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Shirley and Dennis Chefetz
Anthony and Jacky Guter

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

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Pamela Kauders
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John Matlin
Simon Miller
Rosetta Muscatt
Simon Nash
Anthony Rose
Victor Saunders
Alan Slavin
Sylvia Vandervelde

MAZAL TOV TO:
Sheila & Philip Levy on the birth of their grandson

CONDOLENCES TO:
Susan Solomons on the death of her husband Stanley
The family and friends of Esther Aronsfeld
The family and friends of Marie Capitelli

THINKING ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Evelyn Felts
Michael Judelson
Sylvia Lowe
Marjorie Monnickendam

MOSAIC MASORTI

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:
Carole Orchover
Danielle & David Kosky
Michael and Liane Alexander

GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOME TO:
Annette & David Benson

MAZAL TOV TO:

Georgia Matthews & Jordan Bayer-Goldman on their engagement
Alan & Sharon Grossman on the engagement of their daughter, Lucy, to Andrew
Jon Stone & Lucy Yudt on their marriage
Joelle Zane and David Amior on the birth of their son, Ritchie Reuben Zane Amior

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Avrille Newman
Lynne Charkham
Maurice Ashkenazi-Bakes

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Phil Austin & Michele Flatto on their 25th anniversary
Emmanuel & Maureen Aharoni on their 55th anniversary

CONDOLENCES TO:

Claire Silverstone on the death of her parents, Peter & Beryl

MOSAIC REFORM

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:
Sharon Weissler

MAZAL TOV TO:

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

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Judy & Philip Silverton on the birth of their grandson, Otis
Janet Byrne on the birth of her granddaughter, Ariella Celia
Michelle Singer on the marriage of her son, Joel to Lola

GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOMES TO:

Sandra & Bernard Fisherman
Stephanie Lindley
Helen & Bernard Schueler

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Brenda Marks
Norman Cripps
Dan Ingram
Myra Wand
Lionel Sinclair
Maureen Daniels
Lilian Levene
Inge Norris
Willie Witkover
Fred Stern
Fran Ryan

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Angela & Warren Green on their 55th anniversary
Jane & Michael Harrison on their 40th anniversary
Judith & Roger Feldman on their 50th anniversary
Sue & David Pollock on their 40th anniversary
Ruth & Wilfred Webber on their 65th anniversary

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Linda Paerse
Paul Russell
Zella Milstone

CONDOLENCES TO:

Diana Warren on the death of her husband, William
Rochelle Latham on the death of her sister, Tania Hodges
William Kline on the death of his wife, Phyllis
The family and friends of Dennis Weinberg
Susan Crowe on the death of her husband, Ashley
Mike Goldsmith on the death of his mother, Renee

Next issue

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

Elul – Preparing for the Days Ahead

by Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige Middleton

'The grass is always greener on the other side' is a saying we share with the Dutch and refers to the mistaken perception that things are better elsewhere or that other people are somehow better off than we are. For me that saying generally relates to our perception of time.

How often I have caught myself or family members mention how much we long for a holiday when we are in the throes of a busy week; juggling family and work responsibilities whilst struggling to meet a deadline for example. If only we had a holiday ...

Yet the idea of a holiday often seems far more appealing than the reality. Perhaps we had been conditioned to think of 'holiday' as those endless, undetermined sun dappled memories of our childhood in which we seemed to roam freely in gardens and meadows, picking berries, and building dens or finding seashells at the shore, or endlessly playing happily ... just being ... and the joy of it all ...

The thought of not having to do anything still seems so alluring, just as the mere idea that we might have the time and freedom to just do whatever we want, free of any pressure ... but my days off are filled with endless to-do lists, and on the rare occasion I find myself entirely free, I feel easily overwhelmed by, well I am not sure what it is ... I wouldn't call it boredom... but that's not itfor suddenly the day stretches seemingly endlessly before us... and yet I know that a day is actually so short ...

Although we know of the importance of resting, and of stepping out from the treadmill of work (or school) and recharging our batteries, not doing anything is not necessarily as easy or as fun as it sounds, or as we dreamed it would be ... even resting is an art we need to learn with a bit of practice.

This practice we get of course from Shabbat, which comes with shocking regularity. For many Shabbat is more often a source of stress rather than an immediate cause for relaxation. Indeed, many people perceive the traditional work restrictions of shabbat as oppressive (and therefore stressful) rather than relaxing, yet few appreciate what a gift to humanity the notion of shabbat really is. Indeed, the very idea that a day of rest and recuperation is not only a human right but an essential human need – as important to us as eating and breathing - was once a shocking thought.



Shabbat teaches us how to do nothing constructively. It teaches us to focus on our inner lives, which is so often dismissed or pushed to the background, during the daily grind of the working week.

Shabbat allows us to evaluate the week that has passed, including our relationships with family and friends, and thus also prepares us for the week ahead. This weekly routine sets us up for those quieter summer months in particular the month of Elul which leads us into the High Holydays.

Elul, similar to Shabbat, invites us to use the summertime not only to recharge but, like on

Shabbat, also to get in touch with our own inner selves and to recalibrate our relationships, ahead of the High Holy Days.

It inevitably calls us to take stock of the year we are about to leave behind, and this year specifically it calls us to account for the role we have collectively played as a human species in affecting our environment; we feel duty bound to reflect on the responsibility we - collectively and individually – might bear on the changes in our climate, and what changes we can, indeed should, make in our own day-to-day lives to ensure that future generations will enjoy the same resources, the rich and beautiful diversity of nature and the leisurely summers days we remember of our own childhoods

Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi (1745-1812) teaches that during the month of *Elul*, which prepares us for the High Holy Days, '*the Sovereign is in the field*', meaning that during this month God is more accessible to us than at other times of the year; waiting for us in the 'field' of our lives ... waiting to turn, as we ourselves endeavour to reach deeper, as we seek to make the time we have at our disposal truly count.

