



Rosh Hashanah 2020/5781

As we 'Zoom' into our New Year and hope for better things ... our new catch-phrase has become: "Can you hear me?"





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Jo Wolff

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Linda Edward on the death of her

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NEW HOME CONGRATS TO:

Sheila Morris

MOSAIC LIBERAL

Welcome to New Members: Amanda & Joseph Jaffe Yvonne Robinson

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Toby Drage

Adele Rubenstein

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

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Tessa Belling

June Cohen

Louis Davis

Toby Drage

Adele Franklin Robert Gilbert

Anne Joel

Lvnn Morby

Neil Rosen

Stephen Struminger Sylvia Vandervelde

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Muriel Brookman

June Cohen

Dennis Mitchell

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family and friends of Laurence

Stand in editor Robert Pinkus

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

Next issue

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

From the Co-Chairs of Mosaic Jewish Community

by Mark Phillips, Co-Chair

he past eight months have been the most difficult period our Community has ever faced. Almost every family in our Community has been affected by Covid and we wish long life to all who have lost loved ones. and our best wishes for a full recovery to all who are ill. What we have also seen however is the extra-ordinary way that our Community has responded to the pandemic. Ann in the Office, our Care professionals Esther and Gay, and Rabbis Kathleen, Natasha and Rachel have all put in huge effort and hours to re-imagine how to support our Community, alongside our amazing volunteers who have enabled our Community to support those in need and create a "virtual" Mosaic Jewish Community.

The pandemic is far from over but our Community is in many ways stronger than we were a year ago, despite the terrible pain many are still feeling.

As we look to the New Year we are excited by the progress with our move to a new home and the opportunities it represents for our future.

So as we enter Elul and reflect on the past year it seems appropriate for us to think about what we can learn and do

Which brings us to ask of everyone in the Community to think of one thing that you could do for the Community - that might be big or small, maybe to support our Care teams as we move into the Autumn, or in creating the next iteration of our Community in Stanmore / Bushey, or in the projects to create our New Home. Please contact us with your ideas and thoughts chair@choosemosaic.org or by phone 020 8998 7386 (Jeff) / 020 8429 1849 (Mark)

We wish you all a good, peaceful and healthy year.



"When I needed advice about end of life care for my husband, they were there"

Our Helpline can help you find the answers to the most challenging problems. We're here for the whole Jewish community in London and the South East, so if you have a question, please ask Jewish Care.

When you need help, call 020 8922 2222 or visit jewishcare.org



Chairman Mosaic Liberal's report

by Adrian Cohen

think it was four years ago that I stood down as Chair of Mosaic Liberal Synagogue after an eight-year stint and wow, a lot has happened since then. On a synagogal level we said goodbye to Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith who had been with us for over twenty years, a much beloved fixture in the community, and we are about to venture forth to Stanmore in the not-too-distant future. We have engaged a new rabbi for our community, Rachel Benjamin, and she has already proven to be the right person

for the task at hand in seeing us all through lockdown and beyond. Rachel has already endeared herself to us and we all hope that she will be with us for the longer haul.

As a society we have had to endure the bitter and divisive nature of the Brexit vote and its outcome with the huge negative impact it has already had on our economy. As a society and of course at synagogal level the impact of coronavirus has been almost overwhelming. Yet all round, both at large, and in our own way, we have found a way forward. Individuals and families have discovered new ways of living together 24 hours a day. So too have many single households, discovering the joys of walking and having the time to read and catching up on all those little jobs that we all said we would get around to one day. At Bessborough Road the office has continued to be run valiantly by our dedicated team and, apart from the



absence of congregants in the building, normal office service continues.

It has been a privilege for me personally to witness and be a part of the Blitz mentality that we have all developed. We have responded to the task and our Care Team led by Esther Aronsfeld is doing a wonderful job keeping in contact with our more vulnerable members and providing help where possible. We have established a new "normal" Shabbat service routine via Zoom on both Friday nights and

Saturday mornings and will continue to do so until such time as it will be safe to gather in larger numbers in our own small sanctuary

As I write this we are fast approaching the High Holy Days and lockdown has begun to ease. Who knows when this dreadful pandemic will be over but in the meantime we keep doing what we are doing. Maybe this journey through lockdown, Brexit, and of course the move to Stanmore appear to be a marathon effort. However as Confucius said "A journey of a thousand miles begins with but a single step". Well, the good news is that we have all covered a considerable distance since that first step in our personal and communal journey.

So to all Mosaic members, I wish you all to stay virus free and well. Happy New Year, Shana Tova.

Happy New Year

by Sandra and Bernard Fisherman

May you all have a healthy New Year
May all your wishes come true
Embrace the world with kindness
Something we all should do
Without our Schul to visit will make it hard this year
But greetings on line does seem by far
The way to wish everyone Shana Tova.



Our new home - Update

Out with the old, in with the new. Contractors have started work on the site on Stanmore Hill, earmarked as our new home.

A message from Rabbi Rachel Benjamin

Mosaic Liberal Synagogue

"This is our annual opportunity to stop and take stock – to think about the changes that have taken place over the past year, and to consider the changes that lie ahead."



שנה טובה



ne of the many things I love about the Hebrew language, is how one word can encompass many meanings, and conjure up different associations, nuances and echoes. Let's take, for example, the word ruach, which has at least three meanings – 'breath', 'wind' and 'spirit'. That makes the second verse of the book of Genesis, in which we learn that

'a ruach from God was sweeping over the water', quite a challenge to translate (and that's just that one word). So... when God was creating the world, was it God's spirit that swept over the water, or was it a wind from God, or was it God's breath?

Another example is the word for 'year', shanah. From the same root, shin-nun-hey, come words that mean 'repetition': the number 'two' in Hebrew is shnayim; and one of the rabbinic names for the book of Deuteronomy (in which Moses repeats to the Israelites the story of their journeys from Egypt to the land of Canaan) is Mishneh Torah, 'the repetition of the Torah'. That same Hebrew root, shin-nun-hey, has yet another meaning, in the verb I'shanot, which means 'to change'.

So, in that two word greeting we exchange at this season, Shanah Tovah, are not only wishes for a good year ahead, but also hints about repetition and change. Repetition – not only in the festival cycle itself, but in repeating the ancient words and messages of our tradition, we remind ourselves of its richness, and the depth and breadth of wisdom and experience of which we are the inheritors. And change – this is our annual opportunity to stop and take stock – to think about the changes that have taken place over the past year, and to consider the changes that lie ahead.

Thinking back to last Rosh Ha-Shanah, who would ever have imagined, even in our wildest dreams, the conditions



under which we are living this Rosh Ha-Shanah? The changes we have all experienced recently are unprecedented in our lifetime, and they have meant huge adjustments in our lives. This has been extremely challenging and, for some, devastating, leaving us with feelings of grief, vulnerability and insecurity.

Not being able to have physical contact with each other has meant that we have had to turn to other resources and means of keeping us all connected. We have tried to keep in touch with

all our members, by telephone, and many of us have had to learn, very quickly, technology that we had never even heard of before, such as Zoom. Nothing can beat being in the same physical space together but, as that has not been possible, modern technology has been a blessing, that has enabled us to keep our services going, as well as our regular meetings and other activities.

The High Holy Days this year are going to be very different in the way we 'get together', but we are doing our utmost to provide a meaningful experience for everyone, whether you have access to a computer, or not. We hope that the essence and spirit of the services will be as uplifting as ever

Great change has been (and continues to be) thrust upon us this year. I hope that we may all find within ourselves the strength to meet the challenge and transform it into something positive. If it means that we are a little more thoughtful, more considerate, kinder and more helpful to each other, it will not have been in vain. I hope that we may all find courage on the way, and that we may all provide comfort to each other, and gain comfort from each other.

Wishing you all a Shanah Tovah u-M'tukah – a good, sweet, healthy, peaceful and safe New Year of 5781.

רוּחַ שָׁנָה שְׁנַיִּים מִשְׁנַה תּוֹרָה לְשָׁנוֹי

Rabbi Kathleen Middleton

A Message for the New Year



וַיָקָראוּ לְפָנֵיךְ זַכִיּוֹתֵינוּ ,שֶׁתַּקָרַע רוֹעַ גָּזַר דִּינֵנוּ ,אֱלֹהינוּ וֵאלֵהי אָבוֹתֵינוּ 'יָהִי רֲצוֹן מִלְּפַנֵיךְ ה

ay it be Your will, Eternal One our God and God of our ancestors, that the evil decrees against us be ripped and that our merits are proclaimed

There is a lovely Sefaredi tradition to bring in the New Year with a Rosh Hashanah Seder in which, guite similar to a Pesach Seder, symbolic foods are eaten and special blessings are pronounced to express our hopes and wishes for the New Year ahead. The foods typically eaten are apples and honey for a sweet year, dates for peace, pomegranates for good deeds, green beans for prosperity, beetroot for freedom, leeks for friendship and a pumpkin or gourd for happiness, the last is accompanied by the blessing above.

This year, we should perhaps all create our own Rosh Hashanah Seder, to reflect the myriad of hopes and wishes we may have. Of course, each year we wish one another a good and sweet year on Rosh Hashanah in the hope that the New Year will be better than the last and that we will finally achieve to be the better selves we vouched to be. However, after the past extraordinary 6 months those wishes are sure to be more fervent and earnest than they may have been in previous years.

