



Kehila

The Magazine of the **Mosaic Jewish Community**



Liberal | Masorti | Reform

Pesach 2023/5783



Seder plates, candlesticks and kiddush cup painted by Hana Schlesinger and used for many years at Mosaic Liberal Communal Sederim



Matza cloth embroidered with the Hebrew date 5655 which corresponded to 1894

About Our Members

Since our last issue

Children and teen birthdays on page 34

MOSAIC LIBERAL

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Evelyn Felts
Ruth-Eva Fiegel
Jacky Guter
Kenneth Herman
José Mans
Toni Price
Ilan Schindler
Susan Solomons
Edna Spielmann
Kevin Ziants

MAZAL TOV TO:

Rosemary & Geoff Wolfson on the birth of their grand-daughter, Sarah

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family and friends of Louis Davis
George Vulkan on the death of his wife Mary
The family and friends of Mimi Rotbart
The family and friends of Sheila Freeman

THINKING ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Jackie Kaplan

MOSAIC MASORTI

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Joelle Zane & David Amior
Michael Dashwood
Leigh & Philip Fraylich
Linda & David Allchild
Jill Rousso
Jean & Anthony Allan
Aviva Gardner
Judith & Alan Usiskin
Josianne Zane

MAZAL TOV TO:

Bev & Sass Ezekiel on the marriage of their daughter Abi to Mike

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Michelle Honey
Anthony Alexander
Phil Austin
Howard Smith
Martin Shoffman

MOSAIC REFORM

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Samuel Thompson
Eleanor & Robert Davis

MAZAL TOV TO:

Fred Stern on the birth of his great-grandson, Dylan

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Tony Solomons
Harvey Silver
Michael Harris
Denis Hart
Irene Booth
Sue Shupak

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Sandra & Bernard Fisherman on their 60th anniversary
Marian & Gordon Marks on their 65th anniversary
Diana & William Warren on their 65th anniversary
Doreen & Gerald Wolff on their 50th anniversary

GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOME TO:

Jonelle & Jonathan Roback

THINKING OF THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Marianne Harris

CONDOLENCES TO:

David Fleming on the death of his wife, Felicity
Carole Okin on the death of her husband, Colin
Basil Cohen on the death of his wife, Iris

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Copy date: Mon 12th June

Publication date: Thurs 29th June

Send your articles, pictures, letters, etc to

newsdesk@choosmosaic.org

Questions

by Rabbi Rachel

At Passover, everyone is encouraged to ask questions, to learn from each other and teach each other.

Early in the Seder, when we dip the parsley into salt water, Rabbi Louis Jacobs puts the question, 'What's the karpas doing there?' And then he answers, 'It's there for just that reason – so that we should ask, "What's the karpas doing there?"'

Then the *Mah Nishtanah*, of course, the Four Questions, and the passage of the Four Children are both parts that provide us with a number of questions early in the evening, to be answered in the telling of the Passover story.

In the Torah, we find four references to the conversation between parents and children about the festival of Passover. The Four Children we know so well from our Seder came from the rabbinic imagination, inspired by the manner in which the four children put their questions (or don't, as the case may be) in these biblical texts: Deuteronomy 6:20, Exodus 12:26, 13:14 and 13:8.

I would like to share with you an interesting interpretation of the Four Children from *The Liberated Haggadah: A Passover Celebration for Cultural, Secular and Humanistic Jews* by Rabbi Peter Schweitzer. He begins by commenting that:

'There are four types of children. We will answer each according to his or her ability to listen and comprehend.

'The wise child asks: What does all this mean? This child is philosophical – and also practical. This child wants to know more than just the details of the Seder. She wants to know how the messages of the holiday can shape her identity. She wants to know how to take these lessons and put them into action.

'Say to this child: We welcome your thoughtfulness and commitment. We will guide you to make your mark on the world.

'The rebellious child asks: What does this mean to all of you? This child is oppositional – and also sceptical. This child likes to protest for protest's sake, but he still comes to the table. He wants to appear not to be listening, but he takes in all the lessons. He wants to still belong and his challenges need to be taken seriously.

'Say to this child: We welcome your defiance and independence. We will guide you to find your place among us.

'The innocent child asks: What is this? This child is unschooled – and also open-minded. This child is eager to learn and is hungry for information. She wants knowledge and will direct her own learning by the questions she asks. She wants to deepen her identification and bring new meaning into her life.

'Say to this child: We welcome your enthusiasm and curiosity. We will guide you to find your way.

'Then there is the young child who doesn't know how to

ask. This child is making sounds – and also turns them into words. This child is engaged every moment in the experiences that surround him. He wants to grab hold of everything, make connections and master skills. He wants to be held and embraced with all the protection and love we can give him.

'Say to this child: We welcome your very presence. We will guide you with our love, care and devotion.

'Some say there is also a fifth child who no longer sits at our table. This child has fallen away by attrition and disaffection. This child has been turned away by rejection and disapproval. She is feeling sad and lonely. He is feeling angry and bitter.

'Say to this child: There is always a seat at this table. Please come back to us. We cherish you forever.'

It's such a compassionate, positive, inclusive and affirmative interpretation – far kinder than the original text found in the Haggadah. It encourages us both to ask our questions, and to draw forth questions from others, in a sensitive, gentle way.

At this time of year, our focus is on the Seder, where questions are a central ingredient, but the optimum time for questions in Judaism is all the time. Judah bar Ilai, a second-century sage, deeply impressed a pagan in the marketplace by the radiant expression on his face. When the Rabbi was asked what caused his face to be infused with light, he responded that he is always asking questions, and it is 'the quest for knowledge [that] makes a person's face shine'. (*The Wisdom of Modern Rabbis*, p. 181)

Indeed, you may remember how, in the Torah, at the burning bush, Moses seeks to know and understand God, asking for some clue as to what God's essence is, what God's name is (and he receives the enigmatic response (Exodus 3:14) 'Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh' – 'I am what I am', or 'I will be what I will be'). We learn later that when he descends the mountain after receiving the Torah from God, Moses' face shines, too.

Tradition has it that Elijah, for whom we fill a wine cup, and open the door, at our Seder, will answer all unanswered questions when he returns to announce the arrival of the Messianic Age. Until then... whether at Passover, or at any time in our lives, may we have the courage to ask our questions, and the goodness, kindness and patience to encourage others to ask theirs. And may our questions lead us to wisdom and understanding, to kindness and compassion.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all *Chag Pesach Sameiach* – a very Happy Passover.



Pesach Message

by Rabbi Anthony

We find ourselves now on the other side of Purim: busy Spring cleaning, and anticipating the rush into Pesach. At this time of year, I find myself identifying most strongly with the Mole, in Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*, who:

...had been working very hard all the morning, spring-cleaning his little home. First with brooms, then with dusters; then on ladders and steps and chairs, with a brush and a pail of whitewash; till he had dust in his throat and eyes, and splashes of whitewash all over his black fur, and an aching back and weary arms. Spring was moving in the air above and in the earth below and around him, penetrating even his dark and lowly little house with its spirit of divine discontent and longing. It was small wonder, then, that he suddenly flung down his brush on the floor, said 'Bother!' and 'O blow!' and also 'Hang spring-cleaning!' and bolted out of the house without even waiting to put on his coat. Something up above was calling him imperiously, and he made for the steep little tunnel which answered in his case to the gravelled carriage-drive owned by animals whose residences are nearer to the sun and air. So he scraped and scratched and scrabbled and scrooged and then he scrooged again and scrabbled and scratched and scraped, working busily with his little paws and muttering to himself, 'Up we go! Up we go!' till at last, pop! his snout came out into the sunlight, and he found himself rolling in the warm grass of a great meadow.

And so, Moley identifies exactly the tension of our preparations for Pesach.

Scrabbling around for that half-biscuit at the back of the sofa - just about catching the distant call to join the celebrations of our long-ago liberation mei avdut l'herut; from slavery to freedom. Rummaging around for dust behind the fridge, tempted by the urgent beckoning of Spring with its promises of sunlight, clear skies, and new beginnings.

This is a beautiful time in the religious calendar, delicately balanced in the tension of great fastidiousness and great joy (we wish Chag Sameach v'Kasher) - and we could do worse than to find ourselves, both literally and metaphorically, 'rolling in the warm grass of a great meadow.'

One point of business before I close - would you like to join us, or another shul family, for the upcoming Seder nights? We would love to help everyone find somewhere to celebrate, but are immeasurably helped when people volunteer themselves as happy to be hosted. I'd love to hear from you.

Wishing you all a meaningful Pesach.



standing ovation at the end of the show



MOJO band – Jeremy Sassoon, Flo Moore and Pat Illingworth

**Photos from
MOJO 19th
March**



Mobile phone torchlights waved to 'You've Got a Friend'

Pesach 5783

by Rabbi Kathleen

Pesach is the festival of freedom – in the past years we experienced that yearning for freedom through the series of lockdowns in which our movements and our ability to meet and freely interact with those most dear to us were so severely restricted. What a joy it was then to be celebrating Seder night together, albeit in ‘exile’ from our fantastic new home, which at that time was as yet not finished.

In those difficult Covid years we reflected on the importance for the human soul, our mental health and wellbeing to be free.