Our tradition likes to see the name of the month Elul as an acronym for the Biblical phrase '*ani l'dodi v'dodi li*' (I am to my beloved and my beloved is to me) from the Song of Songs (Song of Songs 6:3), to express the importance this time in cementing our relationship with God.

May we all, during these summer days, in preparation for the High Holy Days, find the inner focus and strength to help make the year 5784 good in our own lives and for our community.

I wish you all a *shanah tovah u-m'tukkah*

Rosh Ha-Shanah and the Seder

by Rabbi Rachel Benjamin

Four years ago, before I came to Mosaic Liberal Synagogue, I led High Holy Day services at the York Liberal Jewish Community. It was their custom, on Erev Rosh Ha-Shanah, to hold a Seder. Most people associate the Seder with Passover, of course, but the roots of the Rosh Ha-Shanah Seder go back to the time of the Babylonian Talmud, more than 1,500 years ago. And it is a familiar custom in the homes of Jewish families of Sephardi (coming originally from Spain or Portugal) or Mizrahi (from the Middle East, Central Asia or India) origins.

The Talmud (*Horayot* 12a and *Keritot* 6a) mentions five symbolic foods for the Seder plate - gourds, beans, leeks, beetroot and dates. The Rabbis created word plays on the Aramaic names of these foods, and the accompanying blessings. Each item on the Seder plate represents a prayer for the year to come. These are some of the foods we had on our Seder plate that night:

DATES and OLIVES - Dates and olives are two of the seven species mentioned in the Bible (Deuteronomy 8:8) as indigenous to the Land of Israel. The prophetess Deborah judged the people from under a date palm, so dates are linked to 'judgement', one of the themes of Rosh Ha-Shanah.

Olives, of course, have come to symbolise peace, and many people now put an olive on their Seder Plate at Passover, too, to symbolise a prayer for peace in the world - and especially in the Middle East.

Tamar is the Hebrew for 'date' and is related to the word 'end'. At this time of year, we ask for an end to some of the more negative aspects of our behaviour.

POMEGRANATES - The *rimon*, or pomegranate, is a special symbol in Judaism. Some say there are 613 seeds in each fruit, one for each commandment that Jewish tradition claims are in the Torah. Just as pomegranates are full of seeds, so we hope to be full of good deeds and positive growth in the year ahead.

GREEN BEANS or BLACK-EYED PEAS (RUBIA) - *Rubia*, or *lubia*, in Aramaic, have the same sounds as the Hebrew words for 'many' (*harbeh*) or 'heart' (*lev*). We hope that there will be many good things in our lives in the coming year, and that God will give us a 'new heart' (*lev chadash*) and a 'new spirit' (*ruach chadashah*), to act in kind, fair, noble and compassionate ways.

LEEKS or SPRING ONIONS (KARTI) - Karti relates to the Hebrew word *karet*, 'to cut'. In the blessing related to this food, we proclaim our intention to try and cut out some of the behaviour of which we are less than proud.

BEETROOT or SWISS CHARD (SILKA) - *Silka* is close to



the Hebrew word meaning 'to depart' (*salak/ l'histalek*) and, again, we pledge to do our best to remove bad thoughts and actions, and to select the path of goodness.

GOURD, PUMPKIN or SQUASH (KARA)

- *Kara* sounds like the Hebrew word for 'to rip out, tear up', and also 'to read'. Here, we express further wishes for negativity to be 'torn out' of us, and our merits to be read before God. As pumpkins, gourds and squash are protected by a thick skin, so we ask God to protect us and gird us with strength.

CARROTS (GEZER) - *Gezer* sounds like

g'zar, or *g'zeirah*, meaning 'decree'. We eat carrots to ask God for a positive decree in the year ahead. In Yiddish, carrots are *mehren*, which also means 'to increase'. In this way, we symbolically ask for our merits and blessings to be increased.

FISH - Some communities serve fish on Rosh Ha-Shanah as a symbol of bounty, fertility and growth. We pray to multiply as a people and be as plentiful as the fish in the sea.

HEAD (ROSH) - We had a head of lettuce (instead of the 'traditional' fish head) on the Rosh Ha-Shanah Seder table to represent the wish of being heads in the New Year - Rosh Ha-Shanah - and not tails, leaders not followers. We can see the head as representing progress and progressive, or forward-looking, thought.

BLUEBERRIES and SPINACH - Blueberries and spinach are both superfoods. They deliver high levels of nutrients and vitamins for their size. They remind us that even the most basic and simple things can be packed with goodness and challenge us to look for wonder and majesty in the most unexpected and tiny places.

FAIRTRADE CHOCOLATE - The traditional Rosh Ha-Shanah Seder contains many symbols that, in various ways, ask for 'our enemies to be beaten'. The tradition of having Fairtrade Chocolate on the table celebrates the fair treatment of others. We eat it to express our concern for human rights and commitment to justice and equality in the world.

APPLES AND HONEY - TAPUACH U'D'VASH - The most well-known symbol on the Rosh Ha-Shanah Seder table is the apple and honey - common in Ashkenazi Jewish tradition, too. (Ashkenazim are Jews of German, Central and Eastern European descent.) The apple is dipped in honey to represent our wish for a good and sweet year to come.

Whether you have a Rosh Ha-Shanah Seder or not, you may well eat some of these foods over the High Holy Days and, when you do, I hope that these descriptions may serve as prompts for discussion around your table. May I wish you all *Shanah Tovah u'M'tukah* - a good, sweet, healthy, safe and peaceful New Year of 5784.

Community Greeting

from Rabbi Anthony Lazarus-Magrill

How far we have travelled since our last Yamim Noraim. For Mosaic Masorti - it has been, in physical terms, 3 miles from Hatch End to Stanmore. In less tangible terms, we have all travelled very much further. Since reaching Stanmore Hill/Halsbury Close in December, a new community has been created - and what a success we have made of it!

We have welcomed dozens of new members - growing, as MJC, by more than 15%. We have all enjoyed revitalised services, a packed programme of cultural and communal activities and plenty of opportunities for shmoozing with friends old and new. We have had shared religious services; we have learned together; we have celebrated together, and we have mourned together. We have built together, and my warmest expectations for MJC have been wildly exceeded.

