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The Magazine of the **Mosaic Jewish Community**

July 2022/5782

SUMMER
IS
COMING
SOON



ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Since our last issue

MOSAIC REFORM

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Robin Grainger
Debbie & Ron Alalouff

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Barbara Grant
Mike Winant
Dani Wiseman
Antonia Berger
Delia Russell
Gillian Sanders
Dele Goodman
Veronica Music
Joshua Freeling
Vivien Addinall
Gillian Goldsmith
Marilyn Freeman
Sylvia Berg
Jacqueline Briegal
Marion Cider
Jackie Jacobs
Gill Reik

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Angela & Len Ludwin on their 60th wedding anniversary
Judith & Paul Russell on their 35th wedding anniversary
Joe & Jennifer Schneider on their 25th wedding anniversary

GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOME TO:

Yvonne & Edmund Goldstein
Zella Milstone

CONDOLENCES TO:

David Pollock on the death of his mother, Ann.
Marlene Godfrey on the death of her husband, Harry.
Janet Byrne on the death of her husband, Stanley.
Rachel Young on the death of her husband, Alan.
Eunice Carne on the death of her husband, Stanley.
Lilian Levene on the death of her husband, Nat.

GET WELL WISHES:

Michelle Hart
Lawrence Chadwick
Scott Buchan

MOSAIC LIBERAL

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Janis Grahame & Martin
Leverson

MAZAL TOV:

Congratulations to Hannah Sanderson on her engagement to Adam Withers, and best wishes to them both for their new home. Congratulations also to Hannah's parents, Steven and Danielle Sanderson, and to grandparents Harold and Phyllis Sanderson and Avril Leon.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Jennifer Carter
Amanda Jaffe
Tony Lesser
Olga Rosenbaum
Mimi Rotbart
Helen Sugarman
Graham Trafford
Ursula Warner

THINKING ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Michael Judelson
Sandy Amber
Sylvia Kemp

CONDOLENCES TO:

Louis Davis on the death of his wife, Anne. Condolences also to Jo Drage on the death of her mother
The family and friends of Ron Collins
The family and friends of Victor Golding
The family and friends of

Phyllis Jacobs
The family and friends of Anne Joel
The family and friends of Eva Revesz
The family and friends of Jeffrey Vickers
Phyllis Sanderson on the death of her brother Monty Krimgoltz. Condolences also to Steven Sanderson and Wendi O'Donnell on the death of their uncle.

MOSAIC MASORTI

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Zoe Buchalter
John & Kara Grant
Heather & Howard Eden
Susan Kritz
Joe & Avril Newman
SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:
Sam Charkham
Maisie Balkin
Joe Newman
Edwin Lucas

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Heather & Howard Eden on their 55th wedding anniversary

MAZAL TOV TO:

Sue & Neil Mendoza on the birth of their grandson, Charlie.

CONDOLENCES TO:

Beverley Ezekiel on the death of her mother, Yvonne Braude

Children and Teen birthdays on page 19

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

A Right Royal Interfaith Experience

By Rabbi Kathleen

It does not happen very often that you receive a missive from the Lord Chamberlain, stating that he 'is commanded by the Queen' to invite you to a special event, and when you receive such an invitation, you are probably likely to accept, if only to state your curiosity at what an event would look like.

When the invitation states that it is to attend a National Service of Thanksgiving for Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee at St Paul's Cathedral, you are probably even less likely to decline such a rare and historic event, which probably none of us will ever witness again. So of course, I accepted and felt tremendously honoured to have been asked to officially represent the Jewish community, together with the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and Marie van der Zyl, President of the Board of Deputies.

Unlike Rabbi Mirvis, I did not need to halachically legitimize my presence in a church service with 50 year old Beit Din rulings, mentioned in an article by Cnaan Liphshiz in the Jewish News (4th June): *'most orthodox interpretations of Jewish law conclude that Jews are forbidden to enter churches' because they are 'the site of avoda zara (idol worship)'*



however, it explains 'a ruling from the 1970s by the London Beth Din, the Orthodox rabbinical court [...] allows rabbis to attend Christian religious ceremonies only if the rabbi's presence is requested by the monarch'.

Reform Jews do not regard churches as places of *Avodah Zara* and in fact, as Liphshiz acknowledges, the tradition that did so was already refuted in the 13th century by Rabbi and scholar Menachem ben Solomon Meiri. Moreover, refusing to enter churches on the grounds of them being places of 'idol worship' would do much damage to our interfaith relations, especially for the Chief Rabbi, who is President of the CCJ, the Council of Christians and Jews. And it was particularly the interfaith contacts which made this special service also quite a joy to attend.

Contrary to my expectations, we, the interfaith representatives, or 'World faith Leaders' as we were named in the service, were given a role (we were asked to process in and out to signify the start of the service) and therefore an entirely unexpected prominent place in the cathedral, right at the front, near the dais along with various Christian denominational representatives. It was a

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more prominent place than that of the Prime Minister and his Government!

When later one of the members of our little 'word faith leaders' group made a comment about this to Prince Edward who come to speak with us, he gleefully answered: 'exactly as it should be!'. Indeed, it was very clear that nothing had been done haphazardly, but with the clear message that 'in this place faith came first', and secular leadership, though appreciated, must take a back seat. The Prime Minister, therefore, was invited to read a carefully chosen passage of the New Testament which spoke about doing what is '*pure, commendable and worthy of praise*', in praise of the Queen's steadfast service to this

country, but perhaps also as a critique of his own leadership, a fact which did not escape the listeners.

Yet, of all the overwhelming impressions of that day; the historicity of the moment, the grandeur of the cathedral, the all-encompassing music, the sense of elevation when walking from St Paul's to the reception at the Guildhall cheered on by onlookers, all of which was quite surreal and exhilarating, I was particularly struck by the cordiality, the unity and the sense of purpose, there was among the group of Faith Leaders, and the wider, 2000 strong congregation.

It was a privilege to have been present at that service, and I felt the weight of the Jewish community on my shoulders but, above all, I felt, and I think we all felt, a sense of duty and responsibility; that we had been requested by our Monarch, not just to bask in the glory of all the pomp and ceremony, but to work on establishing better, stronger and more supportive communities, and interfaith relationships and to serve, as the Queen has done so admirably.



Rabbi Kathleen at the Jubilee service.

Photo by Jane Prentice

MARK PHILLIPS, MOSAIC'S CO-CHAIR, RECEIVES A PLATINUM CHAMPION AWARD

St Luke's Hospice issued the following press release:



Our fundraising team recently nominated one of their longstanding volunteers, Mark Phillips, for the Royal Voluntary Service's Platinum Champion Awards and were delighted when he was chosen as one of the 490 Queen's diamond jubilee platinum champions by HRH The Duchess of Cornwall.

Mark has been key in developing our collector training and produced a video to deliver it, helping our collectors to raise 20

times more than others. He does so much for us. He is dedicated, makes a huge difference and always goes the extra mile even returning from holiday and collecting the very same day!

Mark was presented with a specially designed, official Platinum Champions pin and a signed certificate from Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall.

Well done and thank you Mark. We are all very proud of you!

FAREWELL TO RABBI NATASHA

by Gill Ross

It was in February just over three years ago that a joint venture with Masorti Judaism, New London Synagogue and Mosaic Masorti resulted in my flying, as part of the joint Rabbi search team, to Los Angeles for the Rabbinical Assembly's annual interview season.

