

חג פסח שמח *Happy Passover*



לשנה הבאה בסטנמור

*Next year in
Stanmore!*



About Our Members

Since our last issue

Children and teen birthdays on page 17

MOSAIC REFORM

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Tom Goddard
Rob Lieberman

WELCOME TO NEW FRIEND:

Marylou Bosco

MAZAL TOV TO:

Suzy Hershman on the birth of her grandson, Max. Mazal tov also to great-grandparents, Hannah & Trevor Pinkus. Lorraine & Phillip Tureck on the birth of their grand-daughter, Mila Rose

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Michael Gumpel, 85
Roberta Nathan, 60
Lawrence Chadwick, 65
Lynne Dorff, 75
Elaine Goodman, 75
Denis Hart, 94
Woolf Heymann, 96
Geraldine Simon, 75
Robin Goldsmith, 55
Rob Lieberman, 50

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Helen & Bernard Schueler on their 45th wedding anniversary
Rachel & Alan Young on their 60th wedding anniversary
Olga & Hymie Zar on their 60th wedding anniversary

CONGRATULATIONS IN YOUR NEW HOME TO:

Ian & Marion Clifford

GET WELL SOON TO:

David Martin

CONDOLENCES TO:

Bertha Levy & Marilyn Sanford on the death of their sister, Georgette Levy.
Jacqueline Freeman on the death of her husband, Jack.
Erica Grossman on the death of her brother, Hector Sherling.
The family and friends of Gerald Amias.
Linda Holman on the death of her husband, Tony, and Michael Holman and Zoe Witte on the death of their father.

MOSAIC LIBERAL

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Gideon Fiegel
Anthony Guter
Brian Haberfeld
Janet Judelson
Marjorie Monnickendam
Joy Pearson
Claudia Rose
Jeanette Shindler
Judith Sonnenberg
Gerald Wilton

CONGRATULATIONS IN YOUR NEW HOME TO:

Shirley Philipp

GET WELL SOON TO:

Leila Silverman
Beryl Sontag
Bernie Spilfogel

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family and friends of Louise Joseph
The family and friends of Ron Bernstein
Jacky Guter on the death of her mother, our member Rhoda Kohn
The family and friends of Mildred Morrison
The family and friends of Ken Travis
The family and friends of Kathleen Marcus
The family and friends of Yvonne Robinson

MOSAIC MASORTI

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:

Daniel Marx

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Tamar Italiaander
Jack Kushner
Stuart Grabski
Frances Marx
Ethan Honey
Debbie Nissenbaum

CONGRATULATIONS IN YOUR NEW HOME TO:

Sharon & Howard Smith
Sharon & Alan Grossman

Lynne & Sam Charkham

CONDOLENCES TO:

Gary Italiaander on the death of his mother, Doris
Janine Brockiner on the death of her mother, Sylvia Matus, and to Jonathan & Hayden on the death of their grandmother
Sharon Grossman on the death of her father, Gerald Brandman

Index

Page 7

Mosaic Liberal AGM notice

Pages 8-19

Communal

Pages 20-25

Beyond Mosaic

Pages 26-29

Review of past events

Pages 31-33

Upcoming events

Page 36

How to contact the
Mosaic office

Next issue

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Publication date: Thurs 29th April

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

Our Move to Stanmore Hill

Update 5, March 2021



We are also continuing to engage with the developers on major infrastructure issues like the moveable partition walls and cabling to be installed to ensure the new building is able to support all the activities we are planning.

Once we have left Bessborough Road we will continue to offer our current

activities on Zoom, and we will start some in-person activities when the Covid situation safely allows. Our Rabbis and other staff will continue to work from home and the office is re-locating to Pinner – details of that will follow soon. Please note that you will still be able to contact us on **020 8864 0133**.

We will provide further updates in the months ahead. Meanwhile if you would like to be part of the arrangements for the numerous aspects of our move or have any questions then please contact us.

The arrangements for our move from Harrow to Stanmore Hill are now gaining pace.

We will be leaving Bessborough Road in early April. Before then we have been emptying the building of items which are no longer required and selling what we can – even the giant chandeliers have attracted buyers. Many thanks to the over 20 members of all 3 of our synagogues who have offered space in their houses and garages, which has saved us over £8,000 in not having to use commercial storage facilities.

Although there won't be an opportunity to say an in-person farewell to the building, two Zoom events are planned. On Tuesday 30th March we will be conducting a brief service during which the scrolls will be removed from the ark for the last time. For the coming months they will be stored safely so they can be available as soon as we are able to resume face to face services in a temporary location, and ready for their new home at Stanmore Hill. The Czech scroll and display case will be in the care of Edgware and Hendon Reform Synagogue.

Then on Sunday 23rd May an afternoon of fun reminiscences including presentations, music and contributions by Mosaic members of all ages is being planned. More details of this will be advertised soon – and if you have any memories of Bessborough Road that you would like to share then please email us with them.

While we have been readying ourselves for the move out, building work has accelerated at Stanmore Hill. The work underground has started and the pile drivers have moved in. The structure is expected to be above ground by early April. That is the next significant milestone.

Time to say goodbye



After over 60 years on this site, we will be broadcasting a final Reform and Liberal joint service from Bessborough Road at **11.00 am on Tuesday 30th March**.

There will be a short Shacharit service and some closing words, followed by the removal of the scrolls from the building.

Due to Covid restrictions, only those directly participating in the broadcast will be allowed into the building – please join us from the safety of Zoom: **Please see the weekly notices for the zoom details.**

Rabbi Rachel Benjamin

A Message for Pesach



In June last year, a statue of Edward Colston was pulled down and thrown into Bristol Harbour, during a Black Lives Matter protest. Since then other statues have been removed, prompting lively debates about whether such monuments, memorialising those who profited from slavery and colonialism, should remain in place and how we should best educate about the history of slavery in the UK.

We, the Jewish people, have our own history of slavery, which we recall and act out at each annual Passover Seder, and the lessons we are exhorted to learn from that are repeated each year, as we celebrate together the freedom that is still denied to so many in our world today.

Our ancestors were slaves for several hundred years, and one of the major tasks for Moses and his brother, Aaron, was to take the slave out of the Children of Israel, as well as the Children of Israel out of Egyptian slavery. In some Jewish cultures, notably Sephardic, there is an 'acting out' of the Exodus story at the Seder table, when families parade around carrying their possessions as if leaving Egypt and their slave existence. We sometimes need to imagine such an experience in order to better understand the hardship. This applies to many things in our lives and helps us to appreciate what we have and the freedom to live as we do.

The Torah deals with slavery as a fact of life, though one with which it seems uncomfortable at times. While a slave was the possession of his or her master, the Torah 'insisted on stressing the humanity of the slave, a person endowed with rights and entitled to dignity' (Plaut Torah, p. 527), and encouraged the redemption of Israelite slaves. In Psalm 146:7, God is described as *matir assurim*, 'One who frees captives' (and we repeat those words when we recite the second paragraph of the *Amidah* – see page 141 of *Siddur Lev Chadash*).

One of the most frequent refrains in the Torah is, 'for you were slaves in the land of Egypt'. We are repeatedly reminded of that fact, in order that we, who are fortunate enough to be free, will remember those who do not enjoy that privilege and will act to bring about a time of freedom for all. At Pesach, we recite the words, *b'chol dor va-dor chayav adam lir'ot et atzmo k'ilu hu yatza mi'Mitzrayim*, 'in every generation, every

one of us must see ourselves as if we personally came out of Egypt'.

One of the favourite moments of the Passover Seder is the opening of the door for the prophet Elijah, as we invite him in to drink from a cup of wine. Tradition tells us that Elijah will reappear one day to herald the arrival of the Messiah. Even though Liberal Judaism has rejected the idea of a personal Messiah, the Messianic idea is, nevertheless, important to us, and our vision of a Messianic Age is the vision of a different and better world, a world at peace in which all people deal kindly with each other and no one is enslaved or afraid, a world in which, as the prophet Malachi taught (3:20), 'the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings'.

It is this vision, as Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg writes, that 'gives us our sense of purpose. That sense of purpose, the conviction that history is not just a succession of evils or a pointless meandering in time until the earth is eventually destroyed, but that we have a goal to work towards, makes our every action meaningful. That knowledge that what we do matters, that we either bring the age of justice and peace nearer or drive it further away, gives us our sense of commitment. And the vision, the purpose and the commitment together mark the Jewish view of life, with its characteristic tone of hope. For even though it tarry we still believe that the Messianic Age will come. Even though the world shows no sign of imminent perfection, even though it is full of cruelty and violence, we still maintain our vision' (*The Eternal Journey*, p. 167).

On my bookshelf sits a book entitled *There is No Messiah – And You're It!* Along those same lines, Californian rabbi, Harold Schulweis, suggests that, at our Seder table, we fill Elijah's cup, which represents future redemption, by passing it around the table for everyone to pour some wine into it from his or her own glass. In this way, we demonstrate symbolically that redemption will come only when all of us join together to bring it about.

This year, Pesach – the festival of freedom – will have a very different resonance for us than in previous years. Who would have thought, after last Pesach, that this one would also have to be celebrated on Zoom? Who would ever have imagined

that this last year would be as devastating as it has been? Now, with the vaccination programme well on its way in this country, and with the end seemingly in sight for this third – and last? we hope so – lockdown, how will it be when we are able to come out of the confined and narrow spaces (which is the meaning of the word *Mitzrayim* – Egypt) of our homes, into the world again?

At the beginning of lockdown, I quoted the words of Irish-American teacher, Kitty O'Meara, and it seems appropriate to remind ourselves of the wisdom contained in them:

'And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

'And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the

earth began to heal. And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.'

I hope that, when the long-awaited 'Exodus' from our homes, and the new freedom we yearn to enjoy – the freedom to meet friends, to hug, to embrace, to visit loved ones, to worship together in person, to travel, and much more – arrives, we will not return to what was before, but that we will indeed create new ways to live, acknowledge that with freedom comes responsibility, and that we will appreciate and value what we have now.

As Jews all over the world meet virtually to observe the festival of Passover, I look forward to seeing many of you at our Zoom Communal Seder on Sunday, March 28th. I wish you an enjoyable Seder and a *Chag Pesach Sameiach* – a happy Passover.

A message from

Rabbi Kathleen Middleton



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Mah nishtanah ha-layla ha-zeh, mi-kol-ha-leilot? What is the difference between this night and all other nights?

Last year that question from the Pesach Hagadah seemed to us to relate more to the circumstances of our *s'darim* (Seders) than the *seder* itself; only a few weeks into a national lockdown we were anxiously facing our first ever online *seders*.

None of us quite knew what to expect. One thing we certainly did not expect was that we would still be online one year on! In that respect our *sedarim* will, alas, not be much different this year from last year. Nevertheless, this year's online experience will undoubtedly be quite different from last year.

Not only because we are much more optimistic about our ability to manage Covid 19. Even if it will stay with us for the foreseeable future, we hope that with the vaccine we will be able to return to our pre-Covid sense of normality soon. Pesach this year will also be marked by the significant developments surrounding our new home on Stanmore Hill and the inevitably poignant deconsecration of 39 Bessborough Road.

Pesach, as we know, celebrates *Yetzi'at Mitzrayim* the

Exodus from Egypt. According to the mystics *Mitzrayim* (Egypt) stands for *mi-tzarim* 'out' of 'narrowness', 'straights'. In other words, the Exodus of Egypt was not just a departure from a geographical place, nor a formative historical event only, but an experience of liberation that each one of us must live though personally. *Mitzrayim* is a metaphor for our inability to grow, or to thrive and truly be who we are meant to be.

Leaving 39 Bessborough Road as our spiritual home, is of course not comparable to the *Yetzi'at Mitzrayim* – the Exodus from Egypt – as the departure from slavery – on the contrary – we have very fond memories of 39 Bessborough Road – but it has become our 'narrow place', as it is no longer a place that will allow us to grow, expand and thrive as we once did in the heart of Harrow.

