



About Our Members

Since our last issue

Children and teen birthdays on page 34

MOSAIC LIBERAL

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Simon Graves
Alison Knight
Jane and Antony Lesser

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Senga Coburn
Ruth-Eva Fiegel
Kenneth Herman
Neville Joseph
José Mans
Edna Spielmann
Mark Windisch

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 1st October.

GET WELL SOON TO:

Shirley Ariel
David Greenglass
Brenda Hunt
Julia Lane

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family and friends of Alvin Miller
The family and friends of Jeanette Shindler

MOSAIC MASORTI

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Jack Kushner
Linda Lucas
Andrea Hardy
Alan Grossman
Barbara Altman

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Traci Spivack & Richard Buchalter on their 25th anniversary.
Michelle & Dan Honey on their 30th anniversary

GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOME TO:

Frances & Michael Marx & Johanna

MAZAL TOV TO:

Debbie & Dave Scott on the marriage of Sarah to Gary

MOSAIC REFORM

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Michelle Singer
Sandra Fisherman
Denis Hart
Jeff Highfield
Howard Sanford
Ann Kent
Sonia Gerlis
Roger Feldman
Alan Garfield
Marilyn Belson
Linda Holman

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Dele & Philip Goodman on their 55th anniversary
Lilian & Nat Levene on their 70th anniversary
Bertha & Harry Levy on their 65th anniversary
Cynthia & Martin Shaw on their 65th anniversary

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Veronica Music
Michele Hart
Lilian Levene
Viv Block

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family and friends of our member, Geoffrey Karet
Jane Prentice on the death of her father, Sam Walport

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Publication date: Thurs 30th June

Send your articles, pictures, letters, etc to

newsdesk@choosmosaic.org

Pesach Message

*by Rabbi Kathleen de
Magtige-Middleton*



The Exodus is the inexhaustible source of inspiration to all those who long for freedom. It taught that right was sovereign over might; that freedom and justice must belong to all, not some; that under God, all human beings are equal; and that over all earthly powers is the supreme Power, [...] who hears the cry of the oppressed [...] wrote Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z.l. in the Koren Sacks Haggadah.

Freedom means many things: for the last two years we have been yearning for the freedom to fully be the social beings we are meant to be. As the pandemic swept over every part of the world, we felt confined in lockdowns and masks and regulations, our longing for personal human contact only partially answered by two-dimensional zoom meetings and conference calls. Freedom in those days would have meant recovering the innocence with which we once were able to gather as a community and with which we were able to hug others to give comfort or to share their joy, without the fear or guilt that we might become infected or, unwittingly, had infected someone else.

This Pesach, although official restrictions are no longer, we still have not regained that sense of innocence when it comes to gathering in large numbers. What is more, our yearning for freedom has, sadly, gained a different meaning in the context of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

The war evokes those earlier quoted words by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks that *'right is sovereign over might, that freedom and justice must belong to all'*. And we console ourselves with faith in the Pesach message that *over all earthly powers is the supreme Power, who hears the cry of the oppressed*.

God, our tradition teaches us, is always on the side of the oppressed. Midrash Vayikra Rabba writes: *L'olam v'ha-Elohim y'vakesh et ha-nirdaf* (Rabbi Huna said in the name of Rabbi Yosef: "God always seeks the pursued" (Vayikra Rabba 27:5). It acknowledges that God and history are indisputably on the side of the Ukrainian people; and it encourages us with the hope inspired by Pesach and the Exodus, that promises that in the end good and truth will prevail.

The war in Ukraine also reminds us that freedom means even more than the fundamental right of self-determination or to choose freely where to go or what to do. The overwhelming numbers of Ukrainian refugees fleeing the indiscriminate

shelling of Putin's army, remind us that helping others – feeding the hungry and sheltering those who flee conflict – are acts of freedom.

The Haggadah starts with the moving words *ha lachma anya*, "This is the bread of affliction that our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. Whoever is hungry, come and eat." It is a fundamental sign of freedom to be able to invite others to our table – even when we ourselves are hungry or afflicted. To choose whom to share our bread with – even amid affliction – is a moral achievement. It is a conscious decision to act humanely and with dignity and self-determination – and so lift those in need beyond their and our own misery, even if we feel burdened by the rising costs of living.

In Hebrew there are two different words for Freedom: *chofesh*, which denotes the individual's right for self-determination; the choice to go and do as we please. It is the freedom we yearned for throughout the pandemic, the freedom from restriction. This freedom is vital for our mental health and wellbeing, but it is inherently a bit self-centered.

Pesach, however, when referred to in terms of freedom, is called by the rabbinical name *z'man cheruteinu* (the Season of our Freedom). This term *cherut* – is used by the Rabbis to indicate the collective freedom that enables us to do something meaningful and good; the freedom to feed the hungry, as referred to in the *haggadah*, to visit the sick, to help others to live their lives in dignity, to be responsive to the cry of the oppressed and to care for our planet.

The freedom of Pesach is the freedom to serve God, the community, the world, freely and in joy.

*The freedom of Pesach is the freedom
to serve God, the community, the
world, freely and in joy.*

I wish you all a very happy Pesach.

Pesach – Passover

by Rabbi Rachel Benjamin



We are still in that period of time between Purim and Passover, between two festivals that celebrate liberation and redemption, in both cases from leaders (Haman and Pharaoh) whose aim was the destruction of the Jewish/Israelite people.

It is impossible to think of these two festivals - based on freedom, and the courage to overcome oppression, brutality and slavery - without thinking of what is happening in Ukraine at the moment. As we witness the devastation of the land and its people, and as we witness the incredible courage of Volodymyr Zelensky and many Ukrainians, we pray that their bravery and sacrifice will ultimately defeat the tyranny of Putin, this modern-day Haman/Pharaoh. We pray for the peace and the rebuilding of the Ukraine.

There is much we can do, and both the wider community and the Jewish community have responded magnificently to the request for funds and material goods, and the offer to open up their homes to Ukrainian refugees. Californian rabbi, Harold Schulweis, suggests that, at our Seder table, we fill

Elijah's cup, which represents future redemption, by passing it around the table for everyone to pour some wine into it from his or her own glass. In this way, we demonstrate symbolically that redemption will come only when all of us join together to bring it about. We pray that our efforts will bring some strength and comfort to those who are suffering so terribly. We will be thinking of Ukraine when we say these words at our *S'darim* this year: *Hashata avdei, l'shata d'atya b'nei chotin*, 'this year we are slaves, next year may we be free people'.

Our Liberal and Reform communities had the joy of celebrating Purim together, and enjoying the riotous Purim Spiel created by Linda Holman and David Pollak. We look forward to being together again, at our Communal Seder on Saturday, April 16th. It will be particularly joyful to be able to celebrate Pesach in the same physical room, for the first time in three years!

I wish you all an enjoyable Seder and a *Chag Pesach Sameiach* – a happy Passover.



Any Liberal members wishing to travel to services at Avanti, and please God the new building, I am pleased to advise that if you have a disability that prevents you from travelling independently, we are willing to refund taxi fares to and from the building. Also, any members wishing to attend by public transport but who are worried about locating the building, I am willing to meet you at Stanmore Station en route for your onward journey. If either of these options appeal, please contact me, Kevin Ziants, via the Mosaic office 020-8864 0133. Thank you.

Passover Message

by Rabbi Natasha Mann



Dear Community,

It has been a weird and wonderful few years. Three years ago, I was celebrating Passover in Los Angeles, having recently visited Mosaic Masorti and New London Synagogue for an interview weekend. Some of you will have met me on that whirlwind weekend. Two years ago, we were at the beginning of the Covid pandemic, reeling from the news and learning what lockdown meant. I remember congregants dropping food at one another's houses, Zoom becoming the centre of communal life, and a hope that we would be back to normality by the High Holy Days. And then, last year, we went through Passover rules about interpersonal gatherings as strict as the halakhot of kashrut on Pesach itself.

Now here we are, planning (and hopefully executing) bustling seders, spending time in shul singing together, and – perhaps tentatively – shifting our lives to prioritising in-person interactions. At the beginning of my run here as a rabbi, I had seven solid months of working with, praying with, and getting to know you, before disaster struck. I'm so pleased to get to see the community back to something closer to normal before handing over officially to soon-to-be Rabbi Anthony Lazarus Magrill.

Looking at the Passovers of my time here, I'm reminded of the structure of the seder. The Passover seder is, by design, supposed to take us on a journey from darkness to light. We begin, so says the Mishnah (P'sachim 10:4), in degradation. We conclude in exaltation. Thus is the spiritual journey of the seder, and (we hope) the spiritual journey of the people of the world.

But healing is not linear, and history likes to retell stories. Even the seder itself cannot decide on whether the degradation at the beginning is idol worship or slavery. There have been multiple dark places, and so too, there are multiple avenues back to the light.

We are, please God, looking into the light at the end of the Covid crisis. And yet there is a different darkness unfolding in the world. We are watching what is occurring in and around Ukraine with much anxiety. Some of us have friends and loved ones who are deeply affected, needing to flee homes in Ukraine, or living under the Russian government and unable to safely voice dissent.

It is in situations like this, with darkness encroaching, that Pesach's message of salvation is most relevant. We begin

in degradation – in multiple ways throughout history. We conclude in exaltation – for there is light to come.

I wonder if Passover's narrative of slavery and liberation, of darkness leading to light, may have inspired Theodore Parker, a man who spent his life preaching against slavery. He wrote just over a decade before the abolition of slavery in the USA: 'I do not pretend to understand the moral universe. The arc is a long one. My eye reaches but little ways. I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by experience of sight. I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see, I am sure it bends towards justice.'

It has been an honour to spend these last three years with you. I have been honoured to hold people's hands through the darkness. I have learnt a great deal from witnessing strength and resilience within our community. I shall always remember how we navigated difficult terrain (always metaphorically) and how we danced with joy (sometimes literally). We may all be tired of the word 'unprecedented', but looking back over the journey, I must say it has certainly been unpredictable. Thank you for sharing it with me.

Chag sameach,

"It has been an honour to spend these last three years with you. I have been honoured to hold people's hands through the darkness."

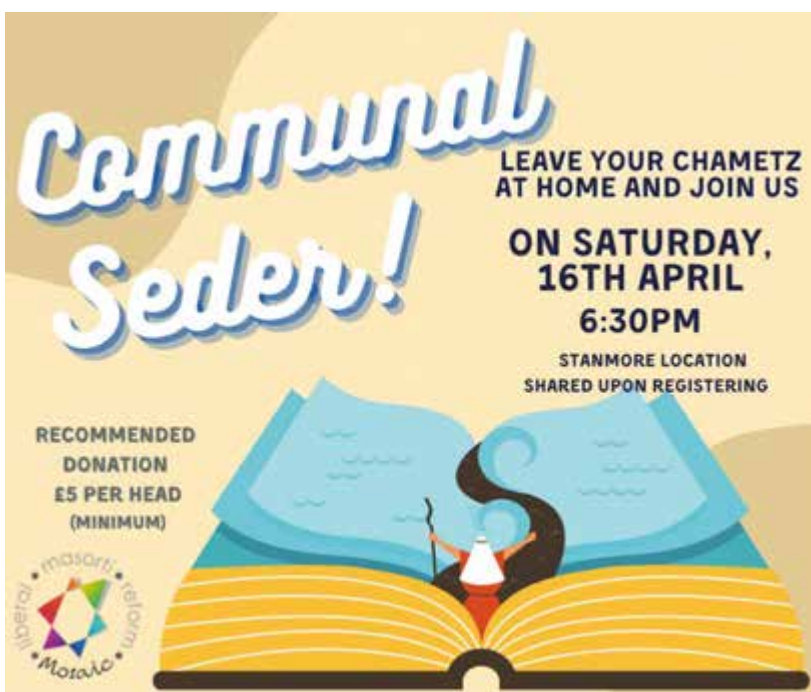
A message from *Rabbi Anna Wolfson*



Judaism is a religion of time rather than place or objects. Our spirituality is time bound: shabbat, festivals, new moon, morning, afternoon and evening all marked by ritual, and objects or buildings help us on our way but are not holy in and of themselves. One can usually tell what festival or indeed what time of the day a service is based upon the clothes or ritual objects that are there. On a festival or shabbat evening we see candles that would not be there on a morning service. We only wear tallit in the morning or daylight hours. On Yom Kippur we might all be dressed in white. It is not just the clothing or objects that indicate the time in Judaism, but the music too. Traditional nussach (liturgical melodies) is different for each occasion and at each time of day. The nussach is often based around a scale, and cantors would improvise the melodies for prayers around those scales. Each scale denotes a period of time. There is a different mode for the morning than the evening, for shabbat and for weekday and for each of the festivals. Someone in the know would be

able to enter any synagogue in the world and know what time of day or festival it is based upon the melodies of the prayers. In the Liberal siddur during the Amidah both 'mashiv haruach u'morid hageshem' - making the wind blow and the rain fall, and 'morid hatal' - causing the dew to fall. However, in Reform and Masorti (and other) denominations the Amidah follows tradition and separates the seasons, praying about wind and rain in the winter and dew in the summer. The festival of Passover marks the changing of the season and the shift in the liturgy. As I am sure you can imagine, such a momentous occasion is celebrated in song. If you would like to listen to Cantor Tamara Wolfson and Cantor Jack Mendelson singing a stunning duet of the prayer Tal to mark the coming of spring, follow this link:

<https://pr.huc.edu/email/2019/04/dfssm/April-19-DFSSMMessage.m4v>



Leave your chametz at home and join us at 6.30 pm on Saturday 16th April for a fun and interactive Communal Seder to be held at a venue in Stanmore. (Precise address given on registration)

The recommended minimum donation is £5 per head. If you feel able to make an additional donation in respect of this subsidised event, please add the relevant amount to your remittance.