Freedom, however, comes in different guises. Although we are free to gather again, we also realize that we live in a world less secure than the world from which we locked ourselves away during that time, one of these insecurities is the cost-of-living crisis, which many of our members feel so acutely today. It has now become our latest restriction on our freedom, for poverty limits choice. The monotony of such restrictions – from being unable to go out, or being restricted in affording any treats, to eating very similar meals to keep costs down or feeling cold all day, affects our mental wellbeing as much as our physical health; food itself can become a source of affliction as we allude to at the beginning of the Pesach Haggadah when we refer to the matza on our table as *lachma anya* ‘bread of affliction’.

At the beginning of the seder we read: *Ha-lachma anya, di achalu avhatana b’ar’a d’Mitzrayim* [...] *kol dich’fin yete v’yechol* ‘This is the bread of affliction that our ancestors ate in the Land of Egypt [...] Let all who are hungry come and eat’. The inherent

contradiction in this passage is also our greatest lesson in freedom. In times of plenty it seems incongruous to invite the hungry to partake of a meal

that consists of ‘*the bread of affliction*’. Do we really want to invite guests to our table to offer them *matza* – the bread of poverty and affliction, don’t we want to offer them a better meal? Indeed, for most of us Pesach is a time in which we pull out all the stops to provide a feast of all the Pesach recipes handed down through the generations.

Yet in times of scarcity this passage becomes one of the most astounding examples of moral freedom: when *matza* is not only the bread of affliction that our ancestors ate, but it stands for our own struggles too to keep ourselves afloat financially and our loved ones fed, the open invitation to come and share our own meagre meal with us, becomes an act of freedom and of dignity, a choice to share when we have so little ourselves, a conscious decision not to become enslaved by our circumstances, but to make those of others a little better.

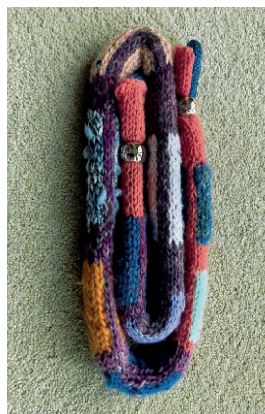
May we all continue to find inspiration and strength in our tradition through these challenging times. *Chag pesach sameach*



A Many-Coloured Rope

by Anne Steiner

A few weeks ago Rabbi Rachel asked me if I could knit a temporary Rope to ensure our Scrolls are securely held in our temporary Ark. As the craft to be used was left to me, I considered knitting, crocheting or simply making a rope out of a suitable fabric. However, I finally came up with the idea of knitting a design based on the ‘lozenge’ shapes from the chair back covers designed by Joan Noble. I also liked the idea of a many-coloured rope with its nod to the word ‘Mosaic’. The photo shows the finish result. Hope you like it.



From Pesach to Shavuot

Rabbi Anna

As you are reading this you are likely just about to celebrate or have just celebrated Pesach. At the end of the second night seder we start to count the Omer. The Omer counts 50 days from the exodus of Egypt to receiving the laws at Sinai, from Pesach to harvest both events celebrated by the festival of Shavuot. Shavuot is one of my favourite festivals, not just because of the copious amounts of cheese and cheesecake we traditionally eat but because of the tradition of all night study. Second Temple sage, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai is said to have established the custom of Tikkun Leil Shabbat although some say that the practice was established in the 16th century by kabbalist Rabbi Isaac Luria. This all-night study is called Tikkun Leil Shavuot. Tikkun means to repair and leil shavuot means the night of Shavuot - so what do we need to repair?

The story goes, according to Midrash, Shir HaShirim Rabbah 1:12:2

Israel slept all that night. The text reads,

"because sleep on Shavuot is sweet and the night is short... God came and found them asleep. God began to approach them with noises. That is what is written "And it was on the third day when it was morning and there were sounds and lightning" (Shemot 19:16)...Rav Yitzchak said: This is what they are criticized for by Yeshaya (50:2)), as it is said, "Why did I come and there is no one, I called and there is no response... that the Israelites overslept on the morning that they were meant to receive Torah".

Therefore, the Tikkun, is repairing the fault of the Israelites who overslept. Whilst we may not believe the Midrash or take

the story literally, there is something wonderful about dedicating a full

night to study on Shavuot. By the late shift, the feeling of community and camaraderie is its own kind of holy. Praying shacharit as the dawn breaks touches the soul in a special way - and while it may be sleep deprivation, that kind of spirituality is one I have only experienced after the night of study at Tikkun Leil Shavuot. This year, all three MJC communities are teaming up with Edgware and Hendon Reform, Elstree Liberal, Radlett Reform and South Bucks Liberal to have a Tikkun Leil Shavuot. We will be hosted at Edgware and Hendon Reform and hope that through the years the tradition will continue, rotating hosts each year. There is a jam packed, Limmud style programme where you can choose to do text study, hear panel speakers, make cheese cake, creative Midrash, movement sessions and the list goes on. Our theme 'Climbing Mountains' will take us through an evening of learning starting with service options at 7pm followed by sessions throughout the night. The event will finish with dawn shacharit from 3.45 - 4.45am. We know some people will jump at the chance to study all night and some will want to be tucked up in bed by 10pm, this event is open for all to come and go as you please, so please do not let an early bedtime stop you joining us. As Pirke avot says, im ein kemach, ein torah, if there is no sustenance there is no Torah (and if there is no Torah there is no sustenance) so there will be food all night. Cannot wait to see many of you there and share in this soul filled night of learning.



Yom Tov Services in April and May

PESACH SERVICES	SYNAGOGUE	TIME	VENUE
Thursday 6 th April - 1 st day	Masorti	09.45	La Halsbury Close
	Reform	10.30	La Halsbury Close
	Liberal	10.45	La Halsbury Close
Communal Seder		18.00	La Halsbury Close
Friday 7 th April - 2 nd day	Masorti	09.45	La Halsbury Close
Wednesday 12 th April - 7 th day	Masorti	09.45	La Halsbury Close
	Reform	10.30	La Halsbury Close
	Liberal	10.45	La Halsbury Close
Thursday 13 th April - 8 th day	Masorti	09.45	La Halsbury Close
Monday 17 th April - Yom HaShoah	Liberal/Reform/Masorti	20.00	La Halsbury Close
Thursday 25 th May - Erev Shavuot Dinner will be provided, please inform us if you would appreciate a Rabbinically supervised meal, and then learning sessions through the evening until a dawn Shacharit at 3.30AM. The theme for the evening's learning is 'Mountains to Climb'.	Liberal/Reform/Masorti	19.00	Edgware & Hendon Reform Synagogue, 118 Stonegrove, Edgware HA8 2AB.
Friday 26 th May - 1 st day Shavuot	Masorti	09.45	La Halsbury Close
	Reform	10.30	La Halsbury Close
	Liberal	10.45	La Halsbury Close
Saturday 27 th May - 2 nd day Shavuot & Shabbat	Masorti	09.45	La Halsbury Close
	Reform	10.30	La Halsbury Close
	Liberal	10.45	La Halsbury Close

Building Community – one fishball at a time!

Reflections on Community

by Gill Ross



Since we moved into Stanmore Hill, it has been my pleasure to stand alongside Caroline Chadwick and all the volunteers helping to get both “Meet and Greet” and Kiddushim ready to share with all of Mosaic Jewish Community on Shabbat, and to help make our religious gatherings warm times of welcome.

In putting together the opportunity to share and celebrate simchas, birthdays or remember loved ones I have had moments of connection which go beyond my flippant headline. When I stand and chat over fruit prep or wish people ‘Shabbat Shalom’ I am beginning to build a joint identity and build relationships beyond my own small space.

When I walk the Kiddush room on slipping out of the service to remove the food coverings I hold the joy of hearing three groups all with voices singing or chanting in prayer and I am touched by our commonality amongst difference. I am moved to see community in action.

I see the busy-ness of small and not-so-small groups using our new home on Tuesdays, when I attend the tots group with my granddaughter, whilst the volunteers cook for the Tuesday lunch club and the walking group drop in for a coffee and chat.

I hear about the “Meet the Author” talks, the book club, the warm space Thursdays, the large-scale events, and Friday night ‘bring and share’ and realise that there is indeed something for everyone.

But community is not a list of events or a shopping list of activities. Community is a deep connection with our fellows made more meaningful by our relationships and recognition of our journeys together, whether new, or of longstanding or short or over long periods of time.

When we are standing filling kiddush glasses I often hear the phrase, “Where are you from?” trying to elicit from which Synagogue a person hails. Many answer, “Oh Pinner”, or “Bushey” but the question returns. “No but where are you from?” I would like to think we might ask “What’s brought you here?” (No, not the dreaded Rota Central!) For that is the question which brings the answers that build understanding and new connections. The answer might be, “The community was there for me in the darkest of times. This is my way to value that care”. It may be, “It’s great to have my simcha and I like how I will be able to pay that forward.” or, “I travel down from out of town to see my elderly mother and I come to shul and like to help out where I can”.

Small nuggets of personal interactions contribute to the richness of both our individual lives and our communal lives, we share joys, we support in loss and we express our purpose through joint endeavours and we are not alone.

To quote Rabbi Nicola Auerbach, “Let’s recognise that God does not show up one day a year in the holy of holies; God shows up when we show up for one another.”

In the spirit of showing up there are many, many opportunities to perform small tasks for each other or engage with small groups beyond the prayerful and in addition to ‘coming to something’. We all recognise that at different times we may be busy or exhausted: working or stretched, but for some of us there are opportunities to show up sometimes.

So, in that spirit here are just a few of the volunteering opportunities which you might be able to support. There are many, many more not mentioned.