Like *Yetzi'at Mitzrayim* – the Exodus from Egypt – the preparations to leave have taken far longer than anyone of us anticipated, but the moment of departure came almost as suddenly upon us as *leil pesach* (the night of pesach) in the Torah. Like our ancestors we have had to pack in haste during a plague and make sure that no Covid rules would be broken. For our ancestors this meant that the dough they had prepared for the following

Continued on following page >>

day had no time to rise, hence our tradition of eating matzot (matza) on Pesach.

For us it meant a much anticipated farewell service, and various other events and opportunities we had in mind to allow everyone a chance to say goodbye to a building that holds significant memories for so many: weddings, baby blessings, *b'nei mitzvah*, friendship and even first love at youth group, *cheder* classes, and a huge variety of communal experiences amid friends and family, in front of those iconic Ark doors, beneath the huge chandeliers and those rather ugly (but at the time very fashionable ceiling tiles). Who still remembers exactly how many lamps in those chandeliers do not work, or how many rows of ceiling tiles (counted during less inspirational sermons) there are?

Instead we will leave Bessborough Road with a short, final, Covid-compliant service, which can be attended by the whole community online. It will not be the grand leaving service which we had envisioned, but it seems eminently fitting that it will be during *Chol ha-Mo'ed Pesach*.

What would have been a bitter-sweet moment in our community at the best of times, after all, all leavings are bitter-sweet – as the French poet Edmond Haraucourt famously

wrote: '*partir c'est mourir un peu*' (parting is dying a little), will be made even harder due to Covid.

Covid however has taught us a valuable lesson about ourselves: a Jewish community is so much more than a building! For a whole year we have been able to remain a strong, supportive, warm and thriving community without having set a foot in our building. Therefore, I am confident that when we leave our building for the last time, and like our ancestors who did not reach the Promised Land immediately upon leaving Egypt, we too will have to spend some time 'in the wilderness'. We will remain a strong and thriving community even when we will not have a permanent home for a while.

For our ancestors their time in the wilderness became one of the most creative and impactful moments in Jewish history. It is where they received Torah, built the *mishkan* (the Sanctuary) and established their religious, cultural and national identity. May we too look at the time we will spend away from a permanent home as a time of opportunities in which we can explore new *minhagim* (traditions) and develop old ones and explore different ways in which we can be an even better community together.

Yellow Candle Project 2021



Maccabi GB has launched the Yellow Candle Project 2021, ensuring that on the eve of Yom HaShoah on Wednesday 7th April, the community can continue to commemorate and never forget those who perished in the Holocaust.

The project aims to distribute yellow remembrance candles to as many individuals in the community as possible; alongside each Yellow Candle, a card with the name, age, date, and place of death of someone who perished in the Holocaust is enclosed. Participants are invited to share images of their lit candles on social media on the eve of Yom HaShoah, thereby creating a modern-day collective communal memorial.

In the five years since the project was launched in the UK, lighting a Yellow Candle has become synonymous with commemorating Yom HaShoah and with over 250 cross-communal organisations, schools and Synagogues participating, Yellow Candle UK has become the centrepiece of Holocaust Remembrance in the British Jewish Community.

For the project to have a self-sustaining future, Maccabi GB will be charging for each Yellow Candle, rather than

relying purely on donations. This will enable the project to continue to grow and develop for many years to come.

With the disruption caused by the pandemic, all candles will be posted directly to each household. Thanks to the generosity of the Genesis Philanthropy Group, the Betty Messenger Charitable Foundation and the Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust this year you can have your Yellow Candle delivered right to your doorstep at a subsidised cost of £3.75 including postage and packaging.

To purchase your candle, paste the link into your browser. <https://www.yellowcandleuk.org/>



NOTICE is hereby given to all members that the 72nd Annual General Meeting of Mosaic Liberal Synagogue will be held **via Zoom** on

SUNDAY 9TH MAY 2021 at 11.00 am sharp

The Agenda for the meeting will include a **motion to introduce a category of "Friend" of the Synagogue**.

In addition to electing Members of Council for the year 2021/22, **we are entitled to elect at the AGM a Representative to the Board of Deputies of British Jews for the Triennium 2021/24**. If you wish to nominate a member of the Synagogue to serve as our Deputy, please write to the Administrator at the Synagogue address by 22nd April 2021 with the nominee's written confirmation of their willingness to serve as a Deputy.

Any member wishing to submit a motion or resolution for consideration at the Meeting must do so in writing to the Administrator at the Synagogue address **NOT LATER THAN SUNDAY 11th APRIL 2021**. Motions or resolutions received after this date cannot be considered at the Meeting.

Paragraph 9.6 of the Constitution and Rules is reproduced below for the benefit of those members who are unable to attend the meeting:-

"Any member unable to attend an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary Meeting may vote by post by requesting a ballot form from the Synagogue Secretary not later than 21 days before the Meeting. The Synagogue Secretary shall comply with all such requests not later than 14 days before the Meeting. A postal vote will only be valid if the ballot form is returned duly completed and signed and is received by the Synagogue Secretary not less than 48 hours before the start of the meeting. If a Member who has submitted a postal vote subsequently attends the Meeting, such postal vote will not be counted."

Members are invited to nominate for election to Council individuals who have been Members or Associates of the Synagogue for at least one year. Nominations must be received by the Administrator on the form below **NOT LATER THAN SUNDAY 18th APRIL 2021**, and must be accompanied by the nominee's written confirmation of their willingness to stand for election.

The full Agenda for the Meeting, together with the link to the Zoom meeting, will be included in the next Kehila, the publication date for which is 29th April.

NB All correspondence addressed to the Synagogue office will be re-directed to the Administrator following our vacation of 39 Bessborough Road in early April.

NOMINATION FORM FOR ELECTION TO MOSAIC LIBERAL SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL

Nominee(s)

Proposer Date

I hereby agree to stand for election to the Mosaic Liberal Synagogue Council

Signed Date

120 Over 80

Lockdown lowdown on our golden generation

Mosaic Liberal is proud that one of its long-standing members, Ruth Barnett (pictured), has been included by Jewish News in their list of the community's golden generation, '120 over 80'. We reproduce below the article about Ruth (with the kind permission of 'Jewish News') and send her our sincere congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.



Holocaust survivor Ruth Barnett has dedicated years of service to education and genocide awareness and prevention.

Born in Berlin, Ruth, then aged four, and her brother,

seven, arrived in Britain on the Kindertransport, spending the next decade living with foster families. A psychotherapist, Ruth coined the term "genocide footprints" to mean marks left by societies and individuals who fail to actively combat the precursors to genocide.

The 85-year-old regularly shares her testimony in schools, has been interviewed by The Wiener Holocaust Library, and authored an autobiographical play entitled *What Price for Justice?* Last year, Ruth was made an MBE for services to Holocaust education and awareness.

Henry Altman

receives a National Award

The evening of the 12th March 2021 was a sparkling occasion attended by stars of screen and television, the Chief Rabbi, and politicians, including Boris by Matt Lucas. It was JVN's virtual award night, and I was delighted to be part of it. I am a volunteer for The Langdon Foundation and it's 'New Chapters' division that trains young people with learning difficulties about the workplace. Natasha Kaplinski presented and the Chairman and CEO of JVN also addressed the proceedings.

New Chapters has a warehouse in Harrow Weald which contains more than 50,000 books which have been donated. The books are sorted, checked, graded and then listed online for sale not only in the UK and Europe, but around the world. Once listed the books are placed in a storage system for easy retrieval for incoming orders.



Langdon members are involved in every part of this process, learning to list items for sale, retrieving orders and packing those orders for dispatch. Our members find the work satisfying and have found the months of Covid away from work very difficult. Recently New Chapters have been able to ask members to work from other locations, and they are very happy to be working again. Training in this way often enables our members to find regular employment and to reach independence.

I was nominated as part of a team, and as pleased as we are to receive an award,

we all volunteer to support the members who work so hard to keep this social enterprise operating.

We are always looking for volunteers, and for donations of books, although present restrictions limit our ability to operate at the moment.

A Tribute to Rhoda Kohn

Taken from her daughter Jacky Guter's story

Mosaic Liberal has very sadly lost another of its well-known and beloved members. Rhoda (pictured) was born in the East End in 1927, the youngest of seven children to Noah and Adel Rosen. She was an extremely bright child and, although she loved school, at the age of 14 she had to start to earn an income, so she began work in the City as an insurance clerk, the business she worked in for most of her adult life until retirement.

Towards the end of the war her brother Sidney (Alex) was on a troop ship out to India where he met a fellow Jewish Londoner. Back in London, Sidney invited this young man, Eric Kohn, to his home, he met Rhoda, and... They married when she was 21 while Eric was at Cambridge University. The birth of son Raymond resulted in the family being constantly on the move as few Cambridge landladies liked to have lodgers with a baby. After Eric's three years at university, they briefly moved back to London, but then settled in Westcliff-on-Sea where Jacky was born. Rhoda had a large circle of friends and interests. She and Eric went to concerts and art galleries, and for many years they rented out rooms in their large Edwardian house.

They later moved back to London, Rhoda initially being a hostess and housewife. After Eric left the family, she bought a house in Uxendon Crescent, just off Preston Road, and lived there very happily within walking distance of her brother Jack and his wife and her beloved sister, Ray Crabbe. She joined what was then Wembley Liberal Synagogue and began to attend services every week. Years later in 2004 when, having vacated the old building, the shul could not move into its new building next door until a week later, our Shabbat services that weekend were held in her garden! When the block of



retirement flats, Blackberry Court, was built on the site of the original building, she moved there so she could simply walk next door to attend services. She made new residents feel welcome and was the organiser-in-chief, collecting names for the shul monthly lunches and arranging bingo in the residents' lounge on Saturday evenings – although she actually hated playing herself!

But in February 2017 she had a hip replacement, following which she was unable to look after herself, so Raymond and his wife Pat arranged for her to go into a care home near them in Sheffield. Things subsequently became very difficult, and

she sadly passed away on 2nd February at the age of 93, mourned as well by Jacky and her husband Anthony, her four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Rhoda had wide interests; she especially loved art, appreciated music, attended art and architecture appreciation classes, and greatly enjoyed travelling, when she always had a camera with her (Jacky says she was the world's worst photographer and took many photos of her thumb in some very interesting locations!). And she loved cooking – apple strudel was her speciality.

Kevin Ziants writes that one of his early memories was Rhoda's warm welcome every Shabbat. He recalls a Communal Seder when she gave her own version of the Pesach story. When we moved to Bessborough Road he was fearful that we would see less of her. But she never complained, attending by public transport despite her obvious frailty, and saw the move as being of benefit to our community. She was a regular, enjoying the same seat at the front, interjecting where necessary and keeping Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith on his toes.

Upcycling

Viv Levinson has been busy selling a huge number of items that will no longer be required once we leave Bessborough Road. She was heartened by these photos – before and after – of a table that had originally been in the Wardens' Room!



Meet the Sandersons

by Gillian Gurner



It was a pleasure to meet Danielle and Steven Sanderson over Zoom, and hear about, among other things, their long association with Wembley Liberal Synagogue.

Danielle was originally from Brighton where her family were members of the United Synagogue but moved to the Reform Synagogue when she was nine. Her father died just before she went to university and her mother married Jack Leon, a member of Wembley Liberal Synagogue and moved to Harrow-on-the-Hill. Staying with them during university vacations, Jack took her to the Synagogue where Steven's family, living in Kingsbury, had been members since 1967. Danielle and Steven met at a Leo Baeck summer study week in 1982 and will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary this year. They have three children, Joseph, a lawyer in New York after studying at Cambridge and Yale, and twin daughters, Hannah, a civil servant working in Education and Miriam, a paediatric doctor at the Whittington Hospital.

Danielle read Physics at Oxford University and joined Sema Group, a multinational software company where she worked on operational research and mathematical modelling. She moved to the Training Department, where she introduced goal setting and action planning and decided she should follow the same path. Her first goal was to take part in the Krypton Factor and then to run the London Marathon. To prepare, Danielle joined Watford Harriers and ran the Harrow Marathon in 1989 to achieve a qualifying time for London.