It was being held at the Ziegler School as the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York was closed for its renovation. With the added bonus of being able to stay with family, my three-day flying visit coincided with terrible rainstorms and I exited the car from the hairiest hour long freeway drive and across the concourse to the venue.

A year early to the 'Zoom' community, I got the extension lead and tablet set up to colleagues in London and, with a local NLS member stepping in with next to no notice, due to a nanny no show emergency, we were off!

So it was that Rabbi Natasha was invited to meet the community and after a gruelling process of tasks and interviews whilst seriously jet lagged, she was confirmed as our Rabbi for 10 Shabbatot each year and High Holidays.

Rabbi Natasha's time with us has been so much richer than a few visits and, whilst no one could foresee the impact of the Global Pandemic and lockdowns on people and communities, the fact that she could minister



to bereaved and isolated members and connect with us through Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat services and weekly tea and chats made a significant difference.

Rabbi Natasha coaxed our musically reticent members into song at the drop of a niggun and who could forget the first timers' service where she shared her sermon in verse. The films we made

in Gary's back garden studio are testament to her commitment to stay in touch even when we couldn't meet in person. When we set up garden High Holiday services and garden Yizkor services Rabbi Natasha added to her lockdown menu of awful tv by learning to blow shofar. Though who could have guessed she'd be doing so against the sound of the Pinner parish bell ringers.

It has been a pleasure to hold our regular management conversations and I know that the many connections she has made in our small community will be valued and friendships also cemented after she moves on. Rabbi Natasha will be continuing at NLS but also focusing on finishing her book on the Minor Prophets and working on other research and writing.

As Rabbi Natasha moves forward, we hope she will hold us in her heart as her first community and we offer thanks and all best wishes for the future.

INTRODUCING

RABBI ANTHONY LAZARUS-MAGRILL

Dear Mosaic Jewish Community,

Since the last edition of Kehillah two exciting things have happened in my life. Firstly, the Academic Board of Leo Baeck College was kind enough to grant me semicha (ordination); and, secondly, I was officially appointed the incoming Rabbi of Mosaic Masorti synagogue. It has been a busy and exciting

few months! Whilst we still wait for the new building, there remain (sadly) many of you I have not had the chance to meet. Hence, I was very happy to accept an invitation to introduce myself here and tell you a bit about my journey to the Rabbinate, and my hopes now that I'm here.

I grew up in Putney, in distant Southwest London. My family are long-term progressive Jews. I grew up regularly attending the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in St John's Wood; some of my earliest memories of synagogue life feature a then recently-ordained Rabbi Kathleen and my aufruf was conducted there by Rabbi Rachel. It's especially exciting, then, to be working with them at Mosaic.

I drifted away from Judaism during my teenage years, largely because I fell in love with English Literature. I pursued that passion



through undergraduate studies, an MPhil, and the beginnings of a PhD. My academic career, though, was happily derailed as I rebuilt my relationship with Judaism. I eventually found working with Jewish communities just infinitely more compelling than research in libraries; I got more and more involved in my university's progressive Jewish society. I had always associated Judaism with

the LJS's cathedralic architecture, grand organ and operatic choir; at university I discovered a Judaism which could be both intense and informal. The Progressive Jewish society mostly comprised Masorti youth movement graduates and I've been involved in the Masorti community ever since.

Through that student minyan, I was introduced to my wife Abigail. I also became close with the university's extraordinary Rabbi-chaplain (who I continue to think of as my 'Rabbi'), through whom I learned about the joys of singing and arguing around a traditional Shabbat table. That Rabbi also introduced me to the joys and struggles of Jewish text. I found my way to *Noam*, the Masorti youth movement, who sent me on my first trip to Israel where I spent a first month at the Conservative

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Yeshiva in Jerusalem. The Conservative Yeshiva is an amazing place; drenched in spiritual and intellectual intensity. They run programmes for all-comers which I would highly recommend. I found myself for the first time swimming, and sometimes drowning, in the Sea of Talmud.

I had grown up feeling rootless in all but the most familiar Jewish spaces but being in Jerusalem for the first time I found my home in a broader Jewish community. Finding my place was hard but felt deeply important. I try to keep that sense of amazement, foreignness and excitement alive. It was during these times that I came to believe that Judaism had the resources to add something of meaning and beauty and intensity to our lives. I still believe that traditional Judaism has the capacity to embrace modern people without compromising their dearest values; to help people feel rooted in their heritage and invested in their tradition. These were lessons I learned most deeply around my Rabbi's Shabbat table at university and in the Beit Midrash of the Conservative Yeshiva.

I applied to study at Leo Baeck College because I knew I wanted to keep studying and learning about Rabbinic culture but after years of living in libraries I was desperate to work with real people and in real communities. As an English student, I had worked in dusty archives trying to dredge up lost work by Modernist poets, like Hart Crane and W.H. Auden. As a Talmud student, I was determined that whatsoever I learned would be actualized and rooted in work with people; offering something to the Jewish community which had given so much to me.

I am just coming to the end of five happy and challenging years at Leo Baeck College. I spent

three years on placement at Wimbledon Reform Synagogue; four years working and teaching at New North London Synagogue; and now one excellent year on a Rabbinic internship at Hatch End Masorti/Mosaic Masorti (these time periods did overlap). Over the pandemic I have worked as a hospital chaplain in Kingston, and healthcare chaplaincy remains a really important element of my work. Most recently, I have been buried in a Rabbinic dissertation on modern Djerban halakha.

I remain a text-nut, always enthusiastic for opportunities to learn with anyone – I'm still looking for a local chevruta, any takers...? Another passion is what Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi called 'Davenology'. I love traditional liturgy, music and chant (*nusach and trop*). I care about making traditional Jewish liturgy available and hospitable to those who, like me, might begin by finding it hostile.

More than text and liturgy, though, I am interested in people. My greatest privilege, in communal and chaplaincy work, has been meeting people at moments of great intensity or difficulty. I believe this communal work begins with making friends and relationships - so I will always try and find time to meet for coffee. Please do drop me a line, whichever of Mosaic's constituent communities you belong to, and I'll be delighted to speak. Find me at rabbianthony@mosaicmasorti.org.uk; or try me at 07803765656.

Make a Difference - The Mosaic Liberal Care Team Needs you!

The Care Team is looking to expand. Everyone is welcome. The wellbeing of our community is crucial so if you have spare time available and are interested in joining the team to help support the welfare of our members and to manage care needs in a holistic way please do get in touch. There is always a need for new befrienders and the Care Team is committed to supporting projects that benefit the community and always needs drivers who can help members access the facilities.



You will find a friendly and welcoming atmosphere and it will be a great opportunity to get to know the wider Mosaic Jewish Community and volunteering can enrich your life.

Please go ahead and pick up the phone or drop me an email. I would be delighted to hear from you!

Angela Peters
Community Care Co-ordinator
Email: angela@choosmosaic.org
Tel: 07435 722600

Mosaic celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee



Call The Midwife – And, Yes, Another Film Story

by Antonia Berger

I read the article about '*Call the Midwife*' by Tony Selman with great interest, as I had a similar experience myself many years ago. The film in question then was '*Sunday Bloody Sunday*', starring Glenda Jackson and Peter Finch, and it was directed by John Schlesinger in 1970. The scene for which I was required, related to a flashback in a bar mitzvah scene - the bar mitzvah boy being played by Peter Finch's character, Daniel Hirsh. I was an extra in the congregation at The New London Synagogue in St. John's Wood. The Rabbi of the shul, Dr Louis Jacobs, insisted that the extras for the bar mitzvah scene had to be genuine congregants and, as we belonged to The New London Synagogue, I joined the queue to participate in the filming.