- Prepping fruit on Fridays for one hour between 11 am and midday.
- Helping with clear up after events, taking a tablecloth or two home to wash every now and then.
- Help organise one visit to a theatre or place of interest.
- Contribute to a ‘cook in’ for shul events in the shul kitchen.
- Sewing for the aesthetics group.
- Tell us what you’d like and help us to facilitate your/ your family’s communal experience.
- Support the care for groups in the shul with phone calls etc organised by the social support professionals and synagogue welfare groups (subject to welfare checks etc).
- Offer time or expertise related to your professional or working experience.

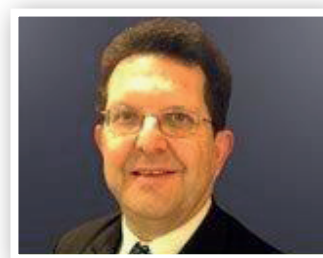
In other words, drop the office an e-mail, subject “volunteering”, let us know what you might be able to offer in terms of time or expertise and we will contact you to set up a conversation with the relevant people.

Just know that we are not just sticking a cocktail stick in a fishball, or washing a tablecloth, we are gathering for a common purpose and in doing so we humbly hope we are showing up.

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” Anne Frank

Extracts from a sermon given by Steven Sanderson of Mosaic Liberal Synagogue on Shabbat Va-era.

(The views expressed are those of the author).



It is traditional at Passover at the Seder table, to place a drop of wine on a serviette as we recite each of the plagues. Each dip of wine signifies one of the ten plagues God sent to persuade the Egyptians to let the Israelites go free.

Whilst there is for most of us today no current desire for an Exodus from this country, with all that has happened here in the past 6 years, in particular, I wonder if we might be experiencing our own contemporary set of 10 plagues. So let me spill another 10 drops of wine.

1) Brexit

Since that fateful vote in June 2016 our country and its economic and political status, has been turned upside down, even more so since we left the European Single Market and the Customs Union at the start of 2021. Economically, latest estimates show the UK to be over 5% smaller as an economy than we would otherwise have been had we not left the EU. And politically, the union of the United Kingdom is now very much at risk, with Scotland demanding independence, and Northern Ireland moving ever closer to the Republic of Ireland.

2) Trump

From Donald Trump's shock election in November 2016, the United States was plunged into political chaos and turmoil, including his disastrous handling of the pandemic, and culminating, after his election defeat in November 2020, in the storming of Congress on January 6th 2021 by a mob incited in Washington DC by Trump himself. And he has not gone away. Despite a potential pile of lawsuits building against him, he has announced his plan to stand for President again in 2024. And given the re-emergence of, for example Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel, who can assume that Trump won't win again?

3) Covid 19

In early 2020 the whole world was turned upside down as the pandemic swept from China to Europe and beyond. Latest official figures are that over 6.7m people have died globally from Covid. As we all know, there was social distancing, mask wearing and lockdowns. But latterly, thank goodness, vaccines have been developed and in record time, thanks to our scientists. However, new variants continue to emerge and the recent opening up of China, and its consequent increase in Covid cases and deaths, mean that the pandemic is far from over.

4) River Pollution

Rivers, streams and freshwater marshes across England,

Wales and Northern Ireland are being devastated by diffuse agricultural pollution and sewage, according to a number of recent reports. Every river in England is polluted and according to the Wildlife Trust, rising pollution levels place 10% of freshwater and wetland species at risk of extinction. The main causes are: excessive use of fertiliser and pesticides, untreated sewage released by water companies, and "run-off" from roads and towns which contains pollutants such as oil. There is little sign this issue is currently being seriously addressed and so is set to continue and perhaps worsen.

5) Russian Invasion of Ukraine

The invasion has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths on both sides. It has caused Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II. About 8 million Ukrainians were displaced within their country by late May, and more than 7.9 million fled the country by 3 January 2023.

The invasion has seen condemnation by many groups and nations. Many countries imposed sanctions on Russia, and on its ally Belarus, affecting the economies of Russia and the world. The International Criminal Court has opened an investigation into crimes against humanity in Ukraine.

As we know, the war is ongoing. We as a community continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and all those who are suffering there.

6) Inflation

Partly as a consequence of the Ukraine war, for the first time for about 30 years we have seen inflation rise in most countries. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the UK increased by 11.1% in October, before falling back slightly. The main drivers have been energy, fuel, and food prices. Inflation is high globally, but the UK is experiencing one of the higher rates among the G7 countries. Moreover, rising energy and food costs have more bearing on the inflation rate experienced by low-income households. Inflation is forecast to fall later this year, but in the meantime everyone, and especially low-income households, are feeling the pinch.

7) Strikes

Partly as a result of the increase in the cost-of-living, nurses, ambulance drivers, mail and railway workers, border control, Highways Agency, DVLA staff, other civil servants and now teachers and university lecturers have all felt it necessary to take industrial action, with junior doctors and firefighters not far behind. More days have been lost to strikes since June than in any six-month period for more than three decades,

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official figures show. More than 1.6m working days have been lost in the UK over the period

8) Climate Change Emergency

Numerous countries have now declared a climate change emergency. This country's climate is becoming warmer, with drier summers and wetter winters. The frequency and intensity of storms, floods, droughts and heatwaves is increasing. The Government has committed to reducing emissions by 50% of 1990 levels by 2025 and to net zero by 2050. But some powerful and well-funded interest groups remain climate change deniers and continue to work against efforts being made. At the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Egypt, a climate loss and damage fund was agreed for the first time, considered a significant achievement. However, a commitment to phase out fossil fuels was not made. The Global Carbon Project reports that carbon emissions in 2022 remain at record levels, with no sign of the decrease that is needed to limit global warming to 1.5 °C.

9) Recession

The UK economy now looks like it may have avoided a recession in 2022 but some commentators have warned that the UK cannot yet "perform a victory lap" despite the better-than-expected performance, as many weaknesses remain in the wider economic picture. Several business groups warned that the economy is likely to suffer over the coming months as higher mortgage rates and the withdrawal of state support for energy bills begin to hit disposable incomes further. That will impact UK businesses across the spectrum.

10) Death of the Queen

On 8 September 2022, Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms, and the longest-reigning British monarch, died of old age at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, at the age of 96. Queen Elizabeth II was a much-loved figure in the United Kingdom and across the world. Using television to deliver her first Christmas broadcast in 1957, the queen emphasised that her role as sovereign

would be one of public service and so it proved. The Queen, a deeply religious woman, served as the head of the Church of England and was also commander-in-chief of Britain's armed forces. She has been succeeded by her eldest son, Charles, who, although likely to be dutiful, has a more mixed past and, arguably a personality likely to attract less affection. And of course, his 2 sons are now literally continents apart. Let's hope for some form of reconciliation ahead of Charles' coronation in May.

The plagues in the Bible are said to have probably lasted about 40 days. from Sunday, February 10 until Friday night, March 22, 1446 BCE. Our modern plagues have so far covered a period of around 61/2 years. The damage to our country and the world is extensive, especially the losses of life in Ukraine and those caused by Covid.

We need a Moses to lead us out of this mess. Will our current leaders be able to step up to the challenge? Could Rishi Sunak take stronger control of his party and improve the fortunes of the country, or will it be Sir Keir Starmer who is able to lead us to better times. Or will we have to wait longer for our modern Moses? Who knows, but whilst we wait for new leadership to emerge, we need to hold fast and stick together as a community as we get through this challenging time. And perhaps also we should pray to God to help us through this period as we do in Psalm 40, which is called "I waited patiently for God" and pray to emerge from these difficult times:

"Steadfastly I have hoped for You, Eternal One;
You turned to me and heard my pleading.
You raised me up from the dark pit;
You saved me from sinking into quicksand.
You steadied my feet on a firm rock;
You prepared my steps.
You put a new song in my mouth:
Praise to You, our God
I am poor, down and out;
Keep me in Your care.
You, my help, my Refuge, my God –
Don't tarry now."

Amen



Purim @ Mosaic



Our New Community Home

Oh how wrong I was and I apologise to any of my fellow team members who may think that I was grumpy at times!

By Philip Silvertown

I was involved from the early days when we saw the architect's outline drawings and I was discussing and sketching storage ideas with Mark Philips over a delicious breakfast at Eastcote House. As the project developed, I could not help myself morphing into the interior designer/architect/furniture designer that I had been for 20 years before starting a teaching career.

My association with Lawrence Chadwick goes years back when we worked in parallel at Jones Lang Wootton on several multi million pound projects. Lawrence was a serious surveyor and project specialist. I tried to fit in with the 'pin striped' traditions but was advised by one of the observant partners to be more expressive in dress and approach to clients.

It worked well and I had years of excellent relationships with stock brokers, bankers and pension scheme managers even interpreting one project design with a combination of Hanna Barbera cartoon and Art Deco styles. The presentation resulted in a very disturbed and pale faced boss who had to accept that the clients preferred my designs to the well-known architects I was in competition with...to the extent that my 5.2 million pound proposal was accepted (the competition's project would have cost 1.75 million pounds).

- *The only thing I had to change was the 6-metre-high canopy supports in the form of bright blue Greek statues!*

I got the reputation for being quite radical and as my middle granddaughter told her headteacher, I was completely



bonkers! It worked for me as away from the institutional work I designed a bedroom for Jackie Kennedy Onassis in her new Regents Park pad and alterations and a roof patio party area for Paul McCartney in Soho Square. He was such a nice down-to-earth man (with Mothercare playpen and soft toys for little Stella in his office). The nice multi-millionaire superstar even made me coffee himself!