In 1990, at the age of 27, she ran the London Marathon in the amazing time of 2 hours 50 minutes. That was the start of a running career that eventually saw her becoming an international athlete, representing England and Great Britain 21 times and at one time fourth in the world, winning her first marathon representing England in Crete, winning a European bronze medal, taking part in the Commonwealth Games, the Maccabiah Games, the London to Brighton ultra-marathon and setting a world record for the Women's Masters in 2004. Danielle carried on running the London marathon, taking second and third places amongst the British athletes. She ran during and after her pregnancies – running 100 miles a week in training, now it's 40 a week, sometimes accompanied by her daughters.

After leaving Sema, Danielle worked freelance as well as tutoring GCSE and 'A' level maths and physics then joined a real estate customer experience consultancy and, part sponsored by them, she completed a PhD at Reading University at the age of 53. Her work explored the link between customer service and property performance which validated the premise that treating tenants as customers pays dividends. This led to her current role as a Lecturer in real estate development and management at University College London.

Steven went to Manchester University and qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse. The thought

"Danielle and Steven have always been involved in the life and running of Wembley Liberal Synagogue, both taking services, with Steven holding various positions on the Council, now as Honorary Treasurer."

of a career in the accountancy profession didn't appeal to him so he moved into industry and worked in finance in the technical sector, with Dixons, Sema Group, then Finance Director with the Vega Group, which floated in 1982. He enjoys working with small, fast moving companies, mostly international (which has involved travel around the world), in the tech sector – software construction, communications and currently with E2E, which provides technical support to the satellite communications industry. An interesting and complex sector, Steven says he focuses on finance and leaves the technical side to the experts. When I asked about

his sporting activities, Steven said he enjoys watching rather than taking part, supporting Watford FC.

Danielle and Steven have always been involved in the life and running of Wembley Liberal Synagogue, both taking services, with Steven holding various positions on the Council, now as Honorary Treasurer.

Living in Bushey, with Poppy, their Cavalier Spaniel, as do both sets of parents, they obviously lead busy and fulfilling lives and so we are fortunate to have them and their families as members and contributors to the Mosaic Community.

"We're thinking of you"

by Jeanette Leibling

How nice to receive a personally made greetings card, saying "we're thinking of you". A team of 12 enthusiastic members from across the Mosaic Community have all put their creative hats on and are making the most amazing cards which are being sent to members, giving pleasure to both the recipient and the artist, and I want to say a big thank you to all involved. We can all congratulate ourselves on being such a kind, caring and sharing community. Here is a small selection of the cards that we have been sending.



Special thanks to the card makers: Rabbi Rachel Benjamin, Monique Blake, Marion Bloom, Alexis Buchan, Harry Davies, Vera Gellman, Hephzibah Hall, Sarah Highfield, Alison Imren, Veronica Lansman, Jeanette Leibling, Jonquil Nicholls, Joan Noble, Sue Schindler, Pat Zatz.

My Bat Mitzvah

by Mosaic Reform member, Ava Kenton



"My portion that day was Vayeira ... and it gave me a lot to think about; about responsibility – towards myself and others and the community I live in. About duty, loyalty and the obligations we are faced with in life."

My Bat Mitzvah was on the 7th of November, during the second lockdown, so I knew ahead of time that it was going to be on Zoom. I was hoping to have a few of my family members there, however by then we had returned to full lockdown so I could not (apart from my amazing Grandma who is in our support bubble). Despite that, it was still so lovely to see everyone on Zoom. My Nanny & Grandad, my cousins, my aunts and uncles – friends and family from all round the world, including some from Spain who zoomed in, as well as my family in Arizona at 3am! I'm so lucky that we were able to be together, in that way.

Obviously, I couldn't read from the Torah on the day, but we had been allowed to go into the synagogue privately a few days earlier, with Rabbi Kathleen. This enabled me to have some photos taken on the Bimah, in front of the Ark and with the scroll itself but it also meant I had the opportunity to read some of my portion from it. I felt very proud to finally read what I had been working on for so long from the real scroll.

It was crazy that, from the beginning, I had been so focused on what it would be like when I thought my Bat mitzvah would be in the synagogue, and then how it turned out to be completely different. Maybe that's always true anyway. Of course, I also remember that I didn't feel very confident about my reading at the start, but when my Bat mitzvah finally arrived, I realised I had progressed so much that I could read everything that I was supposed to – and more, actually, than I ever thought I would.

My portion that day was *Vayeira* – basically, the Abraham and Isaac story we read at Rosh Hashanah. I'm sure you all know the story. I certainly know it a lot better now and it gave me a lot to think about; about responsibility – towards myself and others and the community I live in. About duty, loyalty and the obligations we are faced with in life. And about the choices we make, and the importance of not being led astray by what others may say but by thinking for yourself!

Now that I have had a Bat mitzvah, and I reflect on the experience, I better understand some of the wider responsibilities that you must take on through this special ceremony. And, like so many who have had a Bar or Bat mitzvah before me, I have learnt a lot more about my own responsibilities and the role I play, in my family, in my community and in my own future.

I'm so grateful for everyone that has helped me on this journey, especially Rabbi Kathleen for continually helping and supporting me so much, over all of our Skype lessons. Also for the messages that all my friends and family sent and my parents put into a surprise video. It meant so much to me that I could have a Bat Mitzvah with everything going on and hopefully later this year I will finally be able to celebrate with everyone!"

Lock-down Living with Spot

by Neil and Spot Mendoza

Spot came into our lives pre-lockdown in October 2019. Born into a sleepy rural environment in nowhere-ville, somewhere in the middle of the Devon countryside, he arrived in the leafy suburbia of down-town Bushey as a birthday gift from Sue, miscellaneous children and their partners. It was an immediate step up from being born in a cold barn in a tiny hamlet to discovering central heating, deep pile carpet and soft furnishing – but hey, this is the edge of North-West London; no more sleeping rough for this one. The breeder of this beautiful animal couldn't restrain his incredulity upon learning that we had a hot and cold water feed installed outside specifically to shower him down after his muddy walks – as contrasted with being turfed into the stream to clean off like his canine siblings. According to his very impressive pedigree certificate, he has a host of field-trial champions in his lineage; however, his opportunities for flushing out an unsuspecting pheasant or two seem to be rather limited in the local area.

Of course, the one advantage of receiving such a gift is that when any cushion has its entire contents distributed around the room, the carpet is pulled up or the water bowl upended, I can truly contend that it's not my fault. I've also wondered just how tasty Sue's slippers actually were, or her scarf and matching cashmere hat (I have shortened the list to keep the word count down). Spot didn't offer any explanation, but the answer must have been in the eating. Both inside and out the house, he is lightning-fast, powerful in the extreme and has a



tireless obsession with tennis balls.

But as we went into pandemic isolation one really cannot underestimate the interest and happiness that this rocket-fuelled Springer Spaniel has brought into our lives. He is a constant friend and companion and, with a delightful personality, has truly become part of the family. With the children now gone and generating numerous grandchildren,

leaving just Sue and me in the house, he provides a reason for getting out and about to fields and the park and if we use the car, Spot faithfully tags along on the back seat, climbing forward to sit with me, both looking out of the windscreen together once we stop and wait wistfully outside a food shop.

We started with the best of text-book intentions; a large crate, stair gate and absolutely no feeding from the table. Where are we now? Well, the stair gate is in the garage; he sleeps every night on our bed and looks forward to sharing the Yummies delivery of smoked salmon and cream cheese bagels every Friday lunchtime. And he loves chicken soup, kneidlach and responds to Ivrit. This is a Jewish dog! We shall have to plan his BarkMitzvah.

I anticipate that there might be a degree of anxiety separation once we come out of Tier 97½ but I hope that he will adjust well once left with some apparently indestructible chewy toy or piece of furniture. He frequently manages to press the remote control but seems to struggle with a crossword. We live in interesting times!

Shabbat At Home

by Bernard Fisherman



On Shabbat our lounge becomes a holy place
Our very own sanctuary filled with grace

With curtains drawn and telephones silenced
We meditate, sing and pray
Shabbat is always a welcome time because it's a special day

People we've never spoken to smile and wave hello
No Shul to visit for a long time yet so Zoom is the way to go

Covid 19 will end one day that's a fact not just a dream
Now it's become a reality because of a magic vaccine

My year of lockdown

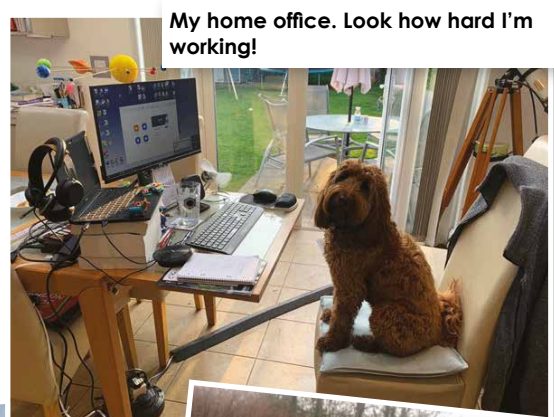
by Bella Bluebell Rutstein, Aged 2

I don't know about you, but I have loved lockdown. Every single minute!

I used to be left on my own sometimes, and I don't like that. But since my family have had to stay at home and can't even go to work, school or restaurants, I get to spend ALL day with my family. It's great.

I used to spend most of the day sleeping with my mum (Alex) as she always worked from home, but now I can choose who to snuggle up to during the day.

Here are some photos of my year in lockdown:



2 dogs and a fish

by Edwin Lucas



I know that the normal gestation period for a new human is 9 months. Whilst a long wait, it is soon over and then the new family member can meet the grandparents. Zoom has been a life saver where the grandparents can see and listen but sadly, not touch. I can imagine that many grandparents are struggling. I am struggling as my grandfish are newly born and I have not been able to meet them, or see them, at close quarters. There is no talking to or touching them and they are so small that, even through zoom, I cannot see the whites of their eyes. One good thing about them is, that they are not noisy and do not bark at night and the fishparent does not have to get up at night and feed and change them. I also do not have to take the grandfish out for walks, so I

am relieved. Spot and Bella who are parented by Mendozas and Rutsteins need lots of walks and interaction whilst my grandfish are so grown up already and look after their own entertainments. They swim and swim and love the water. They also like darting in and out of the underwater trees and items in their lives. They do not complain and are so happy in their environment. I would not take them to the river where Bella went in the boat, as there are no boundaries and they might get lost or even be cannibalised by other fish, who are bigger than they are now. To give my grandfish a treat will be easy as, unlike Spot, it cannot eat or drink chicken soup with kneidlach and I think would think kneidlach is a boulder and something to swim round.

Be well and until next time, when we can see how our fish have grown and developed mentally and physically.

Patience must prevail

by Antonia Berger



A finger on the nuclear button could have caused mass human plight, Instead it was a virus that changed our whole world overnight, Spread so fast from Wuhan, we watched bad news unfold, Invisible and deadly the virus took its hold.

Shock horror at a distance watching people drop like flies, This vice-like grip of Satan as another life expires... The numbers mount up day by day and more tentacles are spread, For there is small containment - the world is filled with dread.

Worst fears are met when travellers, the silent menace take, To continents across the globe - and there is no escape. Hospitals are crammed full as ventilators breathe oxygen into gasping lungs to bring a little ease.

A precious vaccine has been found to halt the plague of plagues, It takes time to spread the remedy and patience must prevail, So whilst we wait in lockdown for the red light to turn green, Our four walls of containment are mostly what we've seen.

Find ways to lift your spirits and also take that daily walk, Communication goes both ways, pick up the phone and talk. The challenges are different for each and everyone, But try to make each day worthwhile in something that you've done.

Clamouring for freedom is wasted energy, Soon will come a point in time when we are cautious free. The N.H.S. is there for all, so 'Thank You' from our heart, Then we'll open the door to a different world - whenever that may start...

Mosaic Liberal will be holding a Communal Seder

Sunday 28th March

Mosaic Liberal will be holding a Communal Seder on Zoom Sunday 28th March.

Order of service:

1st part:
6 - 6.45 pm

Seder meal:
6.45 - 7.30 pm

Concluding service:
7.30 - 8 pm

(Virtual) Communal Seder, 2nd Night Pesach

Sunday 28th March at 7.00 pm

Rabbi Middleton and her family are delighted to invite you to join them for our (virtual) Communal Seder on 2nd Night Pesach, Sunday 28th March at 7.00 pm.

