



*Wishing all Mosaic members  
a happy, healthy and peaceful  
New Year*



# About Our Members

*Since our last issue*

Children and teen birthdays on page 34

## MOSAIC LIBERAL

### BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Louis Davis  
Sheila Freeman  
Anne Joel  
Rosetta Muscatt  
Robert Palos  
Sylvia Vandervelde

### MAZAL TOV TO:

Danielle Sanderson, MA (Oxon), PhD (Reading), who has been promoted to the position of Associate Professor in Real Estate at the Bartlett School of Planning at UCL with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October.

### GET WELL SOON TO:

Aubrey Scott  
Susan Solomons  
Gina Greenglass

### CONDOLENCES TO:

Helen Sugarman on the death of her husband Jack, condolences also to Jane Sugarman on the death of her father.  
The family and friends of Dora Mandel.

## MOSAIC MASORTI

### BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Michele Flatto

### ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Irene & Colin Berkovitch on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Janine & Lewis Brockiner on their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Gill & David Ross on their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Elaine & Martin Shoffman on their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Simone & Brian Balkin on their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

### CONDOLENCES TO:

Rabbi David Soetendorp on the death of his brother, Bentsion Uriel Soetendorp.

## MOSAIC REFORM

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Sharon Pink  
Jen Shaw  
Darren Price

### MAZAL TOV TO:

Juliet Grainger and Stephen Grainger on the birth of their grand-daughter, Evie Darcey.

Joan & Steve Noble on the birth of their grandson, Theodore Frank.

Ruby Nerva on the birth of her great-grandson, Laurie.

Caroline & Lawrence Chadwick on the engagement of their daughter, Jo, to Adam Jacobs.

### BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Brenda Marks, 91  
Sam Brier, 75  
Stephen Glick, 75  
Michael Harrison, 65  
Victor Less, 80  
Karen Pollak, 70  
Sheila Solomons, 95  
Ros Franks, 65  
Val Myers, 75  
Hymie Zar, 85

Colin Clifton, 85  
Harry Grant, 70  
Lilian Levene, 91  
Inge Norris, 94  
Hilda Tichauer, 101

Fred Stern, 98  
Hannah Pinkus, 85

### ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Arlette & Neil Kaas on their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Jeanette & David Leibling on their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Sandy & George Myrants on their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Maureen & Barry Caplan on their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Rosemary & Maurice Hoffman on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Ann & John Kent on their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Lydia & David Safir on their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

### GET WELL WISHES TO:

Lawrence Chadwick

### CONDOLENCES TO:

Ros Franks on the death of her mother, Zelda Fineburgh.  
The family and friends of Adele Saffer  
Dennis Weinberg on the death of his wife, Helen.  
The family and friends of Pat Kaplan.

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Send your articles, pictures, letters, etc to

[newsdesk@choosemosaic.org](mailto:newsdesk@choosemosaic.org)

## MESSAGES FROM OUR RABBIS

# Rabbi Rachel Benjamin

## *A Message for Pesach*



*"let's commit to finding ways, both individually and together, to make a positive impact on the world"*

Happy Birthday to You  
Happy Birthday to You  
Happy Birthday dear World  
Happy Birthday to You

*How do you understand the commands to 'conquer' the earth and to 'rule over' all living things?*

\*\*\*\*\*

2. And the Eternal God took the *adam* ('the human being') and put the *adam* into the garden of Eden to tend it and to keep it. (Genesis 2:15)

*How is this similar/different to the command in Genesis 1:28?*

*What does this text say about human responsibility?*  
*What does this text teach us about how we should treat the environment?*

\*\*\*\*\*

3. Humanity's role is to tend the garden, not to possess it; to 'guard it and keep it' (Genesis 2), not to exploit it; to pass it on as sacred trust, as it was given. Even though we are given the authority to have dominion over the earth and its creatures, we are never allowed to own it, just like we can't own the waters or the air. "The land cannot be sold in perpetuity" (Lev. 25:23). The land is the commons, and it belongs to everyone equally and jointly.

(Ellen Bernstein, 'Rereading Genesis: Human Stewardship of the Earth', in *Righteous Indignation: A Jewish Call for Justice*)

*How does this square with national or individual legal ownership of land?*

*How might we act differently if we felt that our role were to 'tend', rather than to 'possess'?*

*How does this text affect our understanding of the Genesis texts (1 and 2 above) that command us to be guardians of the earth?*

Continued on following page >>



Continued from previous page...

4. God said to Adam, ‘Look at My works, how beautiful and praiseworthy they are! Everything that I created, I created for you. Take care that you do not damage and destroy My world, for if you damage it, there is no one to repair it afterwards!’

(Midrash Ecclesiastes/Kohelet Rabbah 7)  
Are we now at the point that this is happening?  
Is it possible to repair the damage?

\*\*\*\*\*

5. The land shall not be sold for ever; for the land is mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with me. (Leviticus 25:23)

If we can never truly own land/the earth, what does that imply about how we should treat it?  
How do you treat differently what you own, or what you rent?

\*\*\*\*\*

6. Everything bestowed upon you – mind, body, fellow man, material goods, other creatures, every talent and every power – all are merely means to action, to further and to safeguard everything. With love and with justice!  
(Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, *The Nineteen Letters*)

According to Rabbi Hirsch, what are we meant to do with the gifts we are given?  
What does this say about responsible ownership?  
Does this describe a way to give meaning and purpose to our lives?

\*\*\*\*\*

7. Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai said: Three things are equally important: earth, humanity, and dew. Rabbi Levi bar Chiya said: These three terms are each composed of three letters to teach that without the earth ארץ there is no dew טל, without the dew there is no earth, and without them

both there is no humanity מדיא. (Genesis/B’reishit Rabbah 13:3)

What is this text saying?  
If all things are interconnected and dependent on each other, how does this affect our responsibility as guardians of the earth?

\*\*\*\*\*

8. It is not your responsibility to complete the work, but neither are you free to neglect it. (Pirkei Avot 2:16)

How can this text teach us humility?  
What does it say about the importance of ‘the work’?

\*\*\*\*\*

This coming new year of 5782 is a *shmittah*, or Sabbatical year. Just as the Torah instructs the people to work six days and rest on the seventh, it instructs them to work the land (in Israel) for six years, and let it rest in the seventh. In the seventh year, anything that grows on the land is to be given away, and debts are to be forgiven. ‘Six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield; but in the seventh you shall let it rest and lie fallow. Let the needy among your people eat of it, and what they leave let the wild beasts eat. You shall do the same with your vineyards and your olive groves.’ (Exodus 23:10-11)

The *shmittah* year is another opportunity for us to recommit to our role of *Shomrei Adamah*, ‘guardians of the earth’. There will be sermons, educational opportunities and also activities that we will be able to do together, to help us fulfil the task we have been given. Each of us can make a difference. Both as individuals, and as a community, we can model the behaviour of creating a greener environment and looking after this precious earth – and so give it the best possible birthday present.

Wishing you all a *Shanah Tovah u-M’tukah* – a good, sweet, healthy, meaningful, peaceful and safe New Year of 5782.



On 20<sup>th</sup> June enthusiastic walkers enjoyed a delightful walk along the Celandine route, appreciated the beautiful colours of the Eastcote Hidden Garden and then finished with delicious refreshments at the home of Alan and Janet Solomon. A great morning was had by all.

# A Great Shofar is Sounded

by Rabbi Natasha Mann



Last Elul, I learned to blow the shofar. I had never before managed to create any kind of sound from a shofar. But as the worldwide situation unfolded, it became clear to me that my options during Elul were to blow my own shofar or to forfeit hearing the blast every day. And so I picked up my shofar every weekday morning of the month of Elul and eventually a hesitant, reedy sound was formed. By Rosh Hashanah, not only was I blowing a hundred blasts for our small garden services, I was also able to visit members of the community and blow shofar for them.

The cry of the shofar is the quintessential sound of the season. This is perhaps best encapsulated in the immortal words of the *Unetaneh Tokef*: ה' קָדֵךְ הַקִּימֵךְ לִי קוֹקוֹ. עַקֵּךְ יָתִי לְיֹדֵךְ הַפֹּשְׁבִי עַמִּי. A great shofar is sounded - and a still, small voice is heard. A great shofar is sounded. For many I spoke with last year, the concern over not hearing shofar on Rosh Hashanah eclipsed even the concern of not being able to gather. However, the sound of the shofar, in all its ringing simplicity, is spiritually complex. Our commentators have woven hundreds of explanations of its significance. Perhaps the most famous is the Binding of Isaac, which we read on the second day of Rosh Hashanah.

Rabbi Abbahu (Talmud Rosh Hashanah 16a) puts the following words into the mouth of the Holy One: ‘Sound before Me a ram’s horn so that I may remember on your behalf the binding of Isaac the son of Abraham, and account it to you

as if you had bound yourselves before Me.’ In R. Abbahu’s read of the story, Isaac binds himself before the Holy One, and his father’s place in the narrative is all but erased. We sound the shofar to count ourselves among

those who submit before the One Who Spoke and Created the World, those who are aware of our smallness in the grand design.

And a still, small voice is heard. This refers to the story of Elijah encountering the Holy One in the wilderness. Though there are great, loud, impressive miracles wrought in the wilderness, each of those miracles concludes with an explanation that God was not within them. The Divine is expressed instead in the *kol damamah dakah* – the still, small voice.

The sounding of the shofar is a great cry. It penetrates the soul. But Isaac and Elijah teach us that the shofar does not only represent the big, intense experiences of our lives. It also represents what it means to feel small, and to hear God in the small things.

Last year, we experienced Rosh Hashanah in smaller ways than we were accustomed to. In smaller groups, in family households, with our own shofars or hearing them from afar. I hope that we can cherish those small moments, even when we return to bustling experiences.

*Shanah tovah um’tukah*. May it be a sweet new year



On 27<sup>th</sup> June Steve Levinson took this photo of the Mosaic walkers “shlapping” up a hill. There were several more walkers following on behind.



# A message from *Rabbi Kathleen Middleton*



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We usually regard the summer months as a time to wind down, relax and recharge and, with the lifting of all Covid restrictions, this summer especially seems to beckon us to let our hair down as we all yearn for the freedoms we once enjoyed so naturally.

However, our Jewish tradition tells us differently. Firstly, as Covid is far from passee and the vaccine does not protect the vaccinated from being infected and becoming a carrier of the virus, the *halachahic* principle of *pikuach nefesh* (saving life) urges us to remain vigilant, continue to wear masks, test regularly and keep to social distancing.

Secondly, our festival calendar reminds us that in fact the summer is a serious time. The commemoration of *Tisha b'Av* (the Ninth of Av) always falls in the summer, and it is linked to Rosh HaShanah with the seven special *Haftarot* of Consolation. *Tisha B'Av* seeks to draw moral lessons from the many calamities that befell our people throughout the millennia, and thus links in thematically with the High Holydays, which demand us to examine our past deeds so we can change them for the better.

The lectionary cycle of the weekly Torah readings at this time of the year also remind us of our responsibilities: As we read in *D'varim* (Deuteronomy) 30:15-16, *See, I have set before you this day, the life and the good, and the death and the evil. That I command you this day, to love the Eternal One your God, to walk in God's ways, and to keep God's mitzvot, statutes, and judgments, and you will live, and you will multiply, and the Eternal One your God will bless you in the land whither you come to inherit it.*

This is all rather more serious, than your average 'novel by the pool'. For those who struggle with the concept of God and theology at the best of times, the language of Deuteronomy and the *Machzor*, (the High Holyday prayerbook) might be a little off-putting, for there are all sorts of reasons why people attend the High Holyday services, not always because they want to pray, believe in God or feel commanded by God in any way.

Nevertheless, the underlying message of the High Holydays and the reminder of our personal responsibility for the state of the world, is far more apt and compelling than one might expect, particularly this year, as we just come out of the pandemic.

The introspection of the High Holydays and its call to take responsibility, and even the traditional concept of Rosh Hashanah as the 'birthday of the world' (*ha-yom harat olam*) remind us of crucially pressing current issues such as climate change and our responsibility for the natural world, our responsibility in combatting the spread of the pandemic by continued testing, self-isolating when called to, wearing masks and social distancing when indoors in unventilated spaces.