Having been chosen along with many others, the next stop was the wardrobe department to select costumes from the 1940s. I was fitted out with a floral, belted dress, a little hat and bright red lipstick and looked very different from my usual attire of bell bottoms and a Biba top!

Patience was the order of the day, due to a lot of waiting around. And so I found myself sitting on a bench outside the shul with other congregants also wearing 1940s outfits; the men were dressed in double-breasted suits and trilby hats. To our amusement and gazing at us with curiosity were the passengers in double-decker buses who were passing by and travelling along Abbey Road - (we were not far



from The Beatles EMI Recording Studio).

Eventually, I was called to the ladies' gallery in the shul, where we were directed by Mr. Schlesinger and his formidable film crew. The filming ran on until quite late so I was paid overtime which enabled me to buy a brand new pair of ice skates!

I am not in the final version of the film, due to the editing, and with regret I did not get to meet Peter Finch, who was on the set. Also, I wish I had had a photo taken in 'that outfit', to commemorate a most memorable experience.

Note: when '*Sunday Bloody Sunday*' was released in 1971, it won 5 BAFTA awards including best film of the year.

The Wine Glass

A True Story by Neil Goodman

Monday morning is when I buy my groceries, so with my shopping bag in my pocket, I walk out of my flat down to the car and off to ASDA, my local store.

At the store I collect my basket, not trolley; if I can't get it in my basket, I don't buy it. It helps keep costs down. In the store I move around, picking up items I think I need. After a while I think: 'I fancy a bottle of wine', so round to the wine aisle and select a nice bottle of Liebfraumilch to have with my dinner. Then it occurs to me to buy a glass to drink the wine, so I move to the kitchen area and select a suitable long-stemmed glass, at only 50p: a bargain. All purchases made, I walk to the checkout, put my items on the conveyor belt and watch them slowly move forward. It suddenly occurred to me: what a sad sight it is, watching a single glass move along the conveyor belt with the bottle. My heart sank, momentarily. The cashier scanned the items and I placed them



in my bag, leaving the glass to the end. The cashier wrapped it in tissue paper to protect it while I carried it home. Took my bag to the car, carefully placed it behind the front seat on the floor, not in the boot - things break in the boot - and went home.

Upon reaching my flat, I climbed the stairs, opened the front door, and placed my purchases on the kitchen table. I emptied the bag, putting some items in the cupboard and some, including the wine, in the fridge. Finally, I came to the wine glass. Still intact, I decided to give it a quick wash before I put it away, which I duly did. I then opened the crockery cupboard to put the glass away and what did I see? I had two wine glasses sitting in the cupboard all along; I had forgotten about them! So, my lone glass purchase now had company, my spirits had lifted and to celebrate, I had a cup of tea.

The moral of this story: write a shopping list before you go. Cheers!

ESCAPE FROM KYIV

by Alan Solomon

At the time of writing (early June) the situation in Ukraine, following the unprovoked Russian invasion with its terrible consequences for the population of 41 million, is also extremely worrying for the rest of the world, not least because of concern as to whether the wheat grown in the country can be exported and thus help to feed many other nations. Kyiv has resisted President Putin's initial attempts to take the capital within days, but the situation in the Donbas, the region in south-eastern Ukraine where the invasion has achieved tactical success, remains one of great concern.

For many members of Mosaic Jewish Community, particularly those in Mosaic Liberal, mention of Ukraine and its capital immediately calls to mind our former assistant rabbi, Alex Dukhovny, who has been the Chief Rabbi of the Progressive Jewish Congregations in the country since he moved back there after obtaining his semicha from Leo Baeck College in 1998. During our visit to Israel in May to see our son in Tel Aviv and his family, my wife Janet and I took the opportunity of meeting Alex and his colleague and neighbour, Veniamin Levchenko (the community's consultant on religious matters), who are now living in Haifa. They told us the story of how they were able to leave their homes in Kyiv to obtain refuge in Israel.

The date of 24th February 2022 will forever be imprinted on the minds of all Ukrainians as the date Putin began his "special military operation" to "demilitarise and denazify" their country. Like all residents of the capital,



Rabbi Alex extreme right, Venya next to him. Janet & Alan Solomon, left

Alex and Venya heard the sirens that morning, but weren't sure what they should do. The basement of a nearby building had been bought by an American with the intention of converting the 200 square metres space into a gym, but it was fitted out with beds and wifi. 30 people were living there at first, but this number soon increased to more than 100 including some elderly parents and small children. They stayed there for 10 days but were able to go out in daytime and saw the craters caused by Russian missiles. Alex was able to make a video for the World Union for Progressive Judaism, the organisation which pays his salary.

Following a decision that they would leave Kyiv on 4th March, those members of the congregations who had cars left that day. Alex had been able to organise an evacuation for himself, Venya and others with the support of WUPJ, but was unable to take his books with

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him apart from just one, his Chumash. They were told at 7.00 am that morning that two buses, organised by Jewish agencies in Kyiv, would be leaving for the west of the country at 11.00 am. He and Venya rang 67 people who were to be evacuated with them; they could take only a few possessions with them, and local defence forces were checking all vehicles and documents. Alex and Venya arrived just 20 minutes before the departure time and took the last seats on one of the buses. Each of the 55-seater buses took 97 people, including some new-born babies. At first they didn't know where they were going; the area was under bombardment and the route depended on the state of the roads. Two hours after they left, they were told they were going to Moldova, the small landlocked country to the south-west of Ukraine. There followed an eight-hour journey without any stops as they were told the border would be closed at 10.00 pm that evening. They made it, and that journey was followed by another on a bus that had been waiting for them for 24 hours, which took them to a military base. This lacked showers, hot water and any charging points for their phones, but they were given three meals a day. The evacuees were then given the choice of going to Poland, Romania or Germany, or they could stay in Moldova. But both Alex and Venya hold Israeli passports, so they opted to go to Israel. The flight from Bucharest would have cost over \$1,000, but the Israeli government stepped in to help and on 7th March they flew on an El Al rescue flight, receiving an emotional welcome at Tel Aviv Airport. They decided to go to Haifa; many members of their congregations had settled there, and the sea was an added attraction. But where to stay? And it was expensive! They looked at apartments but

were helped by an ex-Ukrainian who found somewhere for them to stay at a reasonable price.

Alex is in contact from Haifa with many members of the 11 active congregations in the country who are still in Ukraine, with Zoom calls on many different programmes, although not on the political situation. It need hardly be added how difficult life is for those who are still there. In addition to the financial problems, all males under 60 are required for military service. Does Alex propose to return to Ukraine? Yes of course; he described himself as an optimist, and – although happy to be currently living in Israel – he naturally wanted to return home.

For many years we in Mosaic Liberal (formerly Harrow & Wembley Progressive Synagogue) have been financially supporting the Progressive Congregations in Ukraine by donations to "Kyiv Koppers" (an initiative which was the brainchild of the late Rita Asbury), allocations from our annual Yom Kippur Appeal and individual donations by members. Alex again expressed his tremendous gratitude for this support. Venya, his "money man", told us that since December 2020 (the date of his last report) the amount they had received from us totalled over £7,600. This had been spent on various projects including supplements to teachers' salaries, the salary of a para-rabbi in Lviv, computers, medical needs, matzah boxes for the needy, food packages, distributions to the needy during Covid, and payments of \$250 each to 14 particular families or individuals since the start of the invasion. The need for our support is now stronger than ever. If anyone wishes to help our fellow Progressive Jews at this time, please contact me c/o the office. Many thanks.