Ah well... that was another life. I hated the outside design of the new shul building, it just wasn't a shul and the basic interior was boring. I worked hard with the brilliant Joan Noble to develop décor and other features. I really hope that many of her beautiful designs can be enjoyed by the community in time.

Here's my confession. I thought that we had designed a community centre that would be likely to be used for badminton and zumba and temporarily as prayer spaces and not at all hamischer.

I WAS SO WRONG and having been to the building on several occasions on Shabbat, for films and live entertainment, it just works superbly and has an amazing atmosphere of community and inclusion. I never thought that a soft play area in the hub of the interior would be so infectious!

So I'm an antiquated revisionist twit. I admit it. We should be so proud of what our community has produced and I just love being there especially when there's good scotch whisky at Kiddush.

The readers of the kehila are getting younger these days!

Asher Leigh-Ellis, aged 4.



From Stanmore to Texas

A new home for a Beautiful Italian Torah Cover

By Michael Reik

In April 1997, my wife Gill and I saw a beautiful scroll cover at an antique fair in Antibes in the south of France. We thought this would make a perfect addition to the Jewish Memorabilia at Middlesex New Synagogue. Following a discussion with Rabbi Simon Franes it was agreed that MNS should purchase it from the Rabbi's fund to hang on the wall behind the bimah in the Synagogue. Before purchase I checked with Sotheby's that the price requested of £1200 was reasonable. This was confirmed, so I then met up with the sellers -Charles et Philippe Boucaud - who were now exhibiting at the Antique Fair at the Grosvenor House in London, and we completed the purchase.

The sales description of the cover was: "Torah Mantle, made from velvet with silver threads. Dated 1796, in perfect condition from Northern Italy, end of the eighteenth century."

The cover was framed and hung in the Synagogue, eventually with 7 other scroll covers, until the Synagogue was vacated during lockdown.

The cover had some interesting copy in Hebrew (translated by Rabbi Kathleen) as follows: "This has been donated by the



honourable Leib Katzen, son of the holy Rabbi Moshe and his wife Hinde in honour of Auriol Hendler, son of Rab Katriel and his mother-in-law a woman of sevenfold and the souls of his father and mother, a woman of life and his brother, the holy Rabbi Meir and the souls of his father in law and the soul of the woman Golde. May their souls be bound up in the bundle of life."

A decision was taken by the Mosaic Reform management that the Torah cover be sold as it would not be suitable to be displayed in the new synagogue building in Stanmore. I was asked to obtain a buyer. I contacted the London Office of Sotheby's who advised me the next sale of Antique Judaica would be in New York. This turned out to be on the 16th of June 2022.

With the help of Jeanette Leibling we removed the scroll cover from its frame and packed it very carefully to send direct to Sotheby's warehouse in New York.

The Scroll Cover sold as lot 60 for a net price after commission of \$9400, a healthy sum for Mosaic. The cover has a new home in the Judaica Section of the Houston, Texas Art Museum.

Mosaic Culture Hub Walk

The inaugural Mosaic Culture hub walk led by London Blue Badge Guide Steve Levinson took place on Monday, March 13. A warm and bracing route took in every London road, rail and footbridge from the Tower to Charing Cross along with dozens of riverside landmarks.

There were fascinating stories, including the bus that jumped over Tower Bridge, why London Bridge fell down, and the poisoned umbrella murder.

PS the next walk is Monday 17th April at 10.30. Starts at Emperor Trajan statue by Tower Hill station underground exit. It heads east through St Katherine's dock and Wapping for a route which has a fascinating history of pirates, pubs and executions as well as a fair number of celebrity homes.



Shabbat Shira at Mosaic

by David Pollak

On 18 February, after a 3 year absence, Shabbat Shira, the Family Friendly Shabbat Service, made a welcome return to Mosaic Jewish Community.

Led by Rabbi Kathleen and David Pollak, the service has been revised since 2020 and a new prayer booklet was issued to the more than 30 young people ranging in ages from 0 to 80.



be in bed” to be replaced by “this is good and when can we come again”.

Well, come again they will as we plan to hold Shabbat Shira every month, the next services scheduled for 22 April, 20 May, 17 June and 15 July. Further dates will be published in Kehila and can be found on the Mosaic website and the weekly newsletters.

All children and families participate throughout the service which lasts about 75 minutes. A feeling of togetherness is no better demonstrated than when everyone under the age of 13 is encouraged to stand under the tallith for the priestly blessing which we sing together – and let it be God’s Will – Amen.



As the name indicates, the service is largely sung and the music relies more on contemporary tunes rather than the more traditional melodies heard in the weekly services of the three communities. Singing is accompanied by guitars, led by David but on this occasion, ably supported by three generations of the Family Noble playing bass guitar, rhythm guitar and banjo. In addition, we heard the flute, tambourines and a selection of percussion instruments all of which added up to an uplifting and joyous service.

A torah reading was given a down-to-earth and easy to understand explanation by Rabbi Kathleen and prompted several questions and comments from enquiring young minds. It was encouraging to see young people arrive with expressions that said “I want to



From the Head Teachers, Torla & Viki

It was very exciting at the end of November when HaMakom began to run from the new building in Stanmore. And, although we are still learning how to get the best out of the space, it already feels like home. For our first morning there we invited all parents to attend with their children, so that we could show everyone around, get the children accustomed to learning and socialising in the new environment and updating the security training for all the adults involved in keeping everyone at HaMakom safe and secure. A big thank you to Daniel Brown for leading a very informative and useful security training session that morning.

In December we celebrated Chanukah by decorating our own dreidels and using them in a whole school dreidel tournament. We invited parents to join us towards the end of the morning for a delicious, although maybe not the healthiest of lunches - pizza and doughnuts. We do really enjoy it when we can all get together and value these times more than ever after the last couple of socially distanced years.

More recently we marked the festival of Tu B'Shevat with a lovely seder, led by Rabbi Naomi. The tables were beautifully laid by our trainee assistants Charlotte, Daniella and Pippa with a variety of fruit, grape juices and a little chocolate on the side. The children read poems, sang songs, recited blessings and listened to stories. Thank you to Maya and Abi's Mum, Danielle for all her help preparing the fruit!

Our latest whole school event involved a Purim celebration



with hamentashen made by our B'nei Mitzvah class, mask making, face painting, basket weaving for mishloach manot and acting out the story of Esther.

This term the children have also been very involved with tzedakah and have been raising money. They dressed in blue for Jewish Blueish, bringing in a pound donation. And then the KT class made a delicious selection of cakes and sold them raising money for the DEC Turkish/ Syria appeal and Water Aid. We are very proud of all their efforts and so far they have raised over £75.

KNIT AND NATTER

Come along to our new Knit and Natter and Crochet and Kibbitz group. An opportunity to share this fulfilling hobby with others, make new friends and enjoy tea and biscuits in a welcoming atmosphere. Suitable for all ages and all levels.

When?

The last Wednesday of each month,
starting on Wednesday 3rd May.
10.30am – 12.30pm

For further information:

Email Angela Peters, Community Care Co-ordinator angela@choosemosaic.org.uk or call 020 8864-0133.



Ask the Rabbi: Two Days of Yom Tov? A Masorti View and a Reform View

Rabbi Anthony gives a Masorti Answer

I'm often asked about the obligations of 2nd day Yom Tov. Whilst observance remains very much the norm amongst Masorti Rabbis, shul attendance suggests that our psak is, perhaps, being more honoured in the breach.

This Yom Tov Sheni shel Galuyot - the second day of festivals for the diaspora - was instituted some two thousand years ago to mitigate for the dispersed Jewish community's inability collectively to establish precise dates for festivals. Since the Jewish calendar was orientated around the lunar cycle as observed in Jerusalem, communities further from Jerusalem would not have been up to date on whether the court there had sanctified the New Moon and brought in a new month. Hence, sensibly, the observance of festivals was split over two days to ensure that at least one of those days could coincide with proper Yerushalmi observance. By the fourth century, though, the Jewish calendar had been regulated and fixed, the great Sanhedrin dispersed, and that old method of setting the calendar based on witness testimony abrogated. This should have been the end of the story, since it was at this point that the original basis for the second day of Yom Tov was gone.

And yet... the observance of Yom Tov Sheini persisted for three principal reasons. Firstly, the Rabbis always valued maintaining the traditions of earlier generations, even if they no longer seemed entirely rational. Secondly, the Jewish custom is that we ascend, but do not descend, in holiness (ma'alin biKedusha, v'ein Moridin): to observe two days of Yom Tov is to transform a day of chol - a workaday, average day of no particular significance - into a day of chag, of celebration, of sanctity, of candles and kiddush and festive meals. To desanctify that second day, by contrast, is to transform a day of holiness, synagogue, and joy into just another day of the week. Thirdly, certain Zionist Rabbis have held that the Yom Tov Sheini's difficulties - the exertion required to keep those extra days of chag - should be a kind of encouragement to make all of us exiles yearn for Zion.

Anti-2nd day-ers have argued that, now there is no longer any doubt about when the calendar settles, the grounds for this observance have fallen away. This reasoning is partially sound; but, I think, quite undermined because the Talmudic Rabbis who instituted the 2nd day already had the same fixed calendar which we use. The later Rabbis of the Talmud actively wanted two days of chag, and the calendrical uncertainty was just an antiquated excuse. After all, they reasoned, why would



we descend in holiness and not ascend? And if we are to start annulling religious practices based on what is and isn't reasonable, the thing would have no end!