The metaphor of Rosh Hashanah as 'the birthday of the world' reminds us that all our natural resources are finite, and that we have a responsibility to look after the world for the sake of the world and those who come after us. *Midrash Kohellet Rabah* 7:13 writes: *When the God created the first human, God took him and led him round all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said to him: "Look at My works, how beautiful and praiseworthy they are! And all that I have created, it was for you that I created it. Pay attention that you do not corrupt and destroy My world: if you corrupt it, there is no one to repair it after you.*

The Talmud *Ta'anit* 23a recounts Rabbi Yochanan walking on the road and saw an old man planting a carob tree. He asked, 'How many years until this tree will be laden with fruit?' The man answered, 'in seventy years.' Rabbi Yochanan asked him, 'Surely you won't live another seventy years?' The man answered, 'In the same way as my fathers planted for me, I will also plant for my children.' The moral of the story is that we must look after this world and not deplete its natural sources, not just for our own benefit but especially for the benefit of those who come after us.

The Torah, partly designed for Israel as a nation of farmers and landowners, has an acute sense of environmental awareness, and is replete with commandments related to the environment and warnings about not depleting our natural world.

On top of that we are called to be socially active; not just to be kind to the stranger and look after those in need, but to actually 'love them' and to love our fellow human beings as ourselves (Lev 19:18).

As partners with God we share the task of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) which is in so much need of healing. The pollution of the oceans, the destruction of habitats, extinction of species and climate change are not just modern fads;

they are human-made disasters of which we have seen the devastating results this summer: soaring temperatures in Canada and North America, forest fires in Turkey, floods in Germany, South Holland and Belgium ... even the pandemic, if it indeed originated from bat species caught in the jungle and eaten by humans, as is claimed, might have released due to human activity.

There is no denying that this year has been extraordinarily difficult for some of us and a struggle for most – all of us hankered for loved ones we had not seen over the lockdowns, nor hugged (and we became so aware of the absence of human touch). Many children struggled with online lessons, and their parents struggled too, to keep on top of their work whilst supporting and looking after their kids. Those who live alone suffered with the absence of human contact, those in hospital suffered on their own, without visits, and those who lost loved ones were denied fitting farewell and missed out on

the vital support of family and friends afterwards.

And yet, the various lockdowns have given us a glimpse of a less polluted world; quieter roads, cleaner skies, wildlife thriving in our gardens and streets. The pandemic also brought us hitherto unimagined possibilities online: zoom and various other online platforms have helped us connect with family and friends overseas and even allowed us to learn, study and pray and meet together with our twinned community in Israel.

Above all, it made us aware of our responsibilities in the world; like the call of the *shofar* it reminds us of what our tradition has been telling us all along. It is a wakeup call to be socially and environmentally aware and active; to rally as a community together, to really make this world a better place. Let the sound of the *shofar* inspire us to make 5782 a special year of worth and good deeds.

*Shanah tovah!*

# Introducing *Student Rabbi Anthony Lazarus Magrill*



Hello! It is lovely to have a chance to introduce myself to you all before Rosh HaShanah. My name is Anthony Lazarus Magrill and I am a final year Rabbinical student at Leo Baeck College. I will be working at Mosaic Masorti/HEMS at least throughout this coming year. At the time of writing, I have just spent a wonderful first Shabbat in Hatch End – my family and I are really looking forward to future visits (every month or so) and to meeting more of you from across Mosaic's constituent communities. In particular, I am thrilled to be joining Mosaic at such an exciting time in your community's life – *I'Shanah HaBa'ah b'Stanmore Hill, b'yachad*. Next year – together on Stanmore Hill!

I grew up attending the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in St John's Wood where my family are long term members. Readers may remember that Mosaic's other Rabbis also have strong LJS connections: Rabbi Kathleen was my much-admired childhood Rabbi; and Rabbi Rachel blessed my wife and me at our aufruf. It is a real pleasure now to have some

chance to work with two Rabbis I have admired so much from the pews.

My wife, Abi, is a doctor; and we currently live in Putney with our daughters Nina (3) and Sarah (3 months). We met in the progressive minyan at Cambridge University – where I was nominally studying English Literature and in practice increasingly distracted by/engaged with Rabbinic culture and the Masorti community. In 2015, I studied for the first time at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, and I have been (roughly) on course for the Masorti Rabbinat ever since...

Over the coming year I expect to be involved in work between all three Mosaic communities and so will hope to meet lots of you in due course. I believe very strongly in building community through real and personal relationships and will try hard to say "yes" to all requests for coffee/a chat. It will always be a pleasure to hear from you - at [anthonyglazarus@gmail.com](mailto:anthonyglazarus@gmail.com), or on 07803765656. *L'Shanah Tovah u'Metukah* – may we enjoy a good and sweet new year.



19th August 2021

Dear Member(s)

### HIGH HOLY DAYS 5782/2021

We were hoping very much that our High Holy Day services this year would be in a new 'hybrid' setting, with some of us coming back together, to be physically in the same room, and others joining us on Zoom. Sadly, because of the on-going Covid-19 situation, with social distancing requirements and inadequate ventilation in our chosen venue, we have, with heavy hearts, decided that it would be safer to have our services on Zoom again. Please God, next year we will be able to congregate physically for (or tune into) our services.

We invite our members and visitors to join our High Holy Day services using their electronic devices. If you currently don't have internet access and would like to be connected, please contact the office to request the loan of a tablet and details of how to enjoy the services from the comfort of your own home.

Connection details and Zoom links for all the services will be published in the weekly newsletters immediately prior to the festivals. The dates and starting times of the services are as under:-

<i>Selichot</i>	Saturday, 28th August	at 8:00 pm
<i>Erev Rosh HaShanah</i>	Monday, 6th September	at 6:30 pm
<i>Rosh HaShanah</i>	Tuesday, 7th September	at 11:00 am
<i>Kol Nidrei</i>	Wednesday, 15th September	at 8:00 pm
<i>Yom Kippur Morning</i>	Thursday, 16th September	at 11:00 am
<i>Yom Kippur Additional</i>	Thursday, 16th September	at 1:00 pm
<i>Yom Kippur Afternoon</i> (with Yizkor and Ne'ilah)	Thursday, 16th September	at 5:30 pm

The services on *Rosh HaShanah* morning will be held jointly with South Bucks Jewish Community. All our other services will be solely for Mosaic Liberal Synagogue, led by Rabbi Rachel Benjamin, with singing and musical accompaniment provided by our Director of Music, Joseph Finlay, and our wonderful choir. On *Yom Kippur* afternoon, between 3:00-5:00pm, there will be an opportunity to join various sessions that are being organised by Liberal Judaism. We are looking forward to sharing the forthcoming High Holy Days with you in your homes.

**SELICHOT SERVICE** A Selichot Service of solemn prayers and singing will be held on **Saturday, 28th August at 8.00 pm.**

**BEREAVEMENT** If you have suffered a bereavement during the past year and you would like the name of your loved one to be mentioned during the *Yom Kippur* Memorial Service, please advise the Synagogue office by e-mail to [admin@mosaicliberal.org.uk](mailto:admin@mosaicliberal.org.uk), by post to **2 Field End Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 2QL**, or by phone to **020 8864 0133**.

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

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

Yours sincerely

**Kevin Ziants**  
Chairman, Rites & Practices Committee

# Stanmore Hill



The following is an extract from Griggs, the developers of our new property on Stanmore Hill:

**“W**e are currently building an apartment complex in Stanmore that will incorporate a communal facility on the ground floor which will bring three Synagogues from

NW London together under one roof. Yesterday we were honoured to take part in a ceremony in which two of the Community Leaders, Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton from Mosaic Reform and Rabbi Rachel Benjamin from Mosaic Liberal, laid the first three bricks engraved with the words Torah, Service and Good Deeds, signifying the fundamentals upon which the principles of Judaism are built.

Talking about the new development, Mosaic Reform chairman Harry Grant said: “This is a very exciting step forward for the whole Mosaic community and a really positive journey that we have set out upon. We have been looking for a new home for some time and our partnership with Griggs is making our dream to have a permanent home housing all three congregations become a reality.” James Craig, Director of Griggs, said:

“This is the first time we have ever worked on a project like this; it is completely unique. We know that Mosaic had been looking for a new home to accommodate all of their activities in one space for some time, and we are pleased to be working with them to create this permanent home for them that will bring their community together.”

## Wanting YOUR HELP

### What has lockdown meant to you?

So much has happened during lockdown and social distancing that has given us new perspectives and ideas to look after ourselves and our lives. We would like to receive stories about positive experiences which have changed your lives for the better, during the challenging 18 months.

Please send your excerpts to [newsdesk@choosmosaic.org](mailto:newsdesk@choosmosaic.org) and we will try and make a feature of them. They can be as short as you want.

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# From the gardens

## *of Gill Ross and Edwin Lucas*

(Joint Chairs, Mosaic Masorti, pictured)



*"We have also celebrated 'Community', with small acts of kindness that each have shown, whether through regular contact through our care group or through the individual acts of baking, cooking, shopping, schlepping, or just talking"*

**A**s we sit in the garden in August, we look back at last year's small HHD services, as well as garden yizkor services in gazebos and life in a community coping with lockdown. We are now thinking of September, which is just round the corner. Yes, the services will be shorter but it will be wonderful to be in a distanced shul with the windows and doors wide open. This will be the first time in many, many years that we will be holding High Holy Day services in our normal every week venue at the Girl Guides.

In the last year, we have experienced all that life can throw at us in a short period of time, with the bereavement of 6 long standing members – John, Leslie, Naomi, Sam, Sheila, Stanley and, in addition, close relatives of a number of members. It has been a torrid year for many people and we pray that the coming year will only bring simchas and happy events to all the congregation.

We thank Rabbi Natasha for all she has done in comforting congregants at funerals and stone settings. We also thank Stefan Roos and Mark Phillips for helping us with zoom shivahs which have comforted so many mourners in the UK and abroad at their times of need. We also owe a big thank you to Ann and the Jackies in the office who have done so much to keep us going in so many different ways.

We have also celebrated "Community", with small acts of kindness that each have shown, whether through regular contact through our care group or through the individual acts of baking, cooking, shopping, schlepping, just talking, on the phone or in person, as well as painting personalised "thinking of you" cards. The team of members running services for others, outside of the shul framework, brought members and others together when we could not open in person. 10 new members have joined Mosaic Masorti in the last year and we have even celebrated a bar and bat mitzvah or two. Now we are looking ahead. It will not be long until we are settled in the new building on Stanmore Hill. We are excited to being able to expand the team with the services of trainee Rabbi Anthony Lazarus Magrill. We also look forward to boosting our membership numbers further, in our work with Rabbi Anna starting in January as well as the marketing team,

We send our sincerest wishes for a sweet and happy New Year in addition to well over the Fast to the wider Mosaic membership. May we be together in good health, in the year ahead.

# How to leave a lasting legacy

*by Esther Aronsfeld*

**I**n Judaism every life matters. But it is how we live that counts. That is why in the build up to the High Holydays we are challenged to take stock

of our behaviour and actions over the past 12 months. Without this kind of inventory how would we know what changes we need to make to live a meaningful life?

The Covid pandemic brought into stark relief those things that give real meaning to our life. It also made us confront one of the great certainties of life: death. Often seen as a taboo topic, the Covid death toll has meant more people are now willing to talk about end-of-life matters. That includes making and updating a will. Wills, like people, come in all shapes and sizes. There's the standard who-gets-the-family-silver will. There's the how-I-want-to-be-treated-when-I-can-no-longer-care-for-myself will. And then there is what in Hebrew is called a *Tzava'ah*, or ethical will.

An ethical will is like a love letter to your nearest and dearest. The original template comes from Genesis 49:1-33 when Jacob gathered his sons together (daughter Dinah was not included!) to tell them how they should live after he dies. Our tradition has given us this wonderful tool to help us make the most of our life so we don't have regrets when our time is up.