We do wish for the pandemic to end, life to return to prepandemic normality and restrictions to end to allow us to be the social beings we naturally are. We wish to be able to gather again in the happy and difficult circumstances of our community; to give one another comfort and friendship and the warmth of the presence of other people that human beings need. So, indeed we wish, we need, this evil decree this ro'ah g'zar dinnenu that dominated the past year to end and we hope that all the good we collectively have done - in maintaining the social responsibility in keeping the virus at bay, by supporting one another and keeping the community connected, by the enormous, invaluable amount of work and time that has been given by so many of our members in setting up and maintaining zoom meetings, in organizing, advertising and vacillating community events, in keeping in

touch with individual members and offering support - that all of this will help to successfully weather and combat this pandemic.

However, in our collective effort to keep everyone safe, (based on the overriding principle of piku'ach nefesh) this vear's Tishri festivals will be like no other as we will not be able to gather in person to worship safely. This means that our services will be online and different. It will be different because the physical nature of gathering in synagogue; the familiar music which provides the unique atmosphere of the High Holydays, the sense of anticipation and involvement created by some of the 'theatricals' of the synagogue worship surrounding the Torah services cannot be replicated on zoom. Neither can the raucous joy, the singing and dancing and the giving out of sweets at Simchat Torah with which we conclude the Tishri holidavs.

So, this year all will be different, but not necessarily lesser. Although the pandemic has caused so many losses in our lives - the loss of income, education, opportunities, experiences, special celebrations, freedoms, companionship, and for some tragically, the loss of loved ones, and on top of that the loss of opportunity to mourn them properly within the framework of our tradition - so many losses - and vet, the difference in worship we will experience these High Holydays. does not need to be a loss. For some of the losses the pandemic occasioned, it also created certain opportunities. One of these opportunities is that we have been able to enjoy unanticipated deep and meaningful connections with fellow congregants via zoom. It also offers a unique opportunity, to reconsider how we personally connect with our tradition on a much deeper level, as we now have to recreate in our own homes some aspects of what we used to get from coming to

For as we now have to join the community from our own homes, our homes become the sanctuary that we cannot visit. Our homes become our sanctuary. So, whether you are joining the service via zoom (if you have no internet connection

"If there is anything we have learned through this pandemic, it is that our homes really are our sanctuaries. This year let us truly make them so as we seek strength in our tradition, in our community and in one another."

and you would wish to, do contact the synagogue office at your earliest convenience and we will provide you with an easy to use device and instructions), or not, treat the room from which you zoom or plan to pray in as your sanctuary and let it reflect the symbolism of the day. Dress up for it as you would if you would come to shul. Dress in white or have a white backdrop for the High Holydays. Have your candles ready for the beginning of festivals and wine, challah, apples, and honey ready for the kiddush.

Gather the children around you for the family services and join in as much as you can, and make sure there are no distractions of phones and other devices around. Bring your shofar out if you have one at home and blow it when our ba'al toke'ah blows. The beauty of zoom is that, particularly when you are a little shy or haven't mastered the art of shofar blowing quite yet, it really doesn't matter as no one can hear you if you are on mute!

This sukkot, try and build your own sukkah in your backyard,

your balcony, or even in your house and decorate it as you would the synagogue's. And when we meet over zoom, zoom in from your sukkah if you can.

In times of distress we find comfort in the rituals of our tradition, and sometimes we need to create new rituals to give meaning to a world that seems devoid of meaning. Traditionally communities have always gravitated towards the synagogue as they gathered for guidance in such matters, in this extraordinary time we have to create our synagogues from our homes.

If there is anything we have learned through this pandemic, it is that our homes really are our sanctuaries. This year let us truly make them so as we seek strength in our tradition, in our community and in one another.

May this year be a year of even greater friendship, togetherness and new opportunities and above all, health, safety and peace.

I wish you all Shanah tova.

A message from Rabbi Natasha



This time of year, I am often drawn to a favourite quote of mine, which feels truer this year than ever before. The quote is from Leonard Cohen's 'Anthem':

> 'Ring the bells that still can ring, Forget your perfect offering; There is a crack, a crack in everything, That's how the light gets in.'

This year, these words remind me of the first set of tablets of the Ten Sayings. These tablets were famously shattered by Moses upon finding the Israelites worshipping

the golden calf. The Torah does not directly speak about the fate of the fragmented remains, but the Talmud draws forth from the text that they were stored in the ark of the covenant with the whole tablets. In this holiest of Jewish spaces, brokenness and wholeness sit next to one another. Our tradition does not shy away from brokenness; we consider it to be a holy part of the human experience.

May this be a sweet new year, filled with healing and love. May we joyfully ring the bells that still will ring, even (and especially) when our festivities are shifted from the usual. And may we be like Moses, lovingly collecting the broken shards along with the whole, and considering every moment holy.

Shanah Tovah.

The following reprinted Masorti article is in memory of Julie Dysch's mother, Zsuzsanna, who sadly passed away a few weeks ago.

In conversation with...

Zsuzsanna Schiller

Please tell us about your early years in Hungary

I was born in 1938 in Budapest – the only child of my parents. At the time of my birth we lived in a nice area of the city with my grandparents. My father had studied economics and was a manager of a dairy. As a younger man, he had also represented Hungary in the 1936 Olympics playing water polo. My grandparents were wholesalers and we had a large and close family. However the late 30s were dark times with Hungarian politics and foreign policy becoming increasingly pro-fascist. The fascists in Hungary were called the Arrow Cross party and it modelled itself on the German party.

So you were one year old when war was declared in 1939. How did this affect you and your family?

Well I was just a baby and can't remember very much at all, but my mother said life was difficult but manageable. From the beginning Hungary was under pressure from Germany to join the Axis which was a big worry to us all, and in 1941 Hungarian forces actually joined with the Germans in the invasion of Yugoslavia and Russia. However around this period Hungary also engaged in secret peace negotiations with the United Kingdom and USA. Regrettably Hitler found out about these talks and in 1944, German forces rode rough shod into Hungary. This was very bad news particularly for Jews who up to now had lived a relatively peaceful existence.

Was your father conscripted into the Hungarian forces?

Yes in 1943 he was put into forced labour in January 1943 and his squad was taken to Ukraine. However as luck would have it, it was noticed that he had a particular knowledge of engines, which had grown out of his love for cars. This skill was in great demand and it was agreed that he could join another squad nearer to the family home in Buda to repair vehicles.

How did life change when the Germans took control of you country?

Well firstly we had to move out of our house because the



A young Zsuzsi

Germans made declarations that all Jews had to live in yellow starred houses; we also had to wear yellow stars. The house that my family were forced to move to was very crowded with a number of families living close together. Life was not safe with Arrow Cross yobs stirring up trouble.

How long did you and your family stay in the house?

We stayed for just a few weeks before obtaining forged documents which allowed us to be located in what was known as a Wallenberg¹ safe house. This was one of several very nice blocks of flats previously owned by Jewish people. My parents thought it would be safe because it had diplomatic immunity from the Swedish Government. This was not to be, when in 1944 everyone from the block



Zsuzsi's mother, Jolan, around 1960

of flats, which now included other families, were marched with many others to the Danube. As you can imagine it was extremely frightening especially when firing broke out and people were being shot and thrown in the river.

I am not sure how long we were standing in this line but to our great surprise Raoul Wallenberg suddenly arrived in a truck. He was an amazing man who helped so many Jews. Using Swedish diplomatic immunity, he confronted the armed-to-the-teeth Nazi and Arrow Cross thugs, and after some negotiation it was agreed that several people including my mother and I should be allowed to go with him. I am sure that without his intervention of being placed in another safe house we might well have died. Swedish protection extended to approximately fifty buildings and eight thousand individuals

We had been in our new accommodation for about three weeks when my mother received a message from my father to say that he had learnt that his squad was to be sent to Germany. Not wishing to be sent out of the country he said he had escaped to a bakery where he was now in hiding. He suggested it would be safer to join him rather than stay in the Wallenberg safe house. My mother heeded his advice and we quickly joined him. I remember that the bakery was quite small and we had to spend our days living in a cellar with a very low ceiling with fifteen other Jewish people. The baker was taking a real risk hiding us and no doubt saved our lives. His actions are acknowledged at Yad Vashem as a 'Righteous Gentile'.

Can you remember being released?

I remember that I was unable to walk easily for several weeks because I had been confined to lay silently on my back in the bakery for many hours. I also recall how we lost everything and really had to start life again. Life was very difficult during the post war years, and in 1956 with anti-Semitism on the rise again, and the Russians on our 'door step', a decision was made to escape to Britain. Having arrived in England we initially found ourselves in Colchester in an army base, and then given the opportunity of moving to Wales which we gladly took. Life in Cardiff required lots of adjustments, but at last we were safe to live our lives as we wished. Looking back over the years I can recall the support of many people, Jews and non-Jews who helped us settle in – although I never quite adopted the Welsh accent!"



A young Raoul Wallenberg



Zsuzsi Schiller

How do you think your experiences have affected you?

Well I have seen the best and worst in humanity. Without Wallenberg's intervention and the baker who hid us, who knows! I have not allowed my experiences to scar the way I think. However it is important that the events I, and millions of others experienced, are not brushed away. It is crucial that young people today know about the war, and the dangers of scapegoating minority groups. In November 1985 I was invited to the tree planting ceremony for Raoul Wallenberg in Cardiff where I met the Swedish Ambassador and also spoke about my life in relation to Wallenberg on a BBC radio programme. I am someone who enjoys life to the full, and especially being with family and friends. I am also very proud of my family in Israel where my Mother spent 30 happy years and I visit my family there as often as I can.

¹Raoul Wallenberg was a Swedish businessman, diplomat and humanitarian. He rescued thousands of Jews in Nazi-occupied Hungary from the Holocaust, during the later stages of World War II. In 1944, he issued protective passports and sheltered Jews in buildings designated as Swedish territory, thus saving tens of thousands of lives.

