original musical that is full of heart, truth and emotion. Come From Away is in a category of its own"

Little Women

Directed by Greta Gerwig

On a completely different note, my film recommendation, which also happens to be a book adaptation, is *Little Women*. Although this has been adapted before, the 2019 film is beautiful and well worth a watch.

First published in 1868, *Little Women* is a classic American feminist novel, highlighting the tension between cultural obligation and artistic and personal freedom.

Following the March family, Jo is the protagonist of the novel though not the eldest of the four sisters. Second eldest, she is determined to be a writer despite the limitations that women faced at the time and the temper that gets her into trouble on occasion.

Not swayed by anything conventional, like romance, she strikes up a beautiful friendship with the boy next door, Laurie. Laurie is soon welcomed into the March family despite the class differences; Laurie comes from a rich family while the Marchs have just enough to be comfortable. When the girls begin to complain about this, their mother, Marmee, reminds them of those less fortunate and to be grateful. *Little Women* is filled with beautiful morals and many important life lessons.

Meg, the eldest sister, is responsible, kind, gentle, loving and moral, despite occasionally wanting a few luxuries in life. Beth, second youngest, is quiet, virtuous and the musician of the family; 'she is the best of them'. And last but not least, the youngest daughter is Amy, who is the artist of the family. She is also the vainest of the four sisters, though she does her best to improve herself.

Played by Saoirse Ronan we have the Independent, tomboyish Jo; Eliza Scanlen as the delicate, loving Beth; pretty, kind Meg is Emma Watson; and the baby of the family, precocious, beautiful Amy is played by Florence Pugh. Directed by Greta Gerwig - who also directed *Ladybird* in her solo directorial debut in 2017 - this stunning film was nominated for six Oscars in 2020, of which it won one. It was also nominated for two Golden Globes, five Baftas (they won one) and many more awards to boot! It is a really feel-good, must-watch film.

Come From Away

Phoenix Theatre

And, last but not least, my theatre recommendation. There is a lot going on in the world at the moment that is upsetting and sometimes we need reminding that humanity at its core is good, that we do incredible things and that this world is worth fighting for. *Come From Away* is an example of this.

Come From Away is a Canadian musical with book, music and lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein. It is set in the week following the September 11 attacks and tells the true story of what happened when the American airspace was closed for the first time ever and 38 planes were redirected and ordered to land unexpectedly in the small town of Gander in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. The characters in the musical are based on (and in most cases share the names of) real Gander residents as well as some of the 7,000 stranded travellers they housed and fed.

Gander is a town of 9,000 residents that nearly doubled in population overnight. For five days the town and their refugees came together in the face of this horrendous act of terrorism. With simple staging and beautiful folk music, *Come From Away* shows people from all backgrounds and walks of life dealing with the attack as a unit. A genuinely original musical that is full of heart, truth and emotion. *Come From Away* is in a category of its own.

Pesach Services

| Mosaic Masorti All services in the Girl Guide Headquarters, Hatch End at 9.30am | Mosaic Liberal All services at Bessborough Road. 1 st and 7 th day services joint with Mosaic Reform | Mosaic Reform All services at Bessborough Road |
|---|--|---|
| 1 st day Pesach Thursday 9 th April | 1 st day Pesach (joint with MR) Thursday 9 th April – 10.30 am | 1 st day Pesach Thursday 9 th April – 10.30 am |
| 2 nd day Pesach Friday 10 th April | | |
| Shabbat Chol Hamoed Saturday 11 th April | Shabbat Chol Hamoed Saturday 11 th April – 11.00 am | Shabbat Chol Hamoed Saturday 11 th April – 10.30 am |
| 7 th day Pesach Wednesday 15 th April | 7 th day Pesach (joint with MR) Wednesday 15 th April – 10.30 am | 7 th day Pesach Wednesday 15 th April – 10.30 am |
| 8 th day Pesach Thursday 16 th April | | |



Victoria de Magtige's Bat Mitzvah

Victoria de Magtige's bat Mitzvah on 7th March (on the shabbat before Purim). With Rabbi Kathleen and High Priest Aaron standing-in for Victoria's father David.

Continued from page 16 Desert Island Discs...

9. Sweet Caroline – Neil Diamond: what can I say, just typing this in lifts my spirits. Also, although no dancer, more of a couch potato, this track will get me on my feet every time.

10. Sons and Lovers – DH Lawrence (the audio book read by Sir Ian McKellan): a double delight on which to end my choices. First, the original DHL transporting me, with such beautiful prose into a different place; and with my teenage hero and absolute favourite acting voice bringing the pages to life.

Book: an easy choice, (do I have the Bible and Shakespeare, which I believe are staple items on desert islands?!) I would love the time to reread the complete works of Charles Dickens.

Luxury Item: a plentiful supply of paper and pencils. On a desert island, I would want to sketch the surroundings, design jewellery, keep a diary – and if a message in a bottle arrived, I could send a reply!



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Happy Birthday in March and April to:

Benjamin Banks, 2
Abigail Luffman, 11
Freya Luffman, 11

Celia Rutstein, 10
Archie Hipgrave 11



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open 09.00-15.00
Monday-Thursday

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office in case of need

Rites and Practices: Kevin
Ziants 07841 375458

Liberal Judaism:
020 7580 1663

Undertakers: Kings Funeral
Directors
020 8368 7453 / 07595 956 936

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Aronsfeld, communitycare@mosaicliberal.org.uk



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