Don't turn a blind eye to human rights violations, Israeli rabbi tells UK Liberal Jews

by David Keys



The leader of Israel's major rabbinical human rights organisation last week urged British Jewry *"not to look the other way"* when human rights are being violated in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

Rabbi Michael Marmur, the Chair of the Israeli organisation, Rabbis for Human Rights, quoting the Biblical book of Leviticus, told an audience of largely Liberal Jews that people should "not turn a blind eye" to human rights abuses.

"Since 1967, many Palestinians have been under Israeli rule without elementary democratic rights to speak of. These facts need to be addressed. They cannot be ignored or fudged over," he said.

He reminded his audience - including members of 14 Liberal Jewish congregations - how the Book of Leviticus urges people "not to look the other way".

"One cannot ignore difficult facts forever," he told the meeting, organised by the grassroots UK movement, Liberal Jews for Justice in Israel/Palestine (LJJIP).

He described how Rabbis for Human Rights is campaigning for increased economic and social rights in Israel itself and the need to uphold basic human rights on the West Bank, for instance, by helping to protect Palestinians from settler violence.

But he also urged people to look at Israel in

as realistic a way as possible.

Israel is not as *"marvellous and sparkling and faultless, as some of Israel's self-appointed advocates would wish us to believe,"* he said.

But neither is it as "demonic, devilish and terrible, as some of its detractors would have us believe".

"The reality is neither of these caricatured versions," he said.

The meeting, held via Zoom, was also addressed by the Co-Chair of British Friends of Rabbis for Human Rights, Rabbi Alexandra Wright. She explained how RHR is "a non-political, multi-denominational organisation", made up of "rabbis from across the denominational spectrum", including "Orthodox, Masorti, Reform, Liberal and others".

She described how Rabbis for Human Rights "works within Israel to create greater equity for all who are disadvantaged", and how it also reaches out "to help Arab citizens of the Palestinian territories to work their land".

People in the UK can join British Friends of Rabbis for Human Rights - and can also help fund RHR.

A recording of the event can be viewed on the webpage: <http://t.ly/rhr-meeting>

The Bag Ladies

by Joan Noble

A while back a suggestion was made that it would be good to have a facility to hold the Siddur and Chumash during our services, in preference to being on the floor!

The lovely chairs that we use originated at Preston Road Liberal Shul and they will last us still a while, but they have no shelf or holder. So, the challenge was on to solve a problem.



A sample prototype fabric bag was developed between Joan Noble for design and Jeanette Leibling for construction. We were informed that the fabric must be fire resistant and we were fortunate to find a suitable linen fabric.

We sent out a request in Kehila to join a sewing group and we now have a small, dedicated team with Jonquil Nicholls and Linda Baum, who have met over the past few months and got going with the task of making 100+ chair bag book holders.

Each one is unique and made up of geometric

shapes of different sizes and colours lovingly machine stitched. They fit the chairs perfectly and await members of all three communities returning in person to Services in the new building in Stanmore.

We are halfway there, and our efforts are seen in the photograph

Left to Right: Jeanette, Joan, Jonquil, Linda



HaMakom celebrates Lag b'Omer & Yom Ha'atzmaut

It has been a long three years since we have been able to celebrate Lag b'Omer and Yom Ha'atzmaut outside but finally, in May, we returned to King George Park in Bushey to enjoy some fun games, outdoor activities and food.

We were lucky to have the perfect weather; sunshine, blue skies and a light breeze. We started off with some wide games led by our shinshin from Israel, Shachar. And then went

on to make kites using recycled and natural materials. Jonathan, one of our teaching assistants, brought along his stunt kite to fly alongside our, slightly smaller, homemade ones.

We ended the morning with a family picnic and a chance to play on the playground. Thank you to those families who stayed for lunch and a big thank you to Charlie's mum, Alison, for the delicious chocolate brownies.



Jerusalem Post London Conference held at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on March 30th

by Michael Reik

I attended the above conference which was concerned with anti-Semitism worldwide and the current Israeli and world situation.

The Introduction (on Zoom) was by Naftali Bennet, Prime Minister of Israel, who made clear that Israel is a safe haven for all Jews, especially those who have fled from the Ukraine. The next speaker was Ronnie Lauder, President of the World Jewish Congress, who said Israel can expect the same reaction from the world as that provided to Ukraine. Israel will have to defend itself and maybe deal with the Iran threat on its own. He also was most concerned that as 70 per cent of Jews in the Diaspora are not orthodox, it is time Israel accepted we are all one people.

The next generation of Jews will be lost unless Israel considers this.

Next, Lord Davis Wolfson (Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Justice) in conversation made clear that all universities have to accept the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism.. He was pleased to see that Israel was compared by the UK Prime Minister to the US in being an example of Unicorn (High Tech) companies.

We then had a discussion with a worldwide panel on combatting anti-Semitism. The position in the EU is that by the end of 2022 all 27 EU states will have adopted their own strategies. In the US Deborah Lipstadt has started a role as Ambassador at large to



This photograph shows International Speakers discussing the current state of anti-Semitism with Lord John Mann sitting on the right hand side

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combat anti-Semitism. Lord John Mann stated that a new department is being set up to combat anti-Semitism at universities. The German minister against anti-Semitism then confirmed anti-Semitic incidents were rising with 3000 last year. From the Israel perspective anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism. Lord Mann believes international legislation is required against media companies that enable anti-Semitism to persevere on their websites.

We next heard from Ayelet Shaked, Israel Interior Minister, interviewed by Yaakov Katz, Editor of the Jerusalem Post. She expected 50,000 to 100,000 Ukrainian Jews to emigrate in total.

Professor Amir Yaron, Governor of the Bank of Israel, stated that Israel had only contracted by 2.2% under Covid. It was expected to grow by 5% next year. Israel's exposure to Russia/Ukraine is only 1%. Because of their own natural gas Israel has no exposure to energy problems. Inflation (at the end of March) was running at 3%.

The next discussion was with Sylvan Adams on the cultural side of Israel. He is proposing Israel holds the world Cup in 2030 in the Middle East, in Israel, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Israel had three days from Giro Italia (Cycling) in Israel in 2018.

We then had Nir Zuk discussing the problems of cyber war. It is good to have cyber security but you must have suitable people to operate the systems. This was followed by Haim Taub demonstrating how Israel is bringing

clean water to Africa. Israel has reduced the mortality rate of children 4-fold in certain African Communities.

There was a discussion then on Ukraine. WJR and the Israeli Government have been at the borders of Ukraine and Moldova to enable possibly up to 200,000 Jews to leave Ukraine. Food, clothing, medical supplies, a field hospital and ambulances were provided by the Israeli Government quickly after fighting started. It is impossible to predict the future of Jewish life in Ukraine, Russia, and other ex-Soviet satellites.

There is now a 53-billion-Shekel budget for Arab Society in Israel because there are Arabs in the Israeli Government. The Government requested that it be mandatory to teach the Arab language in Israeli Schools.