Mosaic Appoints New Community Care Co-ordinators

Mosaic is delighted to welcome Angela Peters and Michelle Reshef to our community, following their appointment as Community Care Coordinators. Angela and Michelle will share the work of managing a broad spectrum of support services covering a wide range of needs whilst respecting differing religious practices and customs.

Angela says she is “thrilled to have the privilege of working to support, help and assist members of the Mosaic Jewish Community”, and Michelle is “so looking forward to meeting members of the community and contributing to the wellbeing of all its members”.

Jeff Highfield, Co-chair of MJC, said: “Angela and Michelle bring enormous knowledge and experience to our community, and I know they will work collaboratively with our rabbis and lay leadership, using their expertise to meet the care needs of our diverse membership”.

ANGELA PETERS



Angela has a BA Hons Degree in Linguistics and Education and a Postgraduate Diploma in integrative counselling. She worked as a Care Co-ordinator at a local synagogue for eight years. She brought members into the synagogue to combat loneliness and enhance wellbeing and ran a fulfilling programme of activities.

She supported regular events such as a Film Club, Singing Group, Gentle Yoga, Memory Matters Club, a Summer Outing and Chanukkah party involving the pupils of Clore Shalom School where she had worked for 14 years prior to joining NPLS. Angela always finds it uplifting to participate in intergenerational events.

MICHELLE RESHEF



Michelle Reshef holds a BA in education and social work and holds an MBA. Michelle managed a Jewish care community centre and implemented a member centred approach and trained the centre's employees and volunteers accordingly. Michelle has also developed the community centre programme to meet the goals of the approach.

Michelle studied the cognitive, behavioural and social implications of dementia and developed a prevention programme to battle dementia. She holds a group facilitator diploma and has been facilitating groups for the past 20 years.

Mosaic Reform welcomes Francesca Weiner as new Director of Music

Mosaic Reform is delighted to welcome newly appointed Director of Music, Francesca Weiner.

Francesca lives and breathes Reform Judaism, having grown up in an eminent Reform Rabbinic family.

Francesca is a final year Music student at Durham University. She is writing her dissertation on what makes Psalms 1-150 different from all other psalmic material and has enjoyed studying Music Theology as part of her degree. Her favourite Psalm is 121!

Whilst at university, Francesca has been an active member of many choirs and ensembles including singing at Durham Cathedral with the Durham University Choral Society.

She has grown up at both Alyth and Finchley Reform Synagogues where she has regularly helped to lead services for adults and children. In the future, Francesca plans on following in her family's rabbinical footsteps by going to Cantorial School.

When she is not singing or at synagogue, Francesca enjoys playing the flute, being creative, and spending time with family.

She is very excited about joining the team at Mosaic and becoming a part of the community.



Rabbi Rachel and Rabbi Kathleen at the first joint Liberal/Reform kiddush for nearly two years



Francesca Weiner



NOTICE is hereby given to all members that the 73rd Annual General Meeting of Mosaic Liberal Synagogue will be held **via Zoom** on

THURSDAY 5TH MAY 2022 at 7.00 pm sharp

Any member wishing to submit a motion or resolution for consideration at the Meeting must do so in writing to the Administrator at the Synagogue address **NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY 7th APRIL 2022**. Motions or resolutions received after this date cannot be considered at the Meeting.

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

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

Members are invited to nominate for election to Council individuals who have been Members or Associates of the Synagogue for at least one year. Nominations must be received by the Administrator on the form below **NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY 14th APRIL 2022**, and must be accompanied by the nominee's written confirmation of their willingness to stand for election.

The full Agenda for the Meeting, together with the Zoom link, will be included in a future email.

NOMINATION FORM FOR ELECTION TO MOSAIC LIBERAL SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL

Nominee(s)

Proposer Date

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

Signed Date

CST wishes our whole community a safe and enjoyable Pesach



For two years, we have been unable to celebrate Pesach as we all wanted to. We have been unable to sit around the seder table with family and friends, every household carrying out its own version of this very special festival. We have had to be innovative in overcoming the challenges that COVID-19 has posed to the notion and practice of community.

This year, with life gradually returning to something more familiar to what we knew before the virus' outbreak, CST also has to get back on track: but throughout the pandemic and for all of the changes in our lives, CST has kept working for the good of our community, ensuring that British Jews can live Jewish lives with the confidence that security brings. As long as there are people who hate Jews – as long as antisemitism, terrorism and extremism remain unfortunate parts of our reality – this work cannot stop.

Events over the past year have shown how crucial it is that CST sticks to its mission, supported by the partnership of our Jewish communities. Reactions to the war between Israel and Hamas in May 2021 had a far-reaching and profound impact on the Jewish community, driving a record annual total of antisemitic incidents reported to CST. In January of 2022, a British terrorist, motivated by his hatred of Jews, travelled across the Atlantic to a shul in a small town in Texas, where he took

congregants and a rabbi hostage. It provided a stark reminder of an uncomfortable truth: if it can happen there, it can happen anywhere.

We strive every day to make sure that it does not happen here. Protecting the wide and wonderful spectrum of Jewish life in the UK, encouraging it to flourish, is at the core of our mission. We rely on your support and cooperation in this endeavour. There are different ways that you can help us.

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

You can report antisemitism to us when you see it. Every report helps us to better do our jobs, to better understand the landscape of anti-Jewish hate, and to better represent our community to police and government.

You can donate to us. We are a charity and depend upon the generosity of our community. Every penny goes towards building a better Jewish – and British – future together.

CST wishes you all a Chag Pesach Sameach.



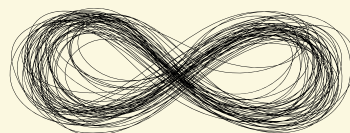
www.cst.org.uk | scan the QR code to visit CST's social media accounts

National Emergency Number (24-hour) **0800 032 3263**

London (Head Office) **020 8457 9999**

Manchester (Northern Regional Office) **0161 792 6666**

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Rabbi Simon J Franses (“z’l”) Joins the Wiener Library Roll of Honour

by Steve Levinson & Michael Reik

A Visit to Wiener Holocaust Library on Wednesday March 23rd by 20 members of Mosaic Reform Synagogue took place to remember Rabbi Simon J Franses. We introduced Simon onto the Wiener Library Roll of Honour and were then taken on a tour of the library. The first part of the Roll of Honour shows a Plaque to Simon:

RABBI SIMON J FRANCES
RABBI MIDDLESEX NEW SYNAGOGUE
1987-2008
BORN MAY 24TH 1943, LARISSA
DIED JULY 2ND 2009, LONDON

around “The Six Roads”, Palestine Street, near the synagogue Etz-Hayim which was established about 1850.

When the Second World War began some members of the family saw active service in the Greek army fighting the Italians, but from 1941-1943 Larissa was under Italian occupation and this was followed from 1943 by German occupation.

Simon J Franses early years - Recalled by himself:

Rabbi Simon Franses 1943 to 2009

“As regards the history of the family, without any verification

Jews of Larissa



Memorial to Greek Jews taken by the Nazis from Larissa

Larissa in Thessaly, north eastern Greece, was home to a Jewish community for over 2000 years. Family research indicated that the Franses family lived in Larissa from about 1500. The family came to Greece from Northern Spain, near the French border, after the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492. The name Franses, means “Frenchman” in Spanish. The language spoken at home was Ladino, but in the 19th and 20th century also Greek and Turkish were used. At the end of the 19th century Larissa had a population of 12-15,000, of whom 1,000 were Jews. They lived mostly in a few neighbourhoods



of papers, it is as follows. I was born on the 24th of May 1943 in Larissa, which at the time was under Italian occupation. Later on, as the swastika was marching south from Salonika, my grandmother, my parents and two younger brothers of my father, found safety in Athens where they were unknown

within the world there. They took refuge with two young medical students, originally from Cairo in Egypt, a brother and sister called Spiros and Danai Kafkalidis. The address of the property was Koupana and Riga Fereou, which was in the district of Vironos and further towards the north.

My father obtained an identity card with a Christian name by the Church authorities under the auspices of the Patriarch Damaskinos and he obtained employment with the Red Cross. His Greek identity was under the name of Mr Voyagis. Of course the family was in fear of being captured by the Gestapo. We kept away from the Jewish community and Jewish practice until well after the liberation because of the ensuing civil war. My brother, who was born in July 1945 in Athens, was circumcised by the then cantor/rabbi in Athens who was a distant family member.

The family returned to Larissa in October 1945. The house had been bombed and mother's dowry was destroyed. The destruction of the family household as well as the civil war that ensued, of which I, as a young child, have vague memories, brought enormous financial difficulties upon the family for many years to come."

Rabbinic life

Rabbi Simon J Franses, his wife Ann and children Josef and Abigail at his induction in 1987



at Middlesex New Synagogue, Harrow

When he was 18 Simon won a scholarship to the Judith Lady Montefiore College in London, under the auspices of

the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation. He learned Hebrew and English and received intensive rabbinic and Talmudic education. Graduating in 1965 he married Ann Lyons at West London Synagogue, with the ceremony conducted by Rabbi Werner van der Zyl, who had inspired him to the rabbinate.

He was a "visiting student" at Leo Beck College, and became an official student in 1968. He gained semichah in 1971 having served as student rabbi at Bromley Reform Synagogue. After serving as assistant minister at Edgware and District Reform Synagogue, he was appointed in 1974 as minister at Glasgow New Synagogue.

He served in Glasgow until 1987, where his son Josef and daughter Abigail celebrated their b'nei mitzvah. In Glasgow the family not only entered wholeheartedly into the life of the congregation but Rabbi Simon took a major role in other religious and civic affairs. He represented the synagogue on the Board of Deputies, and was a member of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council. From 1977 to 1987 he also sat on the Strathclyde Region Children's Panel.

After 13 years in Glasgow, and with a Scottish twang to his heavy Greek accent, he returned to London as Rabbi of Middlesex New Synagogue in Harrow, North West London. He remained in this position for 21 years and undertook many civic and religious duties, working tirelessly for interfaith relations. He became the chaplain in 1988 to the first Jewish mayor of Hertsmeire, and in 1997 was chaplain to a Welsh Congregationalist mayor in Harrow. He was a committed Zionist and within the Reform movement he was much respected for his learning. From 1989 to 1991 he was chairman of the Assembly of Rabbis of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain and had senior roles in its Beth Din.

European communities heritage

Rabbi Simon always maintained his affection for Greek Jewry. Between 1998 and 2006 he was instrumental in introducing numerous groups from Britain to his heritage. On one visit he led a service at an emotional 3-day reunion of the Larissa Jewish community which then numbered about 250 members – a quarter of its pre-war total. On another, he marked Lag B'Omer in Larissa. He was received with great warmth in his birthplace where family members, including his mother, still lived. Apart from visits in which he took part, he also inspired many other groups to explore the long history of the Jews of Greece.

Continued on following page >>

ARTICLES

Continued from previous page...



The Ark at Middlesex New Synagogue flanked by scroll covers, including two early 1900 items obtained by Rabbi Franes originally from Czechoslovakian communities which perished in the Holocaust

Retirement



Rabbi Simon J Franes, on his retirement, with his successor at Middlesex New Synagogue, Rabbi Kathleen De Magtige-Middleton

His interest in historic Jewish European communities also manifested itself in a collection of memorabilia from lost communities. The Ark at Middlesex New Synagogue was flanked by framed scroll covers from different parts of Europe. Among them were two covers, which his Rabbinical Fund obtained and are now housed at the Wiener Library. The covers, dating from the early 20th century, remember historic Slovak communities, and were protected in a private home in Frankfurt during the war. The scroll covers originate from Eastern Slovakia.