Writing an ethical will gives us the opportunity to reflect on the whole of our life in order to assess how we have used our time, efforts and talents, as well as the potential we have not yet allowed ourselves to express. Accepting our mortality enables us to consider what really matters in life and motivates us to act on our values. As the 16th century Reb Zusya reminds us: In the world to come I will not be asked 'why did I not act like Moses or Solomon?', but 'why did I not act like Zusya?'

An ethical will contains things that have been important to us in our lives, values we have tried to live by which we want to pass on to the next generation, challenges we've faced and how we overcame them, mistakes made and lessons learnt, as well as our hopes and dreams for those we leave behind. If you don't have children, it can include the hopes you have for your community and future generations. An ethical will also enables us to do *t'shuvah*



with people we've not been able to make peace with by expressing regret and asking for forgiveness.

Writing an ethical will may not be the easiest thing in the world to do, but it is certainly one of the most cherished and meaningful gifts we can leave behind, whether we have children or not. Some people like to share this kind of will while they are still alive, others find that too difficult and prefer to leave it for someone to find after they've gone.

A few months before my mother died, she confided in me how worried she was about how my father would manage without her. 'Tell him how you feel', I said. 'Oh no, I can't do that, it would only upset him.' Back then I hadn't heard about ethical wills so I called their rabbi, Charles Middleborough, who suggested the three of us meet in my flat.

Over coffee and cake he gently encouraged her to share her concerns, then suggested she write a letter to my father telling him exactly what she'd told us and anything else she might want to say but would find too difficult to say to him directly. 'When you've finished', he said, 'put the letter in an envelope, mark it for his attention, and leave it somewhere he'll find later.' He also reminded her that this kind of letter was not meant to be a great piece of prose, but rather a way for her to speak from her heart to the heart of the man she loved.

Writing an ethical will can be a life-enhancing experience. It addresses our needs to be remembered, to bless and to be known. It lets us tell our stories which might otherwise be lost forever and provides a sense of completion to our lives. Unlike a last will and testament, an ethical will is not a legal document so it doesn't need to be signed by a witness.

By articulating what has been important to us and the values we have tried to live by, we can take steps to ensure we leave a meaningful legacy for future generations. So whether you have years left to live or are facing end of life, you can write (or dictate) an ethical will at any time and at any age. With *Rosh Hashanah* just around the corner, now is as good a time as any.



# What is the relevance of Honey and Honey cake at Rosh Hashannah?

*by Edwin Lucas*

*"Honey also teaches us about hard work and unity. An individual bee cannot create honey alone"*

As the start of Rosh Hashannah approaches, and it is so early this year, the smell of the traditional cake is wafting my way. During the Rosh Hashanah meal, honey is a must in all Mosaic households. Every household says the same thing that honey symbolizes sweetness for the upcoming year. Additionally, we hear "Shana Tova U'Metukah" or "Have a good and sweet year." Honey, of course, is perfect for symbolizing the start of the year. The tradition of dipping apples in honey dates back hundreds of years and was mentioned in the writings of Rabbi Jacob ben Asher, who codified Jewish law in the 1300s. That really is tradition and is over 700 years old.

Bees use their stinger for positive and negative actions. A stinger is vital to the honey production process. It is ironic that the same stinger that can cause harm can also produce something so sweet. Bees teach us an important lesson about taking our negative qualities and turning them into good.

In the famous story of Samson, he successfully slayed the lion he was sent out to kill and left but returned to the sight and witnessed the unexpected. Samson saw bees creating honey in the lion's belly. He was shocked because from death, bees were creating something new. Two opposites existed in the same place. Samson's story also echoes the story of the Jews who first entered Israel. They had to defeat the lion—their enemies—in order to be rewarded with honey—the land of Israel. This connection can be drawn from Israel being described as "the land flowing with milk and honey." Just like Samson was forced to slay the lion to gain a reward, so to



the Jews had to defeat the enemies before delving into the rewards and sweetness of Israel.

Honey also teaches us about hard work and unity. An individual bee cannot create honey alone. The creation of honey relies on collaboration and requires many bees working together. This is a very important lesson for Jews to learn, for we are a small nation who must

work together to survive and succeed.

(Some references from the New York Jewish Week)



A familiar scene in an unfamiliar place – Mosaic Reform "hybrid" service in a garden on 3rd July 2021

# A trip to Israel on the Jubilee Line!

*by Robin Goldsmith*



Contrary to popular beliefs, a drinks journalist's life is not one big jolly! Do you really think I just sit at home drinking wines, beers and spirits? Of course not, I love a good coffee in the morning too! Despite Gillian's anguished cries, peppered with Glaswegian Yiddish, of "More bottles of wine – nochamo!", when another delivery arrives on the doorstep, it's not quite like that. After all, the rapidly-shrinking, usable surface area of our house still has some room left for family things, like blocks of lego where a tuchus should be sitting! Most sample bottles are safely ensconced in my office, well away from prying eyes and loose hands.

The drinking part is actually quite small. Writing, sampling and spitting at events take precedence and the most popular liquid consumed all day, every day is water. COVID has changed the dynamics of just about every industry and the food and drink trade has suffered too. The effects of lockdown on hospitality have been dramatic, to say the least. and those of you who listened in to my Zoom talk earlier this year, may remember some of the details I shared.

However, with the 'new normal' allowing venues to reopen, a brighter road hopefully lies ahead. That also means that after 18 months of virtually no events, the trade show calendar is no longer empty. On the contrary, trade fairs are up and running again, albeit socially distanced and somewhat diminished.

As a result, I was lucky enough to be invited recently to a sit-down event at the superb Tel Aviv-style Israeli restaurant/bar, Bala Baya, in Southwark, a short walk from the Jubilee line station. If you've never tried Labneh before, I can thoroughly recommend their 'Fiery Labneh', a delicious blend of strained yoghurt, harissa, preserved lemon, crispy shallots and sumac

... and don't get me started on the 'Black Bream Ceviche' – I'm already salivating thinking of it!

So why was I invited to dine here? Well, it was for a presentation and tasting of Teperberg Wines with dishes specially chosen to complement the wines. You see, I did tell you that I don't just sit around at home drinking wine. Sometimes I go out to do that!

Teperberg Winery is currently Israel's third largest winery. All their wines are Kosher and so, over 4000 years after Noah planted the first Jewish recorded vineyard, a little bit of history and a taste of Israel continued at this London event. To put wine and grape-growing into broader historical context, the oldest grape pips, discovered in the Eastern Mediterranean, are more than 10,000 years old!

After alcohol production ceased during the Ottoman Empire, most vineyards disappeared for around 700 years. The modern renaissance of Israeli wine started with Baron Edmond De Rothschild who founded Carmel winery in 1882. A hundred years later, a quality revolution began and the country has recently won more international awards and has more pages devoted to its wines in leading publications than ever before.

Not all Israeli wines are Kosher and not all Kosher wines are Israeli. Kosher wines have not always enjoyed a particularly good reputation, often only associated with sweet Kiddush *Mevushal* wine. Yet dry, high quality, award-winning wines can also be made under Rabbinic supervision and most of the best Israeli wines just happen to be Kosher. There are no rules which affect quality – it all depends on the grapes, the equipment and the skill of the winemakers.

Continued on following page >>

Continued from previous page...

The Teperberg story is interesting and you can read more details online. The family originates in Ukraine (Did I tell you that I've been busy reviewing Ukrainian vodka, by the way? Sorry, I digress). Avraham Teperberg emigrated to Israel in 1850, having stopped in Austria in 1827 along the way and learnt about wine. His son, Ze'ev Zaide Teperberg, then established a winery in the Old City of Jerusalem in 1870. This was a very small operation and produced sacramental wine for both Jews and Christians.



Following bankruptcy at the end of the 1920s, the winery was re-established at Mahaneh Yehuda, before outgrowing its premises and moving to Motza, just off the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway. In those days, it was called Efrat and produced mainly Kiddush wine and grape juice. Then in the 1990s, as quality Israeli winemaking emerged, they invested heavily in technology and in the vineyards too.

The winery is currently managed by the fifth generation Motti Teperberg. Since 2006, it has been based in the Judean Hills, one of Israel's premium wine areas, opposite Kibbutz Tzora, not far from Jerusalem. It now bears the family name as a remembrance of the past. Grapes either come from Teperberg's own vineyards or are sourced from others spanning most wine growing regions in Israel.

Teperberg's wines are split into several series with different characteristics and price points. So what are the wines like? At the dinner/tasting, I was coerced under extreme duress naturally to try seven different wines matched to Bala Baya's delicious dishes. My immediate impression was that they would appeal to a wide range of wine lovers, particularly those who like juicy fruit flavours. Some seemed to me very much geared in style to the American palate, which is not surprising really, since the Kosher market in the USA is, of

course, much larger than it is in the UK. In fact, the modern Israeli wine industry is influenced by a combination of factors, including ancient Israel, France and California.

I'm a great believer in matching food and wine and the combinations chosen worked extremely well, particularly the following:-

- Rose Essence 2020 with Aubergine Croquettes and Preserved Lemon Aioli
- Chardonnay Essence 2019 with Black Sea Bream Ceviche

All the wines were good and, before enjoying an unexpected dessert wine, we were treated to the new vintage of their flagship product, Providence 2016, carefully decanted beforehand. It's certainly drinkable now, but is still very young, so would benefit from several years in the cellar. It's not cheap, mind you. At the time of writing, I saw it advertised online for €85. Not all the wines are at such high prices, but you get what you pay for to a certain extent.

If you've never tried Teperberg wines before or you're just looking for good Israeli or Kosher wine, they're certainly worth checking out. See [kosherwine.co.uk](http://kosherwine.co.uk) for latest availability.

I'm not sure Bala Baya is Kosher, so it's worth checking before booking if concerned. However, based on my experience, there are plenty of non-meat choices which are delicious. Even the hummus was given a gastronomic twist with a spicy salsa, pickled chilli, tomato pulp, parsley and sumac. Pitta-friendly sumptuousness on a large table and inside a happy, but expanding, stomach!

Yalla L'Chaim!

## Mosaic Reform

### New Council

The following were elected to Council at the AGM held on 21st July 2021.



**Chairman** Harry Grant  
**Vice-Chairman** vacant  
**Hon Treasurer** vacant  
**Hon Secretary** Caroline Chadwick  
**Chair Ritual** Stefan Roos  
**Senior Warden** Vacant

**Council** Toria Bacon  
 Lawrence Chadwick  
 Jonathan Feldman  
 Gillian Goldsmith  
 David Leigh-Ellis

We thank them all for donating their time to the community.

## Skip The Rubbish

by Bernard Fisherman



If you walk around your local town out on a leisurely trip  
 You'll notice in many gardens a large object called a skip  
 It's not a new flower that's just been created  
 It's not an extension that's undecorated  
 It's not even a place where students would crash  
 It's where passing strangers get rid of their trash  
 It's a free dumping place for lots of folk  
 Getting rid of their rubbish at one dodgy stroke  
 It finishes up a badly stacked load  
 And even before it reaches the tip  
 Most of it spills all over the road

## Reflections on Butterflies in The Time of Rosh Hashanah 2020

by Rosemary Wolfson



Silver-Washed Fritillary -  
 you were a common butterfly then,  
 not rare!

But I associate your name with  
 things Italian like frittatas  
 heated briefly under an  
 intense salamander grill;  
 but I don't want your ballerina  
 fluttering tutu wings burned in this  
 manner,  
 when flying too close to the rays of  
 an

intense Indian summer sun -  
 like Icarus, in ancient days,  
 with his waxen wings.

But a Heath Fritillary was unusual  
 in our fractured summer of

the year 2020;  
 also a Lulworth Skipper -  
 with perhaps reminders of  
 childhood summer holidays  
 somewhere in southern England,  
 or with reminiscences of some kind  
 of 'ad' for tinned sardines,  
 or is it anchovies?  
 And a man in a dark sou'wester -  
 a lifeboat rescuer -  
 with a white beard, and  
 smoking a pipe!