There followed a session on the Holocaust. Eve Kugler, who has been on nine "March of the Living" marches from Auschwitz to Buchenwald, spoke. She came from Halle in Germany. Caroline Hochnecker, 3rd generation granddaughter of a Nazi SS Officer, spoke of her horror in finding out both her grandparents were involved in concentration camps in Lodz. Her bravery was acknowledged in telling her story. Then Chiune Sugahara's (Righteous Among the Nations) son explained how his father issued transit visas to 2300 Jews in Kaunas to escape the Nazis and go to Shanghai in Japan against Japanese authority's wishes.

Thanks to Jane Prentice

by Edwin Lucas



On behalf of the wider community committee, and as a tiny cog in the wheel, I would like to thank Jane Prentice for all she has done over the Covid period to keep us going and to bring us together as a cohesive group in the community for the community. She has put on so many zoom broadcasts (more than 150) with the help of Stefan and Mark, which have been enjoyed by so many congregants and their friends. In the dark days of Covid, she made a huge difference to Sundays and Tuesdays.

Jane is shy and at a recent committee meeting she said it was not her but the team. Yes, the dedicated and loyal team has contributed loads, but Jane has made it happen. That is despite her having lost both parents during the Covid period. Just listening to Jane, at a recent meeting, her drive and get

up and go, has motivated and inspired many. I have only attended a few zooms and have learnt a great deal and had my eyes opened.

Jane is looking to a new lease of life, post Covid zoom, in our new home on the Hill in Stanmore. She is longing to meet in person and show off the new shul in all its glory. In-person will generate new friendships and will motivate people to get up and get out of their cocoons of comfort. There will however be some zooms over the winter months, so that nobody is left out.

What can we do? What can we do to support Jane and her amazing team? The answer is simple. Contact Jane with new ideas for the new building, as to what you would like to do and participate in.

Lechayim Jane and lechayim to her support team including the techies.

TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF

by Janet Byrne

I joined a book club recently
For something nice to do
To meet like minded people
And find a pastime new

The first book I had to read
I read from cover to cover
I almost knew it off by heart
And couldn't wait to read another

But when I met the group
No one discussed the book
Instead they were all chattering
About the latest look

They talked about their holidays
And their urgent need to diet
Whilst drinking tea and scoffing cakes
How I wished they would be quiet

Some complained about their partners
Others boasted of their lives
Of perfect kids and pristine homes
Just like the Stepford Wives

Then an argument broke out
'Cos someone mentioned Brexit
Remainers yelled, Leavers screamed
And I made a hasty exit

I've left the book club now
And joined the library instead
I may not make new friends there
But at least I'll be well read!



THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

by Bernard Fisherman



The Friendship club is a weekly affair
And a cracking time to be had
With pleasant company, entertainment and a delicious 3 course
meal

It's a super event to make you feel happy and really glad
Maybe strangers at first but not for too long
Getting together for a lung bursting, roof lifting, rousing sing song
Come along and forget your troubles banish doom and gloom
Enjoy a time of exciting agitation

That gives you a feeling of natural invigorating
This over 60's friendship club is for the hale and hearty
So be ready to let your hair down and party, party, party
Last but not least thanks a bunch

To the servers and preparers who never fail to give us all
A tasty, memorable and enjoyable lunch.

Another successful tea party, this time at the home of Linda Holman.

Left to right: Jacqueline Freeman, Jacqueline Briegal, Lilian Levene, Nat Levene, Frances Howard, Angela Peters, Anne Steiner. Also present: Margie Goldman, Jeanette Leibling.

If you haven't yet been invited to one of these delightful tea parties, please contact the Mosaic office on 020-8864 0133 to ask to be included in a future party.



“All Good Things Come to those who wait

by Jane Prentice

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the wonderful Mosaic members who attended, promoted or helped deliver our programme of over 150 social events by Zoom during the past two years. It has been so inspiring to



receive your feedback that this not only helped connect, entertain and even educate us during the pandemic, when we could not meet in person, but also put Mosaic on the map as a community that was both doing things and sharing with others through our inclusive audience approach.

There are too many people to name in person, but, without your enthusiastic support, ideas, IT skills, interviewing, quizzing, planning, phoning, hosting, hustling and generally supporting, and you all know who you are, none of this would have been possible.

The Community Group has decided that we will now stop the regular Sunday and Tuesday afternoon Zoom sessions and recommence planning in-person events, with the occasional Zooms over the winter months. In fact, we have already had a most successful walk at Heartwood in St Albans with the Woodland Trust and a fantastic A Capella concert with

a wonderful group of visiting Yale students. Next up, with publicity in this Kehila, is a Pinner walk with Rachel Kolsky and, very excitingly, we are planning an inaugural and world premiere 'Jazz Psalms for Peace' concert in

November for our new Synagogue.

I am excited about the future, but we really need lots more ideas, and new members from ALL 3 COMMUNITIES to join our group, to ensure that the sum of the parts really does continue making a thriving 'Team Mosaic'. Most of you already have my contact details but, if not, you can also contact me via the office.

Best wishes to all, Jane

Communal Seder

by Jane Lesser

Hello, my name is Jane and my husband is Tony. We are newbies to the Mosaic community; we joined the Mosaic Liberal shul in March this year. We therefore thought it would be a nice idea to attend the communal Seder as a way of getting to meet people in the Mosaic Community. Our son came with us as well. We had the most wonderful evening.

We already know Harry and Barbara Grant and found everyone extremely friendly. We got talking to quite a lot of people from the Reform shul, as well as the Liberal shul of the Mosaic community. The service was not too long and not too short! A lot of people joined in and took turns to read from the Haggadah. There was a lot of laughter and a wonderful atmosphere. I laughed when my son said to me: "You wait ages to find one lady Rabbi and then three come along together!" Our three lovely female rabbis were wonderful in leading the service and encouraging everyone to join in.

The meal was really great. A lot of people had obviously gone to a lot of trouble. My fussy vegetarian son said that what he ate was delicious. High praise indeed and I must agree, it all tasted really good!

Overall, it was a lovely way to be introduced into the events and community activities at Mosaic Community, and we all agreed that we were so pleased we had attended.

Big thanks to everybody who made this event so nice to attend and, as I have said, a lot of people had obviously put in an awful lot of time and hard work, and we would like to say a big thank you from us. We will certainly take part in other communal and social events within

the Mosaic community in future and we would encourage other people to do the same... especially next year's communal Seder, which we will make a point of attending.

Hoping to meet lots more members of this wonderful community very soon!



Photos by Barbara Grant



Board Of Deputies

by Michael Reik

Plenary 22nd May 2022 BOD Board meeting was held in Manchester area as a hybrid meeting with up to 96 people on line.

The President of Manchester Resident Council welcomed the delegates from Bury town hall.

Jonny Weinberg, head of mental health for the Board, spoke on the attack in Manchester at the Manchester Arena in May 2017 (Ariana Grande concert). Then we had one minute silence for the 22 who died in the Attack.

Under the President's statement

(1) A Letter was sent to John MacDonald (ex Labour Party opposition chancellor) who went to a rally on 14th May and spoke to support the Palestinian rally

(2) Delighted at support the Government has given by presenting an anti BDS motion in the Queen's Speech and suitable letter sent to Michael Gove by BOD President.

(3) Commented on Government cutting all ties to NUS, through anti-Semitism being endemic within the NUS movement. Change needs to be made for the NUS to be all inclusive, especially to Jewish students.