As he approached retirement Rabbi Simon was already thinking not only about his own succession but the future of the synagogue itself. For many years he had felt that Middlesex New Synagogue would need to move away from its home in Harrow, if it was to survive the shifting demographics of the area. It was partly his vision that matured into the Mosaic Jewish Community, encompassing Reform, Liberal and Masorti synagogues, who have come together and created a new joint home in Stanmore due to open in 2022.

At the age of 65 and suffering ill-health he retired as Rabbi of Middlesex New Synagogue. At a special event to mark the occasion he was told: "Your commitment to MNS has never wavered and your care for the community has continued at all times, even from your hospital bed."

Subsequently, he assisted his successor, Rabbi Kathleen De Magtige-Middleton, and until his death in 2009 Rabbi Franes remained with the synagogue as Emeritus Rabbi.

This early 20th century scroll cover was also obtained by Rabbi Franes. Inscription translates 'To the glory of the Holy Torah from Kier Moshe, son of Rabbi Benjamin Lustig with his wife Shavievet in the holy community of Roos'



Early 20th century scroll cover with Bohemian ritual artwork believed to originate in Eastern Slovakia. Inscription translates 'As a remembrance in my holy Temple for Moses Shindler and my wife Gittel from the family Kornfeld'. This is one of two scroll covers obtained by Rabbi Franes. They are the property of Mosaic Reform Synagogue and are now housed at The Wiener Holocaust Library



Ann Franes, widow of Rabbi Simon, with his children and grandchildren, holding a scroll with cover and Rimonim dedicated to him

See report on the visit to the Library on page 33

MY FAMILIES – KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, PAST AND PRESENT

by Michael Abrahams

Introduction

Some years ago, when Margaret and I were living in Scotland, Margaret asked me to see if I could get her some information on her family and this set me off on what was to become a slight obsession. My Scottish side of the family was easy, although time consuming, because I could access copies of birth, marriage and death certificates online at my local history museum which had direct access to Scotland's records' office. However, trying to have the same access in England was impossible since these certificates could only be seen at PRO in Kew and, with limited access, I used other sources (thanks to Google). Most English details came from FindMyPast, but that only gives the year, except in their 1939 register, and I like to have actual dates. I looked for other sources. One was by my visiting cemeteries in the London area and, more recently, in Manchester since there is quite a bit of information on tombstones including some after the FMP cut-off point. Also GENI – the source of much of my father's family, Family Search (especially for the States) and Find A grave, where, again, many tombstones could be seen. Other sites were used for Australian and South African sources and, for a time, Ancestry and Heritage, but since these were paying sites, my use of these were limited whilst they offered free access, since I tried to keep the cost of my obsession to a minimum!!!!

I also had some family members close to me and of my age group, who provided me with some anecdotal information and found some in America and Australia who, again, provided me with various bits of information as well as meeting with a couple of distant cousins in Belgium* and the Netherlands. Another great source was Joods Monument* More of * later.

My Mother Bessie nee Grodner

The problem with my mother's family is that "Grodner" does not exist. As many are aware, when immigrants arrived from Russia the authorities could not understand their names and, asking where they came from, said that that was their name. Thus on arrival, when asked, they said "Grodno" and thus the



Margaret & Michael Abrahams

name Grodner was born (the same happened in the USA). She was one of eight, all of whom were born in the UK – the eldest was born in Scotland, the others in London's East End. Because of this I could go no further back than her father, Morris, and her mother, Fanny, who were married en route. Fanny's name was Cream and some of her relatives were also married en route and here comes a little bit of speculation.

Cream, Creme, Krim were all variations of the same. However, Krim is the Russian

for Crimea and my thoughts are that, fleeing the progroms, her family progressed northwards via Belarus where Grodno is, and met up with the onward journey via Lithuania and Latvia, whence they took passage ending up in Glasgow (it is possible they thought they were going to America!!). They then dispersed with the Creams, etc either staying in Glasgow or moving on to Manchester. All this I have managed to piece together from both FMP, GENI and Family Search. From all this I have managed to make contact with the Grodners in the USA and the Creams, etc in Manchester, Glasgow, the USA and Australia and thus the tree has grown from an initial 200 names to nearly 900, all bloodline relatives. Included in this family are, for those who are old enough, Lol Cream of Godley and Creme and 10cc and, for the younger amongst us, Jason Blue – quite a musical family!!

My Father Joseph

Researching my father's family proved more difficult since, apart from one cousin, I had to rely on my own recollections of people I met when they were alive. The only thing I did know was that they originally came from Dutch stock. Thus I could only relate to some 120 bloodline relatives.

Some time after I had moved back to England something appeared on GENU, which, when tracing back, started to show up my father's antecedents which, over a period of time, has led to my finding almost 16,000 bloodline relatives (there seems to have been an abundance of children). Apart from GENI my information started to build up from FamilySearch, Joods Monument, Google, and tombstones. One of the most

interesting parts of the research was the fact that there had been various changes in surnames leading, eventually to Abrahams as follows - it would appear that, until Napoleon, there was no such thing as a surname, therefore Schoenlapper (the patriarch dating back to 1679) was the village cobbler, which became Kerkhof who worked in the cemetery (funnily enough many of my father's relatives worked for the burial society) and then Waterman/Wascherman being the local water carrier. This eventually became Waterman-Abrahams and then Abrahams.

A disturbing factor has emerged and that is that the majority of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of the brothers and sisters of Joseph Abraham Waterman Levie b 1807 and my 2 x great grandfather, who remained in Holland during the war, perished in various Concentration Camps between 1940 and 1945 (possibly as much as one-third of my whole family tree). I listed all these on my family tree so that the names would not be forgotten but I found this part of the exercise most upsetting.

Apart from living in the Netherlands early on many had emigrated to the UK, mainly in order to marry (arranged marriage being very common) and to the USA. Some also managed to escape to other parts of Europe and further afield (as did those who survived). Three years ago I managed to trace a cousin (4th) living in Belgium and whose biography I found extremely interesting and trust I can be allowed to relate. Her name was Lydia Chagoll – originally Aldewereld)* and the

following year I managed to meet up with her. Unfortunately she died in 2020. In May 1940, along with her parents and sister, she fled Brussels, where her father was the editor of a strongly anti-fascist newspaper via France, Spain, Portugal and South Africa, finally ending up in the Dutch East Indies.

Having escaped the Nazi concentration camps they ended up in the Japanese camps when they arrived just before the Japanese, where they were separated from the father. When the war ended a chance reading of a Dutch newspaper printed in Singapore, mentioned the father, who was the editor and like all good stories they were reunited and returned home. The reason I mention her in such detail is that having been a dancer and choreographer she became a writer and film maker, and, in light of recent events with a so-called comedian, one of her films was called "Ma Bister"(Remember/Don't Forget from the Romani) dealing with the Sinti Gypsies from their birth in India to their near extermination in the concentration camps.

Here endeth a brief history of my family's past and present which I hope that you, who read it, may find of interest. It may well be that it will also inspire some to investigate their own origins where they have never thought

how to go about it. For those with Dutch origins and can work backwards might I suggest "Genealogy on Line" and Joods Monument* which documents a vast number of Dutch Jews who perished, many with their addresses, occupations, etc as well as the other sites I have mentioned.



Michael's parents



Friendship Club is Back!

A warm welcome is guaranteed when the newly named

Mosaic Friendship Club opens its doors on Thursday 28th April.

The committee and helpers are delighted to be back and extend an invitation to all over 70's to join them at our temporary location - The Masonic Centre Northwick Circle Kenton HA3 0EL from 11 a.m. We will be providing lunch and entertainment and the chance to catch up with old friends and to make new ones.

The friendly atmosphere enjoyed by so many in the past will continue and we encourage those of you who have family members and/or friends to come along and see us in action. Help with transport can be arranged.

We are also looking for volunteers - if you have some spare time we would love to hear from you.

For further details please contact Bertha Levy or Trudy Segal via the Mosaic office.

Mosaic Tea Parties

Jeanette Leibling

In the last few months we have enjoyed 8 wonderful tea parties at the homes of generous members who have delighted us with delicious teas, charming company and an opportunity to meet together with fellow members, Rabbis and Chairmen. It has been such a pleasure to organise and I have had the additional pleasure of attending almost all of them. The parties have all been Mosaic Jewish Community get-togethers, so we have had the opportunity of meeting and hearing about members from all the communities

The last party, photographed, was held in the home of Pat and Paul Zatz, who entertained us to a delicious afternoon tea a-la-Ritz, with smoked salmon bridge rolls, home-made scones with cream and strawberry jam, and a vast assortment of beautiful cakes, so no wonder I didn't eat any dinner that

evening. The added bonus for this tea party was to meet our delightful new Development Rabbi, Anna Wolfson. What a pleasure and how nice to be able to speak openly about all our hopes and ideas for the future of our growing community. We hope to see her ideas put into practice very shortly

I plan to continue these most enjoyable parties until we are well established in our new home, but I do need your help. Would you like to volunteer to host a party, or drive members to and from the parties, or help organise them or, best of all, attend and enjoy? If you feel you would like to get involved in any way please contact me via the Mosaic office. I look forward to hearing from you.



*From left to right - Paul Zatz, Jonquil Nicholls, Rabbi Anna, Millicent Levan,
Pat Zatz, Bernie Spilfogel, Shirley Ariel, Dennis Goodman.*

The Feldmans meet Rabbi Feldman – In Iceland!

By Jonathan Feldman

Let me take you on a journey to the Land of Fire and Ice, otherwise known as Iceland, and describe how myself, my wife Anita, and my sons, Sam and Adam found ourselves dining on a delicious Shabbat lunch in Reykjavik, in the company of the Executive Director and Rabbi of the Jewish Community of Iceland, Rabbi Avraham Feldman (no relation!)

Iceland is only 2 million years old and for more than 1,000 years of its recorded history, until 2018, the country never hosted a full-time Jewish institutional presence. Aside from ad hoc synagogues that existed during World War II, set up by Jews who were fleeing the Nazis, communal observances of Jewish life in this remote country have always been few and far between, yet it now has a current Jewish community of between 400-500, with about 300 in Reykjavik itself.

Iceland does not have a dedicated synagogue yet (meetings are organised at the Rabbi's house, or a hotel function hall) but, with echoes of our own Mosaic community, they are currently embarking on a project to construct a new community building.

So, as people may know, I do love a chat and before our recent trip to Iceland I thought it would be fun to see if there are any fellow Jews in that country for us to say hello to on our travels. I always like to find a Jewish Quarter/area on foreign shores, and after a swift Google search it turned out there is indeed a Jewish community there. So I emailed the website and awaited a reply.

Next day I received a delightful reply from Rabbi Avraham Feldman who explained that we would be most welcome to



Rabbi Feldman and his family

visit and have Shabbat lunch; we worked out that our Hotel and the synagogue (Rabbi's house) were no more than a 10 minute walk.

So on Saturday February 12, around 12.00, we trekked through the snow and arrived at the inconspicuous Rabbi's house (our eye caught the Judaica on the window-sill), and rang the bell. We were greeted by Rabbi Avraham and his delightful wife, Mushky, and their 4 daughters, and on walking through to the dining room we found a fully decorated table with salmon, potato salad, gefilte fish, salads, wine and welcoming people. As well as the four of us, there was a visitor from New York, and another from Canada. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch, good conversation, insightful debate, and some points to ponder – especially Rabbi Feldman's wise view that we should be thankful each day for what we already have, rather than always thinking about what we think we need.

The Rabbi and the Community had recently taken possession of their first Torah Scroll - an immensely proud moment for the Icelandic Jewish Community – which had culminated in dancing through the streets of Reykjavik, to welcome the Torah "bride" under the Chuppah.

It was a pleasure to meet some fellow members of our faith while away from UK shores, and I look forward to enjoying similar experiences on other foreign trips.