Another anti-2nd day argument has been that, because people are unwilling to engage with so many consecutive days of chag, they will not engage with the holiday at all. Connected to this has been an economic argument: Jews simply cannot be expected to extract themselves from the workplace for twenty Yamim Tovim a year. But don't most Jews who find 2 days too much just decide only to turn up for one? After all, we are always free to disengage, or even protest, in the time-honoured manner of the Jews who reject a certain obligation - by not coming to shul!

I must confess, I highly appreciate my two days of Yom Tov. All year my smartphone is my enemy: it buzzes and buzzes and gives me no peace. I hear the call of the Television. Distant family demanding to be visited. Work calls and meetings and meetings about meetings. Best of all, then, are those happy occasions (like this coming Pesach) when Shabbat rubs up against a 2 day Yom Tov and we get 3 days of quiet: to read, to shluff, to eat too much, to schmooze with friends and family at shul. It's easier for me in that, unsurprisingly, I quite like going to shul - but I've got to say, even if you don't I'd still recommend keeping 2 days of Yom Tov in some form, if just to experience life without technology's perpetual nudging at our attention. If you think you might be up for the challenge - 2nd Day Pesach is Friday 7th April and I'll see you there!

Rabbi Kathleen Gives A Reform Answer

Just as Rabbi Anthony is often asked about the obligations of 2nd Day Yom Tov - Yom Tov Sheni shel Galuyot, so I am often asked why Reform and Liberal Jews do not keep them.

Yom Tov Sheni shel Galuyot was, as Rabbi Anthony already explained, instituted at a time when the calendar was still set by the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem through the observation of the moon. Since communities further away than a twelve days' journey by horseback, would not know whether the Sanhedrin would have declared the 30th or the 31st day of the passing month to be Rosh Hodesh, there would be a doubt, when it came to the celebration of Pesach and Sukkot, for example, which day was the 15th of the new month, on which it should be celebrated. Therefore, they observed two days of the festival, instead of the one prescribed by the Torah, to ensure at least one of them would



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be on the correct date.

However, already in Talmudic times the calendar was being calculated mathematically rather than by moon sighting. This was a more accurate method and thus the Rabbis discussed whether Diaspora Jews should return to the biblical law. They ruled that Diaspora communities must retain their custom (minhag), lest a hostile government might arise which would forbid Jews from studying the Torah and they might forget how to calculate the calendar. (Tb Beitza 4b)

This Talmudic rationale for retaining 2nd Day Yom Tov seems nowadays to have been overtaken by the fact that the calculation of the calendar is no longer a particularly Jewish practice, that a 'hostile government' might proscribe as being 'Torah'. Reform Jews, reject the notion that we are bound by Rabbinic decrees of which the reasons no longer exist. This is even more the case when there already is rabbinic dispute about the category of this Rabbinic decree itself. Whilst some Rabbis argue that it is a takanah, which according to

Halakhah, cannot be cancelled until an equally authoritative Bet Din cancels it, other authorities, Moses Maimonides for example, (Hilkhoh Yom Tov 1:21, 6: 14, Hilkhoh Talmud Torah 6: 14) argue that it is only a minhag; a custom which, even according to halacha can be revoked.

Another reason for discontinuing the practice of 2nd Day Yom Tov is that celebrating the festivals in the diaspora exactly as they do in Israel encourages connection with Israel itself and ensures that there will be no times that our lectionary cycle of the Torah is ever out of sync with that of our brothers and sister in Israel.

Finally, Reform rabbis argued that the observance of second day Yom Tov might in certain cases lead to economic hardship for those who struggle to take extra time off, a matter which, of course, we would like to avoid at all costs, therefore Reform and Liberal Jews adhere to the original biblical command of one day Yom Tov as they observe in Israel.

An Evening with Rob Rinder MBE

by Neil Goodman

After making connections with the local shul, I was fortunate enough to get an invitation from the 'The Belfast Jewish Community' to attend an evening with Rob Rinder, judge, 'Strictly Come Dancing' and 'Who do you think you are' participant to talk about MDA.

For those who are unaware of what MDA is, as I was, it is Magen David Adom, Red Star of David. MDA is Israel's national medical emergency service and the nation's affiliate to the International Red Cross movement.

MDA staff and volunteers come from all sections of Israel society, including Jews, Christians, Muslims and Druze. It is the largest volunteer organisation in Israel. Although officially recognised by the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, it is not state funded.

In addition to the work they do in Israel, MDA carry out



humanitarian work across the globe. Today MDA teams are saving lives in Ukraine and Turkey. They go wherever they are needed.

Rob told us about new hi-tech ambulances where paramedics can perform operations over the internet while on the move and the largest underground blood bank in the world.

The floor was then open for a lively Q and A session.

For lighter relief we were treated to a mini concert given by local soprano Mary McCabe who gave us songs by Offenbach, George Gershwin and a

medley from Fiddler on the Roof. If you ever get a chance, you must hear this singer, her voice is phenomenal.

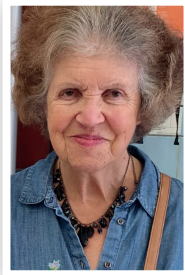
Also in the audience of about 150, were dignitaries from many other local religions and an appearance by Arlene Foster, former DUP leader and member of the House of Lords.

After tea and biscuits and a donation, I left smiling and spiritually satisfied.

Freedom

by Rosemary Wolfson

The Red Sea is parted
with a roaring of waves,
with fish flung into the air,
with seabirds cackling above:
for one glorious short time
the Fea's Petrels birds of Israel
do not swoop upon the
Roving Coralgroupers of
The Red Sea;
for a short time
the fish have freedom
from expiry,
although the birds are
very, very hungry!
After all,
Moses, the greatest of leaders
whom the women, and
the men too, hold in well
deserved respect,
has been brought up
within a regime of
traditional princely duties.



If a monument is
to be made to this glorious
moment in time, there would
be no memorial of the Hebrews'
cruel past in Egypt, and no aftermath
of Egyptians drowning at Pharaoh's
command, but just a commemoration to
this greatest of men raising his staff -
the symbolic father, with
his people behind him.
The sea waves
could be made of
pure white marble, black skinned,
with spider web veins,
and the bubble foam would be
jettisoned into the air as a backdrop
to the graceful birds in flight,
without for this one time, their
instant gratification of feasting
on the fish of the sea.



I didn't plan it to write it to Janet

by Bernard Fisherman

It makes me sweat and seethe and churn
And constantly think who is this lady Janet Byrne
Her regular offerings of all types of verse
Are always so good, a curse, a curse
I read them once then read them twice
They are just so well rewritten and jolly nice
I can't compete with such glorious work
Should I take up knitting instead
No, I'll keep plodding on and search for
More words that lurk in my hairless head
It's not a competition I know but I really enjoy
What Janet has written
But if it gets really better and better
I'll seriously think about taking up knitting
Thank you so much for your poetic treasure
It gives me long lasting memories
And relieves much of life's daunting pressure.

Ode To John Keats

by Philip Levy



For many months I tried to write an ode
But wasted many hours completing part
I lacked the brains and almost gave up heart
To write in such an esoteric mode.

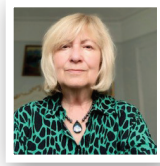
I tried to exploit every cunning plan
I watched in horror at the passing time
But when I got my doggerel to rhyme
I couldn't get the bloody thing to scan

Oh dear, thought I, an awful situation
How would John Keats have ended this short verse?
Whatever he'd have done, I've done far worse
And then I got a flash of inspiration.

This page will soon have 14 lines upon it.
I'll leave it there. And lo, I've done a sonnet.

Done And Dusted

by Janet Byrne



'Don't put off until tomorrow
What you can do today'
That's a well-known saying
But a thought I'd pushed away
Until there was no choice
It was time for us to move
Though I knew it would be hard
As indeed it proved

With dusters, cloths and large black sacks
I got myself prepared
And started in the spare room
So crammed full that I despaired
The dusty shelf right at the top
Was filled with children's toys
Everything they'd played with
As little girls and boys

There were Dinky cars galore
Amongst the Lego sets
Water pistols and toy guns
And a plastic alphabet
The second box up on the shelf
Contained all sorts of dolls
Plus a tattered comfort blanket
Now with many holes

The last box I uncovered
Was full of birthday cards
Photographs and school reports
Reminders of the past
I put them to one side
As I brushed away the tears
It seemed like only yesterday
But it had been many years

Each box recalled the memories
Of both happy times and sad
Of the family together
And all the fun we'd had
But now the day had come
To dispose of all these things
I slowly placed them in the sacks
And cut the apron strings

Music for Memory

by Kevin Ziants



At Bessborough Road I used to take my mother-in-law Mabel there before the lockdown that changed all our ways of being.

Unfortunately, Mabel was not well enough to attend this time, but I was determined to. I'm so glad I did. I had some minor stresses beforehand. As soon as I was reacquainted with the facilitator Esther Whyatt, my mindset shifted positively.

There were many sing-a-long tunes that engaged the whole group, I noted especially Rabbis Anna and Rachel. A standout moment was the song "I'm Getting Married In The Morning" with the words changed to "get me to the shul on time"

After the Louis Armstrong song "What A Wonderful World", Mabel's favourite, my thoughts turned to previous regulars who are sadly no longer with us or unable to attend due to ill health.

I was able to refocus on the joy of the occasion when musical instruments were handed out and there was a song and a dance to some good old time musical favourites.