(4) A number of points raised by James Harris (a BOD member) who gave concerns that younger deputies under 35 still have no representation on major committees.

Marie (BOD President) confirmed that out of 310 members of the Board 85 are under 35, and 93 are women. She reiterated that the proposal for a Youth Council to be started had so far not taken place.

(5) Concern was raised by Susan Pascoe that the Board has not taken up the matter of Kate Winslet's involvement in the documentary '11 days in May', which distorts the whole process of the war with Hamas in May 2021. Marie confirmed there will shortly be a response.

(6) Concern by Louise Ellman that unfair criticism has taken place of David Hirsch who is an expert on anti-Semitism of the Left wing.

(7) Questions raised with Manchester regional council at anti-Semitic comments from a Bury regional councillor

(8) Robert Festenstein was against having a memorial at Westminster to the Holocaust and believes this should be debated. However, Marie said the Board was in favour and pleased Government is also. However she is not in favour of a debate among deputies. Robert Stone supported Robert Festenstein on the need for a debate. Marie stated if there were 50/60 signatures in favour of a debate then it could go ahead. There was a lot of dissent to her procedures on this matter in the room at Bury town hall.

(9) A request was made that anti-Semitism be

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replaced in terminology as Jew Hatred as recommended by Robert Lauder.

There was a discussion then on New Deputies' Speaker Programme, followed by a number of initial speeches.

Larry Ray of Thanet and District, spoke for first time on his community. He referred to his community having a scroll from Klatovy in the Czech Republic.

(This was of great interest to me as Gill and I visited Klatovy about 15 years ago, together with this Klatovy Scroll where we attended the Bar mitzvah of Richard, the son of my good friend Tom Barth, who wished his son to be Bar mitzvah in the city of his father and where he, Tom, was born. The Bar mitzvah of Richard took place in the Klatovy town hall. We actually attended the wedding of Richard last November (but in the New Forest)

A vote was taken to enable AJEX to change its name to ' The Jewish Military Association ' This was agreed unanimously.

Lancaster and The Lakes community was

voted in, by 61 votes to 1

Amanda Bowman confirmed it was very busy in Defence Division including meeting many Government Ministers such as Dominic Raab, Deputy Prime Minister.

Paul Hart asked what action the Board is taking to arrange for the Home Secretary to meet with Police to take action on behalf of the Stamford Hill Community to protect them against anti-Semitic actions taking place there.

Sandra Teacher was commended for all her time as our professional educational representative at the Board.

Joy Wolfe commented on the criticism of Israel on the killing of the Palestinian Journalist. She felt this was unfair as the Palestinians do not wish to co-operate with Israel in a joint investigation.

PS: During and after the meeting elections took place on line for new representatives to the three divisions, following a few resignations, Defence/ Communities / International

REVIEW OF ZOOM EVENTS

RAHIMA MAHMUT – UK DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD UYGHUR CONGRESS

by Lynne Dorff



We had the privilege of hearing an immensely powerful and personal account of the horrendous situation suffered by the Uyghur people in East Turkmenistan.

Around 3 million Uyghur people are being

held in modern day concentration camps. They are indoctrinated to accept that Islam is a disease, which needs to be cured. Women are the main target, undergoing mass sterilisations and abortions. Every aspect of their religion and cultural practices is banned. Mosques have been demolished, and are being turned into, among other things, public toilets. Children are removed from their parents and put into state run orphanages. Adult forced labour is used to make products, which are sold in the West. 1 in 5 garments are tainted by this slavery.

East Turkmenistan has been renamed by the Chinese, but Rahima refuses to use this. In 1949 the Communist Party (CCP) declared a new ruler and the Red Army took over East Turkmenistan; the country is rich in oil, gas, gold, cotton, and rare minerals. Gradually Han Chinese people were relocated into the area to outnumber the Uyghur, who were then declared to be a threat to the Chinese.

Uyghur people cannot get a passport, are branded 'extremists' and have nowhere to go. They are constantly monitored and made to install a compulsory spyware app on their phones, which controls their movements.

Rahima came from a large family, being one of ten children. They were very religious but also talented musicians, poets and singers. She was warned, from a very early age, not to mention her religion. She attended a Chinese school and went on to university to study petrol-chemical engineering. She did attend various demonstrations, including the one at Tiananmen Square, but left before the massacre. However, she witnessed the brutality inflicted on the young. From 1992-1996 she suffered much discrimination in her work, so she left to become a teacher. She

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REVIEW OF ZOOM EVENTS

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continued to witness more people being arrested and in 2000 came to the UK, leaving her young son with her husband. People were desperate to leave, as even peaceful protests resulted in arrests and killings. By 2009 the Uyghurs were branded as terrorists and by 2016 they were rounded up to be subjected to more controlled surveillance.

In 2013, Rahima was diagnosed with cancer, but her family was unable to travel to the UK to support her. She did contact them via the Chinese Facebook app, but gradually lost contact with all family and friends. When she did manage to contact her eldest brother, asking why she hadn't heard from anyone, her brother said: "they did the right thing" and all contact was lost.

The situation has deteriorated massively over the years with extreme measures of control being implemented, such as DNA checks, voice recognition, ID cards which monitor their every move. Their food is monitored, and they are forced to eat pork.

The USA Government has declared genocide and blacklisted many companies. However, China has immense economic power and what is happening is kept hidden from the world. The Uyghur populations in powerful countries are very small, but we are encouraged to contact our MPs to ask what they are doing about the situation and make our voices heard on social media

If you want to know more about Uyghur genocide, visit the website www.stopuyghurgenocide.uk

'My Good Read'

by Jane Prentice



"My Good Read" returned to our zoom screens on Sunday 10th April with a very interesting, wide variety of book choices from our four Mosaic readers. Many thanks to all who took part.

Judy Silverton:

'The Girl with the Louding Voice' by Abi Dare - Dare's exuberant, moving debut revolves around Adunni; a Nigerian girl regarded as property at the age of fourteen, yet determined to find her 'louding voice' and live a life that she controls.

'The History of Loneliness' by John Boyne Odran Yates enters Clonliffe Seminary in 1972 after his mother informs him that he has a vocation to the priesthood. He goes in, full of ambition and hope, dedicated to his studies and keen to make friends. A novel about blind dogma and moral courage, and about the dark places where the two can meet.

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REVIEW OF ZOOM EVENTS

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Trudy Segal :

'The Doll Factory' by Elizabeth MacNeal

- A young woman's determination to make her way in Victorian London is exploited by both an artist and a taxidermist in this darkly atmospheric period debut about misogyny and ownership.

'Rabbit Hole' by Mark Billingham.

Audacious and original, Billingham's propulsive thriller sees the murder of a man on a psychiatric ward investigated by a detective who is a patient herself.

Karen Pollak:

'The Handshake' by Ella Al-Shamahi -

Written in our DNA, the humble handshake, it turns out, has a rich and surprising history. Ella Al-Shamahi embarks on a funny and fascinating voyage of discovery - from the handshake's origins (at least seven million years ago), all the way to its sudden disappearance in March 2020.

'Thérèse Raquin' by Emile Zola - Thérèse

Raquin tells the story of a young woman, unhappily married to her first cousin by an overbearing aunt, who may seem to be well-intentioned but in many ways is deeply selfish. Thérèse's husband, Camille, is sickly and egocentric and when the opportunity arises, Thérèse embarks on a turbulent and sordidly passionate affair with one of Camille's friends, Laurent.