I write my weekly sermons walking in Stanmore Country Park - often with dog, Bendicks, alongside. And as my congregants have heard me say before - the forest there knows something about life that we spend years struggling towards. That is: nothing is truly lost. A tree falls and its place appears empty - but it is, immediately, teeming. Each new generation grows harmoniously from the learning and progress of the old; each



new ecosystem stubbornly emerges from the vibrancy of what came before. We might feel that something has been lost - but it has become, only, the bedrock of something new. Even *Ma'asu haBonim Hayta l'Rosh Pinah* - the Rock, apparently rejected by the builders, has now become chief cornerstone.

And so we look back to our communities' old homes - and ecosystems - with a strange kind of ambivalence. We miss what has passed - perhaps, even, we mourn - but it has become the foundation, and the inspiration, for the home we are building together. The inspiring thing about MJC, affirmed in the

Accord we signed way back in 2014, is that this a new type of community in which each constituent synagogue honours its past, its identity and traditions - whilst coming together to build something new and all-embracing. In this way, MJC should model a process we all go through as we approach the High Holidays: not turning away from what has passed, but by close attention and honour of the past transmuting it into something beautiful. This is achieved by good will - by dedicated optimism - and by a commitment to see the best in each other. May this be God's will for us all - L'Shanah Tovah u'Metukah.

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New Year Message

from Edwin Lucas – Chair, Mosaic Masorti

The High Holy Days are always special and I so look forward to them coming along and with my advancing years, they seem to come along quicker than they did in the past and this year, more than ever, because our Masorti family has increased in size significantly in the last year. We welcome all the new family who have come from far and wide to join the community including from – in alphabetical order, Borehamwood, Bushey, Edgware, Finchley, Reading, St Albans, Stanmore and Wembley.

The year has seen lots of change and we are delighted to be in our new home on Stanmore Hill. The number of shabbat attendees has increased significantly and this has meant that we do not have to worry about reaching the magic number of 10 for a minyan. I say thanks to all our members for your support and allegiance.

We will continue to host small 'getting to know you' events with all members and look forward to running more mixers after the chaggim. We also know that more and more members are attending and volunteering at MJC events and getting to know the wider community.

Our new home is taking shape and the ever-changing art displays make the space really interesting. It is like going to an art gallery and I now do this more often than ever before. The summer exhibition featuring works from across all MJC is the latest art installation.

At the joint kiddushim, we all have a chance to interact and enjoy meeting new and old faces. At a recent Shabbat a visitor came for the first time and was amazed to see relatives that she had not seen for a long time, there in shul. That



was so heartwarming and we hope that there will be considerable interaction over the High Holy Days when we are holding services in the temple on Wood Lane.

There are plenty of spare seats available, so please bring along your families, friends and neighbours. Please contact the office for all details. There will also be a range of youth services for members to choose from, so we will ensure all age groups will be catered for and on day 2 Rosh Hashanah all the young people will have a chance to sound a shofar.

I would like to thank the many people in the community who have made things happen for the benefit of the community. It covers many areas in addition to davening and delivering dvars, including helping with aesthetics, helping on Tuesdays, playing cards on Thursdays, preparing kiddushim on Fridays and on Shabbat, clearing away the sanctuary after services, taking part in security, be it in person or organising rotas as well as sitting on committees. It is so appreciated by me and I know the wider community.

The year ahead is going to be a year of reviewing what we do and consolidation, as well as developing new ideas that you come up with. We have been delighted with some of the initiatives that members have mentioned which benefit the whole of MJC. We will be looking to setting up a Mosaic Chevra Kadisha in the Autumn. I also wish to thank Ann and the Jackies for all they do to keep us moving in the right direction.

On behalf of Rabbi Anthony, the Trustees and Council, I wish you all a Le Shana Tova and well over the Fast.

A selection from the Mosaic Members' Summer Exhibition



by Judith Sonnenberg



by Stanley Carvin



by Alison Imren

Celebrate the Autumn Festivals with Mosaic Jewish Community

| Synagogue | Date | Venue | Time | Service |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|---------------------------|
| Mosaic Liberal | Saturday 9 th September | 1a Halsbury Close | 21.00 | Selichot |
| | Friday 15 th September | St Lawrence's Church Hall, Whitchurch Lane, | 17.30 18.30 | Tea Erev Rosh Hashanah |
| | Saturday 16 th September | Canons Park HA8 6QS | 10.30 | Rosh Hashanah |
| | Sunday 24 th September | | 20.00 | Kol Nidre |
| | Monday 25 th September | | 10.30 | Yom Kippur |
| | Friday 29 th September | 1a Halsbury Close | 19.00 | Erev Succot |
| | Saturday 30 th September | 1a Halsbury Close | 10.45 | Succot |
| | Friday 6 th October | | 19.00 | Erev Simchat Torah |
| | Saturday 7 th October | | 10.45 | Simchat Torah |
| Mosaic Masorti | Saturday 9 th September | 1a Halsbury Close | 21.00 | Selichot |
| | Friday 15 th September | Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Wood Lane, | 18.30 | Erev Rosh Hashanah |
| | Saturday 16 th September | Stanmore HA7 4LF | 09.00 | Rosh Hashanah 1 |
| | Sunday 17 th September | | 09.00 | Rosh Hashanah 2 |
| | Sunday 24 th September | | 18.35 | Kol Nidre |
| | Monday 25 th September | 1a Halsbury Close | 09.45 | Yom Kippur |
| | Friday 29 th September | | 18.45 | Erev Succot |
| | Saturday 30 th September | | 09.45 | Succot 1 |
| | Sunday 1 st October | 1a Halsbury Close | 09.45 | Succot 2 |
| | Friday 6 th October | | 18.45 | Erev Shemini Atzeret |
| | Saturday 7 th October | | 09.45 | Shemini Atzeret |
| | Saturday 7 th October | 1a Halsbury Close | 18.45 | Erev Simchat Torah |
| | Sunday 8 th October | | 09.45 | Simchat Torah |
| Mosaic Reform | Saturday 9 th September | 1a Halsbury Close | 21.00 | Selichot |
| | Friday 15 th September | 1a Halsbury Close | 19.00 | Erev Rosh Hashanah |
| | Saturday 16 th September | | 10.00 | Rosh Hashanah 1 |
| | Sunday 17 th September | | 10.00 | Rosh Hashanah 2 |
| | Sunday 24 th September | 1a Halsbury Close | 19.00 | Kol Nidre |
| | Monday 25 th September | | 10.30 | Yom Kippur |
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| | Friday 6 th October | | 18.00 | Erev Simchat Torah |
| | Saturday 7 th October | | 10.30 | Simchat Torah |