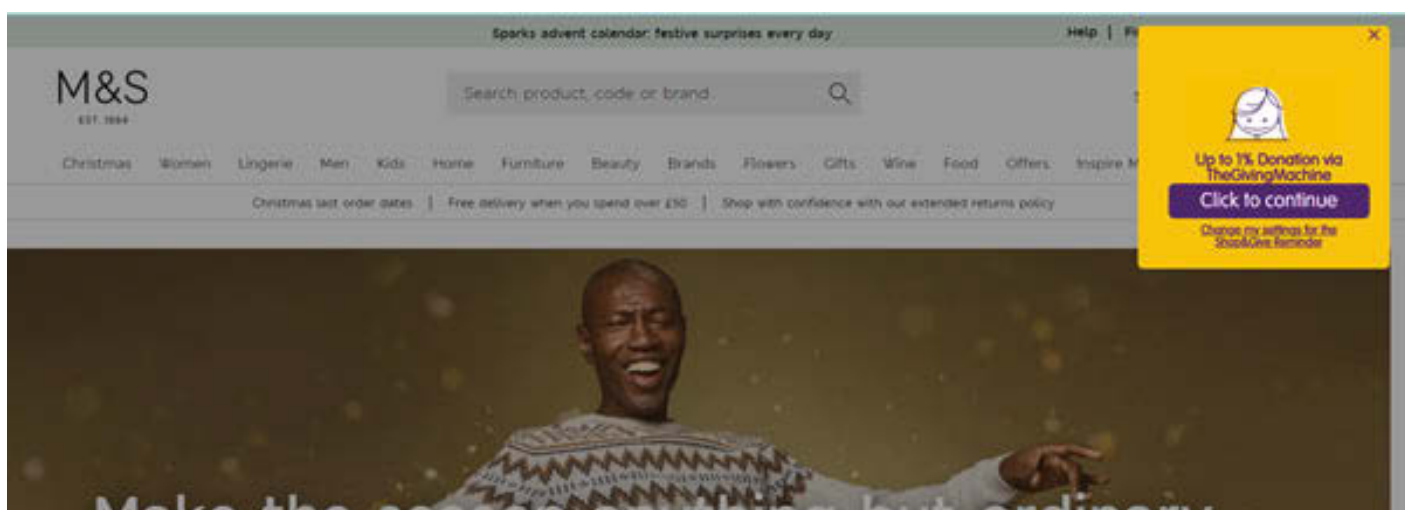
I gave the Rabbi the warm wishes of the Mosaic community and hopefully, in the not too distant future, both Reykjavik and Stanmore Hill will have splendid new synagogue buildings to enjoy.

It 's a No Brainer !

by Gillian Goldsmith

Via TheGivingMachine we can generate funds for Mosaic Reform for free. If you shop online you can easily contribute to this. Just follow the steps below.

1. To create a personal account go into the givingmachine website. The link is www.machinegiving.co.uk and you need to create an account. You can do it via Facebook or email. Choose the cause, Mosaic Reform. You enter either Mosaic Reform or the id 54792. In the search box for causes and shops to find it.
2. There is a wide range of shops and services. Choose your shop or service from within the giving machine website and then buy the product in the normal way. eg Marks and Spencer.
3. You are more likely to remember to use it if you download the giving machine logo as it pops up if you browse online on one of its participants. You must log on to the giving machine and use their portal before buying from that participant otherwise it does not work.



4. Using it - A reminder also pops up when you are doing an internet search on shops. Contact giving@mosaicreform.org.uk for further information and advice on creating an account

Or you can download the app and use it that way. it is very easy and quick to use the app and you will be raising funds to make our new home at mosaic reform in Stanmore even more beautiful.

Some of the brands available on TheGivingMachine



Sermon delivered on 12th March

by Steve Levinson

Today's the day we start Leviticus. It is number three of the five books and, as its name implies, is basically an instruction manual on how to be a good priest or Levite. Just as Genesis tells about the beginning of the world and Exodus tells us about the exodus from Egypt, Leviticus also does what it says on the tin.

At least it would do if the label on the tin was written in English or Latin. Leviticus is not a Hebrew word at all. It's Latin and means "of the Levites". The Hebrew name for the third book is "Vayikra", which is the first word of the book and the name of this week's sedra. Its meaning is "and he called". So nothing much to do with Levites.

You can get misled chasing words starting "Levi". Take my name for instance - Levinson. It seems it means son of the priest. After a little research you find that this name construction is common to many languages. Dusty Springfield sang about the "sweet talking son of a preacherman". If I was of Scottish heritage I would be a MacPherson, or the English equivalent would be Fitzpatrick. Whichever way you cut it, it seems I am descended from the son of someone in charge of a religious ritual. Definitely holy.

Except that's not true either. I am not a Levite. And Levinson is not a name connected to the priestly tribe of Levi. My family history research showed it is drawn from the Jewish name "Leib". One of my ancestors, instructed by Czarist authorities to adopt a surname, chose son of Leib, his recently deceased father's name, and became Leibzon.

Not a Levite in sight. Leib is derived from the Hebrew word meaning a lion. These things go round in circles, and my grandson is called Leo. My granddaughter is very attached to a furry lion she calls Rar Rar.

That's the beauty of words. They can be fun, they are addictive, as the recent Wordle craze demonstrates. There is also a more serious side to all this because words are essential to us all. When two people communicate they expect a word to have the same meaning for both of them. Otherwise they are miscommunicating and can end up in all sorts of trouble and misunderstandings.

Politicians have always had trouble with words, so much



so that they often find it necessary to completely reverse the correct meaning of a word or phrase in an attempt to fool people. Beware when you hear them say things like "we are doing everything possible" or "things are going to plan".

I remember early in my journalistic career, being told that if you reversed the meaning of a Government department's name you would have a much better idea what the department actually did.

For example, the Department for Employment was actually the Department of Unemployment. The Ministry of Defence should have been the Ministry of Attack. You can play this game with all departments. The "Home" Office might more accurately be described as the "Go Away" Office, The Treasury is actually the Bankruptcy. Then there's the department of ill health and the one for social insecurity.

Which makes me wonder what are we to make of Jacob Rees Mogg's new department for Brexit opportunities and government efficiency?

Here's another word that's become disconnected from reality - "party".

If I invite you to my party, it's pretty clear that you are being asked to attend something which will be jolly, normally involve celebration, food, drink and maybe some music. Basically you know what a party is. So, if when you get there, you claim you didn't realise it was a party, you have to be pretty dim.

The word party means something. But when people start reinventing meanings we rapidly move into the world of hoaxes, fake news and propaganda.

And this is where we need to look very closely at words and who is using them.

Just as I know what a party looks like I know what a war looks like and what an invasion looks like.

When tanks and soldiers cross a border into another country, it is an invasion. When they find that the other side wants to fight them it is a war. Seeking to call them something else such as a "special military operation", (the clue is in the word military) doesn't fool anyone who has access to proper information.

continues on following page >>

In which case it becomes necessary to deny access to proper information. Using words like invasion and war in the Russian media is now a criminal offence punishable by up to 15 years in jail.

It is in times like this that good journalism comes into its own. Overall journalists get a pretty bad press. People have become less and less willing to believe what they read and see in the media, often because of the excesses and prejudices of particular publications, and the growth of unchecked and unreliable social media websites and blogs. It has become quite a new full-time occupation to check facts and sources, to get at the truth. But the current war in Ukraine has highlighted the value of proper, professional journalists and broadcasters. War correspondents are coming into their own and we are starting to see reports written by talented and brave people actually on the front line.

And it's not just reporters. The unsung heroes are the cameramen and producers who make up a reporting team. So while in this war there are many casualties, so far one of the victories has been the journalistic one. We do know what's going on. Even in Russia it has been encouraging to

see independent TV and press journalists walking out rather than toe the Kremlin line.

It all underlines the undeniable power of words. It's why the Nazis burned books. For these paranoid people words are so dangerous that if they are not silenced or distorted to fit a certain narrative, they can bring down governments, lose wars, destroy dictatorships.

But history shows that while you can try to silence the words, set fire to them, ban them, you can't in the end defeat them. They are too elusive. They fly away and eventually return victorious.

What we are seeing in Ukraine is heart breaking and, at the same time, inspiring. There are many thousands of casualties, but this is one war where, so far, the first casualty has not been the truth but merely Putin's version of the truth. This is a battle he cannot win. It is already lost. He is permanently tarnished and dishonoured whatever happens on the battlefield, because we know the real meaning of words.

In the end the words speak out, and the truth wins out. The pen and camera are indeed mightier than the sword.



Liberal Judaism HAS lived to 120 !

by Alan Solomon

The history of Liberal Judaism in this country dates back to the early 20th century. In November 1901 Lily Montagu, the daughter of Sir Samuel Montagu, MP (later to become Lord Swaythling and President of the Federation of Synagogues), wrote a letter *"to those of the Jewish Faith who feel with me that the moment has come for us to try to strengthen the religious life in our midst"*. With the support of Dr Claude G Montefiore and others, the first service of the then Jewish Religious Union (later to become the Union of Liberal & Progressive Synagogues and now Liberal Judaism) took place at the Great Central Hotel in Marylebone Road (now the Landmark Hotel) on 18th October 1902.

So this year Liberal Judaism celebrates its 120th anniversary. To mark the occasion, a special *Shabbat* morning service took place at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in St John's Wood on 19th February. The organisers took advantage of the Zoom technology to which we have all now become accustomed, so it was a hybrid service with the participants either in the sanctuary or appearing on Zoom or on a recording. No less

than 21 rabbis took part including our own Rabbi Rachel, who led the *Torah* service, and Rabbi Anna, who performed *Hagba'ah*. Our former rabbi, Dr Charles Middleburgh, gave a *D'var Torah* and read part of the *Torah* portion.

Lay members from a number of constituent congregations of LJ also participated, Mosaic Liberal being represented by Lindsey Cohen with another Council member, Linda Paice, taking part, although wearing her Stevenage hat on this occasion. We listened to summaries of the various periods in the history of LJ given *inter alia* by the President, Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein, and our "own" Rabbi Nathan Godleman – the first 25 years (1902-27), Expansion (1928-45), After the War (1946-63), New Developments (1963-87), A new *Siddur* (1988-2005) and Reflections on 120 years of Liberal Judaism. We heard an extract from Lily Montagu's sermon marking the foundation of the World Union for Progressive Judaism in 1928. The beautiful singing of the LJS Choir contributed to a very moving service and a wonderful occasion.

Here's to the next 120 years of Liberal Judaism !

The past, The Present and The Future

by Mark, Elizabeth, Jacob & Daniel Kosky

We, the Koskys, are somewhat shy when it comes to stepping up to fulfilling our commitments at HEMS. But for once, when Edwin asked us if we would like to write a piece about Sunday's celebration, we had no hesitation in saying "Yes."

So, in true academic style (though minus citations and a bibliography), here is our contribution.

The Past

It was 25 years ago, our son Daniel was a baby and Jacob, his brother, was a two-year-old toddler when we joined HEMS. In those days the children used to use the small room upstairs in the Girl Guide hut, during the main service. Then as the boys grew older, we started to attend the main service downstairs. Jacob used to play his toy cars noisily and we often got 'that look' from the men leading the services. The years seemed to have passed so quickly and before we knew it we were making weekly trips over to see Norman for the boys' weekly Bar Mitzvah lessons. Jacob was Bar Mitzvah in 2008 followed by Daniel in 2010.

Watching the photo montage during the celebration on Sunday gave us the opportunity to reflect on just how important HEMS was and is to us and to remember having shared our mitzvot with community members both past and present.

The Present

Watching Gillian grow from being a baby into the woman that she has become today, has been a pleasure. Just how much work Gillian, and Elaine too of course, put into all the HEMS 20 events to celebrate 20 years of HEMS, we will never know. However, seeing Gillian taking on such a challenge so successfully and listening to her speak so passionately and eloquently about HEMS on Sunday gives us all hope for the future of our community.

Looking around Kol Chai during the meal, we saw many faces of members whom we have known for many years, the friends that we have made and the next generation of HEMS members, a table of new Bar Mitzvah boys, a Bat Mitzvah girl and a young baby. Three generations coming together, so to

speak, our past, our present and our future.

The Future

Who knows what the future will bring? We wish all our community members good health and happiness for the future. We hope that the move to our new building in Stanmore will give stability and a sense of belonging to our existing community members, bring new members to our HEMS community and that our community will continue to grow and support the next generation through their mitzvot and simchas. We hope too that the next generation of HEMS members will take on the responsibility of being part of our community with the same pride and commitment that we ourselves have done.

To end, we would like to say thank you to all our past and present rabbis, but we cannot end without saying and sharing our biggest thank you to Edwin – no words can describe your unwavering dedication and the sacrifices that you have made for our community over the last 25 years, without you, your humour, presence and support HEMS would not exist. On behalf of both of us and our entire community, we say a heartfelt and sincere thank you Edwin.