Desert Island Discs Kevin Ziants

This month we are sending Kevin to our Island – what records will he be taking?

Free bird - Lynyrd Skynyrd

This is a song I used to play to myself when I was an independent traveller re-enforcing the feeling I'm a free as bird. The long guitar solo at the end is my forever favourite head banging piece of guitar music.

Goodbye To Love - Carpenters

The Carpenters 1969-1973 album was the first I ever bought and used to play over and over again. The last track made a major impact on me. I often played this after a major loss and gained strength from the line. "There maybe a time when I can see that I am wrong, but for now this is my song".

Roam - B52's

Another travel song I search to play from my I Tunes library when visiting an exciting unique place. The two girls sing with great gusto the line "I Roam where I want to" giving a feeling of freedom which I'm sure would comfort me on the Desert Island

If I Could Dream - Elvis Presley

There are many Elvis songs candidates. This stands out as Elvis passionately hoping the world "as a better place". True then and now something we can sometimes only dream of.

Just The Way You Are - Billy Joel

This includes my all time favourite lyrics in a song. True love is not wanting that person to change and loving them for what they are. The Line "I do not want clever conversation I don't want to work that hard" I am sure Olivia often applies to me

Don't Stop Me Now - Queen

This will always get me on the dance floor and after then "I don't want to stop at all". There have been many occasions where this song has re-energised me on a night out and would have the same effect on a Desert Island.

Erev Shel Shoshanim - Hebrew Love Song

This has been sung beautifully at the end of many of our Friday night services. It describes the changing seasons and the beauty of nature. This has regularly uplifted me on a dreary evening at the end of a challenging week.

Three Little Birds - Bob Marley

Favourite of my mother in law Mabel who I care for and is also my rock. "Don't worry about a thing everything is going to be all right".

Item to take

A bumper book of Killer Sudoku's – If I'm stuck on a Desert Island with the accompanying above music I will need my mind exercised to help me forget about the reality. I can get lost in the devilish challenges of the potential sums and filling a Sudoku grid. If I mess one up, I will await my next challenge.

Sharing Our Hobbies

Photography

by Jackie Jacobs

hat an interesting afternoon it was as we heard how both the professional and amateurs approach photography. On Sunday afternoon, 21st June, Pat Zatz, David Ruback and Gary Italiaander illustrated and told us about their different methods.

Keeping in mind a particular theme

is often a good approach as well as experimenting with the different settings on cameras and smartphones. These can produce quite dramatic effects. Digital cameras and photo enhancing software have changed the approach used by so many. But it was very obvious that it was how you viewed



the subjects you were photographing that was important. And, of course, having a steady hand to create that really special photo.

The talk certainly made me want to get out my camera and start taking more photos with perhaps a better understanding of how to look and see what it was I wanted to capture. The bonus of this talk was the fact all the

different groups that make up Mosaic were able to come together in such an easy way.

Our thanks go to Pat, David and Gary for a very interesting afternoon illustrated by excellent photos outlining their passion for good photography.

Ceremony of the Thirteen Candles

he Ceremony of the Thirteen Candles is a wonderful way for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah to acknowledge and honour the important people in their lives. The ceremony requires a cake with 13 unlit candles, and up to ten guests, who have been offered the mitzvah of lighting one or more candles. Each candle represents a particular attribute of a Jewish person: Shalom/Peace, Chochmah/Wisdom, Emet/Truth, etc.

As the name of a guest who has been offered the mitzvah is called, that person lights a candle on the cake. The last three candles representing Devotion, Parental Love, and The Future are lit by the Bar/Bar Mitzvah and the parents. When all the candles are lit, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah makes a wish, blows them out and cuts the cake.

Please contact John Ashmele if you wish to discuss your Bar/Bat Mitzvah.



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Meet the Glass family

by Gillian Gurner



hose of you who have enjoyed HEMS Friday nights with the Glass family know how committed they are to our community. You've experienced Elaine's welcoming warmth, heard Simon leyning in shul as well as helping congregants during the services in his role as Senior Warden, and sampled Hannah's culinary skills. But I wanted to know more about them.

So, on a sunny morning, after a guided tour of their lovely garden to show me the vegetables and flowers of which Simon is justifiably proud, we talked about their lives.

Elaine hails from Neasden and Simon from Willesden. They met at a young age when Elaine was a cheder pupil and Simon was a teacher at the cheder. As well as teaching, Simon also leyned at the Neasden Ahavat Shalom Federation Synagogue where Elaine's parents were founder members in order to fund his passion for flying lessons. Fast forward a few years, they were at a mutual friend's 30th birthday party (that friend was David Ross) and recognised each other. Simon asked Elaine out and soon proposed (some three months later) to beat off the competition from

Elaine's other suitors! They were married in November of that year at Neasden Synagogue and moved to Northwood, then to Pinner, eventually moving to Hatch End about 20 years ago

Elaine studied law and qualified as a solicitor specialising in litigation and then professional negligence. After Ben was born, Elaine set up a Learning & Development department, training lawyers in the area of solicitor's negligence. Her career gradually moved into the field of Training and, ultimately, into Human Resources following a return to University to gain a master's degree in human resource management. Throughout her career she has specialised in working for small-to-medium sized businesses going through high growth and this has taken her into a variety of different industries including financial and professional services, travel, design and even make up! She is now HR Director of a media support company, a job she started a few weeks ago. If that's not enough, Elaine is an adviser for Resource, is a trained mediator and career counsellor as well as teaching the HR Diploma to adult students. And

"Simon asked Elaine out and soon proposed (some three months later) to beat off the competition from Elaine's other suitors!"

that's without all the work she does for our community.

Simon studied physics and electronic engineering at Manchester University. His first job as an engineer was with the BBC, which included being a researcher on (and appearing on the credits for) a TV series that launched the BBC's microcomputer. After five years, he joined Amersham International before becoming a milkman during a brief period of career indecision. Decision made, he became a maths tutor which led to a new career as an Oracle consultant, working in major national and international companies. His work has taken him to Europe and India (Simon treated me to his knowledge of Hindi) and has gained a good reputation (and won awards) in the small sector in which he works.

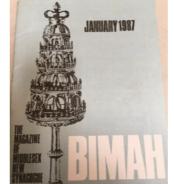
They are, of course, very proud of their children and their achievements. Ben, born in 1991 (to the sound of bells, not ringing out for him, but to welcome home John McCarthy) is a qualified Accountant. He made Aliyah in January, has completed ulpan and now works at an accountancy firm in Tel Aviv. Ben loves keeping fit, music and watching Watford play (but only when they're winning, which isn't often these days!). He has worked as a youth leader and is an ardent supporter of various charities, in particular, GIFT and Camp Simcha. Hannah, born in 1994, runs her own successful private dining business after completing a business degree at Birmingham university, and then becoming a prize winning Diploma student at Leith's School of Food and Wine

So how did they come to HEMS? Well, they were both members of CRAC, a charity group, of which the Rosses were members and they coaxed Elaine and Simon to join the new HEMS as founder members. They were impressed by the friendly atmosphere and the inclusion of women was important to Elaine, who joined the Council immediately. I first met Elaine when I joined the walking group, preparing for the Moonwalk and then worked with her when she edited the HEMS magazine, making a giant leap to take it from a news bulletin to the award winning magazine it became, setting the gold standard for other synagogues' publications. Currently, Elaine is on the 2020 committee and provides HR support to Mosaic.

Simon has also been on the Council and has been a Trustee for last four years. He is a Senior Warden, actively involved in CST for security and ensures we have a minyan by attending services consistently. He was a regular volunteer with Crisis and is an advocate and passionate supporter of the homeless. He is a keen cyclist and has recently revisited his passion for flying. His other passion is his garden with a desire to grow a prize-winning vegetable!

They both see Mosaic as an ambitious project to create an energetic and diverse community with a fixed home; building on the resources of all our communities, to make us stronger and provide a richer community experience. They are very much looking forward to being part of this.

Mosaic Reform Members Do you have any past issues of "Bimah" sitting on your book shelves?



We have in our archives past copies of the Synagogue magazine from 1959 but are unfortunately missing a few copies. If you think you can help, please contact the office by ringing Ann on **020-8864 0133** or email **admin@mosaicreform.org.uk**

We'd love to complete our archives and at the same time relieve you of a little space on your book shelves!

Meet the author

Ronnie Landau

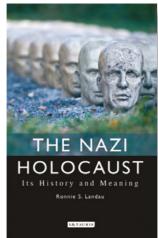
by Lydia Safir

Tuesday July 21 we were entertained by Ronnie Landau who was interviewed by Steve Levinson about his work and background. Ronnie regards himself foremost as a teacher and educator and then as an author. He shared amusing anecdotes, knowledge and opinions with us.

In his book 'The Nazi Holocaust' Ronnie used his teaching experience to develop a textbook on teaching the Holocaust. He believed it should be taught in the context of European History not as a self defining issue. Ronnie emphasised that the title did not refer to just German Nazis but to their collaborators throughout Europe. His more recent book

the internet!

During his career Ronnie has worked at the Spiro Institute and the City Lit. More recently he has lectured on cruise ships particularly about classical civilisation - his degree was in Classics. It was most entertaining listening to his



recollections of those diverse audiences. He spoke of the students of Eton and Harrow where he was a visiting lecturer. They are very able and confident - Boris Johnson and David Cameron were probably among them during the time he taught there. He has enjoyed teaching on cruise ships - the audience is always very interested - and lecturing the mature students of the City Lit. When Ken Livingstone was Mayor a student could hear Ronnie thirty times for £1; when John Major became Prime Minister and made every course pay its way the audience profile changed!