Paul Zatz :

'In Search of Lost Time' by Marcel

Proust Waking in the small hours, Marcel Proust embarks on a retrospective journey, endeavouring to capture the elusive moments

that shaped his life. A sip of tea and the taste of a madeleine prompt further recollections, and the floodgates of memory open, pouring forth a torrent of vivid reminiscences.

'The Prince of West End Avenue' by Alan

Isler - Winner of the National Jewish Book Award. A youthful tale of geriatric amateur theatrics and one of the most powerful and affecting comedies of modern times.

Meet the Author – Leigh Russell

by Marion Bloom



Leigh Russell has written 27 books to date. This is impressive, even more so when you discover that she has achieved this in the last twelve years. She is Chair of Judges for the Debut Dagger Award and a consultant Fellow for the Royal Literary Society.

Previously an English teacher devoted to the welfare of her students, she began writing novels but realised that she needed to make this a full-time occupation. Steve Levinson,

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REVIEW OF ZOOM EVENTS

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interviewing her in his customary accomplished manner, enquired about the attraction of crime stories. She replied that it combined the ingredients of puzzles, mysteries, and moral compass. The goodies inevitably win in the end and the baddies meet their just desserts, the moral order being restored. All guaranteed to interest the reader and provide a sense of closure in the end.

Her first series of books centred on the character of D. I. Geraldine Steel, but they can be read as stand-alone stories. With her crime novels she concentrates on “why dunnit” rather than “who dunnit”, as she is interested in exploring the mind and motives of a killer, while also showing respect to victims and their families. Many of her books dwell on police procedure. She tries to show the police in a good light but admits that without delays, false turns, misdirection, etc., there would be no book to write.

She has also written a historical novel on a Jewish theme called “Abigail in Venice”, which has interesting similarities to present day events. It relates the story of a Jewish woman fleeing pogroms in Lithuania in the sixteenth century and reaching the Jewish ghetto, where she meets a young printer.

A prolific writer, Leigh Russell stated that many of her books were completed in six months, though they were usually worked out in her head earlier. But “Abigail in Venice” took three years, as it required meticulous research. In fact, the background to all her books was thoroughly researched.

She is a great admirer of Shakespeare and claims he was the greatest crime writer of all. She cites “Hamlet”, “King Lear”, “Macbeth” and even “Romeo and Juliet”, as the story hinged on the murder of Mercutio. It even led to a philosophical

discussion on the corruption of power.

Leigh stated that she was an avid reader, but over the years her energies and time turned to writing, which she adores. She observed that the time may come when she would return to reading instead, but one sensed that that time is still quite far away. The time allotted for this interview ended all too soon and Leigh remarked that there was much more to tell. She felt that she had only just started..... We would all echo the thanks expressed by Jane Prentice for an interesting and eloquent talk.

Mosaic Visit to Heartwood

by Paul Zatz



On 20th April, twenty members of Mosaic met in Heartwood, a new forest acquired by The Woodland Trust in 2008. In the following ten years, the area of over 850 acres was developed, with more than 600,000 new trees planted by an army of volunteers. It is now one of the largest native forests in the country.

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We started our walk with a visit to an area carpeted with huge displays of beautiful native Bluebells: we then walked around for an hour or so, seeing the various types of countryside and stopping to see how new hedges were being laid in the traditional manner. The forest also includes a wide range of wildlife, including 29 species of butterfly and 87 species of bird life.

After the walk, we collected our picnics from the cars and sat in the sunshine in a lovely meadow to eat our lunch before returning home. In addition to the forest, there is a new arboretum with specimens of nearly all the 69 trees and large shrubs native to the UK. All this, almost on our doorstep, at Sandridge- just 3 miles north of St Albans.

We shall return to see how the forest is developing and to enjoy the beautiful countryside in the area. Many thanks to Jane Prentice for organising the trip and to the volunteers from the Woodland Trust who showed us round. You can find access details and further information at heartwood.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Photos provided by Rabbi Rachel

Katzes of Koln

by Joan Noble



On the 26th of April, the day before Yom Ha Shoah, a personal presentation was given by Tony Bruce, nephew of Joan Noble and son of her sister Marion. Tony lives in New York and was captivated by research that revealed the full story of his ancestors, his great grandparents and their siblings who all lived in Cologne and were caught up as victims of the Nazi period. It is an interesting story, researched by a German social worker, Michael Vieten, who spent nearly ten years finding out the true facts of what happened to this family.

As no one had volunteered to do a write-up for Kehila, I have taken it upon myself to fill in the facts and include the subsequent compliments that followed the presentation from the audience.

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REVIEW OF ZOOM EVENTS

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What was not revealed was what intrigued Michael on the path to this research. He lived in a mansion flat above a store in an exclusive part of Cologne and learned from an elderly lady that a Jewish family had lived there many years ago and that the gentleman had committed suicide.

He went to the 'EL DE Documentation Centre' in Cologne and discovered a tape recording together with a family photograph.... family groups of siblings, their wives and children, elegantly dressed, posing around the grandmother - Johanna Katz.

It was left by Harry Katz, Joan and Marion's father, describing all the different family members and what had happened to them. Michael then began his mission to connect with us and other relatives around the world from America, South Africa, Mexico, and Israel and eventually turned this into a book. The photograph features on the front cover of the book and is related in English and German simultaneously. It is titled: "You got hold of me and I couldn't let you go", where he reveals many facts, previously unknown to us, about our family and their lives.

Tony worked for months to make a half hour video presentation with sound, visuals and video, including a visit to Germany with his mum, Marion, to retrace the family history, guided by Michael Vieten.

I received many complimentary comments after the presentation and have included some of them here. In general, people were very pleased to have been invited to share this story with us; it seems to encapsulate ordinary lives upturned by tragedy and how they overcome events with triumph.

It is available on our Mosaic Website : [www.choosmosaic.org/events/past events](http://www.choosmosaic.org/events/past%20events), should you have missed it and want to see this well-presented, moving story.

Responses received.

"Thank you so much for inviting me to watch the video. I arrived a few minutes late but was moved and mesmerised by the work that went into making it, and how skilled to bring to life those lost lives, as well as portray the survival too".

"Apart from watching more TV than ever in my life, to try and comprehend the barbarity in Ukraine, which has made me think so much about WWII. I cannot imagine what it means to see a video like (the one we saw) today, which is not about strangers but one's own family".

"I'm very glad I was able to be with you for this viewing of the video Tony has made - and made excellently. It vividly portrays how a lovely family was destroyed, bit by terrible bit, but thank God not completely, by the Nazis. Just one of so many tragic stories. I was so affected watching it. It is, I feel, really important that he has brought all the information together in this way. Please tell Tony that I was deeply moved and want to congratulate him with all my heart".

"I feel very sad. It is crucial that we never forget".

"Just a word of appreciation to you for hosting

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REVIEW OF ZOOM EVENTS

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this afternoon's presentation and kudos to Tony, who did a sterling job both compering and editing".

"We sat riveted for the full hour. It was a very emotional 60 minutes particularly coming on the eve of Yom Ha Shoah".

"Many thanks for letting us know about this presentation. Tony has done such a professional job in putting the video together and drawing together the various strands of the family's history, thereby personalising the tragedy of the Nazi era".

"It was so well presented and such a moving story! Thank you so much for inviting us to watch it".