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First Bat Mitzvah at Mosaic Masorti

by Cici Rutstein

Hello, my name is Cici and I celebrated my Bat Mitzvah on 25th February, reading parshat Terumah. I was very excited to have my Bat Mitzvah in the new shul building, and my family and friends were looking forward to seeing our new community.

I started my Bat Mitzvah lessons after my 12th birthday with Jonny Fenster, and nearer to the time I had a few sessions with Rabbi Anthony to help prepare for my Dvar.

Although I feel confident reading Hebrew, I found learning my piece quite challenging but, as time went on, I grew in confidence and by the time my Bat Mitzvah came around I felt ready to do it. On the day I naturally felt nervous once I saw how many people had come to the service (about 150!) Having a rehearsal had definitely helped calm my nerves and once I started my Dvar I felt fine and really enjoyed the service and the kiddush. It was lovely to see lots of family and friends



who had come to support me and my family, and there was a really encouraging atmosphere in shul.

To celebrate my Bat Mitzvah, we held a party that evening at Blue Check restaurant in Bushey, and it was the best party ever! I had so much fun with my friends and family and enjoyed a surprise guest video message from Maggie Wheeler, AKA 'Janice' from Friends!!! I loved the food and dancing; it was a wonderful way to finish the day off.

Now that I have done my Bat Mitzvah, I am looking forward to being called up in shul, and in fact I have been called up

once already!

Having my Bat Mitzvah was a really positive experience, as I now feel I can achieve anything, and it has helped me grow in confidence. I know my Mum, Dad and brother think it was the perfect day and are proud of all I achieved. We all really enjoy being part of the Mosaic community.

My Bat Mitzvah

by Chloe-Mae Shackell

In February 2022, I met with Stefan Roos, my Bat Mitzvah teacher, to discuss the Parasha that I was going to read for my Bat Mitzvah in January 2023. It seemed like a world away. Having been told that I need to read the Shema and the Amida along with the Parasha Va'yera, I thought it was no big deal, as I attended a Jewish primary school and was relatively familiar with some of the prayers. How wrong I was: I had forgotten all the letters and the vowels! Stefan was so patient, and we probably spent the same amount of time discussing football.

January was approaching quicker than I hoped. I was nervous. My parents' busy work schedules and my football practice meant I only had my rehearsal the night before the big event. I came out with a rash on my legs and I was worried it wouldn't disappear before Shabbat. Just another thing to worry about!

The big day arrived and I was strangely excited but nervous.



Being in our brand new shul was calming and Rabbi Kathleen was a reassuring presence for me. Sitting right at the front was also helpful, as I could see the sea of people sat behind me. It was special to have all my family and friends there; some had never been into a shul before. My turn to get up and say the Amida in front of the congregation. It went well, Stefan keeping a close eye. I was calmed by his and the Rabbi's presence. I read the parasha and then concluded my Bat Mitzvah. I think I did okay (I think!) It was special and I know everyone was very proud of me.

After the Kiddush, we had a buffet lunch at the Grims Dyke Hotel. I didn't want a big party and preferred something small with my close friends and family. So, no fancy grand entrance for me or a big Bat Mitzvah speech, but definitely a memorable and special day for me and my family.

Enjoying my Second Bar Mitzvah

by Michael Harris

Linda and I joined Mosaic Masorti in early January this year – ‘refugees’ from EMS, now called SHEMA. We were delighted by the warm and friendly welcome we received - particularly from Edwin Lucas and Rabbi Anthony.

Having recently taken part in our grandson Ollie's Bar Mitzvah at Radlett Reform, Linda reminded me that in March it would be my second Bar Mitzvah and suggested that we should celebrate it in our new shul. Edwin and Rabbi Anthony were very enthusiastic, and Rabbi Anthony sent me



a tape of the leyning, to help me practise.

Shabbat dawned bright and sunny, and the Shul was filled with family and friends. The service was (as usual) most enjoyable, and I managed my part without any serious errors. Afterwards we had a sumptuous Kiddush with the whole Mosaic community.

All our guests were very impressed with the warmth and friendliness of the community.

I actually enjoyed my 2nd Bar Mitzvah more than my first.

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Family Pride at Talía Jones' Bat Mitzvah

by Joanne Jones

Like most pre-teens, Talia was excited about the idea of a Bat Mitzvah, but not so much about the idea of weekly classes preparing for it.

Then we found out which portion she had: Rabbi Kathleen introduced it as “the longest parasha there is.” This brought a sinking feeling of even more nagging to practise than we were expecting, as well as the wonder of how it would fit in with everything else Talia did. She really enjoys musical theatre and is always involved with different shows, all involving plenty of rehearsals, as well as volunteering at a local Brownie group and being a Girl Guide. This didn't leave much time for “the longest Parasha there is.”

We had extensive discussions and put in place lots of plans. There were timetables up in the house, with Alexa regularly set for reminders for practice time, and lovely Linda Holman supporting Talia with online lessons.

Talia's initial reluctance to study came from her nervousness over the language. She really doubted her ability in reading and speaking Hebrew, and some weeks were more of a struggle than others. Then one day, it simply clicked! We've tried to recall what the trigger was, but none of us can. We only know that one day it ‘just worked,’ and from that point there was no looking back. The next challenge came when she moved from practising from a book with vowels to reading without them, as it would be in the Torah, but the support and guidance from her lessons was the magic that moved her forward, and again it clicked.