To join the virtual Seder service via Zoom, please click the following link (note that the Zoom link will be active 30 minutes before the service starts):

If you do not have a computer and wish to dial in via the telephone please use the following number (standard call charges apply) and enter the meeting ID when prompted.

T: 0203 481 5240 Meeting ID: 828 2353 9435



Passover Thoughts

by Rosemary Wolfson



Moses stretched out his hand
over the Red Sea.
The Lord made a
strong east wind push
the waves of water back.
There was a roaring of
white sprinkled foam,
a vision of lightning
in the skies – of
ominous mountains,
but also a fantasy,
perhaps of hope
accompanied by a flash of
bright light ejected
from the clouds.
The Children of Israel
crossed over onto dry ground.
They did eventually become safe
from

the Egyptians who followed them -
and so began their travails
in the desert.

After the Ten Commandments were
given to Moses and the people,
then came the Golden Calf, and
later the
construction of the Sanctuary.
And inside this portable holy place
a portion of space was given to a
candlestick of pure gold, with
cups made like almond-blossoms.

Did Moses and the
Children of Israel
follow a route through
what is now Saudi Arabia
on their way to the Holy Land?
And today a very few of us
might know of the existence of
the "Cemetery Iris" – one of the
most attractive paper thin delicate
white flowers found in this region.

But indeed could
these cups of now golden colour
attempt to give even a suggestion
with their designs of almond
blossom

upon them, a vision of blooms
that were in actual life pure white,
or delicate pink, which are
always present in the inner
part of the petals, and give
a pink blush to the whole blossom?

And would these white flowers
have
ever been seen against the
blackness of
ravens, with their rasping cries, or
the eagles, those large creatures of
prey, and powerful flight?

But hopefully these artisans
of ancient times, could sway those
in the Sanctuary to
just focus on these now golden
almond branches, in their
pre-blossom stage,
within this candelabrum.

And some of us, perhaps,
before the coming of the
time of Passover,
may finally be presented with
the promise of a Divine Presence.

Shabbat Service at South London Liberal Synagogue

23rd January 2021

By Kevin Ziants

Towards the end of 2020
Rabbi Nathan Godleman
invited the Mosaic Liberal
community to their
Shabbat 23rd January morning
service on Zoom. The condition
was that we are their guests and
his community will manage the
entire organisation. Our condition
of acceptance was we can host
a reciprocal arrangement some
time soon after.

Nathan has strong links with our
community from when we were
HWPS and has become a personal friend. As well as our
shared religious views we held the common ground of being
QPR fans. Nathan's experience at HWPS was a stepping-
stone for him becoming a Rabbi.

After Rabbi Nathan joined SLLS he often invited me to join
one of their services. I was tempted, but the shorter journey
to Harrow seemed more appealing. With lockdown and
Zoom currently the only way it was easy to accept Nathan's
invitation on behalf of our whole community.

I am aware of Nathan's attention to detail and we frequently
touched base in the week leading up to the service. We
had what I thought was a final conversation tying up all the
details; I rounded off that conversation and thought that
nothing could possibly go wrong. Forty-five minutes before
the start Nathan rang me and asked what start time I had
told the community. I replied 11am, which was 15 minutes
after their normal 10:45 start time! Rather than panic, Nathan
explained the delayed start to his members when they logged



onto Zoom. This worked well as it gave
a chance for both communities to get
to know each other better and have an
impromptu welcoming in the Shabbat
song. Also, with 57 participants the Zoom
waiting room became rather congested.

Nathan led and sang solo in his usual
professional manner. The sermon was
most uplifting, giving us hope and looking
at the light at the end of the tunnel in
these troubled times. The highlight was
sharing photos of the furniture from our
sanctuary, which we had gifted to them,
in their empty sanctuary. It was strange

seeing Steven Sanderson's backdrop of our sanctuary
showing the same furniture. I had a feeling of being at home
and am certainly inspired, when it is safe, to venture South of
the River to be at SLLS in person.

During Kiddush a further connection was established: Max
Salter, the founder and first Chairman of the then Wembley
& District Liberal Synagogue, came from south of the river,
and his family had been involved with SLLS. I have since
established the old pulpit, replaced by ours was donated by
the Salter family during the war.

We certainly have cemented an even greater bond with
SLLS. I look forward to hosting their community at one of our
services in the not-too-distant future.

Quote From Nathan "it was very enjoyable to see so many
familiar faces, and very moving to be leading a service for the
synagogue I serve, SLLS, and the synagogue that helped me
on my way, Mosaic Liberal

A song for dark times *'Light at the Bottom of a Black Hole'*

by Richard Lobb

I see your face
I know you're hurting
You've been there time and time again
But you don't need to carry my weight
You don't need to be afraid

There's light at the bottom of a black hole
Just keep going down
There's beauty in the darkness if you stop
and look around
There's hoping hiding in the hopeless
Waiting to be found
Dance in the mystery of being in the now
There's light at the bottom of a black hole
Light at the bottom of a black hole



So feel the earth
Touch the water
Breathe in life and let it go
There's a fire that's always burning
Beneath the longing in your soul

There's light at the bottom of a black hole
Just keep going down
There's beauty in the darkness if you stop
and look around
There's hoping hiding in the hopeless
Waiting to be found
Dance in the mystery of being in the now
There's light at the bottom of a black hole
Light at the bottom of a black hole



Happy Birthday

in March & April to:

Jayden Brummell, 10

Mackensie Mydat, 4

Lennon Mydat, 4

Benjamin Banks, 3

Abigail Luffman, 12

Freya Luffman, 12



The Making of 'Orion's Messenger'

- If I Can Do It - Anyone Can!

by Antonia Berger

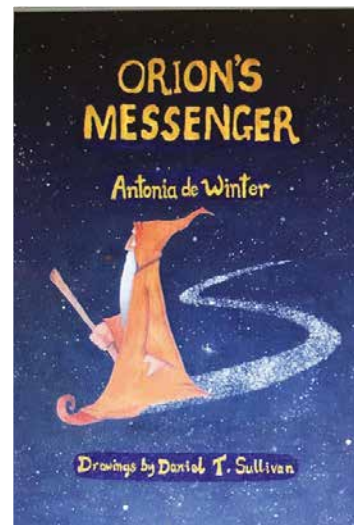
"I am currently working on the sequel to Orion's Messenger, which will hopefully be in print a lot sooner than book number one!"

There are many things in life that don't get done - like repainting the kitchen chairs or clearing out the garage... Well in my case it was about a storybook I wrote many years ago to cheer up our daughter, Luciana when she was in hospital having her tonsils out. Then, the manuscript of the story (novel length), sat high up on a shelf gathering dust for over 30 years. It was definitely 'unfinished business' but never forgotten, as from time to time a little voice in the back of my head said 'get it published'. I never got around to it, even though I knew it was a good story as I had read it to other children and they enjoyed it too. In the meantime, what with rearing children, working in our soft furnishing shop and being a trained counsellor, also writing songs and poetry, life just got in the way.

Now I'm the grandmother of four small and very entertaining grandchildren, two of whom - live far away in Nashville, Tennessee. It was our son Alexander over there, who said to me 'It's time to get 'Orion's Messenger' published so that your grandchildren can enjoy the story as well'.

Lockdown provided me with the perfect opportunity to finally brush it up and get it sorted. I even managed to re-establish contact with the original illustrator, whose vivid imagination brought the characters to life.

At the same time I decided to record the audiobook with Howard. I narrated the story and Howard provided the very entertaining and varied voices of a wide range of characters. Professional equipment was sent to our home



(as we obviously couldn't go to the studio) and I had a crash course in being a sound technician! We spent many a satisfying hour with headphones on and it was a good way to pass the time. We hope this will translate into enjoyment for children from the ages of 6-12 years old, or in fact anyone who enjoys a delightful magical yarn. The complete and edited recording is now well over 3 hours long.

The plot of Orion's Messenger is about a schoolboy who visits the Great Museum of History with his delightfully eccentric aunt. After a sequence of mystifying events, he ends up in a charmed place, 'Blue Sky Island', where he has the adventure of a lifetime in amongst talking creatures, a hapless wizard - whose spells don't always

work, a golden eagle and an ancient legacy. The 'baddie' is an Ogre called The Grizzly Grumpot... all ingredients for a magical flight of fantasy which can immerse the reader and transport them away from all the doom and gloom of the current situation...

I am currently working on the sequel to Orion's Messenger, which will hopefully be in print a lot sooner than book number one! I'm also delighted to say that 'Orion's Messenger', which is published under my maiden name of Antonia de Winter, can be found on all good bookseller websites including Amazon, and through Audible and iTunes for the audiobook. Finally, -as the title of my article says - 'If I can do it after 30 years, then anybody can!'

This is the beginning of my second life

by Barry Caplan

It started when I was learning for my Bar Mitzvah, which was the beginning of April 1957. I had tutoring at shul but the Rabbi called me into his office to inform me that I was learning the wrong parsha. Can you imagine how I felt? I was given the piece that should be read the following week. The Rabbi had to come home with me to record the piece I should be learning, all this and having school exams very soon.



I entered the operating theatre at 12.00 am and woke up in a ward at 12.00 pm that day. It took me many days to understand what they had done to me as there were no Stoma nurses.

My teenage years were a little difficult especially meeting girls. On my second date I would explain my situation. Some accepted me but others almost ran away. My wife has obviously stayed for 54 years and we're still going strong. We have two grown men who have given four wonderful grandchildren.

One day on the way to school I started having stomach pains and as the time got closer to both events the pains were getting unbearable. I did my Bar Mitzvah without any problem but my party the following day was not very enjoyable for me.

A week later I found myself in hospital and 2 weeks later I was transferred to Edgware General hospital. After a few weeks of investigations they discovered I had Ulcerative Colitis, not very nice. I had two relapses and after several months was transferred to the Middlesex Hospital in the West End. After another relapse and many blood transfusions, it was decided the only cure was surgery. On 31st October

Life has been very good to me. We have travelled short and long distances. I have driven to the south of France and Italy. One of our sons lives in Canada where we have had many enjoyable holidays.

If anyone reading this article has a Stoma I hope you get some encouragement from my short encounter. I am the Chairman of a self-help group called "Insideout". We meet online at the moment and you're welcome to join us. When Covid is over we hope to return to St Marks Hospital for our fortnightly coffee mornings. Don't forget, live life to its maximum. I am a young 76 and keep enjoying myself. If you wish to contact me, please do so via the Mosaic office.



John Ashmele FGPT

Who Goes Where at Weddings

The convention at weddings is for the Bridegroom to stand, be seated and photographed on his Bride's right; after all, he is her right-hand man!

For anything larger than a small, informal reception, a wedding seating plan is likely to make a significant difference to the success of your reception. In the UK, the Bride and Bridegroom would traditionally sit in the middle of the wedding top table flanked by the Bride's parents, then the Bridegroom's parents and finally by the Best Man and Chief Bridesmaid. So from the guests' view, sitting left to right: Chief Bridesmaid, Bridegroom's Father, Bride's Mother, Bridegroom, Bride, Bride's Father, Bridegroom's Mother, and Best Man.

By the way - the correct title is 'the Bridegroom'; the groom is the person who looks after the horses!

Please contact John Ashmele if you wish to discuss your simcha

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Tick The Jewish Box

by Dr Jonathan Boyd

Executive Director
jpr / Institute for Jewish Policy Research

"It will take you barely a second. All it involves is putting a tick in a box. But it is one of the most important and consequential things you can do to contribute to the future of British Jewish life."

**census
2021**

It will take you barely a second. All it involves is putting a tick in a box. But it is one of the most important and consequential things you can do to contribute to the future of British Jewish life.

The national Census takes place once a decade. Every household in the country is legally obligated to complete it, so it always generates the most complete and detailed set of data imaginable. Conducted in England and Wales by the Office for National Statistics, it provides essential data to support planning in every walk of life, including health, education, housing, employment, economics, social inclusion and political representation. There is not a single issue happening in Britain today that cannot be better understood in some way by referring to census data.