Ronnie concluded by talking about his background in Sunderland -a community

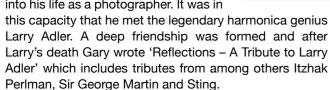
'The Seven Deadly Sins' was a personal challenge - he of exclusively Litvak Jews. The story goes that the Litvak wanted to write an amusing book in four days by raiding men did not want their women to emigrate to London or Manchester where they might be corrupted or assimilated. I have known Ronnie since we were teenagers so personally this part of the talk was special. Thanks again to all those involved in putting it together - it certainly made for a stimulating and entertaining afternoon.

Gary Italiaander

by Trudy Segal

50 people enjoyed another 'Meet the Author' session on 4th August when Gary Italiaander

spoke about his musical interests playing the harmonica as a young boy and then becoming a piano teacher before giving us a fascinating insight into his life as a photographer. It was in



It was fitting on such a lovely summer day that Gary ended his talk by playing the haunting 'Summertime' from Porgy and Bess by George Gershwin on his harmonica. A real treat for everyone.



by Vera Gellman

ver 80 people watched Steve Levinson interviewing Peter Lantos, a renowned Doctor, who qualified in Hungary and defected to England, establishing a brilliant career looking into how the brain works. Peter published hundreds of academic articles and, since retirement,



a wide variety of fiction (both novels and plays).

His background is a very different tale. Our three communities heard a fascinating and inspiring story of how at the age of five he was deported from Hungary and finished up in Bergen Belsen with his parents and then about his long journey going back home to find, with his mother, how few of his family had survived. Experiencing the communist regime in his homeland, he left and went to England so he could pursue his medical career.





3rd September 2020

Dear Member(s)

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5781/2020

Our High Holy Day services will inevitably be somewhat different this year! Those of you who have been tuning in to our Zoom Shabbat services over the last few months will be used to watching Rabbi Rachel Benjamin, some guest rabbis and rabbinic students leading them from their own homes with singing and musical accompaniment provided separately by our Director of Music, Joseph Finlay.

Our obvious concerns about Covid-19 and the requirements regarding social distancing have forced us to decide that we unfortunately cannot hold physical services for the High Holy Days this year. We will therefore continue the practice of holding services via Zoom. We invite all members to join us using their electronic devices. If you currently don't have internet access and would like to be connected, please contact the office to request the loan of a tablet and details of how to enjoy the services from the comfort of your own home.

Connection details for all the services, which will be shorter than we are used to, will be published in the weekly newsletters immediately prior to the festivals. The dates and starting times of the services are as under:-

Erev Rosh HaShanah	Friday, 18th September	at	6.30 pm
Rosh HaShanah	Saturday, 19th September	at	11:00 am
Kol Nidre	Sunday, 27th September	at	8.00 pm
Yom Kippur	Monday, 28th September	at	11:00 am

The services on Rosh HaShanah morning and on Yom Kippur morning and afternoon will be held jointly with The Liberal Synagogue Elstree, South Bucks Jewish Community and Stevenage Liberal Synagogue. However, our Yizkor and N'ilah services, like the evening services, will be solely for Mosaic Liberal Synagogue. Rabbis Charley Baginsky, Rachel Benjamin, Neil Janes and Pete Tobias have been working closely together to bring a creative approach to the collaborative services, and are looking forward to sharing the forthcoming High Holy Days with you in your homes.

SELICHOT SERVICE A Selichot Service of solemn prayers and singing will be held on Saturday, 12th September at 8.00 pm.

BEREAVEMENT If you have suffered a bereavement during the past year and you would like the name of your loved one to be mentioned during the Yom Kippur Memorial Service, please advise the Synagogue office by email to admin@mosaicliberal.org.uk, by post to 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3BS, or by phone to 020-8864 5323.

MACHZOR If you do not already have your own copy of Machzor Ruach Chadashah and wish to purchase one for £15.00 for the standard edition or £25.00 for leather bound, please contact the Synagogue office. You can also download a full copy of the Machzor from the website by clicking on 'The Machzor Service Sheets' on this link: https://www.liberaljudaism.org/resources/lj-at-home/prayer-liturgy/.

Wishing you all Shanah Tovah, a sweet, happy and healthy New Year, and well over the Fast.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Ziants Chairman, Rites & Practices Committee

Mosaic Liberal | 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow, Middx HA1 3BS | 020 8864 0133 | office@mosaicliberal.org.uk | www.mosaicliberal.org.uk

Registered Charity 251172

Wartime letters

by Sharon Smith

uring the clearance of my Parents house with my siblings (Debbie Scott, Alan Cohen and Deena Niren) we uncovered a bag of letters written by our Father (Sydney) to our Mother (Sadie) while he was on active service during WW11. They date from November 1942 until he was demobbed in February 1946.

We believe our parents first met in October 1942 when they were both 19 years old. Our Mother was 4 months older than Dad, a fact he never let her forget. Dad often recounted the way they met which was at a Jewish Dance, however dancing was not something he liked, but was dragged along by his cousin. On returning home he told his Mother that he had met the woman he would be marrying, which he did in June 1947.

Dad was in the 8th Army and spent time in Algeria, Egypt and Italy where he took part in the Battle of Monte Cassino. This letter was sent from Algeria. Although he was a Cohen, Dad wasn't particularly observant, however, the letter published here demonstrates that attending Shul obviously meant a lot to him while he was away from home.

This letter was sent following Rosh Hashona September 1943. It is rather poignant this year that we may not be physically with all those we would like to be with, but it is worth thinking about previous times when this was the case. In 1943 they did not have the comforts of home including the benefits of zoom to keep in touch.

N.B: I have no idea what is being referred to in the penultimate sentence.

Sent from: Gnr/Sig Cohen S 306/77th Field Reg RA BNAF

Sent to: LACW Levy S.L. Equipment Section RAF Station Millom, Cumberland

My Darling Sweetheart

Date Sent: 1/10/43

I could have written earlier in the week, but I know that you would rather hear how I spent the New Year.

On Wednesday evening I went to the Service in the Shull and was immediately struck with the fervency of the congregation. The hymn tunes are quite a lot different to ours, it was more the Spanish style. As usual with ours it was rushed through and rather spoilt.

As soon as it was over an elderly Chasan and his son came up to me and another soldier (there were plenty there) and asked us to come home with them and join their family in their meal. I might add that the same thing happened to all the troops attending the service. Needless to say we accepted this very kind invitation and had a marvellous time - piles of grub and well cooked too. Some of the dishes were decidedly oriental but tasty. Plenty of wine. He had 10 children, 5 sons and 5 daughters. (it's alright, I with mighty effort resisted temptation and remained faithful).

Yesterday morning went along again - the service had started at 06:00hrs. I arrived at 08:00 hrs. I noticed some differences again, when the Ark was opened, they all remained seated and they said Amidah aloud. I thought I might be called up, but they found an older Cohen but for the Levy they found a Yank who after he finished his final Bracha went round shaking all present by the hand. When the Sepher Torah came it was passed from hand to hand and the fluency of the doveing bought tears to my eyes.

The shofar was beautiful and sounded like the agony, misery and untold sufferings of our people going up to beseech for patience to withstand their martyrdom.

I went to the same place after again and among other dishes we had lokshon pudding - oh boy. I have had a snap taken, but the chap is now in hospital. I am trying to get a proper photo taken to send to you.

I hope dear that you are having a good leave and not missing me too much - conceit! 23-46 5.6 to hand - need I say, thanks a million. There's so much to write but no room except to say keep your chin up - we'll be together soon.

Always and forever,

A further letter was sent, post marked 25/10/43, to his prospective Parent's and Sister-In-Law, using an Airgraph. Invented by Kodak, instead of sending sacks of individual letters, using valuable cargo space, each letter was recorded onto a continuous roll of microfilm and sent to London. On arrival each image was transposed onto a blank Aigraph form

(made from photographic paper) and then put in the post as the address on the form was visible through a window on

I very much appreciated how the sight of traditional food made all the difference to Dad's apparent state of mind.

Sent to Bristol House, London

Dear Mr & Mrs Levy & Phyllis

Many thanks for your welcome letter, but firstly I should let you know that I am not in hospital. I wrote to Sadie and mentioned the fact that I'd had heat bumps, scratched them and they turned septic, but it is exceedingly common every-day occurrence out here. I only had a few on my arms & legs and they are healing up. She must have misread the letter but despite all that thanks very much for your wishes. Considering all things, I spent the holidays very normally, after the services I went home with one of the congregation & all they said was "Mangy" (eat) as there was lokshon, I didn't have to be told twice. That's all for now. Regards to all the family - Very sincerely Sydney.



First Zoomitzvah at HEMS!

by Harrison Rutstein



ello and my name is Harrison and my bar mitzvah was held on June 26th online, which is now called a 'Zoomitzvah'! Originally we planned to have my bar mitzvah at shul on June 27th and have the party in the evening. But we instead had it a day earlier during the Kabbalat Shabbat Service, we still don't know when my party is or if we are even having it. Hopefully I will get to celebrate together with family and friends at some point.

The bar mitzvah was really weird as we had it in our kitchen instead of shul but at the same time it felt less stressful. I'm sad as it wasn't a traditional bar mitzvah but I don't mind. Overall I think it was a good experience and it worked out well. It meant that we got to have close family members participating in the service from their houses as well as Hems members which was really nice to see and the service felt very special and will certainly be one to remember!