Talia demonstrates great empathy and has a huge heart, and after one Sunday morning at HaMakom, she came home with a flyer about the Shoah Twinning Project. We never asked



Talia to do a Bat Mitzvah project like some do, as we didn't want to add any pressure, but she reached out to Yad Vashem on her own. They found her a little girl who shared her Hebrew name – Rivka - who was 10 when she was killed in Auschwitz, before her own Bat Mitzvah could take place. By twinning her Bat Mitzvah with the memory of Rivka Regina Krzywanowski, Talia will help her family keep her memory alive.

All parents are proud of their child at their Bar/Bat Mitzvah and we're no exception.

She did so well on the day, we really can't put into words how proud we were of her. In her words, once she'd understood the language and got past that initial hurdle, ‘it was fun!’ For us as her parents, the improvement it's made in her self-confidence is immeasurable and she's a completely different person since that day.

Talia was really scared to stand up in synagogue in front of everyone, so spent the whole service looking down and focusing on her siddur or the Torah. Then we all chuckled as she looked up and gave a huge sigh of relief when she finished her Haftarah!

Talia never wanted a huge party. There's a lot of pressure to have something big and ostentatious, but that just didn't suit Talia so we did it her way, which ultimately proved the best way, helping her remain calm and not get stressed about the celebrations. She's a shy child at heart and doesn't like a fuss, so we planned a family lunch the next day and a smaller party for friends the following week. She got to celebrate in a way that was comfortable and fun for her, which only made it even more special for us as a family.

We were so, so proud – and still are!

Phoebe Ellison

Phoebe Ellison celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at Mosaic Masorti on 24th June. We wish her and her family mazal tov and look forward to reading Phoebe's thoughts about her special day in a future issue.



My Bat Mitzvah experience

by Maya Groffman

How I felt leading up to the day

Weeks before, lots of people asked me how I was feeling, but I didn't really think much of it because it didn't seem real. Then when I realised my Bat Mitzvah was only a week away it was like a shock to the system and it all started to feel really real! Counting down the days was a bit scary, but also really exciting. When I arrived at shul on the day of my Bat Mitzvah I was so nervous that I would do a bad job and that people would laugh at me. I ended up having a panic attack and that wasn't very pleasant, so I took some deep breaths, had a hug with my best friend and some kind people said "who is going to do that? If you make a mistake, slow down, go back and carry on." That was exactly right! Looking back now I realise it was good in a way because it meant I had worked hard and showed how important the service was to me.

How I found Bnei Mitzvah classes

Studying at Rabbi Kathleen's house every Monday evening for around nine months meant that it became a comfortable part of my weekly routine. Rabbi Kathleen made me feel very



Maya and her sister, Abi

relaxed and eager to nail my portion. In that time I learnt the Torah portion, the meanings and stories and teachings that surround it and how to lead parts of the Shabbat morning service.

How the experience affected me

After my Bat Mitzvah I felt a mixture of emotions. Relieved that it had gone really well, happy after the celebrations, sad that it was over, proud that I had achieved something that I had worked so hard for and motivated for whatever comes next.

What it meant to the family

"We are so proud of Maya. She did such a great job. She worked really hard and had a really positive attitude towards learning her portion and all the Bat Mitzvah prep. She proved to us and to herself that she is capable of anything and is ready to be considered an adult in the eyes of the synagogue. It was a wonderful simcha and it was lovely to get all our family and friends together to celebrate this very special day." – Maya's Mum

When we get nits, we'll remember the Bat Mitzvah to distract us!

Synagogue Taxi Service

MJC is happy to share that it has opened an account with Jubilee Cars which will bill the synagogue directly for taking congregants to and from synagogue events. Please feel free to contact Ann Simon at the Mosaic Office if you would appreciate help getting to services, cultural or social events on Stanmore Hill. Contributions towards the cost of your ride will be gratefully received.



Are you considering conversion through either Reform or Liberal Judaism? Are you in the process of converting?

Enjoy a Shabbat experience with those following a similar path and facing similar issues in a warm, open environment for questions and discussions. The weekend is being offered through the Reform Movement for Judaism but Liberal candidates and Liberal Rabbis are warmly invited to join us.

The Beit Din Weekend
Easingwold at the The Hawkhill
3rd-5th November 2023

We will be led by Rabbi Jackie Tabick, Convenor of the Beit Din, Reform Judaism's religious court which deals with matters of conversion.

The weekend is open to anyone considering conversion or is currently in the process of converting. Partners, Jewish or non-Jewish are more than welcome. RSY-Netzer will be running a full weekend of activities for ages 5+, if you prefer your child to remain with you and join in with sessions that is absolutely fine – this is your weekend.

For further information contact the Beit Din Manager,
Lynsey Goodmaker LGoodmaker@rjuk.org
Book online here: <https://ti.to/MRJ/northernchagigah2023>

For those finding accessibility difficult, Zoom links will be available to cover some of the programme, though obviously, to get the most out of the weekend, personal attendance is best.



Friendship Club Update

by Trudy Segal

We are delighted to say that from very slow beginnings at the start of the year the Friendship Club is going from strength to strength.

We are welcoming up to 35 people each week but still have capacity for more. We would especially like to see new faces from within our Mosaic community.

We offer the chance to meet new people; enjoy a 3-course lunch and musical entertainment as well as our extremely popular mobility exercises.