There was again a tad of emotion when we concluded with Vera Lynn's classic "We'll Meet Again". I was strengthened by thinking PG this wonderful gathering will now be held next month, not in three years' time.

This event is open to anyone, regardless of their medical condition, for the benefit of mind, body and soul. I left the building feeling totally uplifted.

On Thursday 23rd February, I was delighted to attend the Mosaic Community Event, Music For Memory, reintroduced for the first time since February 2020.



Music for memory is a supportive and friendly therapeutic singing group for people who are experiencing memory loss and associated difficulties.

Our professional, highly experienced facilitator will lead everyone in singing well-loved classics which are sure to uplift and bring smiles and laughter to all. Each session starts with a half-hour of social time and refreshments.

You are welcome to come on your own or together with a family member or supportive friend.

These sessions will continue on the last Thursday of each month from 11:00 to 12:30.

To register please contact Angela Peters, Community Care Co-ordinator. angela@choosmosaic.org

There is always hope:

A Mosaic Evening with Jonny Benjamin MBE

14th March 2023

by Edward Kafka



You may recall a news item several years ago about a young man who was standing on Waterloo Bridge intending to throw himself into the Thames, but he was talked down by a passing stranger. That young man was Jonny Benjamin and this incident occurred on 14 January 2008. The reason he was contemplating suicide at the age of 20 was that he had just been diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, a combination of schizophrenia and bipolar.

Fifteen years later, now an award winning mental health campaigner, public speaker, film producer and writer, Jonny Benjamin came to speak at a well attended Mosaic Evening. He was joined by his father Michael Benjamin, and by Joey Kolirin who is an ambassador for Jami (the Jewish association for the mentally ill). Jonny grew up in Stanmore and attended JFS. He did not really fit in at school but did well academically. He went on to university in Manchester, where he kept the growing mental problems that had been developing over several years, secret. At the start of his third year he had a psychotic episode and ended up in a psychiatric hospital where his schizoaffective disorder was diagnosed. After the incident on Waterloo Bridge Jonny was sectioned.

With the devoted support of his family he recovered, but it was a slow process and there were relapses. He was helped in

his recovery by Jami, and he has now started his own charity Beyond, which focuses on the mental health needs of young people. It aims to provide the help currently lacking in mental health provision by giving grants to organizations and charities that work with young people, their families and educators.

Michael Benjamin, Jonny's father, described how when Jonny had his mental breakdown at university there was almost no information and guidance available for the family. Since then they have been on a learning journey, and Michael now tries to help other families in a similar situation. He has started a support group for fathers. He suggested that Mosaic could usefully put mental health helplines on its website.

Finally Joey Kolirin spoke about his experiences growing up in a dysfunctional family with his own mental health issues that include body dysmorphia.

The message conveyed by all three speakers is there is always hope in cases of mental illness and the way forward is via greater openness and a willingness to discuss problems.

Feel safe and manage to talk by contacting Angela (angela@choosemosaic.org), our Community Care Co-ordinator.

A GUIDE TO MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Mental health



Telephone; 0208 458 223

Web Site; www.jamiuk.org

*Provider of Mental Health service within the Jewish Community
For both young people and adults*



Web Site; www.kooth.com

On Line mental health services have help lines for both young people and adults



Free Telephone Line ;0808 802 5544.

Web Site; www.youngminds.org.uk

Children's and young people's mental health charity, also have a special link for parents



Web Site; www.giveusshout.org

Shout is a 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks in the UK, for anyone in crisis. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help just text 85258

Samaritans: 116 123 (freephone)

<https://www.samaritans.org>

24-hour emotional support for anyone struggling to cope

Jewish Helpline: 0330 127 3333.

<https://thehelpline.org.uk>

24-hour confidential and supportive anonymous helpline including shabbat and high holy days

NSPCC:

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/self-harm

Advice to help understand self-harm and offer support

Counselling

Raphael: The Jewish counselling service, 0800 234 6236.

<https://www.raphaeljewishcounselling.org>

MIND: 0300 123 3393.

<https://www.mind.org.uk>

provides advice and support to anyone experiencing a mental health problem.

Relate: the relationship people, 0300 100 1234

<https://www.relate.org.uk>

Jewish Marriage Council: 020 8203 6311

<https://www.jmc-uk.org>

Jewish Women's Aid: 0808 801 0500

<https://www.jwa.org.uk>

Bereavement

Jewish Bereavement Counselling Service:

020 8951 3881 <https://jbcs.org.uk>

Cruise Bereavement Care: 0844 477 9400

<https://www.cruse.org.uk>

Grief Encounter: 020 8446 7452

<https://www.griefencounter.org.uk>

Supports bereaved children and young people. Harrow

Bereavement Care: 020 8427 5720

<http://www.bereavementcareandsupport.co.uk>

Pesach Message from the Movement for Reform Judaism

by Rabbi Mark Goldsmith



The Pesach Hagaddah may be the most popular single book for Jews, so many homes have multiple copies

We can get very fond of our Hagaddot. They remind us of the specialness of coming together for Seder night with family and friends. You might have a selection of Hagaddot at home. Maybe you have that classic children's Haggadah, first published in Berlin in 1933, with the pop-out pictures for children and the tab which you pulled to part the Red Sea. Your Seder may be based on our Reform Hagaddah, Haggateinu, published in 2014 (www.reformjudaism.org.uk/publications/), which tells our Jewish story of liberation through plays that get everyone participating.

One beautiful aspect of the Hagaddah is that this is a book that is designed to be used, not just treasured on a bookshelf. The wear of their use tells stories of Sedarim enjoyed, members of the family no longer with us who once handled them, and maybe the ways in which we have enhanced Pesach with extra readings tucked into their pages. I love the stains from the drops of wine that you can find on the page where the plagues are enumerated. I have a facsimile copy of the Barcelona Hagaddah originally made in 1340, and on the plague page, I am sure I can see the wine stains of centuries past!

The Hagaddah itself creates the drama of the festival and makes Pesach come to life. It passes on the values of freedom and the active liberation of oppressed peoples as a duty to ourselves and our future generations. It links us to

our previous generations, their struggles, and their triumphs, which enable us to live as free Jews today. It paints for us our picture of God as our partner in liberation and the continuation of our people. Who knows One? The Jew whose Hagaddah is with them year after year.

Our Movement for Reform Judaism will soon be publishing another book that every Jewish home should own. This will be the ninth edition of *Days of Awe*, our Machzor, the prayer book for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. This book will also create the drama and meaning of these special days every year. The first edition was published in 1840 and the now very familiar eighth a generation ago in 1985. It will include study material from an extraordinary diversity of sources to enhance your soul's appreciation of the meaning of the High Holy Days. It will be very clear to use and accessible to those less familiar with Synagogue and Hebrew. It will give the prayer choice throughout the Days of Awe through contemporary and classical passages alongside the traditional prayers. On these days when we consider our own behaviour and actions it will help bring us close to the concerns of today's world. It will be ready for us all to use for High Holidays 2024 with plenty of time to prepare.

We Jews have been called the 'People of the Book' for many centuries. In truth, we are the people of the Jewish library who use our many books to start and fuel our Jewish journeys through life.

Introducing the new Reform Machzor...

Forms of Prayer: Days of Awe

Coming in early 2024, the ninth edition of **Forms of Prayer: Days of Awe** is a Reform Machzor for a new generation.

It will enable us to make the extraordinary journeys of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in a way that expresses our Reform Jewish values and our place in Jewish tradition.

The new **Days of Awe** Machzor has:

Transliteration throughout • Signposting for each service • Clear layout • Additional explanation • Gender-inclusive language • An in-depth study anthology with new contemporary texts • Liturgy with choices • Moments for music • and much more!

Celebrate this exciting moment and make your mark on the new Machzor

The Machzor will have a special section for dedications.

By sponsoring a dedication, you can include up to 18 words of text to commemorate the life of a loved one, a special occasion, or something else that is important to you.

Example dedications

Rabbinic team at FHRS Thank you for your care and guidance in teaching Sam for their Bar Mitzvah

To commemorate our Golden Wedding and fifty years of shared Reform Judaism Hannah and Tony Gold

George and Ramba, my loyal four-legged friends who can now accompany me to virtual shul

In loving memory of Shirley Jacobs, a dedicated member of Kenosha Synagogue, missed by all her family

Stephanie and Laura, SWESRS Choir misses your voices and laughter

Scan this QR code or visit <https://fjyaf.com/ydse4ky> to find out more.

PESACH MESSAGE

PRESIDENT MARIE VAN DER ZYL

NISSAN 5783



At Pesach, we celebrate the freedom of the Jewish people. It is a joyous festival but it is also the time of year when we recall the suffering of our ancestors and how they fought against and triumphed over adversity.

This year, the cost-of-living crisis means many of us are experiencing real financial hardship. However, as our experience over thousands of years demonstrates, being part of a community means that no one has to suffer alone. We showed through the pandemic that we are stronger together and we can help each other now too, at home and abroad.

For the past year we have witnessed the awful trauma of Ukrainians who have been forced to defend their country from Russian aggression. We at the Board of Deputies have supported the wonderful efforts of World Jewish Relief to help those who are suffering. We have worked hard to coordinate the available resources from the Jewish community to help Ukrainians in the most effective ways. Sadly, a new humanitarian tragedy has also hit Turkey and Syria in the form of a massive earthquake. Again, we support community efforts to help those most in need.