Abstract Expressionism, The Shock of the New, with Simone Bloom

by Rosemary Wolfson

The first painting that Simone discussed was Willem De Kooning's *Woman & Bicycle* 1952-3. This colourful, expressive and intentionally brash painting is not abstract. It depicts a woman in the midst of disorderly dress, out of control, with a whiff of misogyny about the work; it shows the female human body having been disassembled then re-assembled, somewhat typical of this art movement.

Art of this movement expressed extreme emotion, as typified by Picasso's very personal



Jackson Pollock
Easter and the Totem
1953



Lew Krasner
Birth 1956

portrait of Dora Maar 1941. It shows her as psychologically imbalanced, looking in two directions – and cubist in its influence.

Kandinsky in his work often showed his interest in music in his semi-abstract paintings. Joan Miro, in his most famous painting, *The Harlequin's Carnival*, 1924-25, is infused with the colour scheme and landscape of his native Catalonia; it is surrealist in its influence.

Although abstract expressionism couldn't be pinned down to a definite era of the 20th century, much of it was involved with the years after World War I, World War II continuing into the 1950s. It was often concerned with the exploration of space and immediacy in portrayal, sometimes in blocks of colour - perhaps typified by Mark Rothko (1903-1970) in his completely abstract studies of the human subconscious mind. In the *Seagram Murals* of 1958, originally commissioned for the restaurant in New York City's Seagram building, Rothko gives an example of his experimentations with a dark palette of reds, brown and blacks.

Some other artists that Simone mentioned at various times during her talk were Malevitch with his interest in revolutionary architecture of the New World, and de Chirico who depicted the illogical world of dreams. Also, Franz Kline, a powerful artist, especially in his showing

of huge abstract black and white objects in space. Lee Krasner, from a Russian orthodox Jewish family, was a lover of jazz and dance. She became involved with Jackson Pollock, whom she eventually married. He came from a poor American farming family; he has become famous for his action painting, showing the creativity of the unconscious. Krasner tried to provide stability to this artist troubled by alcoholism, and thereby allowing him to have the more important career. (Personally I am an admirer of his work, because of its betrayal of inner conflict, if studied carefully, rather than design.)

I found Simone's talk interesting, partly because it was involved with subject matter not usually covered for a non-specialist audience.



and the individual pieces that they sang, in English, Hebrew, Lusoga and a variety of other dialects, making their audience laugh as they explained.

For the uninitiated, "Magevet" apparently means "towel" in Hebrew, but for the reason they chose this name for their A Capella group, I guess you will just have to hear them yourselves!

The repertoire included some beautiful arrangements of familiar texts from Shul services and a rousing Yale Football song in Hebrew punctuated with "dog barks".

The appreciative audience were tapping their feet nodding their heads and singing along under their breath to favourites like "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav".

The applause can only be described as rapturous. Certainly we could have listened for another hour to their melodic, tuneful singing and they left us wanting more. People left feeling joyful and uplifted and the feel-good factor generated by this performance cannot be underestimated.

Huge thanks are due to Jane Prentice and her team of helpers for putting this concert together, for providing refreshments at the start and for heralding the rebirth of Mosaic Community in person, in such a positive way.

Magevet Concert Sunday 29th May at Harrow Rugby Club

by Prue Ruback

Harrow Rugby club was packed with familiar faces from Mosaic community, for the first live, in- person communal event since the pandemic! And what a thrill it was to see so many members of our community in person and what an inspired choice for our first event!

The A Capella group called Magevet comprised 8 young men and 5 young women from Yale University in the USA, all with superb voices and warm expressive personalities. They took turns in introducing both themselves

UPCOMING EVENTS

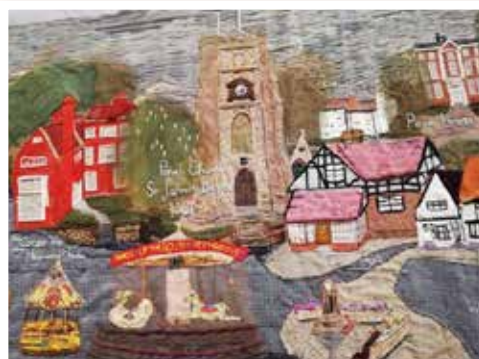
Thursday 25th August 11.00 – 13.00

Perfect Pinner

Walking and Talking Tour with Rachel Kolsky

Seemingly untouched by time, Pinner remains quintessentially Metroland, a 1915 marketing brand for the expanding Metropolitan Line. Discover its background complete with an annual fair in the High Street, a village church, the homes of Ambrose Heal, Horatia Nelson and Ronnie Barker plus a host of memorable film locations and its associations with ice-cream. The tour ends outside the gallery celebrating the work of past resident, William Heath Robinson, and the 150th anniversary of his birth this year.

The walk will start at Pinner tube and end at the Heath Robinson Museum, where you can (independently) visit the wonderful The Humour of William Heath Robinson



exhibition and have coffee or lunch at Daisy's café in the park.

Booking in advance via the website www.choosemosaic.org or call the office on 020-8864 0133 if you don't have internet access.

The cost is £10 per person and will be limited to 20.



Heath Robinson Museum

MOSAIC CALENDAR

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

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

Regular Events

Tuesdays at	10.00	Mosaic Walks (email admin@choosemosaic.org for meeting point)
Tuesdays at	19.00	"Untangling our Traditions" with one of our Rabbis
Wednesdays at	11.00	"Tea and Torah" with one of our Rabbis
Thursdays at	11.00	Mosaic Friendship Club

JULY

Sat 2 nd		Mosaic Liberal/Reform
		– Shabbat Chukkat
		Mosaic Masorti – Shabbat Korach
Sat 9 th		Mosaic Liberal/Reform
		– Shabbat Balak
		Mosaic Masorti – Shabbat Chukkat
Sun 10 th	13.00	Tombstone consecration
		– Adele Saffer (Cheshunt Woodland)
	14.00	Tombstone consecration
		– Pat Kaplan (Cheshunt)
	14.45	Tombstone consecration
		– Helen Weinberg (Cheshunt)
Sat 16 th		Mosaic Liberal/Reform
		– Shabbat Pinchas
		Mosaic Masorti – Shabbat Balak
Sun 17 th		Fast of Tammuz
	14.00	Tombstone consecration
		– Marie & Woolf Heymann
		(Cheshunt Woodland)
	15.00	Tombstone consecration
		– David Martin (Cheshunt)

Sat 23 rd		Mosaic Liberal/Reform
		– Shabbat Mattot
		Mosaic Masorti – Shabbat Pinchas
	16.00	Mosaic Liberal 75th anniversary tea
Sun 24 th	12.30	Tombstone consecration
		– Hilda Tichauer, Edgwarebury Lane
Sat 30 th		Mosaic Liberal/Reform
		– Shabbat Masse
		Mosaic Masorti
		– Shabbat Matot-Masse
Sun 31 st	12.30	Tombstone consecration
		– Maurice Levan.
		Edgwarebury Lane

AUGUST

Sat 6 th		Shabbat Devarim
		Erev Tisha b'Av
Sun 7 th		Tisha b'Av
Wed 10 th		Kehila copy date
Sat 13 th		Shabbat Va'etchanan
Sat 20 th		Shabbat Ekev
Tues 25 th	11.00	Walking tour of Pinner
Sat 25 th		Shabbat Re'eh



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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