If you have family/friends/neighbours who are lonely/isolated and who tick the 75+ age group, please get in touch - better



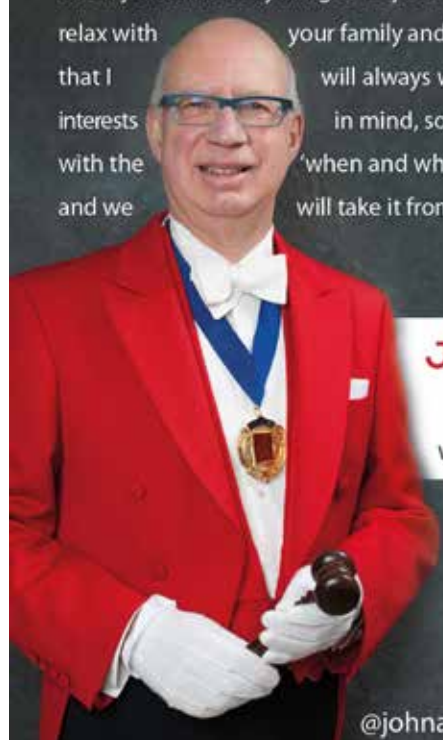
It's on the tip of my tongue "friendly rivalry at our musical quiz

still come along on any Tuesday from 11am - a warm welcome is guaranteed.


Bertha Levy. 0208 421 2233

Trudy Segal. 0208 423 3209

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

Traditionally, there are three speeches at a Jewish wedding: the Father of the Bride before the meal, the Best Man and the Bridegroom, in that order, after the meal. Other speeches can be slotted in as required; for example, the Father of the Bridegroom would follow the Father of the Bride, and the Bride herself could follow the Bridegroom (so that she has the last word!).

The five S's of starting a speech: Stand, Smile, Scan the room, wait for Silence, take a deep breath and then – and only then – Speak. When delivering your speech, talk more slowly than you normally would. Also, take longer pauses between sentences, giving the guests time to laugh or wipe away a tear before you start in on the next sentence. Avoid pauses mid-sentence, and if you cannot tell jokes, do not tell jokes!

SEARCHING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

by Tony Allan



With so many programmes it has recently become a great 'past time' (excuse the pun) to trace your ancestry. The first step is always to ask the older members of your family. However, in my case, I didn't have many family relatives living to ask but I did have a small polythene bag of items and a photo album I'd seen in the possession of one of my aunts.

She knew a little about the family but only as far back as her mother's parents who were Alexander and Julia Posener (see photograph), he was a clothier and had a shop in the High Street, Camden Town, during the early part of the 20th century.

When my aunt died twenty years ago she left me this bag of papers and a photo album. It took another ten years before I decided to take another look at these papers and to my amazement they contained; a wedding present list from 1908 listing the names and gifts; a newspaper article about the death of both my Great-Grandparents who died within a week of each other; a couple of birth and death certificates and few other items, but most precious an original Ketuba from 1879 giving the names of my Great-great-Grandparents. This started me on a search which has now given me over 3000 relatives, some living, some dead, as far afield as Australia, Spain, South Africa and Israel, none of whom I knew existed.

My search started with Alexander Posener, my Great-Grandfather (see photograph). His parents were Joseph and Miriam Posener and they had a clothing shop at 115 Houndsditch in the East End during the late 1800's. Going through business directories I managed to trace his movements from a small shop in Harrow Alley E1 (1871) to 115 Houndsditch owning the corner shop which included 1 Cutler Street. He came from Sierpc in Poland, Miriam from Germany. So that is where I started looking for my Great-Grandmother Julia.

She was born Julia Raphael in 1853 from a family of 16 brothers and sisters, 15 of whom lived to adulthood, very unusual for Victorian times. This period saw the movement of some descendants emigrating, four moved to South Africa and four to Australia, one to New Zealand.

Two brothers who went to Australia in the 1860's committed suicide at various times so it seemed it was a hard life. Others married and stayed, a few, unfortunately, married 'out'. All,

however, merged into Australian life and many of their descendants I am in frequent correspondence with.

Back to the six in the UK; Julia's father was Phillip Raphael. He was born in Portsmouth in 1807, moving to London around 1825, as I found his marriage records in the Great Synagogue archives marrying Elizabeth Harris in 1829. He started out as a furniture dealer, then a cigar manufacturer, then in 1861 he opened a Tavern in Dukes Street near Dukes Place Synagogue. With so many children he didn't have a problem finding staff. During the years he owned the St James Tavern he regularly advertised in the JC before Pesach with his kosher wines and spirits. His brother also sold 'Raphael's Kosher wines', owning the Hotel opposite, so they must have had a good market. Maybe the Chief Rabbi was a customer. Incidentally my Bar Mitzvah was taught to me by Rev. Forsher, the Chuzzan at the Great Synagogue. I'm sure my family had no knowledge of our past relationship with the area.

I have recently gone back further and found Philli's parents. His father was Ralph Raphael, born around 1780, and his mother Leah (nee Hart) born 1785 and, further back still, Leah's mother was Rachel Hart, born 1756, and lived to the grand age of 93. She appears in the 1851 census, having moved from Portsmouth to live with her other daughter in London.

This is where I shall stop for now as it will take over the whole magazine if I continue. More, possibly, in the next edition. All I can say is it has been great fun detecting the family and if you wish to do the same here are some ideas.

These days, especially with the internet, tracing your heritage has been made a great deal easier and for Anglo-Jews the JC is an amazing source of information. But even if your ancestors didn't advertise or place family events in the paper, there is the Records offices in Kew with all the census's from 1841 together with births, deaths and marriage records. Another invaluable source for Jews, no matter where they came from, is the Jewish Genealogy Society of Great Britain. I have been a member for nearly twenty years and found their library, records and members an enormous help. Alternatively, for a fee you can sign up to Ancestry, Find My Past or My Heritage. At one stage I've used all three, changing my subscription from year to year.



Collectors' Corner

Here is another in our "Collectors' Corner" Series.

If you'd like to share your collection with our readers, please contact the Mosaic office.

Mosaic Reform member Janet Byrne, may be known to readers as a contributor to Kehila's Poetry Corner but, as well as enjoying rhyming, she is also an avid collector of many things.

The collecting habit was put to good use when she opened an antiques and collectable shop in the Nineties. The shop only further encouraged collecting and it came as a huge relief to her late husband when Janet closed Golden Days in Northwood Hills, in order to take up the more worthwhile cause of fostering. The Byrnes fostered boys from the U.K. and abroad, for fifteen years, winning several awards as foster carers during that time.