In the past year, the Board of Deputies successfully held the BBC to account for its inaccurate and irresponsible reporting of an antisemitic attack against a group of Jewish teenagers on a bus in Oxford Street. The Board of Deputies lodged a formal complaint with Ofcom, which ruled that the BBC's coverage failed to observe editorial guidelines on both impartiality and accuracy and that the Corporation had made a serious editorial misjudgement.

For many years StephenSizer, a rogue Anglican vicar, had been posting egregious material online. Last year, as a result of complaints by the Board of Deputies, a Church of England Tribunal ruled that Sizer had on one occasion "engaged in antisemitic activity" as well as "conduct unbecoming" of a Church of England Minister and conduct that "provoked and offended" the Jewish community over a sustained period. He has now been banned for serving as a Church of England Minister until 2030.



Plenary Meeting of Board of Deputies February 19th at 140 London Wall

by Michael Reik

This Plenary was held live in the city and also online to delegates throughout the United Kingdom

The meeting started with a talk and discussion by Nick Price, Head of Special Crime and Counter Terrorism Division of the Criminal Prosecution Service (CPS). He advised us that his department was mainly combatting far right extremism. The conviction rate was a high 88%, and all anti-semitism cases that went to court, have ended in a conviction. He made clear, there has to be sufficient evidence provided by the police to enable court proceedings to take place. Unfortunately, this was not the case for the anti-semitic convoy that came from the North to London 18 months ago. For a prosecution to be made, the police would have needed to stop the vehicles while the chants were being made.

The CPS has no resourcing issues, unlike the police. Convictions are split 50/50 between far-right extremists and Muslim/left extremists. It is only the police that can carry out investigations and not the CPS.

In the end prosecutions will only take place if individuals from the general public will come to court to confirm what they have witnessed and will sign the required documents.

We then moved onto the President's Statement. Among the items raised were:

The new Synagogue in Abu Dhabi was inaugurated with, the President, Marie Van de Zyl in attendance.

The Board is very pleased to note that the Labour Party had made the changes required by its agreed action plan to address breaches of the Equality Act, after the Equality and Human Rights Commission's original investigation into anti-semitism had found the party responsible for unlawful acts of harassment and discrimination. Marie Van de Zyl spoke at a press conference called by the Labour Party.

Robert Stone queried the constitution with regard to ensuring Trustees appointed by the Board were truly independent. President Marie felt enough time had been spent on this subject in the past. However, Robert Stone was still concerned on a point of order. This would be considered outside the actual meeting.

There was concern raised at an article in the Jewish Chronicle written by Melanie Philips regarding the official Holocaust Memorial ceremony provided online. She felt

not sufficient emphasis was given to the Jews who died in the Holocaust. She believed far more time was devoted to other Genocides. Also, Ms Philips was most concerned at the proposed permanent memorial outside the Houses of Parliament. The President totally disagreed with Ms Philips conclusions. Separately and not for the first time, a request was made for a debate on the permanent memorial. This was considered unnecessary by the President.

The next item discussed was the question of the premises of the Board of Deputies at London Wall. We had had our first meeting in January there. We now understood that we had been given 2 months' notice and therefore the Executive have to find other suitable premises before end of April.

We were then informed by the President that she would be visiting Calais at the invitation of CRIF (The French equivalent of the British Board of Deputies) to see for herself the refugee situation there. She also informed the meeting she would be making a visit to Israel with Michael Wegier, the Chief Executive, mainly to meet the Minister of the Diaspora in Jerusalem. They would be raising The Board's concern at the direction the new Government of Israel was taking.

The Vice President International, David Mendoza Wolfson confirmed there would be a BOD mission to Israel in December 2023.

He also advised us that we still were not on the Board of the European Jewish Congress. However, in the interim, we are maintaining contact directly with the smaller Jewish European Communities.

The present British Ambassador to Israel, Neil Wigan is retiring after an extremely positive stay and is being replaced by Simon Walters. We hope he will continue the good work of the last Ambassador.

We have been informed of a positive decision for the Jewish Community, that the Parliament of Finland has voted that banning Shekita is illegal.

It was noted that the Muslim Council of Great Britain was no longer a body that the Government worked with, and therefore neither should the Board of Deputies, especially in the upcoming elections.

My main aim as Toastmaster / Master of Ceremonies at your simcha is to take the agreed plan make it work on the day, so that everything runs smoothly and on time. After several months planning and preparation, this is when you want everything to be just right so that you can relax with your family and friends. Be assured that I will always work with your best interests in mind, so please contact me with the 'when and where' of your simcha, and we will take it from there.



John Ashmele
FGPT

www.ashmele.co.uk



@johnashmeletoastmaster



Happy Birthday in April, May & June to:

Benjamin Hipgrave, 5
Charlie Bright, 16
Ezra Buchan, 4
Noah Cunningham, 10
Abigail Groffman, 10
Audrey Jackson-Rauch, 4



Upcoming Events

Mosaic Culture Hub Guided “Wapping and old docks walk”

Monday 17th April, 10.30am

Join Steve Levinson, a qualified Institute of Tour Guiding Blue Badge Guide, for our latest guided walk. It's a 10.30 start. The meeting point is the statue of Roman Emperor Trajan at Tower Hill tube station exit. It's about pirates, drunken sailors, executions and historic riverside pubs.

The tickets, priced at £10 each, will be on a first come first served basis and will be available from the Mosaic office. Only 12 places available.

For safety reasons each walk will have limited numbers and will need to be pre-booked and paid for.

The walks will usually start at 10.30am and take between 1 and a half and 2 hours but the distances to be covered are not great and the routes will start and finish at a tube station.



Yom HaShoah

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Monday 17th April, 8.00pm

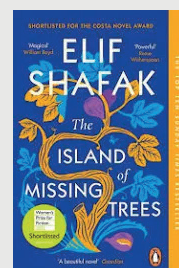
Join our Rabbis and Directors of Music for an evening of music, prayer, and commemoration.



Mosaic Book Group

Wednesday 19th April, 12.30pm

The group will be discussing “The Island of Missing Dreams” by Elif Shafak. Please bring your own non-meat packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.



Marie van der Zyl, President of the Board of Deputies, visits Mosaic.

Saturday 22nd April

Following the services, everyone is invited to stay after kiddush for an informal bagel lunch to meet Marie van der Zyl, hear about the Board of Deputies and ask your questions. Marie will be interviewed by Steve Levinson.



Mosaic Marks Yom haZikaron and Yom ha'Atsmaut

Tuesday 25th April, 7.30 pm

Join us to mark Yom haZikaron and Yom ha'Atsmaut. 75 years into the State of Israel's existence, Israel finds herself with a government that is causing hundreds of thousands of Israelis to take to the streets. We'll hear from a speaker from the New Israel Fund who will tell us more about what is happening on the ground and have an open and safe space to discuss how we are feeling about Israel at this time.

Mosaic Culture Hub "Meet the Author" Barry Kester

Wednesday 26th April 12.30 pm

Join us at 12.30 for a light lunch before Steve Levinson interviews Barry Kester about his latest book "Round in Circles."

Once upon a time, some twelve years ago, a recently retired chartered accountant had the meshuggenah idea of combining a wish to try his hand at writing a book, with his passion for musical theatre.

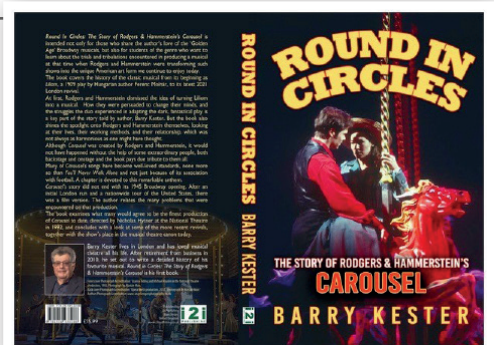
"Round In Circles", the story of Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Carousel" is the result.

Barry is the proud father of three children and grandfather of seven. His other interests include reading, music and photography. He is also an ever optimistic Spurs supporter, which is the only way to be a Spurs supporter.

Please book via the Mosaic website by Tuesday 18th April for catering purposes. If you require a supervised option, please let us know in advance.

There is a £5 charge, which will increase to £7 from Wednesday 19th April.

Mosaic Culture Hub "Meet the Author" Barry Kester





Shabbat 6th May

Liberal and Reform services will start at 09.30 followed by a screening of the coronation of King Charles III.

Mosaic Culture Hub invites you to 'Meet The Author' – Gary Italiaander

Wednesday May 31st

Join us at 12.30 for a light lunch before Gary gives an illustrated talk about his recently published biography 'My Father's War'.

This biography tells some of the unique wartime stories of Michael Italiaander, Gary's father, who was a Cartographer during WW2 and known to be the youngest war artist, producing propaganda paintings for the Ministry of Information. Michael was based originally in North Wales and then the Middle East, before returning to the UK to work in Army Education. He experienced many unusual and amusing episodes that make this illustrated talk, both fascinating and highly entertaining!

As Michael was a fine-artist and illustrator, the accompanying images Gary will show are quite enlightening.

Please book via the Mosaic website before May 24th for catering purposes. If you require a supervised option, please let us know in advance.

There is a £5 charge, which will increase to £7 from 25th May.