Holding the service online meant that lots of family and friends from abroad could still watch the service which was really nice and I also believe that we had a total about 200 people watching on Zoom and

on the live stream, made up of family, friends and Mosaic community. We also get to have a recording of the service which will be a really nice keepsake.

I'm looking forward to being properly called up in shul when I can and I have also been told by my parents that I'm going to deliver the Haforah and Maftir again next year when the Korach parsha comes back around!

Kiev Koppers

n addition to only seeing our Synagogue friends on Zoom these days, one of the repercussions of the coronavirus epidemic is that, with no physical meetings taking place, Mosaic Liberal's Kiev Koppers jar is not filling up. The difficulties faced by our fellow Progressive Jews in Ukraine are as great as they ever were, if not greater, so we have been thinking of how

we might continue to assist them as we have done for many years. We will continue to allocate to our good friend, Rabbi Alex Dukhovny (pictured), part of the sum raised from our annual Yom Kippur Appeal to help in his various congregational projects, but members might like to make individual donations to make up for the coins they are currently unable to drop into our collection jar.

We are suggesting an amount of just £5 (or £10 if you insist!), which can be donated by online banking direct to the Synagogue's account – sort code 20-92-60, account no. 20197580 – quoting the reference "Kiev Koppers". If you prefer, you can send a cheque, payable to "Mosaic Liberal Synagogue",

to the office, marked for the attention of Jackie Alexander and with "Kiev Koppers" on the envelope. (Jackie is working from home, but cheques are collected once a week.)

If you feel able to help in this way, we know that Rabbi Alex and his congregations will be most grateful.

Jonah

by Rosemary Wolfson



There once was a moaner called Jonah

Who when asked (by the Lord) to redeem Ninevah was a groaner He escaped the high seas on a hunch

Then was swallowed up by a big fish for its lunch

But eventually changed his mission and persona!!...

This episode is a record of Jonah's experiences, rather than oral communication.

Nineveh was a city of wickedness in c750 CE.

The Eternal One required Jonah to go there

to denounce this place! What would he have found if he had obeyed this command?

Probably a sink of iniquity which would have included people worshipping idols, and excessive materialism.

Instead Jonah went to Tarshish. But on the ship going there, God hurled a great wind and mighty tempest on the sea. The fears upon these sailors must have been immense.

with the menace of violence from

watery mountains and ravines of rage, with white veined 60-foot waves, and

a spray of foaming bubbles atop.

The sailors were affected by

a great inner turmoil – like fire and blood boiling within themselves.

It was more than flesh and blood could stand!

The ship was hurled about.

The sailors in their agony regarding their fate –

would have been overcome with suspiciousness of how this came to be?

They cried upon their pagan gods and

idols in great despair. In desperation they threw their cargo into the ravenous sea to lighten the load.

How they must have hated Jonah, a stranger amongst them – a coward, asleep!

The sailors kicked Jonah out of his slumber in their despair, and asked him to call on his God for help.

They cast lots and the result proved
Jonah was responsible for this evil,
this evil of utter devastation.
So Jonah asked the sailors to
throw him into the ravaging water
in order to calm it.
A great fish then appeared and

swallowed Jonah up, into a Gothic spectacle of intestinal pipes with

slimy walls – and it was cavernous.

Jonah was captured inside, with
plenty of time for devious
introspection!

Anyhow, at God's intervention
Jonah
was eventually emitted
alive from the

mouth of this devouring beast!

He was then asked by God to go to Nineveh a second time and proclaim that the city would be overthrown in 40 days' time if the people did not change their ways.

The king and people were afraid and turned from their evil.

But did the city suddenly become a

shimmering place of divine goodness?
Possibly not.

Then Jonah, our man, a little tent he made,

and there he contentedly sat in the shade,

and waited to see what would happen to the city.

and the Lord God caused a plant to grow over him,

which was awfully pretty.

But next morning the gourd had been attacked by a worm,

and poor Jonah fainted – was it a germ?

The Lord God knew that Jonah had not laboured to make this plant grow.

but subsequently the Lord had pity on Nineveh –

and made it an example to show.

On Yom Kippur afternoon we hear the conflicts of this tale, and we always remember it – we never fail!

Edwin Lucas Reflects

8th September is still several weeks away – so why am I fussing? To do, or not to do, that is the question. What a quandary, as I like to be organised. I hate uncertainty. I hate mess. I hate the idea of my High Holy Days being even more thought provoking this year, than ever before. But that is what Covid is all about and we must think on our feet and be flexible. Good game, good game.

I normally have to think about shul visitors, number of machzors in use, schlepping gear from one location to another, security, security lists, setting up, taking down, spacing between chairs, changing Yomtov

whites, as well as opening up on the day and night. So Mahnishtano halaylo ha ze? Well this year, as I write, where will we be for the HHD? Will we be nomads or yesmads? We have been to the Kol Chai building for our services, for many years and this year it will not happen. We are so sad. Our congregation are used to our alternative location. We, as many of you know, are not allowed to zoom, as it is not part of the Masorti halacha. We are members of the club and like all clubs, we have to toe the line. We are delighted that we are allowed to livestream. That is something new for MM / HEMS. We know that ML and MR are very experienced, as shuls and as movements, in this technology. We are looking towards the High Holy Days wondering what this year will be like. We will be streaming and we will be live streaming on the day, at the right time and from the right place. We are really excited with this prospect, as without technology, we could not have reached the parts of the community that we otherwise would have done. That is so important to us and this year more than any other year.

The covid virus has been an unexpected local and national curse which none of us, in any part of Mosaic, or indeed any shul in the UK could have planned for. I hope that Erev Rosh Hashannah will be a breeze in 2021 and when I say a breeze, I mean a breeze. I hope that whatever building we use, has ample fresh air blowing through it, so that if we have to wear masks, that it is cool. (Before Lawrence Chadwick from the New Building fame, flies into a panic, I am not planning in my mind to use the shell, without side walls on Stanmore Hill.) Masks, masks, masks. What can I say about masks? I know some people wear spectacles and some even monocles and some support hearing aids. The thing about masks is, that everyone this year will be wearing masks at services unless they are sitting at home streaming, or zooming, or having individual prayers with the families. Now, I think, to be in the spirit of the moment that we should all wear masks at home.



We should all have the same discomfort and nuisance factor and all UK Jewry can be united with the same facial apparel. Now, that is difficult, as there are bound to be fashion statement masks. So whilst we in shul normally might look at hats, or ties – for those that still wear them, dresses or shoes, this year many will just be able to look at masks. Mine is the bulk standard basic one. I saw one at a hotel just yesterday, which emblazoned their logo. Will we be having different personalised Mosaic masks? Could this be a money earner for shuls this year?

I am an old geezer and I like tradition. I am not as old as my mother – not surprisingly,

before some clever person, like Gill, my co-chair, points that out. My mother is used to tradition, as indeed am I. I cannot go to shul at any time when a service is being held, not wearing a shirt and tie. I do not care what men do not wear - although I really do, but I put on a brave face, as I am a modern old geezer and I think it is more important to attend, as one is, rather than not attend at all. It is very funny, as I was reprimanded by one of our MM / HEMS congregants on a recent Kabballat Shabbas, for not wearing a tie. It was a disgrace and I begged for forgiveness. I did not realise that my attire was looked at so carefully, on zoom, Clearly I know nothing, - Most folk knew that anyway. I have learnt my lesson and even though folk may not see me, I will be supporting a matching tie and it will be a conversation piece. The question is, who will be part of the conversation. Most people talk about the davening and the ruach and many will relate the points raised during the sermon and the Kol Nidrei appeal and the "state of the Community" address, by Gill and myself, as well as progress on the 2020 celebrations and our, should have been, vibrant 20th anniversary year. Alas, some of this will not happen. The one good thing about Streaming in particular is, that folk will not see who is not paving attention on the davening. Nobody will know if one has sloped off or even, heavens forbid. nodded off. Now there is a challenge for Rabbis Kathleen, Natasha and Rachel. I remember a wonderful story from a Rebbetzin who always sat at the back of the shul. When the Rebbetzin felt that the Rabbi was sermonising too long, she would gesticulate with a hand movement on the throat, that Dayenu has come to the fore.

Let 2020 be a Dayenu HHD period. Let us pray for a better tomorrow, at this time. Let us look forward to Honey Cake, and shehechyonu apples and fruits and may we all be inscribed in the book of life, in the coming year.

The Akeidah Project - Calling all LJ artists, poets and musicians!

In the light of COVID-19, the High Holy Days are going to be rather unusual this year. But out of this is emerging a wonderful creativity, and the *Akeidah* story (Genesis 22:1-19) is fertile ground for this. We want to create some new *midrashim* on the *Akeidah* story, particularly focusing on the unheard voice of Sarah. The task is to read the *Akeidah* and think about where Sarah was, what she was thinking, why she wasn't heard, and the impact on her, as the next thing we read in the Torah is about her death.

There are lots of places that you can go to in order to search for the existing traditional and creative *midrashim* around this, or come to it fresh, from entirely your own perspective. Then, produce either on your own, in family groups, in *chevrutah* partnerships, a piece of art or poetry or music, that gives a voice to Sarah.

Please send it to us, at AkeidahProject@liberaljudaism.org.

Our aim is to build an interactive website page that provides new layers to the story. Additionally, we would like to use it in the services over the High Holy Days. For both these reasons, on receiving your submission, we will be sending a permission form for use of your work, credited of course.

