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The Magazine of the **Mosaic Jewish Community**

May 2021



Since our last issue

Children and Teen birthdays on page 7

MOSAIC REFORM

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Judy & Martin Squires

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Gabby Kessler, 85
David de Magtige, 55
Bernard Fisherman, 85
Yvonne Goldstein, 75
Neil Goodman, 75
Nat Levene, 98
Paul Mendelson, 70
Beverley Ringart, 75
Paul Russell, 60
Jeffrey Lee, 75

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Beverley & Ron Ringart on their 50th wedding anniversary.
Sandie & Martin Simonis on their 50th wedding anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS IN YOUR NEW HOME TO:

Ruby Nerva
Neil Goodman

GET WELL SOON:

Roger Hart

CONDOLENCES TO:

Lily Reubens on the death of her husband, Lionel.
The family and friends of Jacqui (Sheila) Katz.
The family and friends of Peter Mendel-Lion.
Harry Levy on the death of his sister, Sylvia Bolton.

MOSAIC LIBERAL

CONGRATULATIONS IN YOUR NEW HOME TO:

Marian Bliss

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Margie Goldman
Kenneth Herman
Jo Mans
Stuart Rose
Olga Rosenbaum
Anne Steiner

GET WELL:

Jo Drage
Michelle Drage
Sheila Martin
Evelyn Roos
Harold Sanderson

MOSAIC MASORTI

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Alison Imren

Lily Ashkenazi-Bakes

MAZAL TOV TO:

Shelley Cooper on the marriage of her son, Joel Rosenberg, to Sarah Goldshmidt.
Sue & Neil Mendoza on the birth of their grand-daughter, Clea.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Sharon Grossman
Sue Levy
Tomer Goldenberg

CONGRATULATIONS IN YOUR NEW HOME TO:

Nir Goldenberg
Lynne & Sam Charkham
Helen & Marvyn Ellison

GET WELL SOON:

Mark Sachon

Next issue

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Send your articles, pictures, letters etc to

newsdesk@choosmosaic.org

Special thanks to David Ruback and Jane Prentice for their spring photographs, featured on the cover

Our move from Bessborough Road after over 60 years

by Steve Levinson

More than 200 people witnessed the closure of their synagogue building and ceremonial removal of the Torah scrolls from both Mosaic Reform and Mosaic Liberal Synagogues on a glorious sunny morning on Tuesday 30th March.

In an emotional event for members, some of whom were present 60 years ago when Middlesex New Synagogue moved into its freshly acquired building in Bessborough Road, the scrolls were carried out on a journey which will end in a year's time in a brand new building in Stanmore. The new building, already under construction on Stanmore Hill, will be home for Mosaic Reform, Mosaic Liberal and Mosaic Masorti communities. It will also provide a vibrant new Jewish social, cultural and centre of learning for the area.

With lockdown restrictions still in place, only a few members were inside the Bessborough Road building as it was deconsecrated. But a Zoom and internet audience of well over 200 people from local, national and international



locations were also able to take part, using a specially prepared prayer booklet.

The service was led by Rabbis Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton from Mosaic Reform and Rabbi Rachel Benjamin from

Mosaic Liberal. Rabbi Middleton recalled that the first Reform Rabbi in the building had been Rabbi Lionel Blue.

(Note: If you missed the service, visit www.choosmosaic.org, "What's On" and "Past Events" to see a recording)

The following speeches were given at the Farewell Service:

From Rabbi Kathleen

Baruchim ha-ba'im – Welcome to all, both near and far! Those of you here with us in person, and those of you who join us online, be it our neighbours up the hill or our friends in Israel.

We welcome you to this final service, here

Continued on following page >>



Continued from previous page...

at 39 Bessborough Road. This is a solemn time; a time of reflection as we find ourselves caught on a crossroad, where past and future converge, as we prepare ourselves to close a chapter and open a new one; like the cycle of our yearly Torah readings – very symbolic for a community which was established on Simchat Torah!

Today's service inevitably fills us with many conflicting emotions. We feel saddened for having to let go of this building, filled with memories of the most poignant moments of our lives; families and friends celebrating together baby blessings, B'nei mitzvah, weddings and memorial services – and yet we are also expectant and full of hope for a better future in our new building.

The conflict of those feelings is exacerbated by the Pandemic, which makes this service our first in-person service for over a year, as well as our last in this building.

When, a moment ago we sang the familiar words of the *Mah tovu: mah tovu ohaleicha Ya'acov, mishkenotecha Yisrael* (How good are your Tents oh Jacob, your sanctuaries oh Israel) we were reminded of the fact that those words refer to a physical space; this, our sanctuary, and yet for over a year we have been singing these words to establish a virtual sanctuary, online, a space that is not really a space at all, whilst this, our home stood empty. *Mah tovu*, how good, indeed, it is to be back, in our home, and how sad that it is for the very last time.

Many have invested their time, their creativity, their wisdom, their leadership, and their resources into building this building and making it their (and our), spiritual home, and

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yet we are also expectant and
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in our new building*

we stand eternally in their debt. We remember them today, the founder members and their families, the many volunteers and our Ministers, in particular our first Minister, Rabbi Lionel Blue "z'l". And we are so grateful to have you, Woolfie and Marie Heymann, here with us today, on your 69th wedding anniversary.

As the time moved on, so did the community, for the younger generations have moved further afield, so the time has come to move where they are. Judaism never much valued the concept of 'holy space'. We do not build cathedrals, or mark places for pilgrimage, instead, we build 'cathedrals of time' moments imbued with holiness, held in our memories through shared stories and texts.

The only objects of intrinsic value and imbued with holiness are our Torah Scrolls and when we remove them from the Ark, we will extinguish the everlasting light of the *ner tamid* – The sense of holiness will lift from this building, as we prepare for our journey towards our next spiritual home as we read in *b'midbar* (Numbers 9:22-23):

Whether the cloud stayed over the tabernacle for two days or a month or a year, the Israelites would remain in camp and not set out; but when it lifted, they would set out. At the Eternal One's command they encamped,

and at the Eternal One's command they set out.

The Torah is described as a Tree of Life (*Eitz Chayyim Hi*); trees sometimes need to be replanted for them to thrive again. As we will lift our Scrolls from the Ark today, may we carry them to a place where they can root, grow strong, thrive and be fruitful in accordance with the vision of our founder members. *Ken yehi ratzon, v'nomar: amen*



From Rabbi Rachel

'Remember this day, on which you went out of Egypt... in the month of Aviv' – such a pertinent Torah reading for today... I think we will all remember this day on which we go

forth out of Bessborough Road!

I feel very much that I am the 'new kid on the block' here, having only come to the community as Mosaic Liberal's Rabbi just after the first lockdown, a year ago. In reality, that means that this building has never been 'home' to me. However, the community have welcomed me and invited me into their 'space' – a virtual one, it is true - but what an extraordinary one it has turned out to be. The enforced situation of this past year has really shown us the dual meaning of the phrase 'community building'. While we have not been able to be in our physical building, we have built community in a remarkable way, one which, a little over a year ago, we could not have imagined. Indeed, more people than ever have been 'attending' services and events, and there are many lessons that I hope we will

take forward into the future, when we plan to yet again be in a building.

This year has shown us what community really is, and it's the people. We have done more to keep in touch with each other, and to reach out to one another. We have been able to keep connected, to hold our identity, and even create something new and special. This past year gives us a unique insight into the year ahead in Mosaic's life – our year in the wilderness.

Many of us are longing to be together in person. For others, joining services and activities virtually has allowed them to be there with us, and we have welcomed people from all over the country, indeed the world, on Zoom. We will have to think how we carry this forward, in a hybrid way, so we can accommodate both physical and virtual attendance.

Of course, the ideal is to have a physical place we can call home, and this coming year is a year full of possibilities, a great opportunity to develop something new and exciting, in readiness to move into our new home in Stanmore.

V'assu li mikdash v'shakhanti b'tokham, said God in Exodus 25:8 – 'let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them'. This last year has shown that, at a time of necessity, we have been able to make a sanctuary for God even in a Zoom room, and certainly in our hearts and homes, and that is what will sustain us through this coming year. We may leave Bessborough Road with a sense of poignancy and sadness, but also optimism and enthusiasm to carry forward what we have, and to [Continued on following page >>](#)

Continued from previous page...

build on it, to make in our new home a fitting dwelling place for God.

*From Harry Grant,
Chairman Mosaic Reform*



My first association with 39 Bessborough Road, long before this building went up, was in the mid 60s, visiting MINYS from Stonegrove on a Saturday night. I met people like Philip Amswych and Ann Benjamin, and put down roots for lifelong friendships.

I didn't return until 1980. This new Shul had been built, and Barbara and I wanted to find out more. Our first visit was to an AGM, sitting at the back with Ben, one year-old at the time, in a carry cot.

And having spent formative years in communal Jewish activity in Welwyn Garden City, Edgware, Highdown Hill in Sussex, as well as Shemesh, Bessborough Road took over the duty of imprinting responsibility to Jewish Communal life onto my family's DNA. And it has done so for the last 41 years, during which giving to the wellbeing of Middlesex New Synagogue, now Mosaic Reform, has paid us back in trumps.