Bleib Gesund and Shalom



SHUSHAN COMES TO HARROW

by Janet Solomon

On an extremely wet Wednesday evening the clubhouse at Harrow Rugby Club was transformed into the city of Shushan when 80 grandparents, parents and children came to view the latest Linda Holman masterpiece of drama, comedy and music. We viewed the admonishment and banishing of Vashti, the auditioning and appointment of Esther, and the comeuppance of Haman and promotion of Mordecai with awe and admiration.

There was much music to entertain the rapturous audience, courtesy of "The Spirit of Ukraine", Spiderrabbi and Cowboy with peyot David Pollak. We had an abbreviated megillah, courtesy



of a bowler hatted, moustached rabbi with a Belgian accent.

The cast treated us to bravura performances. Our narrator, Daniel Witte, kept us in touch with the action. Mordecai's beard played its own part with gusto. The two "queens" were just as beautiful as the megillah described (!) and the supporting cast played their parts admirably. The Harrow Oscar, however, must go to King Ahasuerus (Beth Kingsley) who was outstanding.

We were treated to a lovely supper, courtesy of Zoe Witte with tasty bagels, hamantaschen and fruit.

What a lovely, warm and happy evening. Next year in Stanmore?

Leora Goldsmith's Account of the Purim Spiel.

I arrived with my friend and I could see through the window that there were lots of people dressed up in different bright costumes. When we got inside there were a few tables with food and drink on. When we were told to sit down the prayers and songs started and we heard some lovely songs from Rabbi Rachel and Rabbi Anna. I had volunteered to

be helping back stage for the Purim Spiel, so my role in the play was to show the scenes, eg Palace, outside the Palace grounds etc.. The play was very good and funny at times. We also received little bags with a bagel, an orange, a drink and a yummy hamantaschen. At the end of a fun evening we said our goodbyes and left.



My Yellow Candle in 2022

by Edwin Lucas

The Ukrainian conflict is hitting home to me personally every day of the week and I have the pleasure of helping with the Shabbat Services at my mother's senior citizen location. Why is this relevant? Well, it hits home that there are residents there, who were affected by the moving away from their homes in a hurry and had to resettle in pastures new. Where were they going? Who were they going to stay with? What lives were they going to have in the future? My mother's pals at Elton are all 100% mentally fit and aware and unlike the time when they fled, there is so much social media as well as it being constantly on newsreels that they can watch things unfold from their armchairs. Good news is not plentiful coming from the Ukraine and bad news is in abundance. There have been many casualties and up till the time of writing 925 deaths. This must affect all the Holocaust survivors when thinking about their journey and how history is reliving the past. My

tin, once the candle has burnt for as long as it can do. We know about yesterday and all the children in Hamakom and definitely in the Jewish-led education system, will know about the Holocaust and why we light the yellow candle. That brings the yellow candle alive for today and we as a household, and



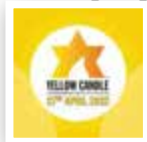
I know many others do too, remember and name those that have perished. We do it at the Seder, when we mention escaping from Egypt. This year, the seeds will help us to think about growth

and a better tomorrow. We live for today and muddle through, but tomorrow is what we need to plan for and I hope that the flowering plants will bring some comfort and hope and make this year's yellow candle memorial on April 22nd, an ongoing living memorial.

You can obtain yellow candles still at

Yellowcandleuk.org

View this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6EBUuZZVDI>



yellow candle in 2022,

will be thinking of the name on the card from yesteryear AND I shall be remembering the 925 souls that are no more.

Television is here and is wonderful. There was nothing like that in the Holocaust era. I listened just yesterday on the news to an official from the Putin Government talk about the conflict and say that the Ukrainians are not telling the truth. It sounded so plausible and I could imagine the Russian population believing what they hear. Spin is an amazing word and it is frightening. History no doubt must seem to many Holocaust survivors to be repeating itself in our time. That is what makes the yellow candle so poignant for me. I also froze, despite the sunshine and nearing Spring warmth to hear that there are now 3,000,000 refugees from Ukraine which had a population of 44 million. That is 7% of, in many cases,



able-bodied women and children, as well as residents over the age of 70 – many of whom are as fit as a fiddle. This 3 million displacement is approaching the population of Wales. It is chilling. This displacement hit home, just as the yellow



candle tin cover is hitting home to me this year. How many more deaths due to the war, in our time, will there be?

This year the yellow candle organising committee has thought of yesterday, today, as well as, and rightfully so, tomorrow. The latter words sound strange. It is a wonderful initiative for this year which amongst others, I am sure, a member of Mosaic Masorti put to Maccabi UK, who are managing the distribution of the yellow candles. There will be a pack of flower seeds to be planted in the candle

Pesach Services

Mosaic Liberal

1st Day Pesach	Saturday 16th April	11.00
In Person (usual Stanmore venue) and on Zoom		
7th Day Pesach	Friday 22nd April	11.00
On Zoom		

Mosaic Masorti

(All services at our usual Hatch End Venue)

1st Day Pesach	Saturday 16th April	10.00
2nd Day Pesach	Sunday 17th April	10.00
7th Day Pesach	Friday 22nd April	10.00
8th Day Pesach	Saturday 23rd April	10.00

Mosaic Reform

1st Day Pesach	Saturday 16th April	10.30
In Person (usual Stanmore venue) and on Zoom		
7th Day Pesach	Friday 22nd April	10.30
On Zoom		

Seder Night

by Bernard Fisherman



To commemorate the exodus an epic Jewish feat
 We make a special dinner called a Seder
 Where we all gather together to heartily pray and eat
 One highlight of the Seder is searching for the afikomen and cheers when it is found
 Plus four glasses of wine to be drunk which is eagerly passed around
 Leavened bread and foods made with yeast are certainly not on offer
 But there's lots and lots of Mr Rakusen's very popular matzo
 Charoset, zeroa, baytza, karpas and maror are found on the Seder plate
 To remind us of a troubled time
 When Moses, with the help of g-d, made sure that everything turned out fine
 After wandering in the desert for forty years
 And suffering hardships they didn't understand
 Moses, with g-ds help, eventually found the promised land
 G-d was really happy and with a joyful tear in his eye
 Gave Moses the ten Commandments for the Israelites to religiously live by
 The coming of Elijah on this special night is really a very good call
 Bringing the whole wide world justice, peace and better times for all.

Just In Case

by Janet Byrne



Holidays are here at last
 Time for a well-earned break
 But now my problems really start
 'Cos I don't know what to take

 I've packed a dozen T-shirts
 In case it will be hot
 But the climate is so changeable
 What happens if it's not?

 Perhaps I'll take some sweaters
 Best be safe not sorry
 And at least one pair of boots
 Oh packing's such a worry!

 I think I'd better take a coat
 In case the temperature falls
 The last thing I want on holiday
 Is to traipse around the shopping malls

 I've taken out the T-shirts now
 And replaced them with my Mac
 Plus a hat, warm gloves and scarf
 Oh how I hate to pack!

 Too late - a heatwave's forecast
 But we're already on our way
 And all I've packed are winter clothes
 For a summer holiday!

March 2022

by Rosemary Wolfson



Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe
is freed at last from Iran...
We shall celebrate
Passover, in the UK:
the liberation of our people
in this spring season.
Springtime is suggestive
of the beginning and
survival of the Jews.
In mid April, we may celebrate
bright blue grape hyacinths,
primroses, sweet violets,
bluebells, columbine, bellflowers,
coral bells, creeping phlox,
the birth of Monarch butterflies,
stained glass orange wings laced with
black lines, and white bordered dots.
Also the Brimstone butterfly,

on yellow primroses,
with their pale lime green,
fine net appearance,
accompanied by the
various whistles of birds,
the singing of the slight
breeze laden dawn chorus, and
carpet laden white flowers
and a backdrop of veins:
lime green leaves, and
dagger petals of pearl blooms;
and finally we may have
Polemonium caeruleum
or Jacob's Ladder plants...
And we pray for Ukraine
during Passover.

Letter to Kehila

by Jane Prentice

I am writing to thank so many of you in our Mosaic community for all your incredible support, both material and spiritual, of me and my family both before and after the death of my amazing Father.

Rabbi Kathleen led beautiful services with a thoughtful and personal eulogy which was deeply appreciated by all the family. Thanks to Ann's incredible support and Stefan's technical expertise, the funeral and Shivah prayers were available remotely, so that many friends and family both in our community and elsewhere in the UK and abroad, were able to join us, for which we are very grateful. Particularly my parents' elderly friends were so pleased to follow and be with us for their own farewells, but from the comfort of their own homes.

The last 2 years have not been easy for any of us, yet we have personally benefitted so much from all the care and support from understanding friends who visited and socialised in our garden, supplied an unending stock of jigsaws and listened to my Father regale them with stories from his colourful past.

Your phone calls, e-mails, Whatsapps, and cards have been overwhelming and we have enjoyed being reminded of your

thoughts and memories of my Father.

The world that my Father was born into was just after the first World war, the end of a global influenza pandemic and was a very different one, yet, as my brother pointed out in his eulogy, it is ironic that 100 years later we are again in the midst of a pandemic and the terrible events of war in Ukraine. After his 100th birthday my Father wrote to Kehila 'I do feel part of a close-knit group of people who have survived everything that hostile forces have thrown at us, and this only strengthens my affiliation with Jewry.' I share this sentiment today.

My Father lived a long, enormously full and fulfilled life and I feel so blessed to have had him in my life for so long. I miss him dreadfully but feel privileged to be part of a community that has shared a significant part of this life with me and has been there with and for us all throughout the good times and bad. Thank you all so very much.

PESACH MESSAGE

PRESIDENT MARIE VAN DER ZYL

NISSAN 5782



Passover is the Jewish festival of freedom and this year's celebration will be an especially poignant one as families will be at liberty to celebrate their seder without any lockdown restrictions for the first time since 2019. More than 1,000 from the UK Jewish community have died from Covid-19 and we will be thinking of them this Pesach. It is my earnest hope that we will be soon able to create a proper memorial to those who died.

We also pray for the freedom and safety of those in danger in Ukraine. This senseless Russian aggression flies in the face of justice and decency. We continue to both be inspired by the resolve of the Ukrainian people, and to pray for peace. I urge all those who are able to donate towards the charities collecting on behalf of the victims of this terrible conflict.

We have had a number of significant achievements this year. The Board has been campaigning long and hard for the proscription of Hamas in its entirety as a terrorist organisation and in 2021 we were very happy that the Government legislated to ban its so-called political wing, meaning it can no longer lobby for support in this country.

Many of you will have been distressed by the BBC actions following the antisemitic attack on teenagers celebrating Chanukah on a bus in central London last November. We supplied forensic evidence which conclusively refuted BBC reports that there had been anti-Muslim abuse coming from the bus. The BBC's Executive Complaints Unit agreed with us that the BBC did not meet standards of due accuracy and impartiality. We are now working to supply evidence to a new Ofcom investigation into BBC handling of the incident.

We have been focusing on the issue of online hate which is the new frontline against antisemitism. Thanks to Board of Deputies campaigning, the Government wrote to social media companies asking for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism so that so that racists will no longer be able to harass Jewish users with impunity.

The work of the Board of Deputies is so wide and diverse that it is impossible to mention everything in a short message. To give a few examples, we have provided support for Chinese Uyghurs who have been cruelly persecuted in their home country. We are working in the community to facilitate the implementation of the groundbreaking Commission on Racial Inclusivity in the Jewish Community which considered 17 areas of Jewish communal life and made 119 recommendations. And working with our partner organisation EcoSynagogue, we were out in force at the COP26 summit in November.

In addition, we provide official inspection of religious education in Jewish schools through the Pikuach organisation and our team monitors and protects our religious freedoms. Whatever your interests or concerns as a Jew, the Board of Deputies is here for you.

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

Marie van der Zyl

Marie van der Zyl
President, Board of Deputies of British Jews



Board of Deputies

by Michael Reik

Plenary Meeting held 20th February.

- 1, Edwin Shucker was again elected as Vice President to take over responsibilities for Communities and education
2. Laurie Rosenberg spoke on the proposal that Bar and Bat Mitzvah consider twinning with a child of similar age who had died in the Holocaust through the Yad Vashem Foundation.
3. Marie Van de Zyl announced her pleasure at being presented to the Pope at the Vatican together with Michael Wegier, BOD Chief Executive .
- 4, The Board has asked Ofcom to obtain a full apology from the BBC for the incorrect reporting of the Bus Attack on Charedi Jews in Oxford Street last November
- 5, The Board has totally rejected the Amnesty Report on supposed Israel Apartheid

Plenary, Board of Deputies 20th March 2022 at JW3 and online

The meeting commenced with a thank you to Jeffrey Leader after 25 years employment at the Board.