In 2001, the census included a question on religion for the first time. It simply asked: 'What is your religion?' and offered several response options: Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Other or None. It was controversial at the time – the Government needed better data to understand increasingly multicultural Britain, but there were concerns that people might find the question too intrusive. In the end they decided to include it but, uniquely among all questions asked, to make it optional.

266,740 people ticked the 'Jewish' box. Because the question was optional, that figure did not capture the total size of the Jewish population. But it came close. Using other techniques, the UK Jewish population was estimated at 300,000 at the time, so the census picked up about 90% of the whole. A very similar result – 271,259 people – was obtained when the question was repeated in the next census in 2011.

For most Jews, discussion about the census ends here. They think that Jewish interest in it is limited to knowing how many people ticked the box. But they could not be more wrong.

Close examination of census data allows us to construct an immensely detailed portrait of the Jewish population

– its age profile, geographical contours, socio-economic conditions, health status, living circumstances and much more. And the existence of these data helps every single Jewish organisation in the country

to understand exactly what the Jewish population of the UK looks like, how it has changed over time, and how it is likely to evolve in the future.

Jewish Care has used the census to project how many elderly care places will be needed in care homes going forward. Partnerships for Jewish Schools (PaJeS) has used it to determine how many school places to provide. Langdon has used it to assess how many Jewish children have learning disabilities. World Jewish Relief has used it to build support for its work overseas.

It's been used to help understand the scale and nature of antisemitism, to determine intermarriage rates and to help create low-cost housing for disadvantaged Jewish families. It's used in every reliable survey of the Jewish population – every credible figure you have seen about the proportion of Jews who think x, do y, or believe z draws on census data.

Every synagogue movement, Jewish school, Jewish charity and foundation uses census data in countless ways, even if they don't realise it. I know, because I spend much of my professional life sharing it with them, using it to explain the Jewish population dynamics they need to understand to determine how best to serve our community.

The next census takes place on 21st March 2021. As in 2001 and 2011, it will include an optional question about religion with a 'Jewish' response option. Please tick it. Indeed, please encourage every single Jew you know to tick it. That very simple task is one of the most consequential things you can do to help Jewish charities serve you and your family's interests for the foreseeable future.

Dr Jonathan Boyd is Executive Director of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, and independent research institute providing data to support Jewish organisations across Europe to help plan for the future. www.jpr.org.uk

THE BOARD
OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

Pesach Message

President Marie Van Der Zyl

Nissan 5781

This time last year I wrote in my Pesach message about the pandemic which had suddenly overtaken all of us and which was already taking a heavy toll on the Jewish community. I am very sad that one year later this terrible virus is still claiming lives in our community and affecting the way we live.



Once again, Seder Night will not be the packed, joyous family event we all love. We will, for the second time, be holding intimate events with our closest family and then only if we are lucky enough to live in the same house or bubble. My thoughts are with all of you who are alone at this time or unable to see your nearest and dearest. This past year has taken a toll on all of us but I have seen great acts of generosity and kindness. In some ways, this terrible situation has brought out the best in people – from the small things, like a grandchild baking for her grandparents who are shielding, to those such as Captain Tom, whose fundraising made millions for the NHS, before his sad passing earlier this year.

Now, with millions already vaccinated and infection rates falling, we have a sacred duty to ensure that lives are saved. Every death in our community has been a tragedy for someone's family. We must ensure that we do everything to save lives. This is the most fundamental imperative of Judaism.

Over this year, the way the Board of Deputies operates has changed, with home working for our staff and Zoom for our plenary meetings. Our online BoDcast events have engaged thousands of people from across the country and across the world and our achievements have continued to grow.

We continue to work with all parts of the Jewish community to ensure that they have access to the best available information about the Coronavirus pandemic and make decisions about when to open and when to close facilities. This has included working with the Cabinet Office to get guidance translated into Yiddish for sections of the Charedi community who do not have English as a first language.

We have been working tirelessly to ensure that the Labour Party, under its new leader Sir Keir Starmer, acts firmly and decisively to excise the antisemitism which had flourished under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn. On this, good progress has been made but we need to see even more.

We have also worked hard this year on ensuring that Jews do not face hatred online, by coming up with proposals to ensure that new Online Harms legislation protects us all from abuse social media platforms. Online is the new frontline in the fight against antisemitism – and not just antisemitism, but

misogyny, anti-Muslim hatred, homophobia and racism and bigotry against other religions, ethnicities and minority groups. We are working hard to ensure we are better protected. In the meantime, we have acted to stop antisemites selling their poison online by working with Amazon to ensure Holocaust

denial works are removed from its platform.

We may be the Board of Deputies of British Jews but some of our most important and successful work has been in support of a group which are neither British nor Jewish. The Chinese Uyghur Muslims are subject to terrible persecution, and I was not the only one to see echoes of the Holocaust in their treatment by the Chinese authorities. I wrote to the Chinese Ambassador following a harrowing interview on the Andrew Marr Show and as an organisation we worked tirelessly to persuade MPs to support the Genocide Amendment to the Trade Bill, which would allow Uyghurs to get around the broken UN system and be able to take their call for justice in a British court.

In a year in which the world mourned the racist murder of George Floyd in the USA, we felt a responsibility to ensure that our community was one in which Black Jews and Jews of Colour do not feel alienated. To this end we set up the Commission on Racial Inclusivity in the Jewish Community with Stephen Bush as Chair. We hope that the recommendations that the Commission makes will make our community a model of inclusivity in the coming years.

Despite the tragedy in the world there have been some beacons of light in the past 12 months. I have seen our community come together like never before. Despite the physical distance, we have been looking after each other and this is has been so necessary and heartwarming. We have also seen remarkable progress in Israel's relations with its Middle East neighbours. The Abraham Accords were signed between Israel the UAE and Bahrain. We also saw an agreement with Morocco. One of the highlights of my years was lighting the Chanukah candles in an online event with the ambassadors of the UAE and Bahrain – something I never thought I would see.

We have been enduring difficult times. It is my earnest wish that we all stay safe and look forward, as we always do at this time, to better days ahead.

Pesach Sameach to you and your families from everyone at the Board of Deputies.

Marie van der Zyl

Pesach Message From Reform Judaism

The story of Pesach is all about the delivery of the Children of Israel from slavery to freedom – the first step towards to the Promised Land. As many participants at the Seder will experience, though, the story takes longer than they might have hoped for.

Moses and Aaron come to the elders of the people with a fresh message from the burning bush to say that they are here to deliver the Children of Israel from slavery. They even show some miraculous signs to prove that they really mean business. The elders are delighted at this news, eager to be freed from slavery.

If anyone thought the deliverance would be simple, they were quickly proven wrong. Pharaoh is not keen to give up his useful workforce of Jewish slaves. After the first request is made he not only refuses, but orders the slaves to continue making their bricks without giving them the straw to do so. Some of the workers confront Moses and Aaron, wishing they had never brought this new curse on the Israelites. Whilst eventually the Israelites would get their freedom, the path to it would be hard.

The path to our own freedom today has many echoes of our exodus story. The news that several vaccines have been approved for use in the UK brought with it much rejoicing at

the idea of us soon reaching freedom. We quickly realised, however, there would be some more tough times to get through to reach the light at the end of the tunnel.

Every community in our Reform Judaism family has inspirational stories from the past year about how people have gone the extra mile to offer support. We have been physically distant, but in spirit closer than ever before.

Achieving freedom was a long road for the Israelites, as it is for us. When they achieved freedom, their experience shaped their future - God commands them "you shall not wrong the stranger, for you too were strangers in the land of Egypt". Whilst we yearn for life to return for normal, we hope our movement and our communities will continue to benefit from the lessons we have learnt in lockdown. We are inspired at Reform Judaism by the support communities have given to vulnerable members, the dedication given to connecting with those who are isolated, the collaboration between communities and the increased inclusion and accessibility we have seen over this period. We hope when we do physically return to our buildings, we will be using our freedom to build even stronger communities.

Chag Pesach Sameach from all of us at Reform Judaism.

Curating our Stories

At the well-attended Holocaust Memorial Day presentation in January by Fred Weil (cousin of Mosaic Reform member Michael Reik) about the unique diary his grandmother had kept whilst she was in Theresienstadt, we noticed that many attendees appreciated the opportunity to share the stories of their parents, stories which some only recently discovered.

Realising how important it is to record and curate these stories, not only for our own sake and for the sake of future generations, but also for the sake of those who lived and died in those darkest of times, we are seeking to establish

a special group for second generation holocaust survivors, who may wish to share, research, collate and curate those stories and perhaps record them in some way that can be shared with future generations.

We will ensure that sharing of these stories will be done in a safe environment and support will be available.

If you are interested in joining this group or would like to help run it, please contact Rabbi Kathleen or Gay Saunders (rabbimiddleton@mosaicreform.org.uk or communitycare@mosaicreform.org.uk)



CST's work did not stop during 2020 and the Covid-19 pandemic. That is because antisemitism, terrorism and extremism continued, adapting to the situation as they so often seem to do. CST's work must continue, as those threatening to cause harm to our Jewish community persist.

We know that antisemitism grows at times of crisis, uncertainty and fear. There is a basic anger, but there is also a growing belief in conspiracy theories and a hunt for scapegoats. Unfortunately, that will often include us.

The value of community is most obvious when times are tough. Last Pesach, we never knew what this new Coronavirus situation had in store. The idea that, come next Pesach, family and friends must again be celebrating remotely, would have been overwhelming: worst still, would have been the thought that in many families, there would also be deep tragedy and loss. We now understand the situation, but that does not make it any easier. Yet here we are, coming together again, as best we can, how ever we can. Please know that CST is also still here. Like you, we didn't stop being who we are, working for the good of our community, our families and friends.

We work to serve you, our community. Our mission is to enable and encourage the flourishing of Jewish life in the UK, confident in the knowledge that we are there to keep it safe. This endeavour cannot happen without your cooperation and support: in fact, we depend on it.

There are lots of different ways to support CST.

You can contribute by becoming a volunteer and training in technical and physical aspects of modern-day security, ensuring that your shul and fellow congregants are as well-protected as possible.

You can report antisemitism to us when you see it. Every report helps us to do our jobs better and to represent our community to police and government. Help us to help you, that is what we are here for.

You can donate to us. We are a charity and rely upon the generosity of our community. CST's trustees and donors give to CST as well as all manner of other charities and causes, Jewish and non-Jewish. All of this helps us to build a better Jewish, British, future together.

CST wishes you all a Chag Pesach Sameach.

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

National Emergency Number (24-hour) 0800 032 3263
London (Head Office) 020 8457 9999
Manchester (Northern Regional Office) 0161 792 6666

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



Brady Club's memories preserved in online archive



"From this beginning many thousands of young Jews, members of these two great youth clubs, ventured into the wider world buoyed by the confidence and positivity they gained from their membership of the Brady Clubs."

The Brady Club for Working Lads was established in 1896 in Durward Street, London, E1. The project was driven by Lady Rothschild and other wealthy West End Jews who wanted to improve the social quality of life and help to Anglicise the East End boys, who came mainly from East European refugee families, and whose lingua franca was Yiddish. The building was situated behind Whitechapel tube station in what was then Bucks Row, before being renamed Durward Street. In 1900 the Brady Boys Club, the only Jewish Youth Club in the country at that time, was admitted to the membership of the London Federation of Working Boys Clubs which offered the opportunity to compete in sporting activities with youth clubs cross the capital; a huge step on the road to acceptance and integration. This meant that Jewish children, of Yiddish speaking refugees from the Russian Empire, Ukraine, Romania and Poland were now fully-fledged members of a London-wide youth organisation that had never previously had Jewish children in its ranks. In 1925, Miriam Moses OBE established the Brady Girls Club, which occupied the same building until 1935 when the girls moved to a building in Hanbury Street, London, E1. By 1960, when the Boys Club moved from Durward Street to amalgamate with the Girls Club in Hanbury Street, the average nightly attendances exceeded 200.