Barbara and I owe so much to this building, but very much more to the people we have met and worked with. We saw my brother get married here, and our three children each celebrate Bar or Bat Mitzvah. We've seen countless fun events, and some sad ones. We've helped raise tens of thousands of pounds for charities other than our own. And we've made so very many friends.

For which we say thank you Bessborough Road. Thank you Woolfie Heymann and your fellow founders, and thank you Tiko Alalouff and all who worked with you designing and creating this home from home that has served us all so

*"Barbara and I owe so much
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well for 45 years.

But life, and times, and things, and Jews move on, and now it is time to say a final farewell to Bessborough Road. We've packed our bags, and pinched storage space from everywhere imaginable while our new home is being built. Our scrolls are all going to very safe temporary homes, and we've flogged off whatever we cannot take with us, that wasn't screwed to the floor.

But our most important possession hasn't been packed, or put away, because it cannot be packaged, and will be even more in evidence after we leave. And that most important possession is each other, and the *ruach*, the Communal spirit and responsibility towards each other that we take with us on the long journey to Stanmore Hill. I'm not discounting the valuable inheritance our founders have left for us, nor the tireless efforts being put in daily by Lawrence Chadwick and the countless volunteers working with him to help deliver our new home. But a building is no more than a building, and is nothing without the people inside it, doing their very best for all of us, and for the wider world.

And the Community on Stanmore Hill will be even more special, as we welcome Mosaic Liberal coming with us, and Mosaic Masorti joining us fully, making Stanmore Hill truly unique.

So goodbye Bessborough Road, and thanks so very much.

*From Adrian Cohen,
Chairman Mosaic Liberal*



There is so much to say and so little time to say it. Mosaic Liberal Synagogue has existed for over 70 years in many guises. First as Wembley Liberal Synagogue and later as Harrow & Wembley Liberal Synagogue before becoming Harrow & Wembley Progressive Synagogue. We occupied the site in Preston Road with at least 3 different buildings before taking up residence at Bessborough Road almost 10 years ago.

The move from Preston Road was very traumatic, giving up a relatively new building in June 2011. It was a huge shock for us all to sell our building, giving up our independence and moving into Bessborough Road as tenants.

I will never forget the welcome that Rabbi Kathleen organised to greet us as we processed our scrolls into the building on that auspicious day in June. It felt akin to a marriage and that welcome set the tone for our residency. In truth what we went on to create together was a civil partnership and, indeed, it was very civil. What we went on to build together is unique in British Jewry and which we will expand upon next year when we bring Progressive Judaism to Stanmore. Tolerance, consideration and acceptance of religious differences are the guiding principles that we share and will add to the Jewish diversity in Stanmore and offer people more choice in how to lead their Jewish lives.

In the meantime - and till we can meet again in person - stay safe, stay well - and next year in Stanmore.

This is a message from James Craig, Director of GRIGGS JDR (STANMORE) LIMITED, the developer of 65 Stanmore Hill, following the Farewell service:

Very touching... really proud to be delivering your new home for you and seeing this I can't wait to be at the first service / ceremony when the scrolls are brought in... thank you for allowing us to be the keepers of your vision.

Happy Birthday in May & June to:



Ezra Buchan, 2
Chase Vincent, 12
Audrey Jackson-
Rauch, 2

Benjamin Hipgrave 10
Harrison Rutstein, 14
Phoebe Ellison, 11
Connor Buchalter, 18



A Shavuot message

from Rabbi Kathleen Middleton

Quite contrary to its religious significance, Shavuot is often regarded as the poor relation among our festivals. I have learned over the years that services are never well attended



and home rituals are often overlooked, partly, probably, because there are precious few of them, apart from the well-known tradition of eating dairy foods and cheesecake, which is a problem if you are lactose intolerant.

There is another tradition gaining traction among all strata of the Jewish community, to stay up all night and study Torah as instituted by the 16th century Kabbalist Isaac Luria. This tradition, known as *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* is based on a famous Rabbinic story (a midrash) that seeks to explain why the giving of Torah was accompanied by the noise of shofar blasts. The story goes that instead of being prepared and ready to receive the Torah, the Israelites overslept that morning and had to be woken up with a shofar blast! To make up (tikkun means repair) for our ancestors' mistake at Sinai, Isaac Luria, also known as the Ari, instituted an all-night vigil of Torah study; to avoid oversleeping again on Shavuot we will not sleep at all!

All night Torah study might not seem like everybody's cup of tea (even if it comes with a generous helping of cheesecake) but I look back on past such experiences with fondness and a sense of longing. In my

previous community the *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* was taken very seriously. The community prided itself on being an intellectually rigorous community and so on Erev Shavuot, as well as for an

evening service, the community would join for a specially created Shavuot Seder and a meal followed by serious all-night study, led by the rabbinic team. 'All night' was perhaps a bit of a misnomer because we often only lasted till 4.00 am because many of the truly committed learners of the community, as well as our emeritus Rabbi, did find it increasingly hard to stay up all night.

Feeling energized and elated by so much intellectual stimulation made the 4.00 am drive home through dark and slumbering Golders Green incredibly special partly also because the only people about that late in the night were Jews. I would feel overwhelmed by an uncharacteristic feeling of connection and unity with the charedim whom I would meet on my way. They too seemed tired but energized by a shared passion, which really made me believe in the unity of Klal Yisrael (although in hindsight I sincerely doubt they would have felt the same about me, driving about on yom tov).

My colleagues always reminded me that 'in the past' they would study through the night and pray the morning service together at dawn, have some breakfast and then feel

refreshed for the official morning service. One Erev Shavuot we managed to do the same with a handful of students; we studied till dawn then, cold, tired and hungry, we prayed outside, competing against the dawn chorus of the local birds and had a little breakfast. It was one of the most exhilarating (and tiring) experiences in my rabbinate.

It seems that, in order to reach a profound and meaningful spiritual experience, we must deprive ourselves of our creature comforts;

whether it is of food and drink, or of sleep, or of conversation, it seems that, only when we are slightly uncomfortable, we are truly alert to the presence of God or the wisdom of our tradition and even our own inner selves.

Torah study and the prospect of engaging with our textual heritage for an entire evening seems for many uncomfortably daunting but it might be precisely that sense of uncomfortableness which will make Shavuot meaningful. All you can do is try.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Sunday 16th May

7.00 pm Shavuot evening service led by Rabbi Rachel and Rabbi Kathleen
Followed by Study and Discussion:

"Who moved my Synagogue? (and where is it now?)"

Synagogues come in many guises, and over the past year ours has not even been a proper building, or space or community, or was it? What does a synagogue really mean to us, what does our tradition say about it? Are online communities real or only a substitute? Why are synagogue buildings important, and how is all this connected to Shavuot?

Take part in our unique online Cheesecake competition

Ever decorated a Cheesecake?
This is your chance



The best decoration on the theme of Shavuot will win!

Mosaic Masorti Shavuot

A feasibility review is being undertaken regarding Shavuot services and gatherings as the May edition of Kehilla is going to print. Notifications will be communicated via e-mail and the weekly bulletins regarding digital and/or in person gatherings/ services. Rabbi Natasha is due to be with the community over Shavuot and we are looking at all possibilities in line with COVID guidance.

An uplifting tale!

by Alan Solomon

The few months before we finally vacated 39 Bessborough Road at the end of March saw a remarkable effort of emptying the premises of everything – furniture, equipment and fittings that had been in regular use, and other items that had been forgotten about and had been kept in various nooks and crannies around the building. The clearance task was masterminded by Mark Phillips, David Leibling and Ann Simon with considerable help

from many others. The prayer books were carefully packed up; the library books, which Maria Landau had spent many days sorting out, were taken away for safe keeping; the chairs and much of the equipment that will be needed at Stanmore Hill were moved into temporary storage at some members' homes (many thanks to everyone who offered space); and both the Reform and Liberal Synagogues' archives were boxed up for delivery to and retention at the London Metropolitan Archives. Finally, our scrolls were taken away for safe keeping after the Deconsecration Service on 30th March – attended by only a handful of members due to Covid restrictions.

But there was much that would not be required in the new building and could be sold – old chairs, cupboards, shelving, even the pigeonholes in the print room. Viv Levinson and



Ann Simon put them on various websites and sold everything in sight, including the chandeliers! "Team Trotter" successfully lowered them intact, and they're all now in new homes. So we were left with a load of

rubbish, disposed of in two skips, and numerous bags of unwanted paper which went for recycling.

But I haven't yet mentioned the lift! Before Mosaic Liberal moved in upstairs in 2011, we had

to install (and pay for) a platform lift for use by those members who might find the stairs difficult. But surely that had become a permanent fixture and couldn't be removed, you might think. Wrong! The contract with the developers obliged us to clear the building entirely, including the lift! How else these days but to offer it for sale on eBay? David Leibling placed it there, and we received three expressions of interest. One was from a builder in Hay-on-Wye who was renovating his house and wanted a lift for use by his disabled wife. He paid us the asking price of £4,999.50 (don't ask!), and some weeks later came down to dismantle the entire mechanism and surrounding panels, returning a week later to transport the whole thing back to the Welsh border – see the photo. Job done!