A Holly Blue, was another  
 "commoner" -  
 a reminder of Christmas 2020?  
 And you were seldom found  
 oh Peacock Butterflies -

but did you ever raise your plumes  
 in majestic splendour?  
 Or were you just another  
 ballerina, wafted here and there,  
 fluttering in the gentle breeze and  
 speckled woods?  
 Also the rare Wood White -  
 lacy and delicate,  
 or Marbled White butterflies -  
 you are like variegated marble,  
 marked with irregular patches of  
 different colours, and still dainty  
 in your fluttering.

But according to research  
 butterflies are mostly alone,  
 unlike us, who like  
 the joy of community...



# Goldfish and honey cake

*by Edwin Lucas*



I was flattered following my article at Pesach about kosher le pesach food for my grandfish to be asked about what could be done about making Rosh Hashannah special for my grandfish. Do not laugh but Ann in the office was asked the question and, like a professional administrator, she passed it on to me. I would not have expected anything less. You now know that being an administrator is not just about rotas, fees, kiddish, membership, Kehila, insurance, telephones, postage, emails and much more. AAA - Agony Auntie Ann has come to the fore.

Getting straight to the point...

## What do goldfish eat?

In the wild, goldfish munch on aquatic plants, bugs,

small crustaceans, and even smaller fish. In their natural environment, goldfish can grow to 18 inches long, with adult fish feasting on frogs, newts, and other small creatures in their environment. - No mention of Honey cake

## Human food for goldfish

Raid the fridge to find appropriate vegetables for goldfish: a cooked pea with the shell removed, a blanched romaine lettuce leaf, cucumber, kale, spinach, or bits of cooked vegetables. - No mention of Honey Cake

## Pet food for goldfish

Goldfish will also eat earthworms, waxworms, bloodworms, blackworms, and daphnia. These animal-based foods will give your fish added nutrition. and enjoyment once you have him on a pelleted goldfish diet. - No mention of Honey Cake.

# HaMakom

*by Head Teachers, Toria Bacon & Viki Kenton*

This term saw the long-awaited return to face-to-face learning after what has been a very stressful year for everyone. The children and staff were all excited to see each other in person after such a long time but keeping the children in their social bubbles was challenging given the fact that all they wanted to do was chat and play with all their friends.

We deviated from our regular curriculum and concentrated on encouraging the children to socialise with each other and simply enjoy each other's company.

The teachers delivered four wonderful activities; drama, games, art & craft and cooking. The children all made delicious Biscoff cheesecakes which were hopefully taken home and shared with the family and also all created a HaMakom cloth square which will be made into a wonderful piece of HaMakom artwork.

Just before lockdown last year, we introduced a new Hebrew



scheme to HaMakom called Alef Champ. This scheme has gone from strength to strength, as the children have all embraced it and worked so hard on it. Feedback from many of the parents shows that the children are enthusiastically choosing to practise reading at home and working hard to 'move up' to their next level. This is the best feedback we could ever wish to hear.



This term we were lucky enough to celebrate two B'not Mitzvah. Daniella Phillips from Mosaic Reform had her Bat Mitzvah on 12<sup>th</sup> June and Pippa May from Kol Chai celebrated hers only a week later.

They were both absolutely fabulous and made us all feel so very proud of how far they have both come and how much they have grown into mature, smart and kind young ladies.

*Mazeltov to Pippa, Daniella and their families!*

# A New Year Dawns on Mosaic

*by Edwin Lucas*

Rosh Hashanah is just round the corner and it made me think. It is a time of reflection so nothing new there. I always think about my many sins and upsets that have been caused involuntarily and know that my fate has been sealed for the year ahead at Yom Kippur. What a responsibility for someone to mark by year. It is worse than an appraisal or indeed a personal review. This is final and there is no coming back.

At Mosaic, this year is special as we are travelling through the desert and will arrive in our promised land. We hope to arrive by March with a fair wind and lots of sunshine. We often pray for rain, but I think we should skip that one when we pray as we do not want building delays. I think we should pray for good health and no plagues like Covid so that the government cannot interfere with our faith and beliefs.

We want 4 things in the New Year: -

1. Personal good health
2. Localised good health
3. National good health
4. International good health

This will enable us to do what we want, when we want and how we want. We can catch up on a lacklustre last Rosh Hashanah and celebrate the way we like, with apples and honey and promote a sweet New Year. We can see family and connections, locally, nationally and internationally and we can daven as we are used to doing from times gone by. We can do Tachlis and make a big thing about throwing away our sins - even small ones.

I was thinking about other faiths and what they do. Below are 3 examples and there are similarities in topic although celebrated differently.

## Hijri New Year

The Islamic New Year occurs on the first day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar. Also widely celebrated as Eid al-Adha, it marks the climatic point of the hajj pilgrimage in Mecca.

The Islamic calendar is based on a 30-year cycle, so the Hijri New Year will fall on different times each year. It is celebrated differently by each separate Muslim sect and for those not making the pilgrimage, who will celebrate in their own local communities at home.



## Hindu New Year

There are several Indian New Year's days surrounding the Hindu faith. Many of these celebrations occur on the first Hindu month, Chaitra. The month of Chaitra is another New Year's holiday that is associated with the coming of spring and bases itself off the Lunar calendar. The Gudi Padwa festival is celebrated on the first day of the Chaitra month. Everyone dresses up in extravagant new clothes and goes to family gatherings. Special dishes are made from the bitter leaves of the neem tree.

During this month, fifteen days are dedicated to fifteen different deities. The month is also representative of the month in which all of creation of the universe was started as well.

## Songkran

The Thai New Year is celebrated from April 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. Songkran, also known as the Thailand water festival, marks the traditional Thai new year. During Songkran, the Thais use this time to purify, clean and symbolize a fresh new start. When it comes to the more traditional aspects, Buddhists will all go to their temples to celebrate something called Wan Nao and build sand chedis, which look like little Buddhist temples. Houses and places of worship are meticulously cleaned. Buddha statues are carried through the streets in parade processions to be cleaned with flower scented water. Elders are honoured and their hands are washed with other special scented water. There's no shortage of wild water fights either. Hoses, water guns and mounted elephants litter the streets as over half a million people engage in water fights.

However, you and your family celebrate the High Holy Days, I wish for one thing and one thing only. That is good health, so we can all enjoy entering the promised land of Stanmore by April 2022.

Good Yomtov and may there be peace the world over so that the worries of this last year are not repeated in the year ahead. I shall end on Dayenu as it says it all.

# My Mosaic Story

*by Helen Mavrogiorgis*

(Kehila magazine designer since... before Kehila existed!)



Helen with her son, Leo

**M**y story with Mosaic (then, just HEMS Masorti Synagogue) began back in 2007 when I was interviewed for a Junior position at a design agency in Rickmansworth. With no substantial work experience under my belt, I'd been unable to break into the design world since graduating in 2005 with a degree in Graphic Design & illustration. I didn't get the Rickmansworth job, but the designer who interviewed me (Peter Walker) happened to be a member of HEMS, and the then-voluntary designer of their magazine. With growing personal commitments, Peter was looking for a replacement designer to take on the magazine and saw some potential in my small portfolio. He later contacted me to ask if I would be interested in designing the magazine under his guidance, and I eagerly accepted – not imagining that this would be the beginning of my career in design.

At the time I was working as a temp in admin jobs, and being a complete novice at magazine design, I would work on the magazine into the wee hours, with lots of guidance from Peter as he showed me the ropes.

Over the years, *HEMS Magazine* became *Neshama*, and eventually *Kehila*, when the Mosaic community was formed. With the help of Gary Italiaander and Oliver Kenton, the

magazine's look and feel has also changed over the years, gradually becoming more structured and consistent, with a more mature feel than those early days – possibly a reflection of my growing experience as a designer too.

Speaking of which, in 2008 I landed my very first design role as a junior in a magazine publishing agency, all thanks to my growing portfolio of magazine designs! I worked at that agency until 2012, when I was lucky enough to be hired as a designer at the London Olympics, designing the athletes daily newspaper from the Athlete's village during the games – a truly unforgettable experience, and one I wrote an article about for the Pesach 5773/2013 edition of *Neshama*.

I am truly thankful to this community and its magazine for kick-starting what is now a very fulfilling design career. Due to a growing family and less free time, I have made the decision to relinquish my role as designer for *Kehila* – not an easy decision given this magazine has been a part of my life for the past 14 years, and has followed me around the world as I've lived and worked as a 'digital nomad' in the last six years.

Special thanks to the very talented and dedicated voluntary Mosaic Editors that I have worked with over the years – whose commitment I have always admired; (in chronological order) Elaine Glass, Robert Pinkus, Martin Simonis, Judy Silverton, and Ann Simon.

I wish the Mosaic community all the best in your new Home in Stanmore Hill, and thank you for giving me that step-up, all those years ago, into a career I always dreamed of.



Some early editions of each variation of the magazine

## Let's Hear it for the Shofar 5782

*by Bernard Fisherman*

The High Holy days are now upon us  
A time to reflect on the passing year  
In Shul we listen for the Shofar with eager expectations  
It's ancient sound always giving us passionate vibrations  
So let's hear it for the Shofar this instrument we all know  
Made from a rams horn and not so easy to blow

On Rosh Hashana we hear the Shofars blast  
Reminding us all of our heritage and struggles in the past  
Tekiah with one long blast is the first we all hear  
Then Shavarium a long note that comes out loud and clear  
Finally Tekiah Gedolah on these very special days  
When the Shofar blower literally takes our breathe away

# Rosh Hashanah messages *from Masorti Judaism*



*From Leonie Fleischmann and Moira Hart Co-Chairs Masorti Judaism*

**R**osh Hashana Message As the new year approaches, we, as Co-Chairs of Masorti Judaism, want to take the opportunity to look forward and consider our new but slightly different future. Whilst being mindful of the challenges we have faced and the sadness we have felt, we also want to take with us the positives that Masorti Judaism and all the communities have learnt from the pandemic. With this in mind, the Trustee Board and the professional team have been developing a new strategic plan, which will help us to face the new realities. The purpose of Masorti Judaism will remain the same - to develop flourishing communities, rooted in traditional practice and modern values, where people can find meaning by connecting to Judaism and to each other. The main themes will be leadership development, Noam and young adults, and continued support of our member communities. We also enter the new year with a real determination to ensure that Masorti Judaism is properly understood by our members and the wider community. We want to thank everyone in the movement who has worked tirelessly over the past year to navigate through troubled waters to a gentler place full of potential, possibility and opportunity. We hope that the new year will be the start of an uplifting and rewarding era.

*Shana Tova Umetuka*

*From Senior Masorti Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg*

**T**he High Holydays call us home to community. Rarely has this been so literally true as now. Covid and lockdown have kept us from loved ones, friends and the congregations in which we've studied Torah, prayed and marked the seasons of our Jewish lives. The shofar's cry calls us back to embrace our Judaism together. After difficult times, wrote the Rebbe of Slonim, we must receive the Torah anew. The struggles of the past eighteen months have challenged our hearts, making us appreciate life differently and deepening our values. At their core is community itself. We've relearned how much we need each other. We've what's app'ed, zoomed, phoned, stood two metres apart in doorways, - and longed for when we can finally hug our friends. Neighbourhood and congregation are our strength; we need them and they us. The High Holydays remind us that together we are more resilient, practically and spiritually. We've participated in wider circles of community too. We've experienced our dependence on many who're often undervalued: medical personnel, carers, shop staff, the people who deliver parcels, drive busses and collect our recycling and rubbish. We've witnessed how inequalities made lockdown harder for many. The High Holydays are a call for solidarity and social justice. They require us, too, to re-evaluate our place in nature. The coming months bring two immensely important international gatherings, COP 15 on biodiversity and COP 26 on the climate emergency. Rosh Hashanah, the birthday of creation, celebrates the wonder of God's world and Yom Kippur calls us to live in harmony with the community of all life. Leshanah Tovah, may the coming year be good and inspire us to do good.



# High Holy Days message

*from Robert Wiltshire*

Chair of the Movement for Reform Judaism



*“The various ways we celebrated the high holidays last year were a tribute to the innovative ideas of our clergy and our communities and this year may we return in part to our old traditions”*

There is a well-known Rabbi who says that the first time you do something it is an innovation, the second time it becomes normal and the third time you do it, it is a tradition.