From this beginning many thousands of young Jews, members of these two great youth clubs, ventured into the wider world buoyed by the confidence and positivity they gained from their membership of the Brady Clubs.

In 2016 Susan Andrews MA, Reader in Photography at the Sir John Cass Faculty at London Metropolitan University

was contacted about a cache of photographs, recently re-discovered in an attic by journalist Hannah Charlton. The photographs were in various states of repair, but all were related to the members and premises of the Brady Clubs between circa 1940 to mid 1970. Susan realised that there was an historical value to the collection, but knew little about the Brady Clubs. She decided to organise an exhibition entitled 'Nostalgia is Not Enough' to raise some public awareness. The exhibition was visited by old Bradians, who approached Susan to find out more about the collection and add greatly to their history. Subsequently, students, staff and old Bradians worked together to archive the photographs and record the Brady story. The passion shown by the old Bradians, in their continued affiliation to their past community and on-going relationships with their peer group, led to the formation of the Brady Photographic Archive Committee. This culminated in a second, larger exhibition of the photos and memorabilia in May 2018 at the London Metropolitan building in Aldgate with the support of the University, its students and particularly Susan Andrews. These materials can now be found at www.bradyarchive.co.uk and our collection is growing as the Brady diaspora around the world share their photos and memorabilia with us.

Many of the readers of this article either were members of Brady, or their parents or grandparents were members of the largest Jewish Youth Club in East London. Please do visit our website, and join our mailing list to be kept informed of new additions to the archive and our future planned activities. We would love to hear from you at bradpacom@gmail.com

Plenary Meetings by Zoom

Marie Van de Zyl in the Chair

Sunday 17th January

Early on a vote was taken on the new Constitution which had been prepared over a 18-month period. The result was 61 per cent in favour, 39 per cent against. As a 2/3 majority is required to change the constitution the motion could not proceed. The chairman stated the members would be asked to re-vote soon. However, several Deputies complained that the Chairman needed to consider variations to the format and listen to the Deputies.

Concern was raised that in the proposed constitution it stated that the Ecclesiastical authorities referred only to United Hebrew Congregation and Spanish and Portuguese Jewish Congregations and not to any of the Progressive Congregations. Marie inferred this would not be changed.

Congratulations were passed to Gillian Merron on her elevation to the house of Lords to become a Labour Peer. She will leave on April 2nd and will be replaced as chief executive by Michael Wegier previously chief executive of the UJIA.

Considerable discussion took place on vaccines being supplied to Israelis but not to Palestinians in the Territories. The general view was that Israel had been vilified in certain newspapers and had acted correctly, providing vaccines to individual Palestinians when requested.

An interesting proposal was that Kosher food should be more obviously displayed in Supermarkets in the same way as Halal food. A point to be taken up by the Executive.

Concern was raised at the Capital Washington protests with tee shirts displaying Camp Auschwitz, believing increased far right Anti-Semitic threats

Several Zoom Holocaust Memorial Events are being held this week (last year there were 17,000 individual events around the country). A complaint was made that Deputies had not been consulted to debate the position of the Holocaust memorial in the grounds by the House of Commons. This is indicative of the Deputies not becoming involved in controversial issues.

The Chanukah Party held with the Israel Ambassador and the UAE and Bahrain Ambassador was seen on Zoom by 15,000 people.

Congratulations are due to Marie Van de Zyl for inviting the Prime Minister with a letter to ask the UK Government to take up the case of the Uyghur Community in China.

A Total of 214 Deputies were present at the meeting.

Sunday February 21st by Zoom

Close to 260 Deputies were in attendance at a Plenary, the most I have known since I have been a Deputy. Jerry Lewis questioned whether the proposal for a further vote on the proposed new constitution should take place on three points of order, but these were rejected by the President after consultation with the Constitution Committee.

We then proceeded to debate for and against this revised constitution. This was 61 members each speaking for up to 1½ minutes following two proposers on behalf of the constitution committee who spoke for nearly 10 minutes.

The Board had spent nigh on 9 years in putting this constitution together to bring it into the first half of the 21st Century. Most speakers were in favour. Their main argument was; it was more important to have a new constitution in place as the discussion was preventing major items in the Jewish Community being debated at the Board.

Those who spoke against the new constitution mainly did because of their concern in the detail, which contained several issues that the membership disagreed with and because they felt it gave too much power to the executive.

Both David Safir and Michael Reik spoke during the debate.

The vote was taken electronically, and the result was 157 (63 per cent) in favour and 91 (37 per cent) against. However, this meant the new constitution could not be passed as under the existing constitution there has to be a 2/3 majority in favour. It then evolved that 12 people had not declared a vote. Also, as there was no opportunity to abstain, these non-votes could be considered as abstentions. The meeting ended, with the President, Marie Van de Zyl, proposing that there may have to be a postal vote because the constitution committee was not now sure that everybody that wished to vote had done so. If this happened in my opinion this would be unnecessary and totally wrong as even if the 12 votes not counted had been for the new constitution it still would have been 2 per cent below the 2/3 majority required.

The meeting finished in total confusion.

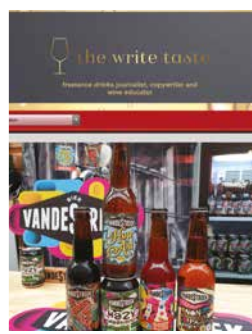
Michael Reik – Mosaic Reform Deputy

Review of Zoom Events

If you read any of the following reports on past events and wish you had watched them, you still can! Visit www.choosemosaic.org then 'What's On' and 'Past events' and they're all there for your enjoyment.

Robin Goldsmith Asks "Has Covid Spiked My Drink?"

By Caroline Chadwick



We enjoyed another Sunday afternoon talk by Robin Goldsmith, who is a member of Mosaic Reform Synagogue, on 17th January 2021.

Robin, who is an expert in the beers, wines and spirits industry gave a really informative talk about how Covid has impacted the beers, wine and spirits industry and how lockdown has significantly impacted the industry with so many jobs lost in the hospitality industry with pubs and bars opening and closing down with each lockdown and the impact of takeaway alcohol now being prohibited. Nowadays most wine, beers, ciders and spirits are bought in the supermarkets and far more on-line with customers experimenting and trying new products.

He told us before Covid-19 struck, there had already been an explosion of new drinks on the market with little or no alcohol with sophisticated flavours and other alternatives to traditional spirits and this has continued during lockdown. The coronavirus pandemic seems to have made us more acutely aware of mental health problems, with many people struggling with lockdown and social isolation, and drinking more alcohol.

He told us that lockdown has affected all of us in different ways and the impact on the drinks industry has been particularly profound, with many companies having to make radical changes to safeguard their businesses and sell their products with sales on online up considerably. There have been quirky trends like "Dog Drinks" and the manufacturers are really thinking outside the box.

He also told us a bit about the Kosher market, where Kosher products are seen in mainstream supermarkets with all the other spirits or wines and not kept separately for the Jewish customers, apart from Kiddush wine.

Robin also talked about 'Dry January', this year has been a much more difficult challenge for going a whole month without alcohol. He told us about many alcohol-free lagers that are becoming very popular, giving people choices in their long-term drinking habits.

One very interesting point he made in his talk was how the amount of duty, VAT and production costs impact the cost of a bottle of wine and that it made better financial sense to purchase a more expensive bottle of wine to get better wine content.

It is really worth taking a look at Robin's website 'The Write Taste', for more information.

Interview With Dame Louise Ellman

By Judith Bara



Having worked with Louise for many years I was delighted to join her zoom interview.

Louise Ellman joined the Labour Party in 1966 to do something about racism. She was elected to Lancashire County Council in 1970.

From 1981 she served as Council Leader until she became MP for Liverpool Riverside in 1997. She resigned from the Labour Party in late 2019.

Made against the background of rising antisemitism in the party, her resignation was difficult and devastating. After Jeremy Corbyn was elected Leader of the Labour Party in 2015, many new members representing a 'hard left' outlook joined the party, attracted by his positions on global capitalism and anti-colonialism, and Louise's constituency membership almost trebled. This resulted in an unpleasant atmosphere directed against Jewish MPs who were smeared as being 'Zionists'. Much of this was expressed in extremely distressing, and sometimes illegal, posts on social media. Whilst there has always been a small stream of antisemitism in Labour as in all parties, this was something different and sinister. However, Louise is convinced that Keir Starmer is sincerely committed to stamping out antisemitism but believes that in addition to new procedures, it is also necessary to change Labour's political culture. She will not re-join the party until she is sure this is happening, although she would vote Labour.

Steve Levinson's excellent interview also drew attention to more positive elements of Louise's long career in politics, especially her chairmanship of the House of Commons Select Committee on Transport. When asked what she considered her proudest achievements, both nationally and locally, Louise

pointed to a series of public-private partnerships established across Lancashire, her support for Regional Development Authorities and the Transport Committee's unmasking of the Volkswagen emissions scandal. All of these reflect her underlying political purpose: Pooling resources to bring about real change for people.

Whilst delighting in the departure of President Trump, notwithstanding his championship of the 'Abraham Accords', Louise hopes that the Biden Administration will bring about better containment of Iran's nuclear ambitions and negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. With regard to Labour's catastrophic losses at the 2019 General Election, Louise believes that antisemitism within the party was a factor but there were grave shortcomings in campaigning and a lack of focus on peoples' economic worries. Labour failed to project a credible image of a competent alternative government, and Keir Starmer has his work cut out to bring this about.

Weird and Wonderful Gadgets

by David Martin



On the 24th January, Maurice Collins OBE treated us to an amazing talk on his collection of 'Weird and Wonderful Gadgets' which he has been amassing over four decades.

Much of his collection is housed in museums around the country.

He hires out many items to organisations for their fund raising, the charge he makes for this, he donates to the charity 'Kith and Kids'.

The talk he gave us was absolutely fascinating... Well over a hundred people 'tuned in' and there were many opportunities to guess the purpose of some really obscure Victorian inventions.

Many of these were early versions of gadgets we use today, such as burglar alarms, cherry stone removers and egg-size graders etc but there was some quite bizarre quackery equipment; an eyeball massager (pictured) being the highlight of these. Anyone who used one was likely to cause major damage to aforementioned peepers!

An item which particularly fascinated me was a fork cleaner... A great idea but then someone has to clean the fork cleaner, which somewhat negates the object of the exercise!

There was one item, a bottle invented in the 1870s by the soft drink manufacturer Hiram Codd... Known as the "Codd-neck bottle" which gives us the derisive term for soft drinks by beer drinkers, "Codswallop" which, of course went on to describe anything which was deemed to be rubbish or nonsense!

Maurice spoke with such inspiring passion that I think many of us will be tempted to start our own collections. Only

really recommended to those of us with large houses and understanding spouses!

Hopefully he will be invited back to give us another glimpse into his collection. I get the impression that we merely scratched the surface.

Thoughts On The Election – Israel Style

by Alan Solomon



Most of us in the diaspora take an interest to a greater or lesser extent in what is happening in Israel. The timing of the talk on 28th January, given to members of Mosaic by Paul Gross, son of Reform member Jacqueline as part of our "Israel Events", could hardly have been better. Paul made Aliyah in

2007 having worked for two years in public affairs at the Israeli Embassy in London and is a Senior Fellow at the Menachem Begin Heritage Center.

Introduced by Michael Reik and speaking to us from his home in Jerusalem on "2020 – A Year in Turmoil in Israel; What can we Expect in 2021?", Paul's short answer was more of the same! On 23rd March Israel has its fourth election in less than two years, and Paul gave us a power point presentation of the electoral system there and told us how it all works. The basic facts are that there are 120 members of the Knesset and that they have proportional representation, meaning that the electorate votes for a party, not for individual members as in the UK. But with numerous parties on the ballot paper, no party ever wins 61 seats to obtain a majority and there therefore always has to be a coalition of multiple parties. If any party fails to receive 3.25 per cent of the votes, their votes are cancelled. Paul talked of the main issues – the Israeli/Palestinian boundary, the debate on a two-state solution (the general feeling is that this is not on the cards in the immediate future), and the furore involving Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his indictment on corruption charges. He is reliant on the support of the two ultra-Orthodox parties (Charedim comprise 12 per cent of the population).