The Rabbinic Merry-Go-Round: Rabbis Charley Baginsky, Rachel Benjamin, Neil Janes and Pete Tobias

- ** Midrashim stories about stories in the Bible
- ** Chevrutah study group





A familiar face

Members of Mosaic Liberal, especially those "of a certain age", may remember Rhoda Kohn and know that for most of the last three years she has lived in a Care/Nursing Home in Sheffield. Since the Home has been in lockdown the staff have been loading images of the residents onto their Facebook page and, on two hot consecutive days in May, this image of Rhoda weas added.



Board of Deputies zoom meeting

Sunday July 19th

by Michael Reik Mosaic Reform Representative.

Pandemic. As before, a major part of the discussion was taken up with the new and revised constitution.

The proposed changes had an indicative vote with 88 per cent in favour.

The next meetings were announced with a particularly interesting one to be held on August 21st with the subject of the UK's Jewish Community's attitude to Israel as the main item on the Agenda.

The Board has been especially at the forefront of discussions on the 'Black Lives Matter' subject and has started a Commission into Racial Inclusivity being led by Steve Bush as chairman. The Board will particularly be looking into the status and acceptability of British Black Jews. Edwin Shucker made the point in dealing with Racial Inclusivity we must consider how the Black Community perceives us, rather than how we perceive the work we are doing.

Changes are taking place which affect donations of Organs,

with a new procedure for declarations on the Organ Register (see pages 24-25).

Louise Ellman raised the contentious subject of the ever non changing of textbooks in the Palestinian Territories which incite young children to violence, requesting that the British Government stop providing funds in the Palestinian education sector while this continues.

Request was made that synagogue members consider the Board of Deputies as their nominated charity when making payment for goods bought from Amazon in the Lockdown.

Under the current Board Executive there has been far greater involvement at regional level with a new representative appointed in Manchester.

Communication by the Board employees and Executive has provided great help to the many Jewish Communities, especially during the Covid Pandemic. This is of course backed up by the actual Synagogues' own management teams.

WISDOM HATH BUILDED HER HOUSE

60+years ... a memorable journey, still far from complete.

A commemorative book - available to order now

We will soon be publishing a limited edition souvenir book commemorating over 60 years of history of

Middlesex New Synagogue and Mosaic Reform



It will contain many personal recollections and images highlighting the members, events and activities that have contributed to the growth and success of the synagogue, as well as marking the start of an exciting future away from Bessborough Road.

This glossy commemorative book can be pre-ordered at a discounted price of £16.50 if ordered by Thursday 17th September (full price £19.50 from 18th September 2020) plus postage and packing if required.

How to order your copy:

contact the office on 020 8864 0133 or email admin@mosaicreform.org.uk

Payment can then be made by: cheque (payable to Mosaic Reform Synagogue)

by debit card, or by

BACS (HSBC, sort code: 40-03-04, Account: 42194279 - Reference: 60th book)



HOW TO MAKE SURE YOUR ORGAN DONATION WISHES ARE RESPECTED

Background

- Since organ donation was first introduced in the 1950s, Judaism has approached the question of deceased organ donation on an individual case-by-case basis.
- The family of the deceased play a key role in the process.
- They often require support not only about understanding the medical issues but also about how organ donation can be done in a way that is consistent with their loved one's faith and cultural traditions.
- At a time of stress and grief, Rabbis and religious authorities can provide support and assistance.
- The Jewish principles of *pikuach nefesh* (saving lives) and *kavod hamet* (respecting the deceased) need to be respected.
- During and after the donation process Judaism incorporates another principle which must not be neglected – that of nichum aveilim – giving comfort to the bereaved.

The New Organ Donation Regulation in England

There is a new organ donation system operating in England. For the Jewish community in England some elements of the system have changed. It is relatively straightforward to ensure your wishes are respected – whether you want to be an organ and tissue donor; if so, whether you want to do so in line with religious considerations; or do not want to donate under any circumstances.

If you want to donate, there is a continued emphasis on eliminating any doubt of the potential organ donor's wishes before the procedure can go ahead. It is vital that we, and our loved ones, trust the system. If possible, confusion must be eliminated. If our loved ones are unclear as to what we wanted, this creates family distress.

The reform that has received most media attention is cultural. Politicians describe the new system as 'opt out' - to use legal language, based on 'deemed consent'. However, there are safeguards to ensure that no one becomes an organ donor without their consent. Communication with families under all circumstances is upheld as 'essential' throughout.

Critically, if an individual has not actively expressed consent, the family or a nominated person can give information that would lead a reasonable person to conclude that (i) the person did not want to be a donor and so donation should not proceed; or (ii) that donation should proceed in line with faith considerations and religious belief and so donation should proceed only in the appropriate way. Organ transplant professionals will be guided by such information.

If an individual has not actively expressed consent; and family, or a close friend where appropriate, or a nominated person cannot be reached, then organ donation should not go ahead. These safeguards are underpinned by the relevant Human Tissue Authority Code Of Practice for organ donation professionals which has been tabled in Parliament.

Recommended Next Steps

- Speak to your Rabbi or engage with your religious authority's information on organ donation generally, to help you come to a decision about organ donation.
- You should communicate clearly to your family what your decision is with regard to organ donation, ideally both in a conversation and in writing. The written statement does not require legal countersigning or lodging.
- Log your decision on to the Government's online Organ Donor Register (ODR) at www.organdonation.nhs.uk. The ODR is an important indicator to organ donation professionals about your decision. The ODR has the options to register either consent or non-consent.
- If you decide to consent to donation there is an option to indicate that your faith is important and must be taken into consideration as the process goes ahead. This is a critical new innovation which can help ensure your wishes are respected.
- There is a faith declaration on the ODR, which states how organ donation professionals will communicate with your family, and how they will be allowed to discuss the decision with your religious authorities.
- The Board of Deputies is working with all the Jewish religious authorities to ensure that families of potential organ donors can be provided with a phone helpline from which they can seek rabbinic advice. Healthcare professionals should be able to provide this number to families and will also be able to consult it themselves.

Now is the time to ensure your personal wishes are known. We advise you to speak to your Rabbi or religious authority, share your decision with your family, and make your decision clear on the Organ Donor Register at www.organdonation.nhs.uk.

Amanda Bowman, Vice President, July 2020

Shana Tova

from Masorti Judaism

Supporting our young people and communities through crisis

5780 was not quite what we had expected at Masorti. We are lucky to have a dedicated community and leaders who have risen to the challenge to keep people connected to each other, their community and their Judaism throughout this isolating time.

Our rabbinic team and professional staff conducted online services via Zoom, taught classes, held story time sessions for children and were also available online for regular drop-in 'Coffee and a Chat' sessions online.

Rabbi Natasha Mann, a new rabbi at New London Synagogue and Hatch End Masorti said:

"I'm generally talking to far more people. I'm really fortunate that I have a support system from Masorti. My mentors are supporting me as an individual, as well as helping me process how to be a spiritual leader in this difficult time."

Noam, our youth movement, has led everything from cooking courses to a talent show online. Kelim, the programme that sends young adults to the Conservative Yeshiva to study, couldn't go ahead. Instead, Noam Mazkirut designed a virtual U-Kelim programme bringing together leaders and learners over five days. Ayala, a participant, said:

"I really missed being part of a community. It was sessions from Noam, both leadership and learning sessions, that kept me sane and got me through."

Noam made sure young people didn't miss out on important human connection after many months apart. They ran two weeks of socially distanced face-to-face camp, and an additional Kaytana day camp for their youngest members. They launched a free of charge day camp in partnership with Alma Primary, with priority places given to children of key workers and vulnerable children.

One parent said:

"You were determined to provide whatever was possible and we were so impressed with your communication, planning and creativity in pulling 'camp' off. While we are sure this was not the summer you anticipated you were able to give our girls the so needed sense of community and learning that they love. Noam has again been a highlight of their year and provided such a lift after such a difficult few months."

We are proud of the way that our communities have responded to the crisis creatively to nurture and support each other.

We wish everyone a Shana Tova.

Matt Plen, Chief Executive, Masorti Judaism

Here are some of our achievements:

- **Community life under lockdown:** Masorti communities ran 600 online events with 16,000 attendees over three months
- Young people: Noam was one of the only youth movements to run face-to-face summer camps. We welcomed 200 participants plus 50 youth volunteers across four sites
- Jewish learning and guidance: our rabbis produced emergency guidance on saying kaddish, observing Pesach and Zoom minyanim under lockdown. We hosted 130 participants at Masorti's Weathering the Storm seminar and over 200 people took part in a study session about Coronavirus and the High Holydays.
- Fundraising: Masorti Judaism was awarded £50,000 by the National Lottery Community
 Fund and £23,000 by the London Community Response Fund to support our work under
 lockdown. Noam members and families raised another £25,000 to support our vital youth
 programming.
- **Pride Shabbat:** Noam and Masorti Judaism celebrated Pride Month by launching the first Pride-day night Shabbat and delivering 100 handmade Pride kits to community members

HaMakom via zoom

Classes are continuing over zoom and here are some snapshots of what they've been up to





- Dressing up as a tiger for a Noah's Arc themed lesson with Kittah Bet
- 2. Completing the word puzzles based on Abraham and Sarah





4. Tower of Babel with spaghetti and marshmallows in Kittah Hay



Mosaic JACS



September - October 2020

8th September

Trapped in a cave for 11 days – lessons learned from the Thai cave rescue. Dr Teerakiat Jareonsettasin former Secretary of State for education in Thailand.

22nd September

The Jewish Community of Golders Green. Pam Fox.

6th October

Jewish journeys through the decades. Where Jews in England went on holiday in the first three decades of the twentieth century. David Jacobs.

Friendship Club

by Trudy Segal

On behalf of the committee and helpers I would like to thank Marie Capitelli for her very kind words in July's Kehila.