Through a friend, Ray Annenberg, who was a Master Glass Blower at the Whitefriars factory, Janet learned about their very popular glass products and began, of course, collecting it herself. (Whitefriars Glass Ltd opened a factory in Wealdstone, Harrow, in 1923, relocating from their original site, near the River Thames, of a former monastery occupied by monks known as White Friars.)

Part of her glass collection consists of 75 Whitefriars glass ducks (known as Dilly Ducks), in various colours, shapes and sizes. The rarest are sky blue and there are five in her

collection. She is currently searching for another two so she can give one to each of her grandchildren. If anyone has such an item for sale, please contact Janet!

There is also a smaller collection of the different styles of Whitefriars vases and glass owls and penguins made by her friend Ray and, in addition, some Whitefriars paperweights.

An equally prized collection is that of Elvis Presley memorabilia, vinyl records and books, housed in a room of their own! Elvis is indisputably the King in her eyes and her enthusiasm for his music has been passed on to her sons and their families.

A collection that is not so popular with friends and family is that of the antique dolls which seem to freak out many of them but they have enormous appeal to Janet.

Last, but not least, is the SylvaC pottery collection consisting mainly of rabbits and dogs from the 1930's to the 50's. (The company was founded in 1894 by Shaw and Copestake in Stoke-On-Trent).

Although loving her collections, Janet has decided it is time to stop now as her family think her house is beginning to resemble her former shop!

"If you build It, they will come" by Gary Italiaander

This title is generally attributed to the Kevin Costner film, 'Field of Dreams' but is actually first referred to in Genesis 7:1-10 when Noah is called upon to build an ark. The idea that Noah would have to round up two of each animal is not required as God instructs Noah to ... "build it and they will come".

On the evening of Thursday 27th July, a chance conversation - indeed a serendipitous moment - brought two communities from different backgrounds together to meet under one roof. Just a week earlier, the idea that this meeting might take place had not even been considered.

But what developed in the space of just a few days came about due to the wording on the foundation stone of what

was originally the Greenford Synagogue in Oldfield Lane, Greenford. The concept of 'build it and they will come' relates strongly to both of the communities in this unique and fascinating story.

A chance conversation between two political activists, one Jewish and one Hindu, suddenly realised the strongest connection between their two religious communities.

The background to what developed:

When the London underground's Central Line was extended to Greenford on 30th June 1947, it allowed easy access to central London from this leafy suburb and Jewish people who were moving out of the city were able to begin settling there. Very quickly a community started to develop and meet regularly in the Community Centre in Oldfield Lane. Eventually, in 1959, they were in a position to create their own building with the assistance of the Federation of Synagogues and so, on 11th January 1959, the foundation stone was laid by Abraham Banks who had become the lay rabbi from the outset, a role he played for around forty years. He was the person who, with a few others, was the glue that held the community together. By 1999, the community had started to move to other areas further out of London and so the Jewish community in Greenford was no longer viable.

It was hoped that the building would not simply be pulled down



Original Green shul

continues on following page >>

Continued from previous page...



Interior of Greenford Shul

and turned into flats but remain as a place of prayer. This is exactly what took place when the local Hindu community were themselves looking for a place to call home. Just as the Jewish community all those years earlier had a dream to build a vibrant community, this new community had a similar dream. However, the local Council were not keen for a place of worship to be on the site, stating that it was irrelevant and counter to the residential area. Uniquely the argument that a Jewish place of worship, a Synagogue, had stood on the precise site since 1959 laid a claim while raising the question as to why not allow another centre of worship to continue. The very energy and ideals of Greenford's Jewish community laid the foundations for today's extraordinary Greenford Hindu Temple. As a result, approval and planning permission was granted to the Hindu community to build their new home.

Both communities had to find sufficient funds and in the case of the Jewish community, an enlightened anonymous member approached the CEO of the then Baeyer AG German Pharmaceutical Combine, whose company were found implicated in serious Nazi activities. Explaining the building fund and that numerous members of the Greenford congregation had been affected by the Holocaust, he felt that Baeyer had an obligation to provide a positive outcome in the way of a financial contribution. A cheque was then sent to the Greenford Synagogue fund, received by Abraham Banks, and this seemingly mysterious but substantial amount made it easier to move things forwards.

When the Hindu community first took over what had been the synagogue, they adapted it for their own use but also had a dream to build a much larger space for their own growing community. In 2019 they were able to knock down the original building and construction began but they also needed substantial funds which they were able to go to their own community for and within four years everyone has been repaid, with interest.

This new community wanted to honour the previous Jewish community and what they had achieved in creating the first prayer hall in this space and so, when they started build their Temple - Shree Jalaram Mandir – they placed the original foundation stone under their building to be an integral part of their own community.

In the chance phone call when Raj Khiroya from the Hindu community was speaking to Jonathan Banks (son of Abraham Banks) he immediately invited Jonathan to visit the Greenford Temple the following week. Jonathan agreed and asked if he could bring his sister who he felt sure would want to accompany him. Raj suggested inviting others as well and suddenly the ball was rolling with contact made with the children and grandchildren of the founders of the Greenford community. Within a few days, around twenty-four people who hadn't met for years found

themselves in the space that had originally been Greenford Synagogue.

When we were greeted by Raj and told that this was the most special of days for their community as they had waited for twenty-three years for us to be there, we were all stunned. We were then led upstairs to the beautiful prayer hall where there were a few hundred people and we had reserved seats as the honoured guests. We were also ushered to the front of the large crowd at one stage in the proceedings to participate in the service.

Speeches were made by Raj who presented a framed photograph of the foundation stone to Jonathan who responded with a speech on behalf of the Jewish community. We were then invited to join them for a sumptuous vegetarian meal. The Greenford Hindu community started supplying food to the local NHS and emergency services during covid and have developed a programme to feed several hundred people a day to ensure that they will have at least one hot meal which is an amazing achievement.