So now to the next stage of the move – discussing the fitting out of the new building. Watch this space!

Company number: 08825271



MOSAIC REFORM SYNAGOGUE THE COMPANIES ACT 2006 PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING - of - MOSAIC REFORM SYNAGOGUE (the "Company")

Notice is hereby given that a special general meeting (the "**General Meeting**") of the members of the Company and of the Congregant Members of the Company shall be held on **Wednesday 2nd June 2021 at 8.00 pm** via Zoom for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit and appropriate, passing resolutions to elect two representative deputies on the Board of Deputies of British Jews (the **Resolutions**). Should there be more nominations than there are offices to be filled, a ballot will be held.

Board of Deputies of British Jews - Triennial Elections 2021

In accordance with the Board's instructions, our current representatives are given below together with their attendance record at the last 21 plenary meetings of the Board shown in brackets.

Michael Reik (13) David Safir (15)
In addition, Michael sits on the Defence Committee
and David sits on the International Division

Nominations are invited for the Triennial session 2021-2024 and should be made in writing (or by email to admin@mosaicreform.org.uk) to me by 14th May 2021. The consent of the people nominated should be obtained before making the return.

Those eligible for nomination as representatives to the Board of Deputies must (a) have been members of this congregation for at least one year or must be a paid official of the congregation; (b) be over 18 years of age; (c) not be an undischarged bankrupt or a person who has been convicted of a serious criminal offence; (d) not be a paid employee of the Board.

The Board is working to become more inclusive and is mindful that women are under-represented on the Board. Women are therefore encouraged to stand for election and constituencies are asked to give support to this. The Board of Deputies also wishes to encourage younger Deputies, especially those under the age of 35.

Dated: 29 April 2021.

Registered office: 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 3BS

By order of the Board

Caroline Chadwick
Honorary Secretary

Moving books up to the Hill

by Maria Landau

Early in 1969 I received a document from the Home Office confirming that I was now a citizen of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. This was accompanied by a letter which stated amongst other things that I was now permitted to take up paid employment. My mind turned immediately to the task of finding a 'proper' job, possibly in industry, which really was my only area of work experience. Looking at our usual Sunday papers, my husband called my attention to an advert for a position in the British Museum requiring a science or technology degree and knowledge of two of the main Romance languages. I probably commented that it had little to do with industry, but my husband – who usually did not give unsolicited advice – suggested that since the terms and conditions were those of the Civil Service they might favour a better career progress for me than industry.



us' particularly because, in a science library, periodicals were the printed matter holy grail. This was one of the reasons why a unique classification scheme was created to cater for the main subjects, and divisions within, of science. I think this was also the reason why so few traditionally trained librarians were employed. Our job titles and grades followed closely those of the Museum itself; for example, I was a Research Assistant and the higher grades were Keepers (predictably the butt of some jokes connected with zoos). It all changed when the British Library was created by an Act of Parliament in 1973. Thus, we were aggregated with other outfits, some insiders others outsiders like The National Central Library whose work had hitherto been connected with the public libraries. The professional staff were mostly librarians and, suddenly, Librarianship was "in" and I was even asked whether I wanted to do a post graduate course. It did not take me long to accept and although I would have to return to a life of essays and exams, I was being paid and given time off to do it.

My life in libraries seems to be rather unplanned as, about five years ago, I was asked out of the blue whether I would look at the library stock at Bessborough Road with special regard to what appeared to be a large number of duplicates. I accepted with some nervousness as I had been then retired

"My life in libraries seems to be rather unplanned as, about five years ago, I was asked out of the blue whether I would look at the library stock at Bessborough Road"

for twenty years. I had also moved around in the British Library – as one was encouraged to do unless you were a specialist in incunabula or early Hebrew manuscripts – therefore I had not been a traditional hands-on librarian for even more years. Still, I had used the Bessborough Road library and I surprised myself how quickly things



come to you. I worked my way through the collection about one morning a week until a date for the move started to be mentioned. Soon after I was asked to give priority to the book collection donated by Rabbi Frank before he left. This was still in his former office which needed to be cleared for the incoming Rabbi. For this I was having voluntary help but it all had to stop for the first Covid lockdown and after that anybody allowed in had to follow Covid rules. A move out of Bessborough Road was set for the end of March 2021 so the three first months of this year were necessarily intense for all, including the work in the library.

The building was looking increasingly tired and a few leaks started to appear here and there. As I arrived one morning, Ann Simon, our Administrator, asked me to look at the new leaks in the library and suggested that we should move the books and the shelves to the adjacent Mosaic Room. Ostrich-like, I first suggested covering the books but Ann's judgement and plan of action prevailed. With

the help of Prakash, our caretaker, books and shelves were moved in less than 24 hours. When I arrived the following day I could not believe my eyes: it looked almost as if the library had always been there. Ann's prescience was spot-on as a few days after the move I heard a big noise. I rushed to the 'old' library where a piece of the ceiling about 3 feet square had just crashed down!

I heard someone say in jest that, regarding the contents of the building, 'if it is not screwed down it is meant to be sold'. I soon realized that it applied to the library shelves too when interested buyers started to appear – the shelves were supposed to be Ikea's 'Billy'! – and Ann also started to take an interest in how fast I thought I could shift the books from the shelves to the packing boxes. If there is a problem then Ann has a solution and when she mentioned trestle tables and started to open them up I knew that they were the interim stage and the solution to the problem.

In all, three thousand volumes were selected and packed to go into storage. It was never to be work for one person only and I must mention: Paul Zatz, Brigitte Levin and Lindsey Cohen who worked with the main collection and Rabbi Frank's donation; Alan Solomon, Barbara Grant, Mark Phillips, David Leibling, Stephen Dorff and Rabbis Kathleen and

Continued on following page >>

Continued from previous page...

Rachel provided advice and ideas starting from five years ago to the present; Henry Altman who arranged a charity for the books withdrawn. Outside Mosaic, Cassy Sachar, the Librarian at Leo Baeck College filled in the lacunae in my knowledge of publications in contemporary Progressive Judaism.

Ann Simon has been mentioned but it would have been difficult for me without her support

and initiative down to putting the little heaters in the library before I arrived in the morning.

It was a privilege to have had this opportunity of getting to know a library which reflects the interests and aspirations of two synagogue congregations that started in North West London more than sixty years ago. It will no doubt continue this process up on the Hill, as libraries do.

Mitzvah Day Cards

Following the Mitzvah Day card making session, cards were sent to the children being treated by the medical staff of "Save a Child's Heart in Israel". The cards were sent to children who are due to receive, or have had surgery. most of whom are not Jewish. They enjoy colouring them in and decorate their rooms with them.

These wonderful pictures of the happy recipients were sent to Rabbi Rachel.

Save a Child's Heart's (SACH) mission is to treat children born with heart disease in developing countries by bringing them to Israel for surgeries. This is done by a team of

doctors and clinicians who volunteer their time; patients are not charged for the treatment. They also train doctors from developing countries. To date, they have carried out over 5400 surgeries on children from 62 different countries and trained 125 doctors and clinicians, enabling them to return to their countries and carry out surgeries there. Half the children treated are from the Palestinian Authority, Gaza, Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan, the rest are from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and South America. If left untreated, these children will live a very short, painful and debilitating life, rarely making it to their teens.



My Promised Land

by Neil Goodman

"On April 6th I set off for the ferry to Belfast from Liverpool with a fully laden car to start my new life and new challenges."

2020 was not a good year. Probably the most understated phrase ever. For me it was the year I lost my beloved wife, Mim, not to Covid but to that other horror, cancer. She had had it for over a year but it was the last couple of weeks that it escalated and ended on April 14th 2020 at home by my side. No one could attend the funeral, including me, owing to the first lockdown. I had to watch it on zoom, very clinical, but one saving grace was that family and friends, almost 200, from across the world could watch it with me.



and it was mine. I then had to arrange removal of my belongings, including my scooter, across the Irish Sea. This happened quicker than expected. Mid Feb it was delivered and I followed to install it soon after. I was contracted to finish my job at Easter so had to wait it out. My school, Quanton Hall, had been taken over in late 2020 by John Lyon and the changes didn't look good for me, so leaving after five years was not as sad as could be.

On April 6th I set off for the ferry to Belfast from Liverpool with a fully laden car to start my new life and new challenges.

This happened to be mid-Passover and I thought there was a similarity between the story of Moses's Exodus from Egypt across the Red Sea to the new Promised Land and me leaving Harrow across the Irish Sea to start my new life and new challenges in my 'promised land'. Coincidental?

So far I have no regrets as I sit here on my balcony, with a glass of wine, writing this memoir and I've even presented a Sunday afternoon quiz to Mosaic from here! Here's to the next stage of my life.

In December I decided to visit my son and his family, who live in Northern Ireland, to discuss where I go next, literally and metaphorically.

I could not stay in Harrow any longer as I did not like the way it was going, a lot of changes in 50 years, not all good.