Let us hope therefore that the act of praying alone, praying on zoom, or in a drive-in and wearing masks, never becomes a tradition. The various ways we celebrated the high holidays last year were a tribute to the innovative ideas of our clergy and our communities and this year may we return in part to our old traditions: Greeting each other in person, laughing together, praying together, singing together, albeit quietly according to the new rules, and talking together about our year just gone and our hopes for the year to come.

We are a religion of community which prays together and rejoices together and sadly too often over the last year mourns together. But with the use of technology, we have adapted to this remote world that few of us even knew existed 18 months ago. Yet we must hope that we can tentatively look forward to returning to the comfort and joy that being together in person brings to us.

As we approach the High holidays we not only hope for that physical return but also a return, teshuva in a spiritual sense. This is a time when we can reflect, on the past and look forward to the future – it is an important part of our tradition to do so. This new year in particular I hope we can continue to

work to help the healing process from this Covid era and heal our souls, our bodies, and heal the planet as well.

We are blessed with an ability to make choices and hopefully find ways to improve how we behave with each other and how we go about our daily lives. We have a choice to forgive and to be forgiven.

Reform Judaism adapts to changing circumstances in order to maintain our tradition, not to dilute it. We modify to keep those traditions alive and now let us hope and pray that the restrictions will continue to ease and our shuls can once again be filled with the sounds of prayer, rejoicing, and togetherness.

In ‘Fiddler on the Roof’, Tevya says: “We cover our heads and wear a prayer shawl in order to show our devotion to God. And you may ask how did this start? Well, I’ll tell you – I don’t know – but it’s a tradition!”

Let us hope that no one in the future says: “We wear a mask outside our homes, always keep two steps apart, and our phones ping once a week – and you may ask how did this start? Well, I’ll tell you...”

On behalf of all of the Board of Trustees and the Team at MRJ we wish you a communal, joyful 5782.



September 2021 / Tishrei 5782

Message from the President



This past year has been a difficult one for the Jewish community. Like the rest of the country, we have had to cope with disruption, and for many, the heartbreak of the ongoing pandemic. On top of this we have also had to deal with a frightening upsurge in anti-Jewish racism.

When there is conflict in the Middle East there are usually consequences for Jews in the UK but this year what we experienced was beyond anything I can remember. Antisemitic incidents rose by 500 per cent and none of us will forget the convoy of cars driving through our streets with shouted threats and misogynistic abuse plus other well documented attacks.

This is intolerable and the Board of Deputies acted quickly to ensure that the Government was aware and prepared to take whatever measures were needed. The Jewish community held meetings with Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Home Secretary Priti Patel. I called for the proscription of Hamas in its entirety. We also called for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism by social media companies and their new regulator Ofcom. I am glad to report that the Government has now written to social media companies to request them to adopt the IHRA definition.

While the epidemic has ebbed and flowed we have worked with the Government to share important messages in order to keep everybody safe and we have advised on safe numbers for prayer and religious occasions. We have also had the sad but necessary duty of collating numbers of deaths. Our community has enthusiastically embraced the vaccine which is one of the main reasons why numbers of deaths has been mercifully few in the past few months.

Those who know the Board of Deputies will understand we work on a diverse set of issues. It is impossible to list everything in a short message. However, I will give a mention to the Commission on Racial Inclusivity which reported this year and which made 119 recommendations, with profound implications for UK Jews. I would also like to thank all the new organisations which have joined this year, making us even more representative of the community. We will continue to work just as hard on your behalf in the coming year.

Shana Tovah

*Marie van der Zyl*

President  
Board of Deputies of British Jews

1 Torriano Mews,  
London NW5 2RZ

+44 20 7543 5400  
info@bod.org.uk

www.bod.org.uk  
Registered Charity No. 1058107

# New Year Message from CST

*from Mark Gardner*

Chief Executive, CST

**T**his Rosh Hashanah, we will hope and pray for a better year ahead, one in which we are able to lead our Jewish lives to the full.

The volunteers and staff of CST, Community Security Trust, will do everything that we can to help ensure that antisemitism does not interfere with our Jewish lives. We do this all year, every year. We do it with your help and cooperation. We thank you.

This May, when Israel was at war, many British Jews saw the sad extent to which antisemitism is still a problem. This Jew-hatred changes over time, but it never disappears. It did not end with the Holocaust, nor with the creation of Israel: and this is why CST still does its work, in close partnership with shuls, schools and Jewish organisations throughout the country.

The antisemitism came in many forms. Schoolchildren and university students felt it from those they had thought were their friends. Cars bearing Palestinian flags



were aggressively driven through Jewish neighbourhoods, with drivers and passengers shouting abuse at people in the street. Demonstrations have included Jihadi battle cries against Jews.

In recent months, CST has given numerous reports to the police that have led to arrests

and prosecutions for antisemitic behaviour. This was partly due to information reported to us from Jewish members of the public, as well as our own specialist research work. This is the side of CST's protection that goes largely unseen, whereas our physical security is much more obvious.

Both sides of CST's work depend upon you playing your part: the security and the research. So please, keep reporting antisemitism to CST and keep supporting us in our security work. We will continue to always work in partnership with our shuls and communities.

May all of you and your families and friends have a sweet new year.



## Plenary Meetings update

*by Michael Reik, Reform Deputy*

### Plenary 20<sup>th</sup> June by Zoom

**M**arie Van de Zyl, the re-elected President, welcomed all new deputies and re-elected deputies. She then introduced the Israeli Ambassador Tzipi Hotovely. Tzipi explained that a new Government had been elected in the Knesset including on this occasion nine lady Knesset members. Though this

was an entirely new Government, the Foreign Policy would remain the same.

Liz Truss the British Trade Minister would shortly be visiting Israel to set up a new bilateral Trade Agreement. Tzipi was hoping that Israel would totally open its borders in July (from a Covid point of view). She thanked the British Jewish Community for standing together with Israel during the recent mini war with Hamas.

- The Ambassador was asked several questions, those concerning some aggressive actions by the ultra-orthodox in Jerusalem. This included the tearing up of a Reform Prayer Book by the Kotel. The Ambassador stated that all factions of Jewry were free to pray by the Kotel. She also stated that she and the embassy staff were available to the whole of UK Jewry. This follows concerns of the Ambassador's personal ultra-orthodox credentials. (we should invite the Ambassador I suggest at the first opportunity to MJC at Stanmore Hill when we have moved in)
- Many questions were raised to the President of the anti-Semitic attacks in the UK that had taken place since the fighting in the Israel/Palestinian territories. She stated how much the Government had provided support at this time. She also emphasised the £13 million provided by the Government to fight hate and Anti-Semitism.
- Amanda Bowman, Vice-President Defence and inter faith division, confirmed the 500 per cent increase in anti-Semitism this past month. She stated that a Pilot scheme to monitor anti-Israel bias in the media was underway.
- The recent report by Stephen Bush on Racial Inclusivity would be handled by the Executive, rather than the Defence Division directly.
- Garry Mond, the new senior vice president also responsible for Community, is setting up several new sections on education, in particular Israel Education and Holocaust Education. The suggestion was made that education also is required to the non-Jewish Community against anti-Semitism.
- Concern was raised that a recent rally in support of Israel and put on by the Zionist Federation was attended by Tommy Robinson, formally of the English Defence League. This was abhorred by the Board of Deputies.
- Several workshops followed to explain to deputies what was involved in standing for the individual divisions.

- A question was asked about what action the Board is taking to assist a two-state solution as proposed at the debate last August. Immediate action has been put back by the recent conflict.
- Concern was raised that some Synagogues are not protected by CST as they have limited financial means. The President stated that the BOD will assist wherever possible in such cases.
- Ian Austin has been criticised in the Press. However, the President stated she values Ian Austin as a great supporter of the Jewish Community.
- The Climate Change Conference is taking place in Scotland later in the year. However the Scottish Jewish Community will not work with known persons who support BDS of Israel and have certain anti-Semitic views.
- Israel Education, which has been running internally, will now be expanded to outside non-Jewish communities.
- Gary Mond, Vice President of Communities and Education, has met with Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education. Gary mentioned that the Board is looking to set up a trip to Israel in 2022.
- Amanda Bowman, Vice President of Defence and Inter Faith, indicated she will be working with many in the other divisions during the Plenary.
- Ben Crowe, Finance and Organisation, is looking to employ in a number of roles, in particular a new chief executive
- David Mendoza Wolfson, senior Vice President (international Division) met up with David Harris, chief executive of AJC from USA.
- Concern raised at new Polish Laws to prevent compensation (restitution) for property seized during the war.
- The BOD will be engaging with EJC and WJC to combat anti-Semitism.
- Explanation was given of the Maccabi Fun run on 28th August. This has so far been supported by 27 Jewish Charities
- Two members of the BOD have been appointed as co-chairs of a new Social Justice Committee. Their portfolio includes climate change.
- With the meeting now finished Delegates had 24 hours to elect representatives of the four subdivisions.
- The results announced 36 hours later showed that David Safir had been re-elected to the International Division but none of the other Mosaic representatives was elected

### Board of Deputies Plenary 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**T**he meeting started with Louis Trupp, deputy for the armed forces and Brian Bloom Deputy for Ajax proposing that the Armed Forces Covenant be adopted. It was stated that In the First World War 50,000 British Jews served and 65,000 British Jews served in the Second World War. After a short discussion, including considerable support from Catford and Bromley community who have local involvement, the Covenant was approved with 98 per cent in favour.

- The President congratulated Stella Lucas, a previous deputy, on reaching the grand old age of 105.
- Louise Ellman stated the EU had finally provided a report that accepted that Palestinian schools provide textbooks inciting hatred of Jews. She requested the Board ask the Government to no longer support Palestinian schooling financially.

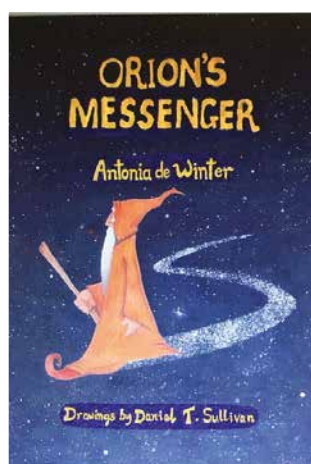


# Review of Zoom Events

If you missed any of our events, you can catch up with them by visiting [www.choosemosaic.org](http://www.choosemosaic.org) and clicking on "what's on" and "past events". There are more than 100 recordings to choose from!

## Meet the Author – Antonia Berger

by Rosemary Wolfson



Antonia wrote the children's book, *Orion's Messenger*, 30 years ago, mainly for her daughter, Luciana. She had also found then an excellent illustrator, Daniel Sullivan, whom she managed to trace again in recent years. Antonia's original reading of the work to school kids had been greatly appreciated.

Although during this 30-year period Antonia had written songs and poetry, and

done some sculpture, the lockdown finally prompted her to fetch down this script from a bookshelf. She decided on self-publishing. Antonia gave us a point-by-point delivery of the processes involved:

First the work has to be proof-read, then there are the amendments by the author. The size and style of the script has to be decided. And then the format i.e. hardback or paperback edition, e-book format, kindle etc. Then how many illustrations. Consideration also has to be given to the blurb on the back cover, the dedication page, and the layout of the chapters. There is also the important question of publicising and marketing of the book; this is not so easy during lockdown because of the difficulty of selling the book to live audiences and promoting it on school visits.

Antonia then gave a reading of her audiobook, with her husband Howard doing some marvellous and intriguing voice-overs! At question time I asked re the targeted age group for *Orion's Messenger*; Antonia said she had aimed for 7-12 year olds for the reading book and the audiobook was for 3-80 year olds!

Antonia is now working on a collection of her poems, which she hopes to publish eventually.

The talk gave us a fascinating insight into the difficulties, but also the enjoyment, of this type of publishing.

## Meet the Judge – Her Honour Dawn Freedman

by Sue Shupak



On 8<sup>th</sup> June Mosaic was pleased to welcome Her Honour Dawn Freedman to speak to us. First of all, Dawn pointed out that the title of Judge is not carried with you when you retire unlike a military rank or a doctor or professor. A retired judge is addressed as His/Her Honour.