We then heard from the British Ambassador to Ukraine, Melinda Simmons, who is a member of Finchley Reform Synagogue. She commented back in March 2021 it was noticed that Russia was employing more troops than normal at the border with Ukraine. She confirmed the UK understood that Russia (Putin) believed the war would take 2 days to 1 week maximum. Once War started, she moved from Kyiv to Lviv with the embassy. She is now located with the embassy between Warsaw and the border with Poland. She believes the relationship between Russian and Ukrainian people has been severed for good. The Ukrainian People have been fighting for democratic values for hundreds of years, always wishing to make their own decisions rather than being overrun by invading forces. It is their democratic wish (to prevent it) that is the main reason why Putin has now invaded Ukraine.

We then heard from Maurice Helfgott (son of Ben Helfgott) on behalf Of World Jewish Relief (WJR) It was set up in the 1930s , involved in 29 countries. They have so far rescued 15,000 Jews from Ukraine and are currently supplying food and medical supplies into Ukraine through 20 countries. They have been involved in registering 1000 UK homes to accept refugees. This is an emergency catastrophe on an

unparalleled scale. The message is for everybody to give, preferably in monetary terms. WJR is the official campaign in the UK for all major charitable organisations.

Comments then opened to Board Members... Major concern as to why UK still has not brought in any actual refugees unlike the rest of Europe. In the UK we are trying to match Ukrainians to similar types. ie Orthodox Jews to Orthodox UK Families. However, concern was raised that we should not discriminate as to what type of person is taken into UK homes. Comment was made that while UK dithers, Israel has already taken in 15,000 Ukrainian Jews and that in the UK UJIA is raising money and in Israel Yad L'olim, for the refugees there.

On other subjects: Great concern was raised about the Amnesty International report on Israel. A suggestion was made that we ask the Charity Commission to condemn Amnesty but this was repudiated by President Marie Van de Zyl. Concern was raised at proposed new immigration procedures by the Government. Concern was again raised of Yachad Membership but Marie made it clear, although a diverse view of Israel they were democratically elected and so will remain as a member of the Board. A Jewish Manifesto has been produced to be provided for local Council Elections. A consequence of the Board censoring JNF has been independent decisions of events at schools involved being cancelled. The next meeting of the BOD will be May 22nd in Manchester.

To finalise, Henry Grunwald (past president) explained the Yom HaShoah event is being held online to remember the Holocaust on April 27th. He stated a Legacy Board will be provided by BOD to all Synagogues to ensure we remember the Holocaust.

Review of Zoom Events

If you missed any of our events, you can catch up with them by visiting **www.choosemosaic.org** and clicking on “what’s on” and “past events”. There are more than 100 recordings to choose from!

An Afternoon with Rabbi Rachel and her Guitar

by Kevin Ziants

On a cold wet Sunday afternoon on 13th February, I was delighted to have been able to attend Rabbi Rachel’s virtual sing-along. Rachel announced herself as being a non-professional singer and this is something she does for fun.



What followed came across as professional and certainly fun with 20 zoom screens being thoroughly entertained. Rachel started off with Hinai Matov Oomanayim, a popular Synagogue classic, that each participant engaged with. This was followed by a series of popular classics.

Not only were we blessed with excellent singing, there were explanations of the history behind each song. Did you know that?

1/ ‘Que Sere Sera’ was originally played in a Hitchcock film.

2/ ‘Hey Jude’, written by Paul McCartney for Julian Lennon, has 19 ‘Na Na Hey Jude’s at the end.

3/ ‘When I’m 64’ was written again by Paul McCartney for his wife at the time and he sang it for Paul Simon when he reached 64, but not for our Rabbi’s recent birthday.

‘Sweet Caroline’ now a popular football chorus, was enthusiastically received with the majority of our virtual rooms with hands up in the air. I was feeling PG soon will come the day when we can actually touch hands to this anthem. The positive side of being virtual was me being muted; all were spared my actual chanting.

I became emotional during Rachel’s beautiful rendition of my mother-in-law’s all-time favourite, Louis Armstrong’s ‘What a Wonderful World’, which appreciated the beauty of our surroundings and bringing different races together. Mabel was in hospital at the time and this brought up her missed presence. Fortunately, she has now been discharged and we

have replayed the whole video recording from our website as if it was live. We also went crazy touching hands to ‘Sweet Caroline’. If you look at past events from our website this is worth a watch for a first or even a second time.

My highlight was ‘Sloop John B’ (a folk song from The Bahamas). It ended up with the tune being sung to the words of ‘Adon Alom’. I felt a rather appropriate theme of “I wanna go home” to the traditional end of service song. Perhaps a tune for one Shabbat?

Here’s hoping the next Rachel sing-along will be with us all in actual person. As announced by me at the end, I am encouraging Rachel to go professional and make herself available for Bar mitzvahs and Weddings with me as her agent. I am still waiting to hear whether this can fit in to her busy rabbinical schedule.

Meet the Journalist Adam LeBor 15th February

by Alex Gerlis

Journalist and author Adam LeBor was interviewed by fellow journalist and author – and Mosaic member – Alex Gerlis.

Adam spoke about his new book, *Dohany Street* – the third in a trilogy of thrillers set in contemporary Budapest. The book has a strong Jewish theme, set on the eve of a visit to Hungary by the Israeli prime minister and against the background of Hungarian collaboration with the Nazis during the Second World War. The plot revolves around an Israeli historian called Eldad Harari who goes missing while investigating what happened to Jewish assets: the investigation is led by a Romani Detective Balthazar Kovacs.

Adam also spoke about his work as a journalist based in Budapest, moving to the city in the early 1990s to cover that part of Europe and staying there until a couple of years ago when he moved back to London. During that time Adam worked for the Independent, The Economist and The Times –



REVIEW OF ZOOM EVENTS

and got married and had two children.

Adam spoke about Jewish life in Budapest, which he described as vibrant with relatively little antisemitism compared to countries in western Europe.

As well as writing a number of works of fiction Adam had also written some notable non-fiction books, including *Hitler's Secret Bankers*, which was shortlisted for the Orwell Prize and the acclaimed *City of Oranges*, about Arab and Jewish coexistence in Jaffa.

Meet Jonathan Bach: 20th February 2022

by Linda Paice



Jonathan has taught science, been a Headteacher in deprived London schools, a Deputy Head at Preston Manor and, more recently, led the only national Orthodox Jewish teacher training establishment to outstanding Ofsted success.

Although Jonathan has never taught in Jewish schools, he has visited at least 40 in the last 6 years!

Jonathan started his presentation with the question "Why does education matter?" A high standard of education for the next generation is essential for all children regardless of background. It is our responsibility to instil a love of learning, knowledge and culture. Education is about developing the whole person and ensuring children develop the resilience and moral character to overcome challenges and to succeed.

"What about Jewish education?" In 1956 there were 5,000 Jewish children in Jewish schools; in 2017/18 there were over 30,000. Most Jewish schools are Orthodox or strictly Orthodox. There are 120 "known" schools which are registered with the DFE and inspected by OFSTED but there are also a number of unregistered schools.

About 67% of Jewish children attend Jewish schools. Jewish schools vary in how much Jewish education they offer - between 10% and 60%. Most Lubavitch schools (in Stamford Hill) probably teach 50% secular subjects and 50% Jewish education. Some Charedi schools do almost no secular teaching - maybe 45 minutes of English or maths at the end of the day! Charedi schools would justify this by arguing that they are teaching national curriculum subjects through Jewish education.

"What are the challenges for education today?" The impact of the pandemic is huge. There are many issues around socialisations and mental health. The NHS became everyone's main focus during the various lockdowns and education, in the eyes of the general public, took a back seat

- but it never stopped! Teachers had to quickly develop new ways of delivering learning online and there was a sense of isolation and low staff morale. Underfunding remains a problem. Jonathan wondered whether children are leaving education with the right skills for today and the future?

There were lots of questions from the audience: "Is Mosaic's Cheder directly impacted by Jewish children attending Jewish schools?" Jonathan admitted it is a challenge for HaMakom. It is hard to persuade parents to get children to come to shul and join the community.

A point was raised about the "lengthy waiting list for referrals to CAMHS"! (children and adolescent mental health service). Jonathan acknowledged the huge increase in mental health issues and the underfunding of services. Jewish schools suffer as much as non-Jewish schools with mental health and safeguarding issues.

There was a comment concerning "lack of funding generally for the arts". Jonathan told us that Preston Manor is a centre for the arts. Many students have extra-curricular music lessons and attend Saturday morning Music School! He also pointed out that, 30 years ago, Jewish students attended Preston Manor but now there are probably none! I know that, when I went to Preston Manor in the late 1960s, there was definitely a Jewish presence!

Thank you, Jonathan, for a thought provoking and insightful presentation.

Meet the Author – Jackie Shulman

by Beverley Ringart

On Sunday 6th March Jane welcomed us all to a Zoom meeting, to hear from Jackie Shulman who, at the age of 74, has published her first novel 'When, If Not Now'?

Jackie thanked Mosaic for the opportunity of talking about her book and explained she had been living in Israel for 43 years and firstly talked about her interest in Mosaic as her husband David is the creator of a website compiling the history of every Jewish community in the world.

She described her book and the reasons why she started to write. Pre covid, her son was struck down with a debilitating illness which has left him needing full time care. Jackie found that the only time she stopped worrying briefly was when she woke during the night, could not go back to sleep, and started thinking about the journeys she and her husband had been on, over the years. She calls this her 'distraction therapy'. She invented characters and stories, wrote everything down in the morning and found after a few months that she had written a book!



The story of the book is about two unlikely characters who meet on their journeys to find the answers to their own perplexing mysteries surrounding a secret life led, and a stolen valuable artefact. Josh is a strictly orthodox Jew and Alistair is a charming, gay, British ex-pat. Their journeys take them on extremely interesting adventures, to totally unexpected destinations.

Jackie went on to explain why she chose to publish her book on Amazon instead of trying for a publisher or self-publishing.

She donates all the proceeds from the sale of the book to an Israeli Charity called ESRA (English Speaking Residents Association). The Charity helps Olim offering many varied activities, and raises money to help people such as Ethiopians and Russians settle in Israel.

The talk was very interesting and you are able to watch it on 'catch up' Zoom Events, and Jackie's book 'When If Not Now' can be purchased at:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B09L1DLZ2Y/ref=om_sw_r_navT_g_K2KG4J1P6TC9VDT6JTWB

Meet the artist Alka Kapoor

by Joan Noble

On Sunday 13th March we had the pleasure, with 30 Zoom screen participants, to follow the personal journey that Alka took into Glass art when at the age of 40 she followed her passion by attending Adult Education classes to master this very specialised skill.



In 2019 she bought her own kiln and tools and learned the many new techniques through YouTube evening classes etc.

Learning important aspects like Health and Safety, such as wearing a dusk mask and eye goggles to meet best practices, she explained how the glass is fired and fused and showed us the many tools, types of glass and techniques that she has mastered. Special cutters, metallic powders, various moulds and Elastoplast are needed along the way. Firing in the kiln is at extremely high temperatures and rising cost which may be done more than once to build the different effects.

The range of colourful objects from Jewellery items to vibrant vases, lanterns, fruit bowls that can also be hanging bird feeders showed her creativity. More recently she has made small hearts to cherish in memory of loved ones lost to Covid. Any leftover glass is recycled to make even more interesting bowls.