So, I made the decision, with my family, to relocate to Ballyclare, NI. It was now or never. When I got back home I went on the web to find some Estate Agents with suitable property to rent in this area. I found this fantastic 2-bedroom apartment overlooking the local memorial park and minutes from all local amenities. I paid the deposit in January

A Farewell to Psalms

by Bernard Fisherman



A New Beginning

When the time feels right to move, you
move

Your job, your home, no exceptions, so it is
with our Synagogue

Sixty years is a very good innings
A wonderful journey from humble
beginnings

Our spiritual home has run its course, a
new home has now been found

Let's gather at Stanmore Hill next year and
tread with hope new hallowed ground

Remove the scrolls, turn off the lights and
leave with thanks and good cheer

Let's join together in our new surroundings
and look toward to the coming new year

Farewell to Harrow you served us well we
leave with memories galore

Let's hope our brand new Synagogue gives
us plenty more.

Poem for a pandemic

by Diana Warren



It was June in March and January in April
Can a pandemic affect the weather?
Whatever the cause, we are all in it together.
So they say

Hands, face, space
It's the safest way.
Keep washing your hands
to keep Covid at bay.
So they say

The virus is smart and ever changing
But man is even smarter.
With NHS and scientists
his skills are wider ranging.

So given time we will recover
Mankind will all be vaccinated.
So no more lockdowns, no more deaths
The bug has been eliminated.
So they say

From inside my fishtank

from Edwin Lucas' Grandfish, aged 2 months



Mahnishtano Halaylo
haze? I heard this from
my tank. So why is this
day different to me?

There was a lot of running around and I was so glad I was able to swim around, as if there was nothing happening. I heard the expression kosher le Pesach. These were words I did not understand. My owner Gillian was struggling and I could see her looking at her computer and she used the expression that she needed to visit KFC. Worrieth not, as It stands for Kosher Fish Company. Food is what I need but this was a new place. I heard her mention Rabbi Natasha and Dave Scott who are fellow Masortiers. Dave and his wife Debbie are big fisherpeople. Fisherpeople are not fans of Fisher Price, although I am sure their granddaughter Ilana loves FP. So, let me continue.

Gillian was worried about chametz and my food must not contain chametz. She was so busy with this. She asked Grandpa Fish to contact Dave for advice. She read it out and here goes.

Fish tank foods must not contain chametz. Most flake or pellet foods contain wheat products. Alternative foods for me on Passover are the various freeze-dried blood worms, – the icky name is only because of the red colour.

I am told a week on an alternative diet should do me no harm. Frozen cubes of bloodworm, cockle, mussel, lancefish, brineshrimp etc may be purchased from aquarium fish

shops. These should be free of grain derivatives, provided they are not vitamin enriched. Tiny items of fresh

fruit such as orange flesh, or broccoli are also suitable. My owner Gillian loves broccoli, so I know it is OK. She was told to note that any uneaten food should be removed from my water after 40 minutes or so. We hide it in the tank so she will need to come in and find it.

Rambam (Chametz Umatza 4:8) and the Shulchan Aruch (OC 442:4) write that one does not need to dispose of a mixture containing chametz that is totally inedible (by humans). Thus, R' Ben Zion Abba Shaul (Ohr Lezion 3:8:5) allows one to feed one's fish with regular fish food on Pesach, even though it contains a little chametz, as there is no way that my food can be considered edible. Well, I am relieved so that I can continue as normal. Nonetheless, R' Avrohom Blumenkrantz (Chasdei Avrohom 21) recommends Gillian should buy kosher l'pesach food, such as dried worms, etc. I love my worms.

Now read the next bit, as it is fascinating. If one is unable to procure pet food that does not contain chametz, some rabbinical authorities allow for a sale, which would transfer to a non-Jewish believer the ownership and responsibility of caring for the fish. It goes on to say Gillian should seek guidance from Rabbi Natasha. I have already said I do not want to have a sleepover and want to stay in my sunny aspect position in her lounge. I hope none of you were offered sitters and like me, floated your ground and stayed put.

Enabling the Continuation of Holocaust Testimony

by Anita Peleg

In December 2013 I visited Mosaic (then New Middlesex Synagogue) to take photos of the doors to the Aron Hakodesh, the Chanukiah and of the Holocaust memorial sculpture that my mother, Naomi Blake, had been commissioned to create in 1976. I was greeted excitedly by Ann Simon who remembered the arrival of the sculptures and the doors.



I visited again last year in January 2020 and gave a talk to a group of young people attending a Holocaust Memorial Day workshop. I am one of 20 speakers from Generation 2 Generation (G2G), a charity that enables descendants of Holocaust survivors to tell their family stories. I do so using my mother's audio testimony, historical photos and photos of Naomi's sculptures that demonstrate the strength of the human spirit to survive. On that day, it was particularly meaningful to sit in front of the doors of the Aron Hakodesh and the Chanukiah and tell my mother's story of survival against the odds.

Neé Zissi Dum, Naomi was born in 1924 in Mukacevo, Czechoslovakia to a large Jewish family within a thriving Jewish population. This all changed under the German-backed Hungarian regime and by 1944 the Jews had all fled or been deported. In 1944 Naomi and her family were transported to Auschwitz. She and her sister were chosen to work and

sent to Brahnau concentration camp. There, while working in a munitions factory, they learned how to sabotage the bombs that they were tasked to build. Later, in a bid to flee the Russian armies, they were forced to march, but

Naomi managed to escape. On returning to Mukacevo she found her home was in ruins and 17 family members, including ten young nieces and nephews had been murdered.

Her journey then took her to Israel and then London where she expressed her experiences through sculpture. Through this artistic medium, Naomi found a purpose and dedicated her work to commemorate the past horrors of persecution and the promotion of understanding and goodwill between people of different faiths. Today her sculptures stand in places of worship and public spaces around England.

By telling her story I am continuing her legacy and as a trustee of G2G, I am enabling others to do the same. We are currently helping over 30 future speakers from both the 2nd and 3rd generations, to develop presentations about survivors and witnesses to guarantee the continued retelling of Holocaust testimony. G2G's presenter training programme assists speakers with research, the integration of survivor testimony into an engaging PowerPoint presentation and presentation

skills. From Jan-April 2021, G2G speakers have reached over 8,000 people.

Our Wall of Memories invites people to share their family stories and honour the memory of someone affected by the Holocaust. We also hold monthly events where our speakers tell their stories online and we discuss issues of the day. Please visit our website to see our

Wall of Memories, our events schedule and how to contact us about getting involved www.generation2generation.org.uk.

On a personal note, I look forward to visiting your synagogue and the sculptures in their new home in Stanmore, telling you my mother's story and updating you about the continued progress of G2G.

Yellow Candle 2021

by Edwin Lucas

Yellow Candle has come and gone or has it. I have received the following from the Chief Executive of Maccabi.

"I am sure like me there were times at the start of the year when the new lockdown was announced, that you wondered what Yellow Candle would look like in 2021. Not only did we manage to distribute over 25,000 candles in the UK, but candles were lit in Dubai, Bahrain, Spain, Holland, United States of America, Gibraltar and Sweden."

This makes me feel so proud and many members of Mosaic took part. One of our members, Frances Kafka, phoned Maccabi with an idea to extend the life of the tins once used. The Maccabi team had a similar idea and it is now going to go nationwide in 2022, with a note in the coming days, seeing if anyone can do something this year. The theme will be for the once lit Yellow Candle empty tins, to plant a seed for the future, to help remember the past. They are also looking at an idea to keep the old commemorative name cards, remembering those that were murdered in the Holocaust. Frances keeps her old cards in her



siddur and Elaine and Simon Glass keep them on a tray. I am really keen to see what we can think of as Mosaic, to remember the ongoing names from yesteryear. If any of you have ideas in relation to the tins or cards, please let me know edwin.lucas6@googlemail.com and I shall pass them on to Maccabi.

2022 Yellow candle planning, has already started. It is just like any Jewish festival that the moment one festival has ended, that one thinks about lessons learned and the year ahead. There have already been over 800 people register their interest for the Yellow Candle 2022 project in just under 4 days, which is fantastic.

Continued on following page >>

HaMakom Update

by Head Teachers, Viki Kenton and Toria Bacon

Another term at HaMakom and we continue on Zoom, with children, staff and parents all pulling together to make it work. We do appreciate the support we get from parents, making sure their children have everything they need and sending us in photos of their work every week. And while Zoom is not for everyone, it has allowed us the opportunity to welcome new students from further afield, which is wonderful.

Since our last article on Mitzvah Day, we held a really fun celebration for Chanukah. We invited in a fantastic magician, Josh, who spent an hour with the children entertaining them with some amazing tricks and feats of magic. We are still all wondering how he

managed to read our minds so accurately!

Classes in Jewish studies and Hebrew continue as normal and we all spend time together as a whole school during assembly. For the first half of the Spring term the emphasis was on well-being, encouraging the children to take care of their physical and mental well-being during these challenging times.

Last half term we did an in-depth look into the festival of Pesach, looking at different aspects of the story, the 10 plagues, how Pesach is celebrated around the world and culminating in a nationwide joint cheder chocolate Seder run in conjunction with RSY Netzer. We had a fantastic time!