It was mutually agreed that Dawn would be referred to as Dawn for

Steve Levinson's interview. Dawn had always wanted to be a barrister since the age of seven; she attended Westcliff High School for Girls and then read Law at University College London after which she took her Bar examinations.

When answering Steve's question about whether she had suffered prejudice either because she is a woman or because she is Jewish, Dawn replied that, although she hadn't encountered any prejudice, there was more prejudice against women seeking pupillages at the Bar, and that some Chambers had told them that they did not take women or gave feeble excuses such as that the Chambers had no toilets for women.

Dawn got her pupillage at a Chambers in Dr Johnson's Buildings where John Mortimer, the playwright, was Head of Chambers. When asked, Dawn said that she could recognise most of the characters in 'Rumpole of the Bailey' as being based on members of her Chambers, with John Mortimer seeing Rumpole as being a combination of himself and his father!

After about 10 years practising as a Barrister, Dawn applied to be a Stipendiary Magistrate, (now called a District Judge (Criminal)). Dawn sat about four times as a Deputy, always making it clear that she would not sit on Saturdays. Her appointment as a Stipendiary Magistrate was announced in *The Times* while she was on holiday in Israel. When she arrived home, she opened the envelope containing the letter confirming her appointment and noted that it also gave her

a schedule of her sittings for the next three months which included sitting two Saturdays out of three. Dawn pointed out to Sir Evelyn Russell, who, as the then Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, was in charge of appointments, that she had said she could not work on Saturdays. He said that, if he had known that, he would never have appointed her. When Dawn pointed out that if he withdrew the offer, it would impugn her reputation, Sir Evelyn appointed her to the Bow Street Magistrates Court which did not have Saturday sittings, and suggested that while there she should get to know her colleagues so that at a later date, she could swap any sittings that were not convenient. This idea worked out very well and when Dawn was sent to South West London Magistrates Court at Lavender Hill, she would work at Christmas and Easter but never had to work on a Saturday; Dawn carried on doing this for ten years until she was appointed a Circuit Judge.

Asked whether she would encourage any young person to become a barrister, Dawn said certainly not if they were interested in family or criminal work as the Legal Aid fees were a pittance. She also said that barristers got paid by the Legal Aid Fund neither for prison visits to discuss cases with defendants on remand nor for reading case papers, so that, when all that was taken into account, a young barrister in his or her early years would be earning less than the statutory minimum wage.

In response to a question about release of prisoners on parole, Dawn referred to her experience as a former member of the Parole Board and the extent of the training which used to be given to people who dealt with applications for parole. There used to be twelve judges who would chair the three-member panels considering parole applications, each of which would also include a psychiatrist. As a result of cutbacks in the funding of the Ministry of Justice (due to such funding not being viewed by the Government as a likely vote-winner), they no longer use judges to deal with parole applications on the grounds that it is a waste of judicial time, but instead have the panels chaired by barristers who may be untrained in how to deal with parole applications.

Dawn gave the case of the rapist, John Warboys, as an example of a parole application which had been unsatisfactorily dealt with. This was because it was proposed that he be granted parole despite having been in a Category A prison at the time of his application, which was contrary to normal practice. Usually, a prisoner would only be granted parole if he or she had been in a Category B prison and then in an open prison and only after the prisoner had been allowed out for a day firstly under supervision and subsequently unaccompanied.

She mentioned that it was only as a result of an application to the Court for Judicial Review of the granting of John Warboys' parole application, brought by two women one of whom was Carrie Johnson nee Symonds, that the grant of parole to him was quashed.

Dawn went on to say that the scope of Judicial Review is currently under threat. She explained that, as in the case of the judicial review of the Warboys parole decision, Judicial

Review allows a citizen to hold a Government department or body to account, thus proving protection from unlawful acts and decisions by the Government, and so provides a safety net.

She also mentioned that there was already a backlog of 57,000 criminal cases before Covid hit us, so now it must be much worse and not helped by a Courts' closure programme.

On being asked what she considered to have been her most memorable case, Dawn mentioned the occasion when, having sentenced a defendant to seven years' imprisonment for having hijacked a car, the defendant leapt out of the dock in the Court and made as if he was going to attack her. At that point the defendant's Barrister rugby-tackled the defendant, thereby rescuing Dawn from her unfortunate predicament. Dawn then proceeded to sentence the defendant to an extra twelve months' imprisonment for contempt of court. When the defendant appealed against the length of that additional period of imprisonment, the Court of Appeal reduced it to six months, commenting that they had some sympathy with him.

In relation to a question about women obtaining Gets, Dawn said that currently the law of the land doesn't clash with Halacha. She mentioned that, when she and her late colleague, Judge Myrella Cohen QC, had been involved in the successful efforts to improve the statutory legal position for a Jewish wife faced with a husband refusing to grant a Get, she and Myrella, having obtained the Beth Din's views, had discussions with civil servants in the Home Office, and put over to them those views. Dawn commented on the high degree of respect for the Beth Din which was evidently held by the Home Office civil servants.

Dawn then referred to the Divorce (Religious Marriages) Act under which a Judge in a divorce case has the power to postpone the grant of a Decree Absolute until a Jewish husband has complied with his obligation under Jewish religious law to give a Get. She also briefly referred to the recently passed Domestic Abuse Act with regard to the criminal offence of controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship. Although the Domestic Abuse Act itself doesn't specifically mention the refusal to give a Get as being such behaviour, a Government Minister assured the House of Lords in the course of its Report stage debate that the draft of the statutory guidance on domestic abuse to be issued under the Act makes specific reference to refusal to give a Get. This could possibly come into conflict with Jewish religious law as it could be perceived that the man is being forced to give a Get because of the threat of imprisonment.

There was obviously more to discuss but the afternoon ended with thanks to Dawn, Steve and Mark.

Review of Zoom Events continues on following page >>

## Rabbi Gilad Kariv

by Judith Bara



**O**n June 10<sup>th</sup> Mosaic was privileged to participate in an event with Rabbi Gilad Kariv, MK, and the first elected progressive rabbi who was number four on the Labour list. Since 2009, Rabbi Gilad has been Executive Director of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism. He spoke

on a range of themes related to the election and the recent conflict. He started by explaining how he saw his Knesset role as a Labour MK, rather than a progressive rabbi, with regard to promotion of religious and social diversity in Israel. Whilst acknowledging that there are many differences among the eight parties making up the coalition, he has great hope that the new Unity government will be able to bring about significant change as there are also considerable areas of agreement. In particular, all these parties want to break the paralysis that has engulfed the political system to the extent that no budget was able to be passed during the past two years.

The new Government will also face challenges relating to the aftermath of the pandemic, the Gaza conflict and the social tensions in mixed towns such as Haifa and Jaffa. These tensions are part of a broader problem, rooted in history, and exacerbated during the era of the Netanyahu Governments which refused to confront the tension and let it fester. Two distinguishing features of the Unity Government are the absence of the traditional religious parties – UTJ and Shas and the presence of an Arab party – Ra'am-, neither which has occurred since the first six months of the Rabin Government of 1974.

Rabbi Gilad hopes that the new Government will be able to bring about a more positive atmosphere regarding discrimination against non-orthodox communities. Despite the fact that Naftali Bennett, in particular, supports the 'status quo' in relations between religion and government, the majority of others in the coalition seek a more pluralistic society, free from religious intimidation, and hope for a more egalitarian approach towards provision of public funds. Indeed, differences on areas such as defence notwithstanding, he believes that the Government will be able to reach agreement on the nature of many domestic policy areas such as immigration, education, social affairs and post-pandemic arrangements. Divisions among parties had been fuelled in part by hostile media perspectives in Israel, but this has already begun to change.

Turning to the Gaza conflict, Rabbi Gilad acknowledged the difficulties this presented to Jews in the Diaspora, due to a mismatch between reactions by western governments and western populations, with the latter adopting a very

hostile approach. The Israeli leadership was very surprised by this. Whilst deploring loss of life on both sides, Rabbi Gilad maintained that the very clear strategy of Hamas to use the excuse of defending the Arab population of Jerusalem against 'Israeli state aggression' by firing thousands of rockets into Israel worked, both in terms of provoking retaliation and lowering perceptions of the capability regime in the Palestinian Authority. The Netanyahu Government had refused to engage with moderates in the Palestinian Authority, and preferred to restrict any interaction to occasional dealings with Hamas.

The Unity Government should take the opportunity to engage with moderate Palestinians in the West Bank territories on topics of common interest rather than try negotiating a peace deal. In particular, they should focus on means to help build economic capacity. This would be the best way to counter extremism, both in the West Bank and among more radical elements on the Israeli religious right, which is in everyone's interests.

Some questions were put to Rabbi Gilad before he had to leave to attend an important Knesset meeting. These ranged from how to convince the British media not to be so prejudiced against Israel to the 'suffocating' influence of the ultraorthodox community. Rabbi Gilad reiterated what we have heard for decades in terms of the poor performance of Israeli public relations. Israel has to do better in future in terms of presenting a more positive image. Engagement both with diverse elements in Israel and with the Palestinians could help here too.

We are very grateful to Rabbi Gilad for taking the time out of a busy schedule to speak to us and to Michael Reik and other Mosaic members who made this event possible and ran it impeccably.

## Meet the Art Quilter – Alicia Merrett

by Rosalie Tobe



**O**n 13<sup>th</sup> June Alicia Merrett gave us a fascinating presentation on the development of 'Art Quilts' and her own journey into this form of artistry. The words 'Patchwork' and 'Quilting' evoke images of bedcovers, and have been a craft worked for centuries all

around the world. However some people, having become proficient quilters, have developed their artistic and sewing skills to make stitched artwork in smaller form to be shown as wall hangings. Alicia began her work in the '90's by joining a quilting group and showed us many of her original designs which have been regularly shown in exhibitions and quilt shows in Europe, Israel and many countries around the world up to the present day.

Alicia is especially famous for her textile maps of both real and imaginary places designed in strong bright colour and she showed us slides of them, giving us some insight into her inspirations and methods. While travelling to her exhibitions in various countries she met up with other quilters and so was also able to show us some examples of other quilters' work in slides of wall hangings in varied and distinctive styles. As there have been very few, if any, Quilt Shows and Exhibitions since the Covid restrictions, we could especially enjoy this demonstration of colourful art in the comfort of our own home on Zoom.

My literary skills cannot describe the exciting colours and designs of Alicia's newest works which involve using computers for evolving designs and printing them onto material to be completed with stitching, but her beautiful work can be seen in detail on her website gallery at [www.aliciamerrett.co.uk](http://www.aliciamerrett.co.uk)

A most inspiring presentation, I should think many stitchers in the audience would like to find their needles and sewing equipment and try something new. Thank you, Alicia, and thank you, Mosaic for giving us the opportunity to enjoy it.

## Meet the Author - Gillian Walnes Perry MBE

by June Cass

**S**teve Levinson interviewed Gillian Walnes Perry who told us about Anne Frank's surprising global legacy and of how Anne, a particularly articulate teenage victim of the Holocaust, has become an icon and influenced people all over the world.

Gillian started the Anne Frank Educational Trust UK in 1990 working with just a few people from her home. It now employs 35 people. She told us about the complex life of Otto Frank, born the same year as Hitler, one with a malignant influence on the world and one whose mission was to do good. Otto's educational philosophy caused the Trust to be born. His vision and that of his stepdaughter created the Anne Frank Travelling Exhibition which has been seen by 9 million people all over the world. In 2010 Gillian was awarded an MBE for education.

She is now the Honorary President of Anne Frank Trust UK and the Community Outreach Ambassador for the UK.

The Anne Frank House's International Travelling Exhibition and its accompanying peer to peer program has had an



international impact and been seen by nine million people globally. It has been taken into schools and been a source of inspiration to children in places as diverse as Latin America, Bosnia and the Indian sub-continent. Some of those children were in desperate and difficult situations. The exhibition has helped to shape their moral framework and given them life skills. It has circumnavigated the globe many times.

Nelson Mandela was inspired by Anne when he was incarcerated on Robben Island and has worked with Gillian, as has Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General. She also told us about her encounters with "A" list stars such as Steven Spielberg, Angelina Jolie, music legends and royalty. There was also an unforgettable night attending the 1996 Academy Awards in Hollywood together with Miep Gies, the courageous helper of the Frank family in hiding.