Other factors are the recent signing of the Abraham Accords, the high cost of living, whether the recent election of President Joe Biden would affect matters, the formation of new political parties, and the growth of Israel's economy before Covid-19 struck. Although the country didn't do well on the handling of the virus, there was the success of the vaccination programme.

This was a turbulent time in Israel with weekly demonstrations against the Prime Minister. Paul thought it wasn't looking great for him, but we'll know the result shortly after you read this – or will we? The discussions between the leading parties and which others they try to persuade to join them will no doubt continue for some weeks. Hearing this absorbing summary of the situation in Israel left me for one feeling grateful that we do not have PR in the UK!

Meet The Author Dr Peter Altman

by David Wyman



Peter gave a captivating and most entertaining talk when interviewed by Steve Levinson. He is quite a polymath being well versed in science and magic among other things.

He told us that he had qualified as a biochemist and had been involved in medical research. This was useful to the audience as he was able to give a simple explanation on how the Covid-19 vaccines work. He subsequently went into medical book publishing. 15 years ago he started to write his book "Mysteries of the Universe" which provoked interesting questions on the origins of the universe, black holes and extra-terrestrial life.

We were informed that he had held not just one record in the "Guinness Book of Records" but noch two records namely for the fastest journey round the London Underground in 1979 and then 10 years later the Moscow Metro which both involved meticulous planning.

The talk was punctuated with two magic tricks and a song when Peter donned a pair of shades and rapped to the delight of us all.

A first-rate interview to sweep away the present gloom.

Meet the Rocket Scientist Sam Phillips

by Daniella Phillips



The talk was very interesting, it was understandable and clear. I learnt a lot about how to build a rocket engine, just in case I ever find myself in

a sticky situation! We've all heard the phrase "It's not rocket science". In this case, it was! And Sam made it fun. Although it is rocket science, Sam presented in a way that made sense, well as much sense as humanly possible. He even took us through an example, showing how they calculated, how they work out the fuel needed for each mission. Did they ever get things wrong? Oh yes, all the time. He explained that they weren't afraid of failure, that's how they learnt, so they discussed and tried new ideas all the time. Sounds like the message they keep telling us at school - "don't be afraid of getting it wrong". So it was nice to see it in action. Having said that, once they got their calculations so wrong that they nearly had a big explosion! I liked the use of diagrams and pictures to help explain the terminology, and his humour definitely helped.

What was his inspiration for working on rockets? He'd attended a rocket launch in Florida many years ago - although you were only allowed no nearer than a mile from the launch, you could still feel the ground shake under your feet, at time of launch. That was it, he was hooked from then on, and even hopes to get a job in this field. That sounds so cool! Mum, could we go to a rocket launch in Florida?

Robyn Wilson-Owen Illustrator

by Viv Block



On a very cold Sunday afternoon - 14th February [Valentine's Day] we were treated to a presentation of Robyn's wonderful work as an

illustrator and artist.

Robyn is a local artist who trained in theatre and puppet design and has illustrated both fiction and non-fiction works including children's books. Her specialities are hand-drawn and handmade images. My personal favourite image is 'Hedge Lion'. He looks quite ferocious but I think quite 'huggable'!

Her inspiration for some of her works are based on her everyday observations, which is the best way to create the images for the books she is commissioned to illustrate.

In 2021 her book 'Close Your Eyes' will be published and it will be the first she has both written and illustrated. We'd like to wish Robyn every success with this new venture and look forward to seeing her work in print.

For those of us who were on our own on Valentine's Day it was a lovely way to spend an hour or so, as it also gave us the opportunity to see many of our members 'Zooming' in.

Meet the Author Nadia Ragozhina

by Jonquil Nicholls



In our series of "Meet the Author" Steve Levinson interviewed the youngest so far of our writers, Nadia Ragozhina.

Nadia grew up in Russia and came here to school aged 14. She is now a journalist with the BBC, spending about 4 years of that time in Paris. She is married to a Norwegian and has two children.

Growing up she heard stories from her mother and grandmother about her great grandfather, Marcus. He and his brother Adolphe lived in Poland but in 1905 Adolphe moved to Switzerland whilst Marcus went 10 years later to Russia and fought in the war where he was decorated three times. Her grandmother, Anna, was born in 1923. It was very difficult for the two brothers to communicate and after they died in the 50's the two sides of the family lost all contact, the Swiss family especially forgetting the Russian one.

However Nadia had photographs and her grandmother's stories. She decided to research the family history and quickly found the Swiss family. Anna's cousin Ganye was still alive and they met for the first time - Anna was 86 and her cousin 97. Anna is 98 now and Ganye died at 101. The family all met up in Geneva and Nadia decided to research and write a book called "Worlds Apart", describing how the two families survived the war and all the political upheaval in Russia.

In the end she says this is a story about one ordinary family and how the women especially survived extraordinary times during the 20th Century in very different parts of Europe and Palestine. Nadia has also found her Jewish identity.

This was a fascinating talk which gripped us all. Her book "Worlds Apart" can be purchased through her website or Amazon. She is hoping to have it translated into French and possibly Russian and Hebrew.

Talk by Judi Rose and Dr Jackie Rose

by Caroline Chadwick



We were very lucky to be treated to a wonderful afternoon with Judi and Jackie Rose who gave us a wonderful cookery demonstration and an interesting talk on Sunday 28th February.

Many people, myself included when we first got married, had a copy of the legendary Evelyn Rose Cookery Books, including the famous yellow "The Entertaining Cookbook" which was our bible in Jewish Cookery. We were certainly given a treat with a wonderful presentation by Judi Rose, the daughter of Evelyn Rose and her cousin Dr Jackie Rose, a GP nutritionist.

Judi gave us an amazing cookery demonstration showing us how to make a Chinese Chicken Stir Fry. She demonstrated in her wonderful state of the art kitchen how to prepare the dish, using three different kinds of peppers, fresh ginger, pakchoi, unsalted cashew nuts, spring onions etc. explaining each stage as she went along and also showing us her amazing tools she uses such as a Chinese cleaver, micorplane, a brilliant grater, silicon spoons. She explained that all her cookery utensils could be purchased at Chinese

supermarkets and Amazon.

Jackie then spoke about healthy eating in Jewish Cookery, and what is good and healthy in the ingredients they used in their book. She explained that she uses a lot of organic foods in her diet, nuts, but not too many as quite calorific, plenty of dark green vegetables, wholegrains, berries, beans, turmeric (with natural yogurt) oily fish, mushrooms and so on. She said it was important that we cut down on sugar, processed foods such as cakes, crisps etc. She suggested that we eat more eggs for breakfast and cut down on marmalade and jams and many try a delayed breakfast (brief fast) which is good for our health.

Judi then went on to demonstrate how to make very yummy chocolate pomegranate discs using 70% dark chocolate and pomegranates, walnuts, pumpkin seeds, pecans, dried apricots, dried papaya to add as healthy extras.

Judi then answered questions from the audience, who wanted to know how her mother, Evelyn, influenced her career. She explained that from the age of about four she would help her mother in the kitchen making pavlova. She said that her mother was a perfect role model and very forward-thinking using food processors, microwaves. She said that her mother was a perfectionist, and tried and adapted recipes many times until she got it right and very methodical. She always made sure that her recipes worked and this was passed down to her.

Judi and Jackie Rose promoted their book which is available on www.youcaxton.co.uk and we were treated to a 25 per cent discount if we ordered within two days.

They were supporting three charities, Chai Cancer Care, World Jewish Relief supporting families in Eastern Europe and refugees and Save the Child's Heart based in Tel Aviv, helping African children and training doctors and nurses to help them.

I ordered my book today and can't wait until it arrives so I can try out these wonderful healthy Jewish recipes. The book is called To Life! Healthy Jewish Food by Judi Rose and Dr Jackie Rose.

Not just a "Gadget Man"

by Bernard Fisherman



Maurice Collins "the gadget man" was interviewed by Steve Levinson not for his prowess as a collector of gadgets of all shapes and sizes but on his life as a businessman and entrepreneur. He is heavily

involved in charity work for which he has been awarded an OBE and is a writer of several successful books. The proceeds from the sale of one of his books was donated to the charity he co-founded, Kith and Kids, a charity for vulnerable children and their families, which is very close to his heart. He showed himself to be a very caring person and passionate about life, and a remarkable man with a remarkable story to tell. This was another successful zoom presentation from Mosaic Reform Synagogue.

Israel

TalkMatters

by Jenny Nemko

"Still so few Jewish people in Israel and in the diaspora meet a Palestinian and have the chance to understand the Palestinian point of view and visa-versa."

In my BBC radio broadcasting days, I was always looking for positive stories about Israel. That is how I came across Neve Shalom Wahat al Salam – the unique village in Israel where Jews and Arabs live in a shared, equal society. The place impressed me, and I have supported them ever since. But over the last few years, I have realised that this is not enough. Still so few Jewish people in Israel and in the diaspora meet a Palestinian and have the chance to understand the Palestinian point of view and visa-versa. The social and cultural divides in Israel are great and growing. Arabs and Jews interact infrequently. Most people live in their own neighbourhoods, and people speak different languages.

Consider the deepest concerns and perceptions from both communities' perspective. Essentially what we hear is 'Palestinians are under occupation and have the right to resist' versus 'Israelis are under existential threat and have the right to secure themselves'. A lose-lose situation unable to become a win-win because it ignores the specificity of both narratives. Yet the political challenge is there. In Israel's Declaration of Independence – promising social and political equality for all Israel's citizens. And I know from speaking to people in Israel and in the West Bank that there is a burning desire to move forward to a better future. Together with policy changes at Israeli governmental and Palestinian authority level, long-term grassroots projects are essential to build the foundation for future cooperation. But more than that, I believe that we are all human beings made in the image of God and that I, as a proud Jew and Zionist, have a moral duty to 'know the heart of a stranger, seeing you were strangers in the land of Egypt' (Exodus: 23:9).

Fine words but how to fill the gap that speaks to both sides? TalkMatters was launched with this in mind.



The aim is two-fold: to inform the UK public of the many initiatives that encourage direct communication between Jewish and Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel, as well as Jewish and

Arab-Palestinian residents in the Palestinian Territories; and to provide a safe space where the organisers of the initiatives can share the challenges of working on Israeli/Palestinian projects.

TalkMatters now promotes over 30 co-operative initiatives covering music, sport, ecology, religion, education and technology www.talkmatters.info/directory We showcase these initiatives via webinars. At each webinar we meet Palestinians and Israelis who are working together. TalkMatters publishes positive news stories, articles, interviews, video clips and letters. As to the future, more Jews to meet and talk to a Palestinian and more Palestinians to meet and talk to a Jew. More co-operative initiatives in Israel-Palestine. More UK support for these initiatives. All helping to have the right people and institutions in place when the new day dawns. A day that celebrates Palestinian freedom and independence alongside a secure Jewish homeland in Israel. Rabbi Tarfon said 'It is not for you to complete the task, but neither are you free to stand aside from it' (Ethics of the Fathers, 2:21). I say, look at the website www.talkmatters.info join the mailing list so you too can learn both narratives, so you too can support the vital work that is going on. After all, Talk Matters!

Meet Dr Johnson Beharry, VC COG

Sunday 21st March



We are honoured to have Dr Johnson Beharry joining us at 4.00 pm to talk about his life story and all the work he is doing through his Foundation.

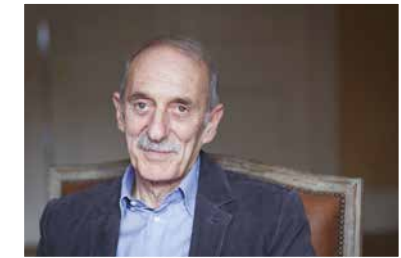
Dr Johnson Beharry, VC COG really needs no introduction. A British Army soldier, born in Grenada, who on 18th March 2005 was awarded the Victoria Cross for valour in the British and Commonwealth armed

forces, for saving members of his unit, the 1st Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, from ambushes on 1st May and again on 11th June 2004 at Al-Amarah, Iraq. He sustained serious head injuries in the latter engagement.