Our new home

Progress at Stanmore Hill
as at 8th April 2021

Continued from previous page

My personal target is for the 2022 Yellow Candle scheme to reach 60,000 people, which would make one candle and name, commemorate 999 other names. Please

contact me once again, if you have some ideas, as using a hackneyed expression "points makes prizes" but in this case "helpers make memories".

Reform Rabbi in the knesset

from The Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism

"For the first time in Israel's 73 years, we have a Reform Rabbi in the Knesset."

Dear Friends,
Can you believe it? For the first time in Israel's 73 years, we have a Reform Rabbi in the Knesset.

We are proud and excited that Rabbi Gilad Kariv (pictured), a Reform Rabbi, has been elected to the Israeli Parliament. This monumental achievement reflects the phenomenal growth and influence of the Israeli Reform and Progressive Movement over the past decade.

We are calling on you, as one of our close friends and partners around the world and in Israel, to SEIZE THE MOMENT WITH US and be a partner in our campaign to guarantee the vitality and continued dynamic growth of the Israel Reform and Progressive Movement.

Our Movement's congregational communities, educational, youth and young adult programs, and life cycle ceremonies are accessible to Israelis from all corners of the country. In fact, despite budgetary constraints, our impact has grown exponentially during the COVID-19



pandemic - in the past year, through our online events and digital platforms, we have reached over 1,000,000 Israelis.

Even before Rabbi Kariv's historic election, earlier in March, our

sense of progress and determination was bolstered with the landmark Israel Supreme Court Decision recognising Reform and Conservative Conversions performed in Israel. This decision has unleashed Israelis' desire for religious and spiritual community where they can authentically and fully participate as Jews and Israelis. Every day, requests for conversion classes, egalitarian weddings, B'nai Mitzvah and other life cycle ceremonies pour into our offices and congregations.

There are forces in Israel who will do everything possible to discredit us as a legitimate expression of Judaism and fight our growing acceptance by the Israeli public.

We will not be moved.

Chat Away

Esra ETP (English Tutoring Programme)

by Joan Noble



A friend of mine, Helen, who lives in Haifa asked if I was interested to participate in a scheme called Chat Away. I agreed and after some online training I and a few friends I recruited have been spending about 30-40 minutes a week talking to Israeli Teenagers.

Helen Osimo, (whose parents belonged many years ago to MNS.) is the Branch Coordinator for Haifa one of 16 branches of ETP. English Tutoring Programme, part of English Speaking Organization.ESRA

Before Covid 19, English-speaking volunteers went to schools of their choice near to assist students with their English studies. Covid 19 has changed that to online tutoring via Zoom is now the new reality.

For 2019, 30 Native English-speaking volunteers were recruited by Helen, mostly friends and acquaintances, living in Haifa, and placed them in Elementary, Junior High and High schools. Also offering help with the oral bagrut (matriculation) exam and helping struggling students with school work.

Then came lockdown when they could not go into schools even when they were operating; teachers became very overworked trying to conduct lessons on Zoom and ESRA ETP lay dormant for two or three months. They set about training volunteers to use Zoom, and today have many volunteers who have established good relations with English teachers and work alongside them.

Helen then had an idea to develop just on-line English conversation sessions. After a pilot trial in the summer, ESRA devised a way to reach students independently, obtain parental consent and solve other issues, and Chat Away was born!

Chat Away has evolved and grown enormously with schools and volunteers matched from all over the country as there are no geographical boundaries, and the latest step was recruiting volunteers from overseas; from the London area they now have 14 active tutors and some from the US too. Chat Away now has over 50 volunteers

“They set about training volunteers to use Zoom, and today have many volunteers who have established good relations with English teachers and work alongside them”

working with pairs or individuals from 13-18 year-olds.

A by-product of the lockdown was that the Ministry of Education cut enrichment hours for native speakers – children of English-speaking parent(s) or those who have lived abroad, and also vulnerable children forced to stay at home or if covid struck the family. ESRA has stepped in to offer these children on-line enrichment tutoring to maintain and expand their English. Enormous gratitude was expressed by both schools and parents of these children. A mother recently expressed her appreciation – “ESRA tutoring lessons are the only stable events in my children’s lives at the moment – I have no words to express my gratitude”. A welcome reward for the massive task undertaken and the hours invested in this programme.

An English friend of mine, Barry, living in Bushey speaks to a 14-year-old Israeli boy who is living in Atlit. The youngster recognizes his English conversation is poor compared to many of his peers who have the advantage of an English-speaking parent or having lived in an English-speaking world before living in Israel.

Barry says “It’s a vicious cycle because this makes him reluctant to fully contribute to the English conversation school classes

and it would be great if our chats brought him to a higher standard. He is a warm, friendly and polite young man who at the end of each session (scheduled for 20 minutes a week but sometimes lasts for 45 minutes) says how much he appreciates and enjoys their chatting together.”

In response to the question as to what Barry derives from this experience he says, “I am learning about living in a relatively non-pluralistic (Jewish) society and perhaps he is learning about life in the Diaspora.”

Another British friend had two keen religious young ladies and they have swapped recipes for Pesach. I too have a lovely 14 year old to share weekly our different worlds and for her to use spoken English with confidence.

Anyone interested to become a volunteer and have a weekly chat with a young Israeli can contact me or Helen at etp-haifa@esra.org.il and mention you are from Mosaic!

A Progressive View of Zionism

- A Zionist Credo By Shlomo Avineri, written in 1984

*to commemorate thoughts of Lawrie Nerva ("z'l") on Israel
as provided by Judith Bara*

We are the People of the Book;
We are also a people heavy with memory.
Let us remember therefore,
Nizkor, what Zionism is.
Let us remember that Zionism is about the future,
Not about the past.
Let us remember that Zionism, while embedded in history,
Should never be imprisoned by it.
Let us remember that Zionism means listening to the voice of our own people,
Not silencing the voices of others.
Let us remember that Zionism is about national self-consciousness,
Not about real estate.
Let us remember that Zionism is about getting the Jewish people back into history,
Not opting out of it.
Let us remember that Zionism is about being Jewish, but also about being human, ke-
chol hagoyim,
But not like the worst of them.
Let us remember that Zionism is about building,
Not about destroying.
Let us remember that Zionism is about liberation,
Not about occupation.
Let us remember that Zionism is about people,
Not about territories.

Meeting our twin Synagogue Darchei Noam

by Joan Noble

On 6th March the Councils of Mosaic Reform and Darchei Noam met on Zoom to initiate a future relationship.

They are based in Ramat HaSharon, north of Tel Aviv, between Herzlia and Tel Aviv and are a young vibrant community.

Although online now, there is every wish that it will become a reality before too long. It was a very warm hour-and-a-half where we met Ilana, Chair for the past 25 years, fellow congregants Yaron, Rebecca and Tal with their Rabbi Eli Levin. We each explained a little about ourselves and how long we have been involved in our communities and looking for common ground.

This wasn't necessary because somehow an immediate positive connection seemed to form. Rabbi Eli told us how he came upon Reform Judaism in Cardiff in 1999 for the Yom Kippur service. He was so affected by that experience that it led him, a practising Dentist, to then train for the Rabbinate at Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem and was ordained in 2013. He then became Rabbi to the community when it was established in a new building although it has been running for much longer.

The recent election delivered Gilad Kariv the first Reform member of Israel's Parliament, The Knesset, it is a hopeful sign.



They explained how difficult things are for Progressive communities particularly with funding only being allocated to Orthodox communities, their fees mainly evolving from the 150 bar mitzvahs they had this year and the special teaching programme that is given to the bar/bat mitzvah boys and girls.

They confirmed the status regarding marriages only being legal in Orthodox synagogues but the recent law regarding conversion passed by the Supreme Court that will make a change now to their community.

One aspect with which we can start our connection is through music. Rabbi Eli loves to sing and they proudly have a choir of 24 people.

We were at the time approaching Yom Ha Shoah and they explained that their Bar mitzvah children have a ritual to recite a Portion for a child victim identified from the Shoah. They also enjoy an away Shabbat weekend to enrich and build the community.

They are twinned with another community in Canada.

Future ideas to swap articles, sermons and other common points of interest and culture are being considered initially online and before too long to meet in person.

Darchei Noam have a website to find out more and are happy to welcome us when we travel again.

www.d-noam.org/en



Board Of Deputies

by Michael Reik, Mosaic Reform Deputy

Board of Deputies Defence Division Meeting March 15th by Zoom

The Indemnity Insurance, currently provided for Honorary Officers and Staff, may be extended to individual Deputies.

The UJS representative said matters were difficult and involved for Jewish University students at present. A lot of time was taken up with Professor David Miller at the University of Bristol and his Anti -Israel stance. No change from the Vice-Chancellor at the University. Israel Apartheid week had just been held but less provocative than in previous years.

Amanda Bowman (Vice President Defence Division) and Michael Wegier (new Chief Executive) were meeting up with UCL personnel with regard to the IHRC Definition of Anti-Semitism.

There were still major problems of Anti-Semitism within the Labour Party.