We hope to see more of her work in the future at Harrow Open Studios and other local exhibitions. Her work can be seen on Instagram - [alkakapoor_art](#)

Leket Israel, the National Food Bank. Talk by Joseph Gitler, on Tuesday 15 March

by David Leibling



The Israelis love food – think of their breakfast buffets, the huge feasts at weddings. Think of the supermarkets only accepting perfect fruit and vegetables and rejecting the wonky ones. Think of the farmers today unable to export food to Ukraine because of the war. Think of the surplus food available to pass on to the needy via food banks and soup kitchens. That's why Leket was founded in 2003 by Joseph Gitler, a New Yorker who made aliyah in 2000 at the age of 26 and who now chairs the organisation. He started collecting surplus food in his own car and now it is a national charity with 18,000 volunteers collecting 25,000 tons of food a year, providing resources to 250,000 recipients to have 1.7 million hot meals prepared. Leket is a logistics operation collecting the surplus food from farmers, hotels, army camps, storing it and then distributing it. It does not supply direct to the recipients but passes the food on to 300 different agencies to issue, covering all the Israeli communities including Jews, Arabs, Druze and Christian. Now it is using the surplus food to prepare soup, freezing it for up to six months to cope with peaks and troughs in supply and demand. It has strict controls on food hygiene with its own inspectors and donors. Covid has caused some changes – farmers were unable to sell their crops because of reduced demand – people were not going out and social functions were on a much smaller scale so there was less food available to distribute. Leket means "gleanings" and is one of the three Talmudic instructions on the portions of the harvest which the farmer should leave for the benefit of the poor and the stranger, the others being peah (the corners of the field) and shiklah (forgotten produce). Asked about financing of Leket, Joseph explained that two-thirds comes from the diaspora including evangelistic Christians in the US and a third from Israeli donations and corporations. Mosaic Liberal

Review of Zoom Events continues on following page >>

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has contributed from its High Holyday appeal. Leket has now become a beacon for other countries in using waste food and helping food banks and it has won many awards for its work. Leket UK (Charity Number 1126755)

Meet the MJC Rabbinic Team - Deconstructing the Denominations

by Judith Russell



On a very beautiful Sunday afternoon, 20th March, out of curiosity I joined a zoom session called Deconstructing the Denominations. Presenting the session was not one rabbi but four! Unusual in itself. Despite the good weather, there was a very good turnout from the three denominations of Mosaic. The four rabbis were Rabbi Rachel Benjamin (Liberal) Rabbi Kathleen Middleton (Reform) Student Rabbi Anthony Lazaras (Masorti) and Rabbi Anna Wolfson (all three)

Each Rabbi set out to summarise their denomination and I will attempt to summarise the very interesting information they provided us with.

Rabbi Rachel began with the question: What is Liberal Judaism, its beliefs, values and what makes it distinctive? She started with a quote from Affirmations: 'The Liberal Jewish movement was founded in 1902 by Jews committed to the continuation of faith, tradition, practice and ethics in a contemporary setting.' They worked very hard to restore faith in sceptical Jews and Jews who were moving away from Judaism. Over time this developed into Liberal Judaism. Rabbi Rachel went on to explain that Liberal Judaism puts ethics over ritual, truth above tradition, sincerity above conformity and human needs above legal technicalities. A guiding principle of Liberal Judaism is informed choice. Liberal Jews are encouraged to learn and consider and are inspired by the Bible, the Talmud and other works of Jewish Classical Literature. They conscientiously decide which customs still apply or are no longer relevant. She goes on to say Liberal Judaism isn't doing as you like but doing as you ought to do. Two key values are equality and inclusivity, for example men

and women have equal roles in religious life and boys and girls have bar and bat mitzvah at age thirteen in identical ceremonies. Same-sex couples are recognised. Liberal Judaism has a love of Israel and commitment to the state of Israel. Liberal Judaism seeks to balance 4,000 years of Judaism with the modern world.

Rabbi Kathleen started off by saying she is often asked 'What is the difference between Reform and Liberal Judaism as two different expressions of non-orthodox Judaism? She finds it easier to say what Reform Judaism is not by what we do or don't do rather than what Reform Judaism stands for. She said that most people tell her that they joined the Reform movement not because of ideology but for practical reasons, for example men and women sitting together in shul, driving to shul, services easier to understand, to name a few. Therefore, like Liberal Judaism it responds to modernity. She goes on to say that in a post-modern world we have a clash sometimes in our prayer book between divine authority and personal autonomy and a clash between community and the individual. Reform Judaism tries to hold both as two equal truths that constantly develop. Reform Judaism is rooted in a divine imperative who gives commandments. Modern science and knowledge are of equal importance and informed autonomy is of key importance. We appreciate we are part of a Jewish and non-Jewish world. Our core values are that we treasure our traditions and rituals but also treasure equality and inclusivity, Israel is important and Reform Judaism is important in strengthening our Jewish life in the UK. Rabbi Kathleen concluded by saying there are a lot of differences in reform synagogues because of autonomy.

Student Rabbi Anthony is in his fifth year of study at Leo Beck. He grew up in a Liberal community, has worked in the Reform movement and has found his home with Masorti. He says Masorti holds together two very explicitly quite different ideological communities. One is a community which basically thinks the structure of obligation is unbroken. He says we are still obligated human beings when we enter Jewish community but we are also engaged in modernity. We hold liberal values of openness, generosity, inclusivity, people who are put off by hostility to the non-Jewish world. Those who want this balance have found their home in Masorti. There is another community in the UK that are traditional progressive Jews deeply committed to traditional Jewish life - commitment to certain orders and principles, rituals of halachic Judaism. Student Rabbi Anthony goes on to say that Masorti is different from Liberal and Reform in its religious obligation held in text and tradition, an example being 2nd day Rosh Hashanah - preservation of traditional Judaism. Rabbi Lazarus concludes that he believes Masorti Judaism in the post-modern world is held by standards held in text and tradition.

Last but by no means least Rabbi Anna spoke. She explained that she has a unique role within Mosaic. She will be working 25% of the time with Mosaic Liberal and 75% as development Rabbi for all three communities. Her background is Liberal but she has a wide experience with the other denominations. She spoke about the fourth space which is a space within the other denominations which we get to build together along

with people who join the communities. They are Jews who may not know that they can be part of the Jewish community or members who are members on paper but have not found their path to participate. She goes on to say that the fourth space will create a safe space for a wide spectrum of Jews to explore their Jewish life and access points to engage in Jewish community. The fourth space will operate outside the conventional models which is what makes it a little bit different and finally look at ways that the three communities can collaborate together.

I must admit I was totally blown away by these summaries. I don't think I had ever heard anything like this before and these explanations had greatly improved my previously very vague understanding of what the denominations stand for. We were led on to a varied, interesting and quite deep question and answer session. We could have gone on for hours, I am sure, but time was up. The hope is there will be an opportunity to continue this session at some point.

Just in conclusion, I would like to thank all four rabbis and to apologise if I have got any of their points out of context.

Visit to the Wiener Holocaust Library

by Annette E Ashmele

On March 23rd a group of members from Mosaic Reform Synagogue visited the

Wiener Holocaust Library in Russell Square. The visit was organised by Michael Reik, its main purpose being to commemorate and honour the life and work of our late Rabbi Simon Franes and to dedicate to the library two Slovakian torah scroll covers from Mosaic Reform's collection.

The Wiener Holocaust Library is one of the world's leading and most extensive archives on the Holocaust and Nazi era. It is in fact the world's oldest Holocaust archive.

Founded by Dr Alfred Wiener in 1935, the library is dedicated to supporting research, learning, teaching and advocacy about the Holocaust and genocide, their causes and consequences.

The library's unique collection of over one million items includes published and unpublished works, press cuttings, photographs and eyewitness testimony. Our visit began with a talk by Michael on Rabbi Franes' life and work, from the time of his birth in Larissa, Greece, to his working life in Glasgow and then, London. Michael touched on the family's struggle to survive in hiding during the Italian occupation and subsequent Nazi invasion of Greece.



Simon's children Joe and Abi came for the dedication and Joe added some heartfelt words to Michael's testament

The Director of the library, Dr Toby Simpson, then spoke to us about the foundation and history of the library, from the early 1930s to the present day. Documentary evidence has been collected – and still is – to highlight all forms of antisemitism throughout the world. Dr Wiener and his family,

who escaped from Germany to Amsterdam, were themselves deported to Nazi concentration camps. Sadly, his wife did not survive the War, but he and his two daughters did. Once settled in London, Dr Wiener set about collecting testimony on the Holocaust and founded the library.

The talks were followed by a brief tour of the premises: the upper floor houses the library itself. The basement area holds data in digital form, photographs and thousands of personal testimonies covering the Holocaust years. As an example, we were shown photographs of German Jews who fought with the Kaiser, only to be deported to camps in the 1930s and 1940s, where they perished.

The library is open to all visitors and is widely used by students and researchers. The staff are keen to help anyone researching a particular subject or personal family history and they are more than happy to receive any texts or memorabilia dating back to this period in history.

Meet the Photographer, Gary Italiaander

by Lucille Balkin

The programme advertised for this particular Tuesday afternoon, 29th March, was a talk by the renowned photographer, Gary Italiaander, about "Images that have influenced his work". As I usually enjoy the Mosaic Tuesday afternoon meetings I duly tuned into Zoom but was taken by surprise when Jane asked me to write a short piece about this talk for Kehilah, your Shul magazine. I quickly replied that I thought I was exempt from writing articles as I was not a member of Masorti. According to Jane that is no excuse so there I was – "lumbered"!

As it so happens this proved not to be a chore because Gary is a very fluent and interesting speaker.

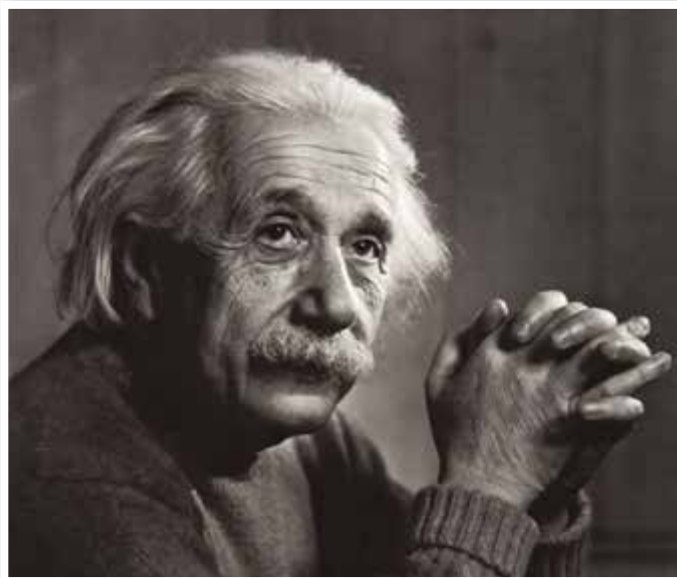
Gary explained that when he thought he was going to take up professional photography he got in touch with many well-known photographers of that time, many of whom were not interested in helping him. However Patrick, Lord Lichfield, the present Queen's cousin, was impressed by the work that Gary had created and presented to him and was extremely helpful to this novice photographer. In return Gary was very impressed and interested in Lord Lichfield's work.

The British photographer, David Hamilton (not "Diddy David the DJ") was a photographer who specialised in soft blurry photos of young women and girls and this interested Gary – the blurry photos not the girls! The works of other

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British photographers such as Lord Snowdon, Cecil Beaton and Marcus Adams were also of interest to this new young photographer. Gary studied

Gary offered to give us another talk about a different aspect of photography. I do hope his offer will be taken up!



Albert Einstein by Yousuf Karsh

works by two American photographers, unknown to me, Irving Penn and Arnold Newman. The former specialised in fashion photography, his work often published in Vogue magazine. The latter specialised in photography that placed well-known people in settings of their places of work but with a twist – an unusual perspective of the place and the person.

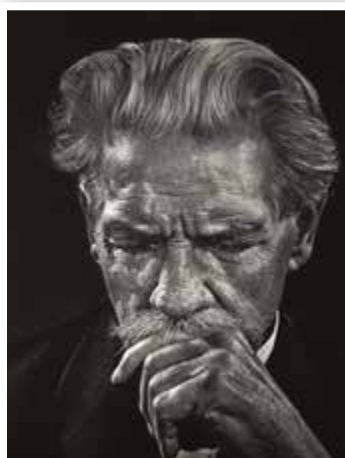
Having asked what a “retrospective” was, I can pass on my knowledge to you.

A retrospective is generally “a look back at events that took place, or works that were reproduced, in the past”. It was at a retrospective at The Barbican that Gary was privileged to meet Yousuf Karsh, better known as Karsh of Ottawa.

Gary began his talk on celebrity photographers by showing us illustrations of the works of the people he mentioned but he ended with illustrations of some of his own works, in particular his portraiture.

Many questions were raised by his talk, one of which was about the lack of female photographers. Perhaps the most famous of female photographers was Annie Leibovitz, the American who specialised in portraits. Gary frankly admitted he was more influenced by the males who dominated this profession.

It did not matter as it was an interesting, fascinating talk illustrated by an eclectic selection of photographs.



Albert Schweitzer by Yousuf Karsh

MEET THE OPINION EDITOR OF HAARETZ

by Pat Zatz



Esther Solomon, the Opinion Editor for Haaretz.com, its English language website and print edition, was interviewed by Steve Levinson via Zoom on 1st March. Having been born, brought up and educated in England, and with degrees from both Cambridge and LSE, she and Paul made aliyah shortly after their wedding in 1998.