Art @ Mosaic



DR. PORTFOLIO

COME AND SEE STUNNING PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID RUBACK

Our own David Ruback will be exhibiting some of his most creative photographs during June and you will have the chance to purchase your favourites all in aid of CICRA Crohn's In Childhood Research Association

3 to 30 June 2023
For three weeks only

See creative
photography at its best

Purchase unique
creations

MOSAIC JEWISH
COMMUNITY

1A Halsbury Close
Stanmore Hill, Stanmore
HA7 3DY

020 8864 0133
Art@Mosaic at
Choosmosaic.org

Mondays to Thursdays
09:00 – 17:00
Fridays 09:00 to midday



Mosaic Culture Hub

Mosaic Culture Hub presents
an evening of
magical
entertainment
Alan and Kat Hudson

SUNDAY
11
JUNE
7.45PM
Doors open 7.30



Alan Hudson
A Gold Star member of The Inner Magic Circle, Alan appeared on Britain's Got Talent, ITV's The Next Great Magician and is the winner of 'Penn & Teller: Fool Us'



Kat Hudson
Also a member of the The Inner Magic Circle, Kat appeared on Britain's Got Talent and Tu Si Que Vales, Italy's top TV talent show, before a highly successful West End run in the magic and illusion show, Wonderville.

One of the top comedy magicians in the UK, Alan has performed all over the world including The Magic Castle in Hollywood and Monday Night Magic in New York.





Tickets
Members:
£15* for adults
£10* under-18s
Non-members
£18* for adults
£13* under-18s
* Please book early: a late-booking supplement of £5 extra per ticket applies after 24 May

Book online at
www.choosemosaic.org
Select What's On then Events & Activities

Mosaic Jewish Community
1a Halsbury Close
Stanmore Hill
HA7 3DY

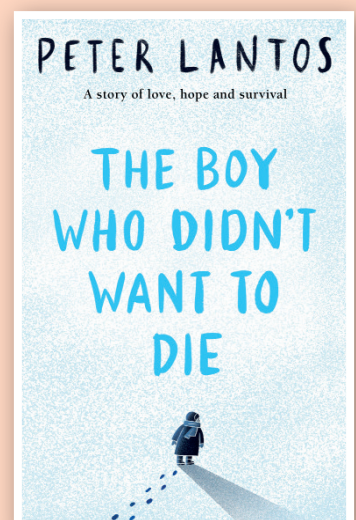
Mosaic Culture Hub invites you to 'Meet The Author' – Professor Peter Lantos

Wednesday June 28th

Join us at 12.30 for a light lunch before Steve Levinson will interview Peter about his extraordinary journey as a boy of 5, through war-torn Europe in 1944 and 1945. Peter's book 'The Boy Who Didn't Want to Die' describes a background of terror, starvation, infection and death before Peter and his mother can return home, and it is a story of courage, resilience and hope for the future. This is: 'A true story of survival, of love between mother and son and of enduring hope in the face of unspeakable hardship'.

Professor Peter Lantos is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and was an internationally renowned clinical neuroscientist. Peter was awarded the British Empire Medal in 2020 for 'services to Holocaust education and awareness'.

Please book via the Mosaic website before June 21st for catering purposes. If you require a supervised option, please let us know in advance.
There is a £5 charge, which will increase to £7 from June 22nd .



Art @ Mosaic

Alicia Merrett Textile Exhibition

Saturday 1st - Monday 31st July

Mondays to Thursdays 9.00 - 17.00; Fridays 9.00 to midday.

Alicia is well known for her stitched textile wall hangings. After her successful illustrated online talk to Mosaic in 2021, we have invited her to display a wide range of her work in our new gallery space. Alicia's main loves are colour and texture and those are the most striking characteristics of her work. For a number of years she concentrated on creating maps and aerial views using patchwork and collage techniques. In 2019 she moved onto digital design, which reflects her photography background. Her current work is mostly abstract, designed on the iPad, printed on fabric, layered and stitched.

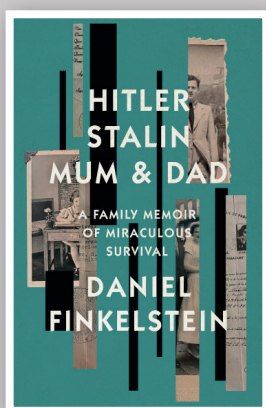
Please book via the Mosaic website before June 21st for catering purposes. If you require a supervised option, please let us know in advance.
There is a £5 charge, which will increase to £7 from June 22nd.



Little Boxes

Mosaic Culture Hub invites you to “Meet The Author” – Daniel Finkelstein

Wednesday 12th July



Join us at 12.30 for a light lunch before Steve Levinson interviews Daniel Finkelstein about his recently published book 'Hitler Stalin Mum and Dad'.

Daniel Finkelstein's family experience at the hands of the two genocidal dictators of the 20th century is one of miraculous survival.

'This is a story of love and murder. A story of how the great forces of history crashed down in a terrible wave on two happy families; of how it tossed them and turned them, and finally returned what was left to dry land. It's a story of brilliant ingenuity, great bravery, and almost unbelievable coincidences.'

Daniel Finkelstein is a British journalist and opinion writer. A former executive editor of The Times, he continues to write for the paper. He has been Political Columnist of the Year four times and recently joined the board of Chelsea Football Club. He was appointed to the House of Lords in 2013.

Please book via the Mosaic website by Tuesday 4th July for catering purposes. If you require a supervised option, please let us know in advance.
There is a £5 charge, which will increase to £7 from 5th July.

What's On

Regular Events

Tuesdays	10.00	Mosaic Walks – email admin@choosemosaic.org for meeting point	Wednesday 19th	12.30	Mosaic Book Group
Tuesdays	10.00	Babies and Toddlers “Drop In”	Saturday 21st		Kiddush – Margie Goldman's & Anne Steiner's birthdays
Tuesdays	11.00	Mosaic Friendship Club	Sunday 23rd	09.45	Bagel lunch with Marie van der Zyl
Tuesdays	19.00	“Untangling Our Traditions” with one of our Rabbis		16.00	Ha Makom – New term begins
Wednesdays	10.30	Knit & Natter (First Wednesday of each month from 3rd May)	Tuesday 25th	19.30	Mosaic Liberal AGM
Wednesdays	11.00	“Tea & Torah” with one of our Rabbis	Wednesday 26th	12.30	Yom haZikaron & Yom Ha'atsmaut event
Thursdays	10.00	Mosaic “Living Room”			Mosaic Culture Hub – “Meet the Author” Barry Kester
Thursdays	11.00	Music for Memory (Last Thursday of the month)	MAY		
Thursdays	20.00	Talmud Class with Rabbi Anthony	Wednesday 3rd	10.30	Knit & Natter
Fridays	11.00	Tots Shabbat	Saturday 6th	09.30	Liberal & Reform services followed by screening of The Coronation
Saturdays	09.45	Masorti service (unless otherwise stated)	Sunday 7th	10.00	Tombstone consecration – Anne Joel (Edgwarebury Lane)
Saturdays	10.30	Reform service (unless otherwise stated)	Friday 12th	18.30	Shabbat Beiteinu
Saturdays	10.45	Children's service for up to 6 years – first Shabbat of the month	Saturday 13th		Kiddush – To mark Rabbi David Soetendorp's retirement
	10.45	Liberal service (unless otherwise stated)	Saturday 20th	11.00	Shabbat Shira
Saturdays	11.30	Children's service for ages 6-100 – first Shabbat of the month	Sunday 21st	14.00	Tombstone consecration – Harry Godfrey (Cheshunt)
APRIL				14.45	Tombstone consecration – Stanley Byrne (Cheshunt)
Saturday 6th		Kiddush – Toni Waxman's 90th birthday		15.30	Tombstone consecration – Nat Levene (Cheshunt)
Wednesday 5th		Erev Pesach	Thursday 25th	19.00	Tombstone consecration – Hilda & Joshua Freeling (Cheshunt)
Thursday 6th	18.00	1st day Pesach	Friday 26th		Erev Shavuot – Liberal/Masorti/Reform at Edgware & Hendon Reform
Friday 7th		Communal Seder	Saturday 27th		1st day Shavuot
Saturday 8th	11.00	2nd day Pesach			2nd day Shavuot & Shabbat. Kiddush sponsored by past members of Edgware Masorti
		Shabbat Shira	Wednesday 31st	12.30	Mosaic Culture Hub “Meet the Author” Gary Italiaander
		Kiddush – Debbie & Dave Scott to celebrate the baby blessing of their grandson, Seth.	JUNE		
Tuesday 11th		Erev 7th day Pesach	Sunday 4th	14.00	Art@Mosaic – Photographic exhibition
Wednesday 12th		7th day Pesach	Sunday 11th	13.00	Liberal Judaism Singalong
Thursday 13th		8th day Pesach		19.45	Magic Evening with Alan Hudson
Saturday 15th	09.45	Mosaic Masorti “First Timers” service	Monday 12th		Kehila copy date
		Kiddush – Prue & David Ruback 50th anniversary	Saturday 17th		Kiddush – Vivienne & Malcolm Franks Anniversary
Sunday 16th	15.30	Mosaic Liberal 75th anniversary tea	Saturday 24th		Bat Mitzvah – Phoebe Ellison
Monday 17th	10.30	Culture Hub London walk led by Steve Levinson	Wednesday 28th	12.30	Mosaic Culture Hub
	20.00	Yom HaShoah service	Thursday 29th		“Meet the Author” Peter Lantos
					Kehila Distribution



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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Shaarone HAT 3DY

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Hallmark (Redington School):

Talk Even and Wed Even

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Bereavement Support:

Bobbi Riesel 020 8428 7977

Development Rabbi – Rabbi Anna Wolfson

rabbianna@choosemosaic.org



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