Audrey Hepburn suffered in Amsterdam during the war years and identified so closely with Anne Frank that she felt she could not play the part of Anne in the film of her life when it was offered to her. Gillian met Audrey's son, Sean Hepburn Ferrer (son of the actor Mel Ferrer), who gave her a photo of Anne's parents visiting Audrey in Switzerland in 1950.

Steve wielded questions from the audience, some of them visibly moved by the recollection of traumatic events which they have lived through. Gillian's book, The Legacy of Anne Frank brings together the story of her life and times, her family and all the important influences of her life.

Gillian has spoken at locations as diverse as 10 Downing Street in 2014, the Clinton Presidential Library and Center, Little Rock, Arkansas, 2019 and at the United Nations in New York.

We are all indebted to Gillian for her inspiring talk and perhaps one day she will return to speak to us on a lighter note with another subject which she is an expert on – The Social History of Afternoon Tea.

Review of Zoom Events continues on following page >>



## Meet the Cookery Writer – Anne Shooter

by Joan Noble



**O**n Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June I interviewed Anne who, from her fabulous newly designed kitchen, generously demonstrated three dishes for us.

Whilst she deftly put together one of her 'one tray meals' with minced chicken

balls with Orzo in a rich tomato sauce to put in the oven, like other practical dishes she devised for family meals and entertaining, we talked about her two books she has written.

I have enjoyed reading and trying her recipes from Sesame and Spice – from the East End to the Middle East endorsed by Nigella Lawson, who calls it an absolute treat with recipes she wishes to cook herself.

Cherish – Food to make for the people you love – a book that is very clearly aimed with family food for every day and every occasion including Festivals and Friday nights

She has been a journalist for the past 20 years and moved on to food writing for the Daily Mail, JC & Guardian... and then completed the Prue Leith Diploma.

Her inspiration comes from her own traditional Jewish roots and childhood memories of Grandparents and growing up with smells and tastes of her Mums' cooking.

The Sephardi & Ashkenazi influences further afield from India Morocco and the Mediterranean specifically bring more emphasis on new flavours. Israeli food is described as Fusion Dishes coming from over 130 countries with modern acknowledgement to Yotam Ottolenghi and Honey and Co who bring things right up to date.

She then made what she called a Fully loaded Houmous platter, ideal for sharing as a starter or vegetarian dish. The presentation was ably filmed and assisted by her husband Daniel.

As a working Mum with 2 daughters and a dog, with little time available, her recipes have shortcuts, and she uses her trusted Kitchen Aid food processor and mixer. Her recipes are tried and tested, can be frozen or reused as leftovers. Hints, tips, and variations make them very user friendly.

She rounded off the demonstration with mouth-watering Whisky Squares easily made to tempt people even when they say "I'm full"

Her writing skills provide an honest introduction to each recipe enhanced by great photography giving a clear visual image of the food to enjoy.

Having used several recipes, I can say they went down very well with my family and guests. Well liked were Minted Courgette and Pea Soup and Chicken with Pomegranate,

Walnuts and Aubergine.

Anne's passion and love comes across and people can be assured to follow her recipes with confidence.

If you missed the demonstration, you could find it on the Mosaic website under 'Past Events'.

## Jewish Meditation

by Marilyn Freeman



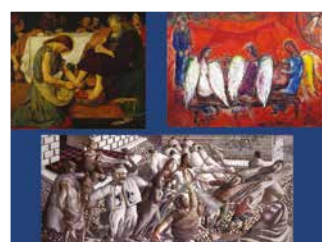
**O**n Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July, a Jewish Meditation taster session for Mosaic members was held via zoom from 2.00-

3.00 p.m. A small group of members attended who were greeted by peaceful background music chosen by Esher Aronsfeld who led the session. The reflective music provided the context for a quite delightful introduction to Jewish Meditation which was characterised by the gentleness and inclusivity generated by Esther and enjoyed greatly by those present. The idea for holding this taster session emanated from the current Listening Project which is being undertaken at Mosaic. It proved to be a lovely way of exploring the topic of Jewish Meditation while experiencing the pleasure of being in the present with others wishing to do the same.

If there is interest in taking forward this initiative, there is a possibility of creating a Jewish Meditation group at Mosaic. Please, therefore, email... if you would be interested in becoming part of such a group so that a decision may be made about whether or not this will happen.

## Did God Work Out?

by Jacqueline Briegal



**O**n Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup> Adam Green gave us a very interesting and erudite talk examining the way artists from BCE up to the present time had interpreted the bible. Adam is a very gifted artist in his own right and is also the author of two books, one on King Saul and the other, a novel called Ark. He took us on an artistic journey from BCE up to the modern era of Cecil B de Mille

and the modern cinema. I personally found the sculptures and paintings from the renaissance particularly beautiful. Altogether a most absorbing and interesting afternoon.

## Meet the Athlete

by Mandy Roos



**O**n Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July, Steve Levinson interviewed Danielle Sanderson about her athletics career - and what a career she has had!

Firstly, in case you don't know, Danielle is from Mosaic Liberal. She has been married to Steven for 35 years and they have three children: Joseph, and twins Miriam and Hannah.

To start with, we saw a few slides of her career, telling us how Danielle started running, and her marathon and ultra-marathon glories. The catalyst was her job as a lecturer in the I.T. industry, where, at the end of all training courses she taught goal-setting and action planning, and decided to apply the techniques herself.

At the age of 26, Danielle decided to set two goals: one was to take part in ITV's "The Krypton Factor 1989" and the other was to run the 1990 London Marathon. Alongside 11,500 others, she was one of 36 people selected for The Krypton Factor, which is occasionally repeated on Challenge TV. With the marathon goal, she didn't realise there was a ballot, but later learnt that she could get automatic entry for the London Marathon if she could achieve the championship qualifying time. So, with just two long runs behind her, on a maximum weekly mileage of 30 miles, she ran the Harrow Marathon in November 1989 in 3 hours and 7 minutes, and qualified for London 1990, where she ran 2 hours 50 minutes.

Having discovered an aptitude for running, Danielle was reluctant to lose her hard-won fitness, so decided to run whilst pregnant! At 29 weeks pregnant she competed in the Burnham Beaches Fun run and came first in the category of 'Most Pregnant Runner' as well as first woman overall. Later on, at 31 weeks pregnant she ran the 10.3-mile Watford Marafun and came 5th woman.

Danielle has represented Great Britain 21 times including the following:

- Crete marathon (1992) where she represented Great Britain for the first time and won the race in a very hot 91 degrees.
- European Championships in Helsinki – she was ranked 55th out of 77 starters and finished 11th, the only athlete to run a Personal Best time (2 hours 36 min).
- London to Brighton Run (55 miles) – which she won and dedicated it to her late father.
- European 50km Championships in Palermo, winning the

women's race, leading the British Team to Gold, and setting a World Best for Women Masters (over 40).

- World 100 km (62 miles) race in Taiwan which was her hardest race as it was four very hilly laps in over 90 degrees heat.

These are just a few examples and Danielle has competed in over 200 races in her time. She was voted Pentland Maccabi Anglo Jewish Sports person of the Year and received an invitation from the Queen to a reception at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, where she finished 6th in the Marathon.

Danielle has run with other famous runners like Zola Budd, Kelly Holmes and Liz McColgan to name a few. Physiological testing at the British Olympic Medical Centre showed that Danielle has a high VO2 max which means she is well-suited to distance running.

When she trained for marathons and 100km races, she ran up to 100 miles per week, morning and afternoon or evening. When she is running, she doesn't listen to music but enjoys her surroundings and thinks about her family or what her next goals are.

Danielle has been very lucky with injuries and has only had three notable ones, all on her "most expendable limb" – her left arm! All three incidents occurred while running. She was attacked and severely bitten by a dog; she tripped over a metal spike and broke her humerus bone; and stumbled on another occasion breaking her collar bone.

Danielle no longer races but continues to run around 40 miles per week. Her goal-setting led to starting a PhD at the age of 50, after which she was awarded a lectureship at UCL and has recently been promoted to Associate Professor.

It was such an interesting talk which left us all exhausted just listening to it!

## So you think you keep things that reflect your past?

by Steve Noble

**O**n Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July, between the men's Wimbledon final and the European cup final, we had a real treat listening to Ralph Kley tell us all about his interests and collection of memorabilia – not throwing away anything of nostalgia.



We, as friends, have visited Ralph and Lynn many times and seen the eclectic objects of interest in their home. The idea to put together a book documenting his interests and collection

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was triggered by Ralph attending Morris Collins' presentation a few months ago.

We were shown a visual presentation ranging from old cars, old houses, books, restaurant menus, visits to the theatre, milestone openings of places in London... supported by pamphlets and receipts from such occasions, A wonderful trip for us down memory lane with familiar and historic objects and occasions. So many of us have discarded these items, but Ralph has held on to them.

For 51 years Ralph followed a career in catering and hospitality. Fascinating menus was his key collection and one of a number of items he showed in his presentation. We learned about his 117 albums with photographs that continue to document his life with wife - Lynn, children and grandchildren.

Viewers of this Zoom event contributed with various personal memories and it became apparent that our generation tends to hang on to family history and memorabilia.

His parents were refugees from Germany and Poland in the 1930s and some of his artefacts, including his childhood books which could explain him holding onto these items as a reflection of his parents who had to flee and leave everything behind.

His children and grandchildren were also on the Zoom and when questioned what they might do with his collections, they promised, with pride to look after all that he has.

He leads a really busy life, starting at 5:30 every morning swimming, working his allotment, mentoring youngsters, cooking great dishes - as well as being a wonderful host

His collections are beautifully documented, preserved and treasured for posterity. How many of us have done this or indeed need to do just this - I certainly do!

## Jewish Treasures at Sotheby's

by Barbara Grant



A friend said to me recently that she had been looking for Synagogue Lockdown programmes to while away the long weeks of isolation. In her view, Mosaic had consistently offered a huge variety of presentations and interviews- and all without her leaving her living room. And of course last Sunday 18 July was no exception. Those who watched this session had the unique opportunity to listen to Sharon Liberman Mintz, the Senior Consultant for Hebraica and Judaica in New York.

Despite the sweltering London temperatures that afternoon,

Sharon's knowledge and enthusiasm for her subject was all engaging. She treated us to a visual journey through the details of some of the most treasured pieces of history to pass through the doors at Sotheby's auction house, co-incidentally on Tisha B'Av when Jews around the world commemorate the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. She explained in great detail fascinating examples of art in an illustrated Bible from the Golden Age in Spain and an illustrated handwritten Austrian Haggadah where even the small intricate lettering was decorated. Other pieces included an Italian Torah mantle where the fine embroidered detail revealed details of the history at that time as well as information about the young artist. For me the highlight of the afternoon was Sharon's explanation of three exquisitely ornate Torah shields which were among the most important pieces of Judaica ever sold by Sotheby's.

With her unique knowledge, Sharon explained how she is able to build up a history of the time at which the pieces were created and also analyse the significance of the details included by the artist. She also explained how much more one is able to learn through extensive internet research - and, even at her professional level, she is constantly extending her own wealth of knowledge.

## Meet the "Queen of Con" - Joyti Driver

by Rosemary Wolfson



Joyti started off by telling us that she got an excellent education from my old school, South Hampstead High School. Eventually she got a job as a PA at Goldman Sachs. She did succumb to notorious financial dishonesty and landed up in prison for a few years. Her schoolboy son has been badly affected but is still managing to have a successful adult life.

In prison she decided it appropriate to change her posh accent to become like that of other inmates. She actually entered jail in a Chanel suit! Many of the prisoners were illiterate and she became the scribe of her wing. Many of these people had missed out on life chances. Prison life was horrendous. At first she was in Holloway where there were rats. She had her jaw broken by one inmate!

Joyti's main motive for taking the money from this investment bank was to prove to herself how easy it was. The atmosphere there was like a utopia, with money everywhere. She seriously harmed some people as a result of her actions, but at least there was no physical hurt.