In addition to still serving in the army within the London District, he is now very active with his charitable foundation set up in 2014. The JBVC Foundation supports youths in getting away from gang culture and helps rehabilitate former offenders, helping with training and getting them into sustainable employment in the future.

George Magnus interview

Tuesday 30th March



Join us at 2.30 pm when Steve Levinson interviews George Magnus.

George has occupied a front-row seat as events have challenged governments, economies and

financial systems around the world since the Great Financial Crisis in 2008. He is widely credited with having identified the trigger points leading to the crisis and with helping us to understand its lingering consequences.

Once the Chief Economist of UBS, George now works as an independent economist, author and speaker. His views and opinions appear regularly in the written and social media, radio and TV. He is the author of The Age of Aging (2008) which assesses one of our leading contemporary economic and social challenges, and of Uprising: will emerging markets shape or shake the world economy? (2011), which considers the rise of and prospects for emerging markets, especially China. His latest book, Red Flags: why Xi Jinping's China is in Jeopardy, was published by Yale University Press in 2018.



Mosaic JACS Programme

March - April



All JACS events will be on-line using a Zoom meeting, starting at 2:30 pm

Tuesday 23rd March Jewish Prisoners – Keith Simons visits Jewish prisoners all over England. He will be talking about their experience of being Jewish in a prison and how he is able to support them.

Tuesday 6th April How the holocaust is commemorated in different countries – As we approach Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, Eyal Roth will be looking at how the holocaust is commemorated in different countries with a focus on the differences between Eastern and Western Europe.

Tuesday 20th April The Jews of Denmark – For almost 400 years the Danish royal family has supported and protected the small but influential Jewish community. Charlotte Thalmay will be speaking live from Denmark and telling the amazing story of Danish Jewry from when the first Jews were invited by King Christian in 1622, to the present day.

Meet David Baddiel

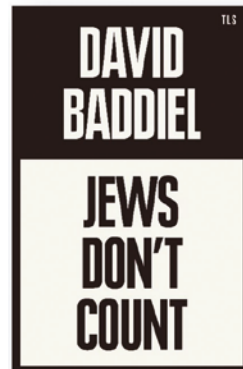
Wednesday 31st March, 8.00 pm



Mosaic is delighted to welcome David Baddiel following his appearances at JW3 and Jewish Book Week. He will be interviewed about his new book *Jews Don't Count* by Steve Levinson.

Jews Don't Count is a book for people on the right side of history. People fighting the good fight against homophobia, disablism, transphobia and, particularly, racism. People, possibly, like you.

It is the comedian and writer David Baddiel's contention that one type of racism has been left out of this fight. In his unique combination of reasoning, polemic, personal experience and comedy, Baddiel follows the anti-Semitism he finds in his Twitter feed to the stage, through the media and into politics. He argues that those who think of themselves as on the right side of history have often ignored the history of anti-Semitism. He outlines why and how, in a time of intensely heightened awareness of minorities and the discriminations they face, Jews don't count as a real minority.



"A genuinely important socio-political work that you can fit in your pocket, and which will almost certainly be passed around, with the hissed injunction 'You have to read this. It really does change everything,' like the delicious, and occasionally sobering truth bomb that it is"

Caitlin Moran

David BADDIEL is an author, comedian and screenwriter. He has written and performed in a series of highly successful TV comedy shows, including *The Mary Whitehouse Experience* and *Baddiel and Skinner Unplanned*. He is the author of four novels as well as six books for children which have sold over 1 million copies. He lives in London.



Mosaic Quiz

Sunday 11th April, 4.00 pm

Our guest quiz master, Neil Goodman (pictured), will present an entertaining online quiz for the Mosaic Jewish community. No winners, no prizes, just a lot of fun



Meet the Toastmaster – John Ashmele

Tuesday 13th April, 2.30 pm



Join us at 2.30 pm when Judy Silverton will be interviewing Toastmaster, John Ashmele.

John will discuss the history and the guilds and the training required for him to become a Toastmaster. We will learn about the different types of functions covered including weddings and b'nei mitzvah, civic and corporate functions and we look forward to John peppering his answers with 'tips of the trade' and amusing anecdotes.

Over the years John has derived great satisfaction in organising and delivering many social, community and fund-raising

events, ensuring that each occasion is memorable for all the right reasons. Having pursued a successful career as a freelance Information Systems Consultant for over 30 years, he is now pleased to offer his services as a Toastmaster. Great care should always be taken when selecting a Toastmaster, and John is proud to have been trained to the high standards of the Professional Toastmasters' Academy and welcomed as a Fellow of the Guild of Professional Toastmasters. Born and educated in London, he currently lives in Eastbury, South-West Hertfordshire with his wife, Annette, a professional translator.

Meet Professor Simon Barak

Sunday 18th April, 3.00 pm



'On a Dark Desert Highway' – Research and Development in the Negev

Join us at 3.00 pm when Simon Barak, cousin of our member Gillian Reik, will be speaking from the Sede Boker campus of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev on this subject as part of our Israel Events. Michael Reik will be introducing Simon.

Simon made Aliyah in 1990 and married Michal shortly after. Following his initial degrees, he obtained a Ph.D. from Ben-Gurion University (BGU) at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research (BIDR) in 1999 and is currently an Associate Professor at BIDR. Simon is a recognized leader in studying genes that allow plants to survive in the world's harshest environments such as those found in the Negev desert, and is the author of scores of articles in scientific journals. In addition, he is involved in promoting Ben-Gurion University via establishing BGU Radio, filmmaking and representing BGU in national and international forums.

Meet the City Editor & Author Alex Brummer

Sunday 2nd May 4.00 pm



Join us at 4.00 pm when Steve Levinson interviews Alex Brummer. Alex was born in Brighton, obtaining a first degree in Economics and Politics at the University of Southampton. He has always worked as a journalist, initially at the Guardian in the UK and in Washington, USA, in important financial positions overall for a period of 26 years. He then moved to The Mail, becoming City Editor in 2000, a position he holds today.

He has provided many articles for The JC and as of late specifically the Jewish News. He received a Doctorate at Bradford University in 2014 for his services to Journalism and has received many prizes for his work. Alex has written eight books, his latest, *The great British Reboot*.

He was Vice-President at the Board of Deputies 2012-2015, and is currently Chairman of the Abraham Fund Initiatives.

Meet Dr Jennifer Langer

Tuesday 27th April, 2.30 pm



Steve Levinson will interview Jennifer Langer at 2.30 pm.

Jennifer is the Founding Director of Exiled Writers Ink, established in 2000 to bring together migrant and refugee writers. Through literary activism, EWI works to promote creative expression and cross-cultural dialogue while highlighting human rights abuses.

A long-time writer of poetry for herself, Jennifer is editor of four anthologies of exiled literature: *The Bend in the Road: Refugees Writing* (1997), *Crossing the Border: Exiled Women's Writing* (2002), *The Silver Throat of the Moon: Writing in Exile* (2005) and *If Salt Has Memory: Contemporary Jewish Exiled Writing* (2008). She has also written numerous articles on aspects of the literature of exile as well as presenting papers both in the UK and overseas, ranging from Casablanca to Gothenburg.

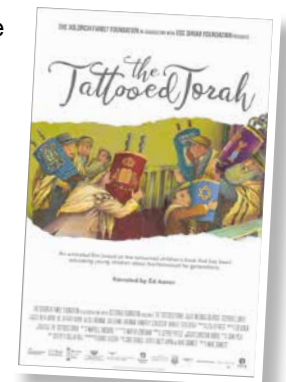
Jennifer is a Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies having previously worked in education in inner London. She holds a SOAS PhD, in cultural memory and the literature of exile appertaining to exiled Iranian Jewish women writers, and an MA in Cultural Memory from the School of Advanced Studies, University of London.

Jennifer is herself the daughter of refugees, both the sole survivors of their respective families, who escaped from Nazi Germany and who met in England.

Showing of the film, 'The Tattooed Torah'

Sunday 9th May 4.00 pm

Save the date! More details to follow.



Thank you

Just a big 'thank you' to members of the community for all your kindness and support shown to me, Michael and Zoe since Tony's death from cancer on 28th January. We have much appreciated the lovely letters, messages and 'phone calls together with soup and sustenance during this sad and difficult time for our family. Thank you to Ann Simon for her practical help and kindness and especially to Rabbi Kathleen for her considerable spiritual support, guidance and sensitivity and for leading a beautiful, dignified funeral service and shiva prayers.

From Linda Holman

Pesach Fruit Kugel

Recipe

This recipe was first printed in the April 1986 edition of "Bimah". It was provided by Angela Kasin who is currently on the committee of the Friendship Club. It'll taste as good in 2021 as it did in 1986!



Ingredients:

3 large matzos
4 tart apples, peeled & shredded
6 eggs
Grated rind of 1 orange
4 oz sugar
1 tablespoon sugar & ¼ teaspoon cinnamon mixed together
½ teaspoon salt
3 oz seedless raisins
1 teaspoon cinnamon
3 oz almonds, blanched & chopped
2 oz margarine

Method:

Crumble matzos into warm water, soak until soft, squeeze out all excess moisture.

Beat eggs, add sugar, salt and cinnamon until well blended.

Stir matzos, raisins, almonds, apples and orange rind into the mixture.

Place in a greased 3-pint casserole. Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon mixture and pour melted margarine over the pudding.

Bake in pre-heated oven 180C, 350F or gas number 4 for 1 hour until firm and nicely browned. Enjoy!

What's On

FOR ZOOM DETAILS FOR ALL THE FOLLOWING EVENTS VISIT THE MOSAIC WEBSITE

<https://choosmosaic.org/whats-on/events/>

MARCH

Saturday 20 th		Shabbat Vayikra
Sunday 21 st	16.00	Meet Johnson Behary
Tuesday 23 rd	14.30	JACS – Jewish Prisoners – Keith Simons
Saturday 27 th		Shabbat Tzav 1st Seder
Sunday 28 th		1st day Pesach 19.00 Communal Seder
Tuesday 30 th	11.00	Farewell to Bessborough Road Service
	14.30	Meet George Magnus
Wednesday 31 st	20.00	Meet David Baddiel

APRIL

Friday 2 nd		Erev 7 th day Pesach
Saturday 3 rd		7 th day Pesach
Sunday 4 th		8 th day Pesach
Tuesday 6 th	14.30	JACS – Commemorating the Holocaust in different countries
Wednesday 7 th	20.00	Yom HaShoah service
Thursday 8 th		Mosaic leaves Bessborough Road!
Thursday 8 th		Yom HaShoah
Saturday 10 th		Shabbat Shemini
Sunday 11 th	16.00	Quiz
Tuesday 13 th	14.30	Meet the Toastmaster – John Ashmele
Wednesday 14 th		Kehila copy date
Thursday 15 th		Yom Ha'atmaut
Saturday 17 th		Shabbat Tazria-Metzora
Sunday 18 th	09.30	HaMakom term starts
	16.00	Meet Professor Peter Abrahams
Tuesday 20 th	14.30	JACS – The Jews of Denmark
Saturday 24 th		Shabbat Acharei Mot/Kedoshim
Sunday 25 th	15.00	Meet Professor Simon Barak
Tuesday 27 th	14.30	Meet Dr Jennifer Langer
Thursday 29 th		Kehila distribution
Friday 30 th		Lag b'Omer



Summer time begins Sunday 28th March

How To Contact Us From 10th April 2021

Post – If you wish to write to the Synagogue, letters should still be addressed to **39 Bessborough Road**. The post will be picked up by a Redirection of Mail that we will put in place.

Telephone – Please continue to ring **020-8864 0133**. The 'phones will be diverted and we'll be delighted to speak to you in the usual way.

Email – no change!

Visiting the office – the Administrator will be working from a temporary office in Pinner. If you need to visit the office, please contact as above and we will give you the address.



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 Raachel 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

Burials Officer: Edward Kafka
020 8904 5499

JJBS: 020 8989 5252

Rabbi Natasha Mann
rabbinatasha@mosaicmasorti.org.uk



Chairman: Chairman Harry Grant
07836 507807

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

www.choosemosaic.org