In these difficult times it is heartening to hear how much the Club means to its members and when we make our regular calls to see how everyone is coping we are constantly asked when Club will re-start. Nothing would give us more pleasure than welcoming everyone back but this decision is very much out of our hands at present. I can only say that we will meet again and look forward to that time.

P.S: Club meets every Monday.

CST wishes our community a peaceful, healthy & safe **New Year**

It is CST's mission to protect our Jewish communities up and down the country. We are committed to you, and ensuring your security, so that Jewish life can continue to exist and thrive in the UK.

The past year has been filled with challenges, both individual and collective. The pandemic has touched all of our lives, some in deeply tragic ways. The ability to physically meet with friends, family and in community - the networks that can make the most difficult and uncertain of times more bearable - has been removed. Where there is crisis, anger and blame follow, often directed at Jewish people. Now that we can gather together once again, CST is here to make sure it happens safe from prejudice and physical harm.

We wish that the security we provide were not necessary, but sadly terrorism, although rare, is a reality that can happen anywhere. Last Yom Kippur, the synagogue in Halle, Germany, was attacked by

a neo-Nazi. Using a homemade gun, he tried and failed to enter the synagogue, but did kill a passer-by and a customer at a nearby kebab shop. It was the cooperation of the congregants and shul staff, simply properly closing the door behind them, that saved the lives of those inside the service.

CST is here to protect you and facilitate the flourishing of Jewish life. This works best when you work with us. Please be mindful of basic security procedures and of our many dedicated volunteers who are devoting their time and efforts to ensure our safety, allowing us to spend the High Holy Days in peace. We wish you a safe, happy New Year, and a meaningful fast.

Please consider volunteering for CST or donating to us. We are a charity and we cannot do our work without your help. In an emergency, call the Police and then call our 24-hour National Emergency Number 0800 032 3263.

🕟 www.cst.org.uk 🛭 🕤 Community Security Trust 💟 @CST_UK









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

Mosaic Arts

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.



ell, the world has certainly changed since the last time I wrote my recommendations for you all. And I have to admit, my challenge of 40 books this year probably won't happen. Going to the theatre is a luxury that currently isn't possible. But, I

have spent most of lockdown watching an obscene amount of TV shows and I've found a few gems I'd like to share, two of which happen to be book adaptations.

Little Fires Everywhere

Little Fires Everywhere on Amazon Prime, which is spectacular watching. Written by Celeste Ng, Reese Witherspoon chose Little Fires Everywhere as her September 2017 book club pick and soon after it was published it became a bestseller. As the book description says it best; "every month, Reese picks one book she loves with a woman at the centre of the story and shares it with her book club. A community propelled by meaningful connections with stories, authors and fellow members, Reese's Book Club sparks thought, joy, and conversation–online and in real life."

Following the Richardson family, Elena Richardson – a journalist, landlady, and mother of four teenagers – seems to have a perfect life. In juxtaposition to living in her big house in the town of Shaker Heights – a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland – she meets Mia Warren and her daughter, Pearl, who are new to town and living out of their car. Considering it her charitable deed, Elena offers them a place to stay. But Mia is everything Elena isn't; an enigmatic artist and single mother with a carefree attitude and disregard for the rules, which is appealing to Elena's children, Lexie, Izzy, Moody and Trip

The TV show is an eight-episode adaptation that is incredibly close to the book while taking the time to enhance various storylines; starting at the end, we see the beautiful Richardson house burning to the ground, the fire supposedly started by Isabelle, the youngest of the Richardson children. But we don't know why. The rest of the episodes (and the

book) then go back and tell you the story that leads up to this event.

The cast includes Reese Witherspoon as Elena Richardson and Kerry Washington as Mia Warren with a host of new talent such as Megan Stott as Isabelle Richardson. Exploring issues of race, a custody battle over a Chinese-American baby adoption, teenage pregnancy, sexuality, and much more

Hello Sunshine

Up for numerous Emmys and developed by Witherspoon's production company, Hello Sunshine – which also produced Big Little Lies (a book adaptation written by Lianne Moriarty) and The Morning Show, both starring Witherspoon and very much worth a watch – I couldn't get the realistic characters or the engaging storyline out of my head for days.

The Luminaries

Next, The Luminaries on BBC. Written by Eleanor Catton, the book was the winner of the Man Booker Prize, Fiction, 2013, and the Canadian Governor General's Literary Award, 2013 as well as being longlisted for the Baileys Women's Prize, 2014.

Set in 1866, we follow a ship of travellers hoping to make their fortunes upon the New Zealand goldfields. Anna Wetherell, played by Eve Hewson, happens to be a passenger on the ship and as the harbour approaches, she meets Emery Staines, played by Himesh Patel. This is a man she has an undeniable and unexplainable connection to. Agreeing to see him again that night on land, Anna heads to her lodgings only to find her purse has been stolen. Unable to pay, she is forced onto the street where she meets Lydia Wells, played by Eva Green, who takes her under her wing. But is this really an act of kindness?

As the book description tells us of the story unfolding, "we discover that a wealthy man has vanished, a whore has tried to end her life, and an enormous fortune has been discovered in the home of a luckless drunk. The Luminaries is an extraordinary piece of fiction. Written in pitch-perfect historical register, richly evoking a mid-19th-century world of

shipping and banking and goldrush boom and bust, it is also a ghost story and a gripping mystery."

I haven't actually read the book so I can't speak for how accurate the adaptation is but as a six-part TV production, it made for beautiful watching. Superbly acted, brilliantly cast with an intriguing storyline, I was more than drawn in.

Self Made

And finally, Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker on Netflix. Based on a true story, this fictionalised four-part limited series couldn't be more relevant to today and the Black Lives Matter movement. Now, I'm not a particularly political person nor do I regularly share my views on the world but more shows like this are needed. Self Made is the inspiring story of trailblazing African American entrepreneur Madam C.J. Walker who built a haircare empire that made her America's first female self-made millionaire.

"Sisters, sisters! Let's talk about hair. Hair can be freedom or bondage. The choice is yours." - Octavia Spencer as Madam C.J. Walker.

With six siblings, Madam Walker was the first free-born child in her family, growing up in abject poverty in post-Civil War America. With a modest start in life, she overcame societal prejudice, family betrayals and business rivalries to pioneer cosmetics that revolutionised black hair care and build a beauty empire. Not only a smart businesswoman but a zealous activist and philanthropist, Madam Walker provided jobs and training for thousands of African American women across the country and used her wealth to fight for equality.

Octavia Spencer takes on the role of Madam C.J. Walker, Tiffany Haddish as Lelia, Carmen Ejogo as rival Addie, Kevin Carroll as Ransom and Blair Underwood as Charles James Walker. With an incredible soundtrack and stunning filming, Walker's story is one of devotion, shifty ingenuity and absolute fortitude against the backdrop of post-slavery racial and gender oppression.

These are just a few of the shows that have kept me company over the last few months but the ones that have left the biggest impression on me.

Member's Gardens

















- 1. Gillian & Robin Goldsmith
- 2. Hilda & Ivor Cohen
- 3. Robert & Anne Pinkus
- 4. John Ashmele
- 5. Irene & Colin Berkovitch
- 6. Jacqueline Gross & David Wyman
- 7. Unknown
- 8. Pat & Paul Zatz

Cooking with Suzy and **Emma**

by Ava Kenton



n Sunday the 2nd of August I joined Suzy and Emma for their second online cooking lesson. This time we were making a savoury dish chicken sausage rolls. It was lots of fun to make and it was explained very clearly by Emma. If more people had logged on we also would have made a salmon dish, I really think more people should come because it's a great way to spend your time, especially since there's not much we can do at the moment, and the chicken dish was really

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Review of Nick Prentice's Extreme Birding

by Leo Noble

ello, my name is Leo Noble. I am twelve vears old and a keen bird watcher. A while ago my grandparents passed on some birding magazines kindly given to them by their friend Nick. Recently, they informed me about a zoom presentation by Nick through the synagogue's online social activities, 'sharing my hobbies' series.

Once everyone had logged in, Nick Whiskered Treeswift introduced himself and gave us a rough idea of what he'd be presenting.

I was very impressed with all the places he has been (coincidently where he happened to be working!) Ecuador, South Georgia island, California, the Arctic (Svalbard), Ghana, Borneo and West Papua are just some of the places he has been to over the course of twenty years of birding.

ostriches - the largest bird - in the Savanna.

his wife Jane's brilliant photos transporting us from our kitchens to the rainforest in vivid detail. He also included fascinating recordings of birdsongs and well chosen clips



of documentaries and videos about birds I had never heard of. One of my favourites was the whiskered tree swift which lays its single egg precariously on a small nest on a long thin twig high over the rainforest.

Nick hasn't always seen the birds he has wanted to, but like many other birdwatchers, he has demonstrated extreme patience in his guest to see at least one of each family of birds in the wild, with only seventeen to

As part of the young generation, I am concerned about the environment and trying to make it a better place and so is Nick. After every flight, he makes up for the carbon footprint by planting trees. He is also a trustee of some environmental groups. As well as showing us his hobby, Nick underlined the importance of biodiversity and the important role birds Nick has seen a great variety of birds in a great variety play in it. He also talked about ecotourism and how a of habitats: from the smallest hummingbird in Cuba, to forester in Ecuador once saw a rare ant-pitta and decided to make a living by showing people the diverse array of rare His presentation was visually enhanced with many of jungle birds in his now eco friendly farm. This farmer has been a role model for many ecotourism sites.

> I am very grateful to Nick for kindling my interest in birds and wildlife and for sharing it with his synagogue community.