Scottish Parliament has just passed a new Crime Bill which affects all communities, not only those affected by race. It was commented that the recent headlines about Nicola Sturgeon having a major platform with Iranian Cleric were totally unfounded. She just happened to be at the same event with no prior knowledge that he would be there.

BOD Plenary on Zoom Sunday 21st March (Total of 228 deputies online)

The first vote taken was for a digital procedure for the upcoming election of Honorary officers in May, 90% in favour and passed.

We then moved onto presentation by and voting of 6 organisations that wished to join the Board of Deputies. To become members of the organisation they needed to acquire 2/3 of votes in favour.

The organisations together with votes achieved were;

- London Jewish Forum. 52%. **Not Admitted**
- Maccabi GB 86%. **Admitted**
- The Friendship Circle. 86%. **Admitted**
- Mitzvah Day. 70%. **Admitted**
- Jewish Vegetarian Society 66%. **Not Admitted**
- Jami 85%. **Admitted**

This was Gillian Merron's last meeting as Chief Executive after six-and-a-half years, now handing over to Michael Wiegier. Gillian Merron will now take her place in the House of Lords.

Many comments were made about Professor David Miller's racist comments against Jewish Students at Bristol University. This is now being investigated by the University (eventually) but there is a belief he should be

prosecuted by the law.

There was general concern that Israel Apartheid week was allowed to take place and that not enough was done by the Executive of Board of Deputies to voice against.

There was a suggestion that the Census being filled in today should have included a section for Jews to be considered as an Ethnic Minority

The discussion (resolution) on climate change did not take place because the meeting overran. Also none of the sub division reports were presented for the same reason. These items will take place at a further meeting

James Harris, UJS President, spoke about the considerable pressure Jewish Students were under at many Universities because of their religion. A suggestion was made that members of the Board of Deputies who are alumni of individual universities where problems exist might be able to help.

The point was also made that Jewish academics are also under pressure at certain universities

BOD Defence Committee Meeting April 12th held on Zoom

Correction from last notes. 75 Universities have now adopted the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism.

Shimon Cohen provided an update on Shechita UK. A new Agricultural Bill has been produced from scratch by the British Government following Brexit. How this affects the Jewish Community are the areas covering (1) The method of slaughter of animals and (2) The live exports of animals for slaughter. The bill has passed into law, though food labelling will only be concluded by the end of 2021. There are 14 methods of slaughter in the UK

of which Shechita is one. Now, as there is no alignment of UK slaughter with the European Court of Justice, there is no jurisdiction of Europe here in the UK. The argument that Shechita should have additional labelling because the non-stunning of the animal should not apply any more than the other 13 methods of slaughter. It is only a perception that stunning is good. In the UK there should only be licensed slaughterhouses. Unfortunately, there are several unlicensed Halal slaughterhouses which can then give Shechita and Muslim Animal slaughter houses a bad name when they do not meet the correct requirements.

We were then addressed by Danny Morris from CST. Since March 2017 in the UK there have been 28 incidents which have been foiled by the police, of which about 3/4 were intended to attack the Jewish Community. He then advised of recent attacks. On March 5th in Marseilles there was a foiled attack by a person with a knife at a Jewish Bakery. On March 10th there was the intention of an attack at the Great Synagogue in Singapore. There is the recent incident of Benjamin Hannum, a probationary police officer, being charged with aggravated far right activities. Alison Chabloz has been given 18 months as a Holocaust denier for posting grossly offensive material online.

We then discussed RT, Russian State Controlled Television Network as a TV network to promote rifts in British Society in particular to the far left and far right

Finally, we discussed questionnaires that had been sent to Jewish academics on problems affecting Jewish students and lecturers at the universities. The response so far has been poor so this will be reinvestigated.

REVIEW OF ZOOM EVENTS

If you missed any of our events, you can catch up with them by visiting www.choosemosaic.org and clicking on "what's on" and "past events". There are more than 60 recordings to choose from!

Jeremy Leigh on Identity and Diversity in Contemporary Israel.

By Pat Zatz

4th March



Jeremy Leigh was introduced by Michael Reik, who has been on many Jewish Journeys led by Jeremy. As well as leading educational tours, Jeremy is a lecturer at the Jerusalem campus of the Hebrew Union College. He was born and brought up in N.W London but has lived in Israel since the early 1990s.

The talk was started with a song "*Shevet Achim VeAchayot*", ("A Tribe of Brothers and Sisters"). The lyrics suggest a description of Israeli Jewish society as of diverse origins but living together in harmony. This is of course

the ideal, but the reality is somewhat different.

Jeremy then presented us with the reasons for inter-societal tension and his feeling that this is the burning issue in contemporary Israel.

The early settlers between the 1810s and 1940s were mostly of Ashkenazi, European background. When the large waves of North Africans arrived between 1948 and 1972, the institutions and influential jobs were mostly run by people of European heritage. They were unlikely to be given up lightly to new immigrants, particularly those with entirely different backgrounds,

So, as Jeremy pointed out, throughout its entire history as a State, all of Israel's Prime ministers, most of the Presidents and 17 out of 22 Heads of the IDF have all been of European heritage. It is therefore not surprising that there has been unrest amongst those of Mizrahi backgrounds, with riots and demonstrations akin to those of the "Black Lives Matter" movement.

Jeremy suggests that Israel has to decide whether it is in the Middle East or in Europe and move forward.

He is optimistic; as he points out; both Israeli music and food are fairly universally enjoyed and shared by the whole population and recognised by others as Israeli.

There are also State holidays, imported by diverse traditions, that are celebrated by all inhabitants.

Israel is still a young State, far from perfect in its acceptance of diversity, but it is getting there, as are most democratic countries.

Meet the Actor/ Director – Brian Gilbert

by Trudy Segal

7th March



Brian Gilbert was the speaker on 7th March giving us an insight into his very interesting career.

Born in the UK he went as a very small child with his family to Australia. There his actor father became part of a thriving acting community and at the age of 6 Brian started his own career performing on children's TV/afternoon magazine programmes/giving poetry readings. After 14 years the family returned to the UK where Brian attended Harrow County High School before winning a scholarship to read English at Oxford University where his love of acting continued and his directing aspirations took hold. Following a stint with an Oxbridge semi-professional acting company he landed a cameo part in a Lew Grade financed film "Voyage of the Damned" telling the true story of Jews escaping from the Nazis on the ship St. Louis. This film had a truly star-studded cast including Orson Welles, Dame Wendy Hiller, Max von Sydow and Julie Harris.

In the mid 70's with the advent of the new wave in American and European cinema, Brian knew that directing was what he wanted to do and he attended the National Film and TV school. His graduation film was shown

at BAFTA and by chance was seen by David Puttnam, the acclaimed director of Chariots of Fire. He was then invited to make a film which was part of Channel 4's 'First Love' series.

Following this Brian was responsible for directing many acclaimed films both here and in the USA including "Vice Versa" with a script written by Dick Clement and Ian Le Frenais - writers of many well-known British comedy series - "Wilde" starring Stephen Fry and Jude Law, "Tom and Viv" with Willem Dafoe and Miranda Richardson.

He is presently Co-Head of Directing Fiction at the NFTS, having been teaching there since 2004.

A very enjoyable afternoon – many thanks to Brian and to Judy Silverton for her directing skills.

Meet the Artist – Harinder Sahota

by Simone Balkin

14th March



On a Sunday afternoon a group of Mosaic members were treated to a delightful and inspiring presentation by local artist and art teacher, Harinder Sahota.

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Harinder began by giving us some background on her training and varied working life. She then showed us her painting skill and versatility by giving us a short exhibition of her paintings, some in oil and others in watercolour. They ranged in theme from flowers to underwater life to portraiture, the latter being her passion.

We then enjoyed a mini masterclass on painting a self-portrait in watercolour. It was fascinating to see how, by adding layer upon layer on the paper, Harinder's portrait magically appeared, giving the effect of a 3D picture. The result was beautiful.

I for one have been inspired to dig out my paints and brushes and give portraits a go.

Thank you Harinder for a wonderful hour of inspiring art for a Sunday afternoon.

www.harinderartist.com

Meet Paul Solomon of Google

by Hana Schlesinger

16th March



Paul Solomon, son of Mosaic Liberal members Alan and Janet Solomon, is Director of Communications and Public Affairs at Google

and leads Google's Communications teams in Israel, the Middle East, Africa, Turkey and Russia. He was interviewed by Steve Levinson and the conversation began with a

lovely overview of the Covid situation in Israel, particularly interesting for those of us with relatives and friends there. Paul's 16-year-old son had his first Covid jab on his 16th birthday!

Regarding Israel's forthcoming election Paul said that his guess regarding the outcome was as good as anyone's. However, he was tickled that his not quite 17-year-old daughter, Aviv, is allowed to vote according to her Hebrew birthday, which is before her "official" one this year, so she will shortly cast her first vote.

Paul's obvious enthusiasm for and enjoyment of his work was striking. He shows how Google makes people's lives easier, helps businesses to grow and protects Google's reputation in the media. He misses visiting his teams and hopes to go to the UAE and Turkey as soon as possible. And of course coming to London to see his parents and close family here.