As Steve pointed out, Esther’s route to her present job was an unusual one. She has always loved writing, but as Hebrew was not her first language, she first worked for an NGO and then in a strategic consultancy before replying to an advert from Haaretz some 15 years ago. She has since worked her way up to her present position.

Esther described the newspaper as the sole surviving liberal daily in Israel. Its print edition only circulates in Israel. It has a wide online readership throughout the diaspora, 60% in the USA and about 15% in the UK. The paper covers events not only in the Middle East but throughout the Jewish world.

When asked about Israel’s stance on the crisis in Ukraine, Esther replied that Israel is in a very difficult position. There was tremendous popular support for Ukraine, but the state had to be quite careful in its public stance; Syria, Russia’s puppet country, is right on Israel’s border, plus there are large Jewish communities in both Russia and Ukraine. The last thing Israel wanted was to put those communities at greater risk than they were already. There are also, as there are in England, Russian oligarchs who have made large donations to Israeli charitable institutions.


Asked about the post Netanyahu Israeli Government, Esther felt that, although Naftali Bennett was less divisive than his predecessor, encouraging basic respect between the diverse parties, he was possibly further to the right in his politics. For instance, he was not reacting to the increasing number of settler actions against the Palestinians, nor the simmering level of conflict within the occupied territories. However, Esther felt that, despite his daily court appearances on corruption charges, Netanyahu could not be written off yet.

There were a number of questions from the Zoom audience which Esther answered clearly and concisely. However, we never quite found out precisely what an “Opinion Editor” does, particularly on an independent Jewish newspaper.....maybe next time.



Latest photos from Stanmore Hill showing the partitioning tracks going in and beginning to outline the hall space





SAVE A CHILD'S HEART

UN Population Award Winner 2018
EU and UN accredited NGO

Brigitte Levin,
Mosaic Liberal Synagogue,
c/o 2 Field End Road,
Middlesex HA5 2QL

12/1/22

Receipt.

MILS/120122

Dear Brigitte,

Please pass on to the Mosaic community our thanks for the fantastic donation of £1,806 from your Yom Kippur Appeal. As you say in your letter, it will go towards saving the life of a child born with congenital heart disease.

Just a line to say that as Israel now is opening up to tourism, if anyone in the community would like to visit the children's house in Israel, please let me know, I can arrange it and guarantee it will be an experience they won't forget.

Kind regards

David Silverston

David Silverston.
Trustee, Save a Child's Heart UK

COMMITTEE

Ana-Karina Allen
Diane Cohen
Sarah Derrley
Ilana Erlikh
Elana Gabay
Aleksandra Gawlytta
Olivia Geisler
Adam Goldstein
Orly Grushka
Adina Koorlander
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Save a Child's Heart PO Box 74147, London NW3 9WJ Registered Charity No. 1077939
olly@saveachildsheart.com www.saveachildsheart.org

Upcoming Events

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

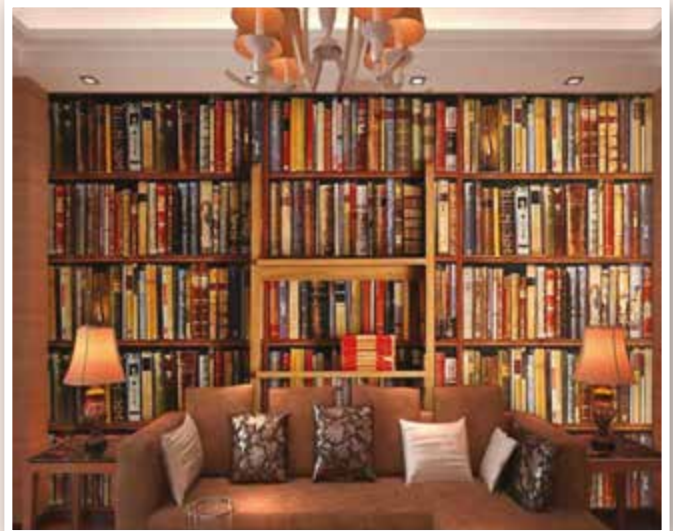
“My Good Read” returns by popular demand

Sunday 10th April - 4.00pm

Please join us at 4.00 pm for another in our popular series, to hear more of our prolific Mosaic readers discussing their 2 book choices.

There will be 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 entertaining afternoon.



Meet the Author – Leigh Russell

Tuesday 12th April
2.30 pm



Join us at 2.30 when Steve Levinson will interview Leigh Russell.

Leigh Russell is the author of 27 novels. Best known for her million selling Geraldine Steel crime series, she has also written psychological thrillers, a dystopian novel (written during lockdown), and a historical novel set in the Jewish ghetto of Venice. Details of her books can be found on <http://leighrussell.co.uk> She is Chair of Judges for the Debut Dagger Award and a Consultant Fellow for the Royal Literary Society.

Woodland Trust Guided Walk & Pesach Picnic

Wednesday 20th April



Join us at 10.30 for a guided walk at Heartwood, St Albans. Heartwood is a vast new forest of more than half a million trees, pockets of ancient woodland, wildflower meadows and fantastic wildlife spotting. We have a special opportunity to be guided around the woods by Woodland Trust volunteers and we will have a bring-your-own Pesach picnic together part way through the walk, finishing with a hopeful sighting of the bluebells in flower.

We will meet at the car park, walk into Sandridge Village, through the orchard, around the arboretum and then head for the picnic table which is a walk of just over 3 miles. After lunch we will head back to the carpark via one of the bluebell woods – just under 1 mile getting back about 1.30pm.

The car park entrance is off the B651, just north of Sandridge. Nearest postcode: AL3 6JB.

Please note, there are no toilets on site, the nearest are about an 8 minute walk from the car park.

This walk is limited to 20 people so please book (via PayPal below) early for a place.

It takes around £200,000 a year to maintain Heartwood Forest, so a suggested donation to join this walk is £5 per person (which we will pass on to the Woodland Trust). Please purchase your ticket via our website or ring the Mosaic Office.



Online Tea Time Quiz

Sunday 24th April 4.00 pm

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



I hold on tight to you and you don't let me loose!"

Katzes of Koln

Tuesday 26th April , 2.30 pm

Join us at 2.30 to hear a family story compiled by 3rd Generation Tony Bruce relating his ancestral history.

His video narrates their lives and fates from 1920's Germany, based on many years of research by German Social worker, Michael Vieten, who became interested in the family and the Holocaust.

Tony is Joan Noble's nephew and Joan and her sister Marion will both participate in the Questions and Answers.

Abstract Expressionism : The Shock of the New by Simone Bloom

Sunday 8th May
5.30 pm (Note new starting time)



Join us at 5.30 pm when Simone will be considering the influence of Kandinsky, Picasso and Miro before focussing on the work of Pollock, De Kooning, Frankenthaler, Krasner, Kline and Rothko.

Above is an extract from a mural Jackson Pollock made in 1943 for Peggy Guggenheim's apartment at East 61st Street, New York: painted in a frenzied all-night session under the influence of alcohol – and jazz!

Abstract Expressionism is a visual language which can be both destructive and creative, personal and universal and in the United States it gave expression to the optimism and uncertainty of the post-war world. In Pollock's words, "Today painters ... can work from within. The modern artist is working with space and time and expressing his feelings rather than illustrating... Painting is self-discovery."

Its genesis was the Second World War exodus of European artists to the U.S.A. and Jackson Pollock was one of a new generation of American artists whose work manifested these influences, and by bringing them to fruition shifted the centre of gravity of the arts to New York.....from Paris where previously the loosening of political constraints, following the Russian Revolution, had liberated a new, completely abstract art form: constructivism - symbolic of the forceful, dynamic modernisation of society - and the fusion of various strands such as cubism, primitivism and surrealism.

Simone Bloom, 2017 Winner of the Pebeo/Cass Art Prize, studied art at Watford College and Chelsea School of Art and architecture at South Bank University and The Bartlett, UCL. She is a practicing architect and lecturer on architecture, art and design and has exhibited her paintings and photography at the Strand Gallery, Camden Arts Centre Gallery, The Peggy Jay Gallery (Burgh House) and other London galleries, and her architectural drawings and models in London, Lisbon and Los Angeles. Simone will be Artist in Residence at The Shard for the last week in May 2022.



Online Tea Time Quiz

Sunday 22nd May 5.30 pm

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



"While I'm Here Doctor"

Tuesday 24th May , 2.30 pm

Join us at 2.30pm for a journey with Dr Brian Posner through the history of the family doctor and also his personal experiences. This will be an informative talk but with many amusing anecdotes.

Brian Posner was educated at Durham University Medical School. He was a GP for 40 years and a Medical Administrator for a further ten years. For much of this time he was Clinical Tutor to Newcastle University and Medical Advisor to Sunderland University. In retirement he lectures on medical subjects and the history of Roman Britain. He chairs Forum, a speaking group at New North London Synagogue. Brian was the English Heritage Guide on Hadrian's Wall for 15 years and led a walking group for more than 20 years.

What's On

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

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

REGULAR EVENTS

Tuesdays at	19.00	"Untangling our Traditions"
		with one of our Rabbis
Wednesdays at	11.00	"Tea & Torah" with one of our Rabbis

APRIL

Saturday 9th		Shabbat Tazria.
Sunday 10th	16.00	My Good Read
Tuesday 12th	14.30	Meet the Author – Leigh Russell
Friday 15th		Erev Pesach
Saturday 16th		1st Day Pesach
	18.30	Communal Seder
Sunday 17th		2nd Day Pesach
Wednesday 20th	10.30	Woodland Walk & Pesach Picnic
Thursday 21st		Erev 7th Day Pesach
Friday 22nd		7th Day Pesach
Saturday 23rd		8th Day Pesach
Sunday 24th	16.00	Mosaic Quiz
Tuesday 26th	14.30	The Katzes of Koln
Thursday 28th		Yom HaShoah
Saturday 30th		Shabbat Acharei Mot

MAY

Sunday 1st	17.30	To be announced
Thursday 5th	19.00	Mosaic Liberal AGM
Saturday 7th		Shabbat Kedoshim. Bar Mitzvah – Chase Vincent
Sunday 8th	17.30	Meet the artist – Simone Bloom
Tuesday 10th	14.30	To be announced
Saturday 14th		Shabbat Emor
Sunday 15th	17.30	To be announced
Saturday 21st		Shabbat Behar
Sunday 22nd	17.30	Mosaic Quiz
Tuesday 24th	14.30	"While I'm here, Doctor"
Saturday 28th		Shabbat Bechukotai
Sunday 29th	17.30	To be announced

JUNE

Saturday 4th		Shabbat Bemidbar
		Erev Shavuot
Sunday 5th		Shavuot – 1st Day
Monday 6th		Shavuot – 2nd Day
Saturday 11th		Shabbat Naso
Wednesday 15th		Kehila copy date
Saturday 18th		Shabbat Beha'alotcha
Saturday 25th		Shabbat Shelach Lecha
Thursday 30th		Kehila Distribution



Happy Birthday in April, May & June to:

Rafael Ashkenazi-Bakes, 11
Jayden Brummell, 11
Talia Ashkenazi-Bakes, 14
Mackensie Mydat, 5
Lennon Mydat, 5
Harrison Rutstein, 15
Phoebe Ellison, 12

Anneliese Franklin, 17
Ezra Buchan, 3
Audrey Jackson-Rauch, 3
Charlie Bright, 15
Benjamin Hipgrave 11
Archie Hipgrave, 13





The Mosaic office
opening hours are:

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

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Email: admin@choosemosaic.org

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chairman@choosemosaic.org

HaMakom (Religion School):

Toria Bacon and Viki Kenton

headteacher@hamakomschool.org.uk

Mosaic Community Care Co-ordinators:
communitycare@choosemosaic.org



Chairman: Adrian Cohen

020-8420 7498

Rabbi: Rabbi Rachel Benjamin

rabbirachel@mosaicliberal.org.uk

Rites and Practices: Kevin Ziants

07841 375458

Liberal Judaism:

020 7580 1663

Undertakers: Kings Funeral

Directors

020 8368 7453 / 07595 956 936



Joint Chairmen:

Edwin Lucas – 07973 312851

Gill Ross – 07428 162473

Burials Officer: Edward Kafka

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JJBS: 020 8989 5252

Rabbi Natasha Mann

rabbinatasha@mosaicmasorti.org.uk



Chairman: Chairman Harry Grant

07836 507807

Hon Secretary:

Caroline Chadwick

07746 718390

Rabbi Kathleen Middleton

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Office is closed)

rabbimiddleton@mosaicreform.org.uk

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www.choosemosaic.org