A message from Rabbi Charley Baginsky

Interim Director of Liberal Judaism

the playwrights who lived through the Second complacent in it. Stories no longer had clear beginnings, Aristotelian thought, had become completely defunct. problems of the world.

Two types of theatre sought to rewrite the playbooks, on one hand the Theatre of the Absurd and on the other Epic Theatre. the answer, we have to act against the world's problems. He Samuel Beckett and this Absurd Theatre wanted to show that wanted to inspire 'genuine participation'. the human condition was confusing and incomprehensible and Brecht and his epic theatre that humanity imposed its who say we will create and inspire, interact and collaborate and own conditions and therefore had the potential to change take control rather than giving up in the face of catastrophe

As I look back on the year that has passed and try to imagine telling my year younger self what this year has brought, I am pretty certain that she would think we had entered the year of humbled by your determination to never close your doors the Theatre of the Absurd.

Covid-19 has left too many families bereaved, too many people isolated, lonely and scared, has caused the chasm mourn all we have lost, focus on ourselves alone or we can between rich and poor to grow exponentially.

Both Brecht and Beckett wanted their audiences to understand that Aristotelian theatre was finished, the relatable should not feel like they could understand the world and feel

World War the model of theatre, entrenched in classic middles and certainly not endings that were all neat and tidy.

However, while Beckett strove to make people feel trapped It could not begin to give word to the true nature and in their own condition Brecht wanted humanity to realise that they did have control over the world that surrounded them. Brecht wanted us to understand that complacency is not

As Liberal Jews I believe we are the heirs of Brecht, those

As we enter this new year together, I am inspired by the example of Mosaic and all our Liberal congregations and even when the physical building had to be shut.

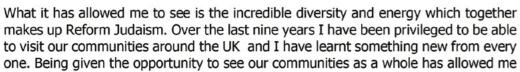
The world we live in feels absurd, we can turn inwards and pause and recognise how CovidS19 has shown us how much we can change when we live not out of habit.

Let us shake, revive, reinvigorate. Let us make ourselves narratives it espoused were no longer relevant. People ready to enter the New Year and make the difference the world needs us to make.



Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner's High Holy Days Message for 5781

As I prepare to leave my current role as Senior Rabbi to Reform Judaism after nine years, it is certainly with a tinge of sadness that I consider my last of these messages for the High Holy Days. Serving our communities, working with the tremendous team at Reform Judaism and supporting my rabbinic and cantorial colleagues across the country - this job has been such a blessing.





to appreciate the incredible tapestry of Reform Judaism that they make together. Each is wonderful in its own right, but together they make something which is also distinctly beautiful. We raise each other to a higher level by working together and amplify our voices by speaking together.

Nothing has more highlighted the importance of reducing the distance between our communities than the ongoing pandemic. As physical synagogue doors closed, the hearts of our communities have remained 100% open. The speed with which we have innovated and reimagined our entire Jewish communal life has been an unbelievable feat. The connections between our communities and the Reform Judaism team have enabled lessons learnt by one community to be shared rapidly and help to improve the experience of all our synagogue members.

We have innovated and we have been resilient. Our congregations have done all they can to support members in need, including those suffering loss of income, those having to isolate or those shielding for extended periods of time. Being a resilient community, able to deal with anything, means being able to support our members most in need no matter what. We have also been brave; there have been decisions which were not easy, but were necessary for the protection of life. Stopping attendance at funerals and remaining together virtually for these High Holy Days were two such decisions - but both have and will certainly protect lives and realise the most fundamental Jewish value of *pikuach nefesh* saving lives.

We come to Rosh Hashanah, known alternatively as *Yom Ha'Zikaron* in our liturgy - the day of remembrance. Over nine years of being Senior Rabbi, there is a lot for me to remember fondly. So many great moments of celebration and joy, interspersed with times of reflection and mourning, have been enhanced by the community we have built. This time is not one for nostalgia, though. Rosh Hashanah and this whole season of repentance teaches us that remembering alone is not enough - it is about applying that memory to improving our future.

I know that the future for Reform Judaism is a bright one.

Every year I have been to RSY-Netzer's *Mega Chalutz* - the gathering of the leaders of our Youth Movement before they disperse to make summer camp happen. What I have seen there is complete proof that we have a generation of talented and inspirational young people who are passionate about our Movement. These are not our future leaders - they are our leaders now. When you see how our Youth Movement and community youth programmes shape and develop these young adults, you cannot help but be optimistic about what lies ahead. Working together with the experienced leadership we already have across our community, I have no doubt the combination will be unstoppable.

It is a future I still hope to be part of, albeit in a different capacity, as I go to start my PhD in Digital Theology. It has been an honour to play my part in helping the Reform voice be heard more loudly within our communal discourse. Like the Shofar which will ring out into each of our homes during this High Holy Day period, we must all do our parts to enable Reform Judaism to continue to make waves which can be felt across the country.

What's On

FOR ZOOM DETAILS FOR ALL THE FOLLOWING EVENTS VISIT THE MOSAIC WEBSITE https://choosemosaic.org/whats-on/events/

SEPTEMBER

SEL LEIMID		
Thursday 3 rd		Kehila distribution
Saturday 5 th		Shabbat Ki Tavo
Sunday 6 th	09.45	HaMakom – new term
	13.00	Tombstone consecration – Sheila Rosen (Woodland)
	15.00	Tombstone consecration – Jeremy Banks (Woodland)
	16.00	Sharing our Hobbies 'Don't Make Me Laugh'
Monday 7 th	15.00	Tea with Rabbi Natasha
Tuesday 8th	14.20	JACS – "Trapped in a Cave for 11 Days"
	20.00	Mosaic Reform AGM
Saturday 12th		Shabbat Nitzavim Vayelech
	23.00	Mosaic Reform Selichot service
Sunday 13th	09.45	HaMakom
	16.00	Sharing our Hobbies 'Pottery With Karen Pollak'
Monday 14 th	15.00	Tea with Rabbi Natasha
Tuesday 15 th	14.30	Meet the Author – 'Mike Leibling'
	20.00	Mosaic Jewish Community AGM
Friday 18 th		Erev Rosh Hashanah
Saturday 19 th		Rosh Hashanah – Day 1
Sunday 20th		Rosh Hashanah – Day 2
Monday 21st	15.00	Tea with Rabbi Natasha
Tuesday 22 nd	14.30	JACS – Jewish Community of Golders Green
Saturday 26 th		Shabbat Ha'azinu
Sunday 27 th		Kol Nidre
Monday 28th		Yom Kippur
Tuesday 29 th	14.30	Meet the Author - 'Judy Lash Balint'

OCTOBER

CCIODEI	•	
Friday 2 nd		Erev Succot
Saturday 3 rd		Succot – Day 1
Sunday 4 th		Succot – Day 2
Monday 5 th	15.00	Tea with Rabbi Natasha
Tuesday 6 th	14.30	JACS - Jewish Journeys Through the Decades
Wednesday 7 th	20.00	Council meetings
Friday 9 th		Erev Simchat Torah/Shemini Atzeret
Saturday 10 th		Simchat Torah/Shemini Atzeret
Sunday 11 th		Simchat Torah (Mosaic Masorti)
Monday 12 th	15.00	Tea with Rabbi Natasha
Thursday 15 th	14.30	Meet the Author – 'Lord Daniel Finkelstein'
Saturday 17 th		Shabbat Bereshit
Sunday 18 th		Kehila copy date
	09.45	HaMakom
	09.45	Tombstone consecration – Stanley Morris (Cheshunt)
	16.00	Sharing our Hobbies 'Magic with Alan'
Monday 19 th	15.00	Tea with Rabbi Natasha
Saturday 24 th		Shabbat Noah
Sunday 25 th	09.45	HaMakom
	16.00	Sharing our Hobbies
Monday 26 th	15.00	Tea with Rabbi Natasha
Tuesday 27 th	14.30	Meet the Author
Thursday 29 th		Kehila distribution
Saturday 31st		Shabbat Lech Lecha

Happy Birthday in September to:

Alexander de Magtige, 9 Leora Goldsmith, 11 Eden Shackell, 8 Casey Vincent, 6 Chloe Ellison, 14



The Mosaic office is open 09.00-15.00 Monday-Thursday



Office: 020 8864 0133

Website: www.choosemosaic.org **Email:** admin@choosemosaic.org

Address: 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow HA1 3BS

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

HaMakom (Religion School):

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



Chairman: Adrian Cohen 020-8420 7498

Rabbi: Rabbi Rachel Benjamin rabbirachel@mosaicliberal.org.uk

Rites and Practices: Kevin Ziants 07841 375458

Liberal Judaism: 020 7580 1663

Undertakers: Kings Funeral

Directors

020 8368 7453 / 07595 956 936

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





Joint Chairmen:

Edwin Lucas - 07973 312851 Gill Ross - 07428 162473

Rabbi: Rabbi Natasha Mann rabbinatasha@mosaicmasorti.org.uk

Burials Officer: Edward Kafka 020 8904 5499

JJBS: 020 8989 5252

Rabbi: Rabbi Natasha Mann rabbinatasha@mosaicmasorti.

org.uk



Chairman: Lawrence Chadwick

07798 935873

Hon Secretary: Caroline Chadwick

07746 718390

Rabbi Kathleen Middleton

020 8866 9225 (please use only when Office is closed) rabbimiddleton@mosaicreform.

org.uk

Bereavement Support:

Bobbi Riesel 020 8428 7977

JJBS: 020 8989 5252

Community Care: Gay Saunders communitycare@mosaicreform. org.uk