Several in-depth questions rounded off the session and, while Paul had a great deal more to tell us, he was limited by time. Maybe we could hear more when he is allowed to travel.

Meet Dr. Johnson Beharry, VC COG

by Shirley Alpert

21st March

What a wonderful way to spend an hour on a Sunday afternoon. Dr Johnson Beharry's talk was so interesting and inspiring. He was born in Grenada in 1979. At the age of 20 he came to



live in the UK. After a short spell experimenting with drugs and drug dealing, he realised he had to stop and do something worthwhile. After a few unsuccessful attempts to join the army, he persevered and was finally accepted into the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

While in the army in Iraq Private Beharry carried out two individual acts of great heroism in which he saved the lives of his comrades. Both acts were in the direct face of the enemy, under intense fire, at great personal risk to himself leading to him sustaining serious life-threatening injuries. He displayed repeated extreme gallantry and unquestionable valour despite intense direct attack and personal injury in the face of relentless enemy action. Consequently, he was awarded the Victoria Cross, the first living recipient in over 30 years.

He is now very active with his charitable Foundation set up in 2014. The JBVC Foundation supports young people, helping them to escape from gang culture and rehabilitates former offenders with training and employment. We admire his tenacity and dedication in all he does. Thank you for a wonderful talk.

Meet the Economist – George Magnus

by David Pollak

30th March

On 30th March, our resident interviewer, Steve Levinson, introduced George Magnus as our guest speaker.

George is recognised as an authority on the economics and politics of China and has been read, watched and listened to for many years. His latest publication 'Red Flags: why Xi's China is in Jeopardy' has been well received and we all waited eagerly to hear his views on China, past, present and future.

In 60 minutes, his audience was treated to a first-hand account of his views that China's growing influence and, some might say, economic dominance, was in jeopardy. As a seasoned political and economic journalist himself, Steve asked incisive questions on how George regarded China's suppression of opposition within its own territories and beyond and whether, in his opinion, China was sensitive to the opinions of others. In George's opinion, Xi Jinping was safe for the time being within the Communist party and, as far as outsiders were concerned, Xi and the Chinese Communist party were indifferent to what others thought.

When asked if China could be considered dangerous, George described China's attitude as thinking that on the world stage they were being righteous and benign, in stark

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contrast to the way they perceived the West as being in decline.

Reviewing the development of China as the manufacturer of goods and services that feed the world, George saw a shift in emphasis. The “toys and textiles” that have carried the ‘Made in China’ label for the last 25 years, are now coming from emerging economies such as Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia and the like. China’s focus is now on high value consumer products in areas such as electronic goods and technology. Since 2013, when Xi Jinping launched the Belt and Road Initiative, Chinese banks have been financing the construction of infrastructure and other large-scale projects across the world. It appears that Xi’s ambition is being created by economic supremacy and investment.

Inevitably, the conversation turned to the Pandemic. George believed that the perceived poor standards of hygiene in China, in the past, seem to have been corroborated by Covid-19 and have led to a negative image and criticism of that country which, in turn, has resulted in bullying tactics by China in its diplomacy abroad. While China had, to a large extent,

eliminated the virus by applying an almost draconian lockdown resulting in the recovery of their economy which is now forging ahead, he was also cautiously optimistic for the recovery of the UK economy, fuelled by pent-up demand and unprecedented Government support.

Before opening the meeting to questions from the audience, Steve asked George to tell us how he felt our lives might change in the next 5-10 years. George acknowledged that the move away from city centres to working from home may not be the end of cities as some people have suggested, and that a higher reliance on technology would prove to be a positive and enduring phenomenon. George suggested that the pandemic was not necessarily the cause of such change but more an accelerant of changes that were already in the pipeline.

Questions followed on a variety of topics ranging from China bullying Australia to the curiosity of the Bitcoin. Each question was answered with examples and data which we had come to expect and admire in this first-rate analysis of the world in which we find ourselves in 2021.

We were all indebted to Steve, for having steered our way through many serious questions about China and related topics, and most especially to George, for having shared with us an expert’s view of China and so much more.

Meet the Toastmaster – John Ashmele

by Robin Goldsmith

13th April



Mosaic continued its excellent Tuesday afternoon ‘Meet The’ series with our very own Toastmaster, John Ashmele, interviewed by Judy Silverton.

Becoming a toastmaster might not be top of everyone’s list of relaxing activities, but what should a retired former freelance Information Systems Consultant do with this time? John was looking for a new challenge and had his interest piqued at a U3A talk a few years ago. After finding out more details, he trained professionally and two years later became an accredited Fellow of the Guild of Professional Toastmasters.

The origins of making a toast with a drink probably originated in ancient Greece. However, did you know that the word ‘toast’ comes from dropping a piece of spiced or charred toast into a cup or bowl of wine. The

practice is even mentioned by Shakespeare in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. It would seem that this made the wine taste better! Glass of Château Hovis, anyone? Then by the 18th century, the term ‘toast’ changed from referring to the floating bread to signifying the person honoured by the toast.

So what is a Toastmaster and how does it differ from a Master of Ceremonies? John explained that the two roles are very similar, but that a toastmaster is perhaps more of an official role with very specific training. This encompasses much of the organisation of an event, including arranging the order of speakers, introducing them, keeping the event on schedule and dealing with issues calmly and proficiently as they occur. Weddings are the most typical events, but John also caters for Barmitzvahs and other occasions. Toastmasters are trained to officiate at events of all faiths and sizes, but John did mention that he was keen to avoid rugby club meetings!

John has faced all kinds of unexpected events during his work. These include dealing with the wrong knife for cutting Challah to helping a surprised member of the wedding couple’s family make a speech at the last minute, in place of the designated speaker. Water leaks, excessively loud music and drunk guests are just some of the possible issues that lie in wait! Whatever happens or has happened, the Guild of Professional Toastmasters maintains high standards. Having a toastmaster takes several headaches away from the event hosts and helps to ensure that the occasion is a success.

You can find more information on John’s website at <https://www.ashmele.co.uk/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Zoom details for all the following events will be available on the weekly notices.

Sunday 2nd May – 4.00 pm

Meet the City Editor & Author – Alex Brummer



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

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 8 books, his latest, "The great British Reboot".

Sunday 9th May – 4.00 pm



The Tattooed Torah

The Tattooed Torah is a true story of the rescue

and restoration of a small Torah from Brno, Czechoslovakia, which teaches the Holocaust not only as a period of destruction but also as an opportunity for redemption.

One of the finest award-winning films made, The Tattooed Torah tells the story of the Holocaust in a way that is accessible for children and appropriate for all ages. The run time of the film is 21 minutes. For more information, please visit www.tattooedtorah.com.

Following the online screening there will be a discussion with: Beth Kopin, Marvell Ginsburg's daughter and Executive Producer; Brett Kopin, Co-writer; Martin Lemelman, illustrator.

Tuesday 11th May – 2.30 pm

Meet the Danc(ing) Judge – Michael Shelton



Michael Shelton is a long-standing member of Mosaic Liberal and has a fascinating CV. In addition to his career in the legal profession as a Solicitor and Deputy District Judge, he holds or has held directorships in a stage school, a theatrical agency, a personal management company and a men's hygiene product company. He is currently chair of Rickmansworth Churches Housing Association.

Michael founded a theatre funding business over

40 years ago and has produced in the West End and on tour. But added to that is his involvement in the world of dancing. He is Vice-President of Dance Sport England and Chair of Adjudicators for the World Dance Sport Federation and has acted as Secretary-General of their professional division.

Other interests include or have included the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, the Stables Theatre at Wavendon, the London Music Hall Trust, The Young Vic Company, Denville Hall (the actors' care home) and The Bud Flanagan Leukaemia Fund. Michael is fluent in French and German, passionate about a tiny Greek island and also lists music, travel, theatre, backgammon, swimming, cars, food and wine among his interests. Alan Solomon will be asking him how this diverse lifestyle came to be.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 16th May – 4.00 pm

Meet the Author – Keren David



Keren will be interviewed by Steve Levinson.

Keren David is the award-winning author of twelve young adult

novels. She has had a long career in journalism and is currently Associate Editor (Features) for the Jewish Chronicle, where she started her career as a messenger girl. In between she worked for many national newspapers and has lived in London, Glasgow and Amsterdam.

Her latest book "What We're Scared Of", is about contemporary antisemitism and Jewish identity. The Times called it "an engaging, powerful and timely book".

Sunday 23rd May – 4.00 pm

60+ Years - A Celebration

Join us to celebrate 60+ years at Bessborough Road.

A fun afternoon of:

- MEMORIES
- QUIZ – how well do you remember Bessborough Road?
- MUSIC
- PHOTOS
- CHILDREN
- FAREWELLS and news on our new home in Stanmore.



Tuesday 25th May – 2.30 pm

Meet the Author – Hadley Freeman



Hadley Freeman will be interviewed by Steve Levinson.