Although life was hard for Joyti after prison, eventually she became a very successful charity fundraiser, particularly for prison charities. In recent years she has become a student and is now studying law as a full-time undergraduate at the

age of 50. Her first marriage was a bit disastrous, but a few years ago she happily married her second husband. Although Joyti is relatively happy now, she can't forget her past, but has at least resolved that nothing like this will happen to her again.

## Meet the teetotal miniamphillist - Edwin Lucas

by Henry Altman



Edwin's talk on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August, was a L'Chaim to both his collection of miniature spirit bottles, and to the amazing 100th Anniversary of the Mosaic Community Zoom Talks.

His talk started with the appearance of a somewhat unsavoury looking bottle of Advocaat from the 1960's, the contents of which resembled

aged OK sauce! Edwin advised against tasting this liquid, and it was quickly placed back on the shelf.

We were then shown some of his collection of about 2,000 miniatures, many celebrating royal weddings and births. There were several bottles of Scotch which appeared to be of short measure, and Edwin insisted that the contents of these bottles had evaporated. However we are not convinced and suspect that there may be another explanation. We were shown miniatures of Guinness Beer and many other containers of varying shapes and sizes. Edwin explained that one bottle in particular had gone missing, his Martell miniature brandy bottle. Was the cleaning lady responsible, or had Linda reached for it in desperation? I fear we may never know.

It was explained that the height of his bottles placed end to end would reach the top of the Hilton Hotel in Park Lane, and perhaps beyond. We were shown a floor to ceiling set of shelves full of neatly arranged miniatures. However there is a mirror image on display on the other side of the room but dusting them all only occurs prior to Pesach.

The Scottish Whisky Association employs thousands of people, and produces millions of bottles of whisky a year which are exported all over the world, in fact just under 38 bottles are exported from Scotland every second. As a well-known miniamphillist, we do hope Edwin will continue to expand his collection and we look forward to another lecture when he has reached 4,000 miniature bottles.

Thank you for this fascinating and well researched talk which was enjoyed by all.



## Mosaic JACS Programme

August - October



All JACS events will be on-line using a Zoom meeting, starting at 2.30 pm

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

The musician Andy Smith will sing and play a selection of different musical pieces which have shaped his repertoire....and explain why! There will be lots of well-known songs from artists such as the Beatles, Bob Dylan and Cole Porter, plus some of his own.

### 7th September - No meeting

1<sup>st</sup> day Rosh Hashanah

### 21st September - No meeting

1<sup>st</sup> day Succot

**5th October** - Jewish Heritage of Slovakia with Dr Maros Borsky, Director of the Slovak Jewish Heritage Centre in Bratislava

### 19th October - The History of English Afternoon Tea

Gillian Walnes-Perry will talk about how tea was introduced into England and how it became an institution, tea menus, customs and etiquette surrounding afternoon tea, the rise of public tea rooms and, of course, tea dances.



## Upcoming Events

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

### The History of English Silver – Adrian Cohen

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August,  
5.30 pm



Join Adrian Cohen as he discusses how he became involved with Silver and hear his interesting stories from the trade. Adrian will 'bring along' some unusual pieces and also give tips on polishing and valuations. Adrian invites you to show off your silver and silver plate and he is open to random questions!

### My Good Read

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September,  
5.30 pm



Please join us at 5.30 pm when some of our prolific readers from Mosaic will each discuss their two book choices. There will be plenty of time for audience members to ask questions, comment and add their own choices if they wish.

We look forward to seeing you for this interesting and fun afternoon.



### Meet Bernice Krantz

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2.30 pm

Join us at 2.30pm when Alex Gerlis will interview Bernice Krantz. Bernice was the UK co-ordinator of the Spielberg USC Shoah Foundation. Almost 900 survivors in the UK were interviewed and their testimonies are part of the 55,000 in the Institute's archive.

Bernice is passionate about teaching students about the Holocaust alongside promoting tolerance and understanding. She has also been a qualified Homeopath since 1995.



### Mosaic Quiz

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 5.30 pm

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



### Warsaw Ghetto Museum

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 5.30 pm



Join us at 5.30 pm when Rabbi David Berman will be talking about the museum which is being developed in the city and is due to open in 2023.

The Warsaw Ghetto Museum is being built in the old Children's Hospital (pictured here), one of the few buildings surviving from the Warsaw Ghetto. More than 400,000 Jews were crammed into the Ghetto, the vast majority of whom were either murdered in camps like Treblinka or who

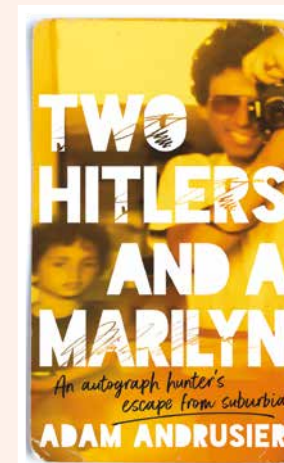
died of disease or starvation or were killed during the 1943 Uprising. The aim of the Ghetto Museum is 'To disseminate knowledge about the life, struggle and extermination of the Polish Jews in the Warsaw ghetto and other ghettos of the German-occupied Poland.'

David Berman is an orthodox rabbi based in Warsaw and is currently working as a research expert at the museum development. David was born in Sydney and studied at the Gateshead Yeshiva in England. He worked in Israel where he lectured and became a Talmudic scholar.

David will be talking about the work of the museum and is especially interested in hearing from anyone with a connection to Warsaw as they're currently in the process of gathering material.

### Meet the Author – Adam Andrusier

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2.30 pm



Join us at 2.30 pm when Steve Levinson will interview Adam Andrusier.

Adam Andrusier spent his childhood in pursuit of autographs. After writing to every famous person he could think of, from Frank Sinatra to Colonel Gaddafi, he soon jostled with the paparazzi at stage doors and came face-to-face with the most famous people on the planet.

For young Adam, autographs were a backstage pass to a world beyond his chaotic family home in Pinner and his Holocaust-obsessed father. They provided a special connection to a world of glamour and significance lying just beyond his reach.

But as Adam turned from collector to dealer, learning how to spot a fake from the real deal, he discovered that in life, as in autographs, not everything is as it first appears. When your obsession is a search for the authentic, what happens when you discover fraudulence in your own family?

Reminiscent of Nick Hornby's Fever Pitch, with the wit of David Sedaris and the warmth of David Nicholls, Two Hitlers and a Marilyn is as funny as it is moving. It is also about the lost age of things: faxes, letter writing, autographs, Israeli dancing camps, munchkins, Doris Day, and their replacement with our virtual world.



## Meet the Author – Dr Julius Green

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2.30 pm



Join us at 2.30 when Steve Levinson will interview Julius Green.

Stars and Spies, Julius' new book, written with Christopher Andrew, is being published on 14th October. It is a unique examination and a hugely entertaining and original history of the interplay between spying and showbiz, featuring Marlowe and Shakespeare, but focusing mostly on the twentieth century, the golden era of the Cold War and up to the present day.

Julius is an entertainment historian and Fellow of the Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre. A graduate of Corpus Christi, Cambridge, he was awarded his PhD by Goldsmiths,

University of London. He lectures on creative producing at the Central School of Speech and Drama and the National Film and Television School and is a director of The Academy of Circus Arts. In his day job, Julius is an award-winning theatre producer and circus director, with over 250 productions to his credit and has been a board member of the Society of London Theatre and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society. He is a regular columnist for The Stage newspaper, and his books include 'How to Produce a West End Show' and 'Agatha Christie: A Life in Theatre.'

## Happy Birthday in September & October to:

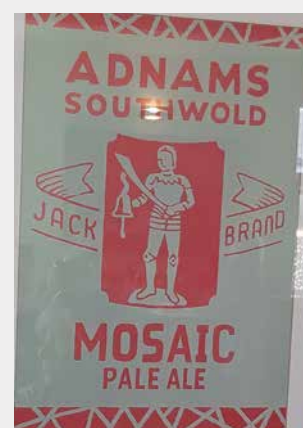
Casey Vincent, 7  
Eden Shackell, 9  
Amy Phillips, 10

Alexander de Magtige, 10  
Leora Goldsmith, 12  
Sophie Kenton, 12

Sam Landau, 12  
Mia Brummell, 14  
Chloe Ellison, 15



Sunshine and Tea at the home of Rosalyn & David Lobb



An alternative to Palwin?"

## What's On

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

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

### AUGUST

Saturday 21st		Shabbat Ki Tetse
Sunday 22nd	17.30	Mosaic Quiz
Tuesday 24th	14.30	JACS – Under the Influence with Andy Smith
Thursday 26th	14.30	Chat with a cuppa with Harry Grant
Saturday 28th		Shabbat Ki Tavo
	20.00	Mosaic Liberal Selichot
	22.00	Mosaic Reform Selichot
Sunday 29th	17.30	History of English Silver – Adrian Cohen
Tuesday 31st	14.30	No meeting

### SEPTEMBER

Sunday 5th	15.00	CAMEO
Monday 6th		Erev Rosh Hashanah
Tuesday 7th		1st day Rosh Hashanah
Wednesday 8th		2nd day Rosh Hashanah
Saturday 11th		Shabbat Vayelech
Sunday 12th	17.30	My Good Read
Tuesday 14th	14.30	Meet Bernice Krantz
Wednesday 15th		Kol Nidre
Thursday 16th		Yom Kippur
Saturday 18th		Shabat Ha'azinu
Sunday 19th		No meeting
Monday 20th		Erev Succot
Tuesday 21st		1st day Succot
Wednesday 22nd		2nd day Succot
Saturday 25th		Shabbat Chol Hamoed
Sunday 26th	17.30	Mosaic Quiz
Monday 27th		Erev Simchat Torah (Liberal & Reform)
		Erev Shemini Atzeret (Masorti)
Tuesday 28th		Simchat Torah (Liberal & Reform)
		Shemini Atzeret (Masorti)
Wednesday 29th		Simchat Torah (Masorti)
Thursday 30th	14.30	Chat with a cuppa with Harry Grant

### OCTOBER

Saturday 2nd		Shabbat Bereshit
Sunday 3rd	15.00	CAMEO
	17.30	Rabbi David Berman on Warsaw Ghetto Museum
Tuesday 5th	14.30	JACS – Jewish Heritage of Slovakia
Saturday 9th		Shabbat Noach
Sunday 10th	17.30	To be announced
Tuesday 12th	14.30	Meet the Author – Adam Andrusier
Wednesday 13th		Kehila copy date
Saturday 16th		Shabbat Lech Lecha
Sunday 17th	17.30	To be announced
Tuesday 19th	14.30	JACS
Saturday 23rd		Shabbat Vayeira
Sunday 24th	17.30	Rabbi Sybil Sheridan – Presentation on Ethiopian Jews
Tuesday 26th	14.30	Meet the Author – Dr Julius Green
Thursday 28th		Kehila distribution
	14.30	Chat with a cuppa with Harry Grant
Saturday 30th		Shabbat Chayei Sara
		Bar Mitzvah – Adam Feldman. Mosaic Reform
Sunday 31st	17.30	To be announced





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

**Office:** 020 8864 0133

**Website:** [www.choosemosaic.org](http://www.choosemosaic.org)

**Email:** [admin@choosemosaic.org](mailto:admin@choosemosaic.org)

**Address:** c/o 2 Field End Road, Pinner, HA5 2QL

**Joint Chairmen:** Jeff Highfield and Mark Phillips  
[chairman@choosemosaic.org](mailto:chairman@choosemosaic.org)

**HaMakom (Religion School):**

Toria Bacon and Viki Kenton  
[headteacher@hamakomschool.org.uk](mailto:headteacher@hamakomschool.org.uk)



**Chairman:** Adrian Cohen  
020-8420 7498

**Rabbi:** Rabbi Raachel Benjamin  
[rabbirachel@mosaicliberal.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rabbimiddleton@mosaicreform.org.uk)

**Bereavement Support:**  
Bobbi Riesel 020 8428 7977

**JJBS:** 020 8989 5252

**Community Care:** Gay Saunders  
[communitycare@mosaicreform.org.uk](mailto:communitycare@mosaicreform.org.uk)