'A near perfect study of Jewish identity... in the 20th century. If there is a better book about the anguish of Jewish survival I have yet to read it.' - The Daily Telegraph

'House of Glass is extraordinary. It reads like a mystery and a memoir and a gripping history of the last century ... Freeman doesn't hide from the grey spaces people inhabit during wartime, or shy away from drawing the terrifying parallels to today's iterations of those ancient hatreds. It's a brave and wonderful book' – Nathan Englander

Sunday 30th May – 4.00 pm

Mosaic Quiz

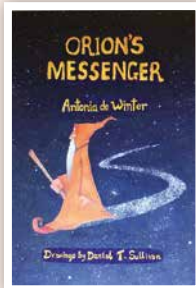


John Ashmele will present another entertaining on-line quiz for the Mosaic Jewish Community & friends. No winners, no prizes, just a lot of fun. Refreshments: whatever is left over from lunch!

UPCOMING EVENTS

To enable you to enjoy the summer afternoons, please note that forthcoming Sunday programmes will commence at 5.30 pm until further notice.

Sunday 6th June – 5.30 pm **Meet the Author – Antonia Berger**



Join us to hear the story behind the story and what it takes to self-publish a book for the first time.

After 30 years of sitting high up on a shelf, Antonia dusted off the manuscript of her children's book and lockdown created the opportunity to brush up the story, sort out the

illustrations – done by Daniel T Sullivan – and get it published. Also, the audiobook was recorded at home and, although Antonia narrated the story and husband Howard, (man of many voices) portrayed the amusing characters, it's not quite as simple as it sounds.

All will be revealed when Antonia and Howard Berger, who are long-standing members of Mosaic Reform, will talk about the ups and downs of this new venture.

Tuesday 8th June – 2.30 pm **Meet the Judge – Dawn Freeman**



Steve Levinson will interview Her Honour Judge Dawn Freeman.

Dawn was a Circuit Judge who sat for many years at Harrow Crown Court. Dawn was the youngest person to be appointed to the position of Stipendiary Magistrate (now called a District Judge) and sat at South West London Magistrates' Court. At the request of the late Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Dawn and the late Judge Myrella Cohen QC drafted a pre-nuptial agreement to be signed by couples agreeing to behave in accordance with Jewish Law if they divorced. Dawn and Myrella played a part in the drafting of the Divorce (Religious Marriages) Act 2002 giving judges the power to postpone decrees absolute until the parties had complied with their religious obligations. Dawn is a former Trustee of Jewish Women's Aid.

Sunday 13th June – 5.30 pm **Meet the Art Quilter – Alicia Merrett**

Join Alicia Merrett when she will give a presentation on this amazing art form.

The word 'quilt' tends to evoke images of bed covers. That is the purpose for which quilts have traditionally been made. However, from the 1960s onwards a strong movement developed, first in the US, and then in the UK and throughout the world, of Art Quilts which are designed to hang on the wall – textile 'paintings' where the artwork is layered and



stitched.

Alicia Merrett has been an art quilter for over 20 years and her work has been, and is, exhibited in the UK, Europe, USA, Australia, Japan, China, Taiwan, South Korea, Israel. She is known for her use of strong colour; textile maps are one of her best-known series. Currently she is creating digital designs which are then printed on fabric and stitched.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 20th June – 5.30 pm **Meet the Author – Anne Shooter**

Joan Noble will interview Anne Shooter.

Anne Shooter had been a journalist at the Daily Mail for almost 20 years when she decided to follow her passion for cooking and train to be a chef at Leith's School of Food and Wine at the age of 40. Since then she has had two cookery books published, Sesame & Spice – a book of Jewish baking – and Cherish, a collection of Jewish recipes from family, friends and communities all over the world.

Her recipes span from traditional Jewish food, often with its roots in Eastern Europe, to more modern creations, using spices and ingredients more in line with those used in Israel and other

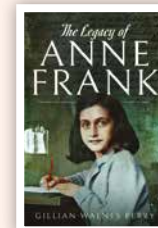


parts of the Middle East. All of her dishes are quick, simple and foolproof: As a working wife and mum she has no interest in food that needs hard-to-find ingredients or takes too long to prepare!

While cooking remains a huge

passion and a third book is in the offing, Anne is a senior executive in the Mail and Metro newspaper group advertising team. She lives in north London with her husband Daniel, a solicitor, two teenage daughters, Charlotte and Jessica and large labradoodle, Rufus.

Tuesday 22nd June – 2.30 pm **Meet the Author – Gillian Walnes Perry, MBE**



Steve Levinson will interview Gillian Perry.

Gillian co-founded the Anne Frank Trust UK in 1990, along with family and friends of Anne Frank's father, Otto Frank. In 2010, she was awarded an MBE for her work in education.

She is now the Honorary Vice President, Anne Frank Trust UK and the Community Outreach Ambassador, Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect USA.

The Anne Frank Trust uses Anne Frank's powerful and tragic story to help young people understand and challenge prejudice and hatred and embrace positive attitudes, responsibility and respect for others.


Her book, 'The Legacy of Anne Frank' presents the inspirational stories of a diverse variety of people from all over the world, brought together by the words of one particularly articulate and inspiring teenage victim of the Holocaust.

'I'm grateful that you were able to speak at the Clinton Presidential Center last year, and for the good work you're doing to share Anne's wisdom in new ways- the lessons of her life are as important today as ever.' President William J Clinton February 2020.




Sunday 27th June – 5.30 pm **Mosaic Quiz**

Quizmaster, Neil Goodman, will present another entertaining on-line quiz for the Mosaic Jewish Community & friends. No winners, no prizes, just a lot of fun. Refreshments: whatever is left over from lunch!



Mosaic JACS Programme



May - June

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

Tuesday 4th May
The Rubbish Picker's Wife – making a difference to children's lives in Kosovo - Elizabeth Gowing

18th May
Shavuot – no JACS

Tuesday 1st June:
Smoked Salmon, the story of Formans – Lance Forman

Tuesday 15th June:
My Dad the Photographer – Boris Bennett's son, Michael, continues his entertaining insights into the life of his father.

Tuesday 29th June:
Supporting and understanding young people in the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community – Jackie Briggs

Cheesecake Recipe for Shavuot

This is another recipe that was originally published in "Bimah" in May 1980. It was submitted by the late Eve Smith.

It makes a very special cheesecake for Shavuot – use half quantity if you want a smaller cake.

Ingredients

1½ lb curd cheese
 4 eggs
 1 cup castor sugar
 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
 Crushed digestive biscuits
 1 pint soured cream mixed with 2 tablespoons castor sugar & 1 teaspoon vanilla essence

Method

1. Line a large loose-bottom tin with the biscuits
2. Beat all the ingredients together (except for the soured cream mixture)
3. Put the cake mixture on top of the biscuits and bake for 35 minutes at No 4 (180C/350F)
4. Open the door and if the cake is firm to the touch, leave in the oven with the door open till cool.
5. Beat together the soured cream, sugar and vanilla essence and pour over the cake.
6. Bake on No 7 (210C/425F) for 7 minutes. The cake will be soft but will set as it cools.



You might now like to decorate your cake as suggested on page 9. Enjoy!

For zoom details for all the following events visit the mosaic website

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

MAY

Saturday 1 st	Shabbat Emor
Sunday 2 nd	15.00 Cameo
	16.00 Meet the Author – Alex Brummer
Tuesday 4 th	14.30 JACS – The Rubbish Picker's Wife
Saturday 8 th	Shabbat Behar-Bechukotai
Sunday 9 th	11.00 Mosaic Liberal AGM
	16.00 The Tattooed Torah
Tuesday 11 th	14.30 Meet the Danc(ing) Judge
Saturday 15 th	Shabbat Bemidbar
Sunday 16 th	16.00 Meet the Author – Keren David
	19.00 Erev Shavuot service
Monday 17 th	1st day Shavuot
Tuesday 18 th	2nd day Shavuot
Saturday 22 nd	Shabbat Naso
Sunday 23 rd	16.00 60+ Years – A celebration
Tuesday 25 th	10.00 Mosaic walk
	14.30 Meet the Author – Hadley Freeman
Saturday 29 th	Shabbat Beha'alotcha
Sunday 30 th	16.00 Mosaic quiz

JUNE

Tuesday 1 st	14.30	JACS – The History of Formans
Wed 2 nd	20.00	Mosaic Reform EGM
Saturday 5 th		Shabbat Shelach Lecha
Sunday 6 th	17.30	The Story Behind "Orion's Messenger"
Tuesday 8 th	14.30	Meet the Judge – Dawn Freeman
Saturday 12 th		Shabbat Korach
	10.30	Bat Mitzvah – Daniella Phillips (Mosaic Reform)
Sunday 13 th	17.30	The Art of Quilting
Tuesday 15 th	14.30	JACS – Meet the Photographer's Son, Michael Bennett
Saturday 19 th		Shabbat Chukkat
Sunday 20 th	17.30	Meet the Author – Anne Shooter
Tuesday 22 nd	14.30	Meet the Author – Gillian Walnes Perry, MBE
Saturday 26 th		Shabbat Balak
Sunday 27 th	17.30	Mosaic Quiz



The Mosaic office
opening hours are:

Monday	08.00 – 17.00
Tuesday	08.00 – 16.00
Wednesday	08.00 – 13.30
Thursday	08.00 – 17.00

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