Considering that the original Greenford Synagogue could hold a maximum of 250 people, it is astonishing that the Greenford Temple on the same site (but covering a larger footprint (using what had been car parking space) can accommodate up to 800 people on its two floors.

The Mayor of Ealing, Councillor Hitesh Tailor, was also in attendance and spoke to us later in the Temple's boardroom.

The hospitality and hand of friendship extended by the Hindu community to the Jewish community was incredible and so special that it has created a link that we are sure will develop in the most interesting of ways. We already have an invitation to visit whenever we like and to hold a larger reunion of our community within the Temple which we will now arrange.

It has taken quite a few days for all of us to process this amazing meeting and there is a buzz within both communities that is nothing short of exhilarating. In addition, with the story spreading like wildfire regarding inter-faith relationship building, another Jewish community based in Stanmore has requested an opportunity to visit the temple and extend an invitation for the Hindu community to visit the synagogue. In addition, a connection in a home for the elderly in Watford has become aware of this story and has requested to hear the details with a short talk which is taking place this week. All these exciting developments have taken place within two weeks of the very first phone conversation between Raj and Jonathan.

Note: Gary has put together a slideshow video of the evening: https://youtu.be/Zh9u_ml06OI



New Greenford temple

Summer Term at HaMakom

by Toria Bacon & Viki Kenton

To start off the summer term at HaMakom we marked the festivals of Lag B'Omer and Yom Ha'atzmaut with games in the nearby park and festival themed activities, such as kite making, edible bonfires and Magen David sculptures. The children had a great morning that concluded with a delicious Israeli lunch of salad, falafel, hummus and pitta.

On the 2nd July we held our first ever Open Morning for members of our communities that would like to bring their children along to see what we do at HaMakom. The teachers ran a range of activities throughout the morning and we all gathered together for an end of year assembly and some tasty platters of food. It was lovely to see some new faces at HaMakom and we look forward to welcoming them in September.

At the end of term we decided to change things up a little and held our annual party at Laser Planet in Watford. We know from the hot, sweaty, smiley faces, that the children all had a fabulous time. The competition between the Red and Green teams definitely brought out the best in them! We will have to



start thinking now in order to better this next year!!

As always the end of the academic year brings about some goodbyes. We were very sad to say farewell to two wonderful members of staff, Liat Remon and Talia Solomon. Talia has been attending HaMakom

since she was a young girl just starting out in Kittah Alef and, after completing our Assistant Trainee course, she became a fabulous assistant and this year took on the role as our youngest class teacher!

Liat joined as a teacher last January, teaching Jewish Studies to Kittah Hay and Ivrit to our Bnei Mitzvah children. Having a native Hebrew speaker teaching our children Hebrew was such a gift.

It is very special when we watch children grow and mature from young children to adults leaving home and finding their own way in the world. And so special when a parent holds HaMakom so highly in their heart that they come back to teach.

Thank you as always to our wonderful staff, incredibly supportive parents and, of course, all the fantastic children that make HaMakom such a great cheder!



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Simon Leibling and Middle Street Synagogue Brighton

by David Leibling

There is a plaque in the prayer hall in Bear Road Jewish Cemetery in Brighton acknowledging the long service given by Simon Leibling (my paternal grandfather) to the Chevra Kadisha, the group within the synagogue that undertakes tahara, or the ritual washing of dead bodies before burial. The cemetery belongs to Middle Street Synagogue which was built in 1875. I believe it was probably because of his long-standing involvement with the synagogue that he was always given the honour of opening the Ark at the beginning of the Kol Nidrei service when all the scrolls are taken out for the recital of the Kol Nidrei prayer.

Simon was born in 1877 in Lipkani, now in Moldova, and came to England around 1903 to join his older brother and sister; other siblings remained in Lipkani, their families ending up in Israel and Germany. Simon lived in London where he was a cabinet maker and then a grocer and moved to Brighton in 1915/16 and opened a grocer's shop.

I wanted to know how involved Simon was with the wider running of the synagogue and found out that the minute books of the synagogue were held at the Keep, part of the University of Sussex. On 25 July 2023 I went to Brighton (Falmer actually) to look at these books from 1930 to 1957.

The minute books were handwritten up till around 1947 when they were typed and much easier to read. The outcome of my research was that his name appeared in these minutes only on one occasion, in January 1953, to record his death in December 1952 and offer sympathies to his (second) wife and four children. While looking, I did find three references to my father Harry. In December 1930 when he would have been 15, he asked for permission to use a room at the synagogue for some boys to meet, a prototype youth group, and there were two mentions at the 1953 and 1955 AGMs thanking him for conducting the children's services over the High Festivals (sic) (we moved from Brighton to London in 1955).

So Simon Leibling was a respected member of the community carrying out an important religious service, but not one actively



involved in its management.

A few snippets from the minutes.

In 1930, the rabbi was reprimanded for cancelling the religion classes without notice and failing to light the Chanukah candles one day.

In the same year, the Yom Kipper appeal raised £38. 13s. 6d. It allocated £21. 0s. 0d. to the Ukraine appeal, £7. 7s. 0d. (7 guineas) to the Jewish Shelter and the balance to the local Board of Guardians.

Over the years there were references to the butchers not paying enough to the local Shechita Board and regular requests for members to sign seven-year covenants to enable tax to be refunded (the precursor to Gift Aid).

In 1948 it was suggested that a mixed choir be formed but the idea never went anywhere. At the time there was a proposal from the electricity company to switch the electric current from DC to AC but that was rejected because of the high cost of converting equipment

within the synagogue.

In 1950 there were two Bas (Bat) Mitzvahs (form not recorded) and it was proposed setting up a Confirmation class for girls.

Parking was a problem at the burial ground in 1951 and it was agreed to erect a parking sign and in 1955 they acquired an electric bier. There were repeated requests for more helpers for the Chevra Kadisha in the AGM minutes.

In 1955 the rabbi was not allowed to be the Jewish Mayor of Brighton's chaplain as the civic service would have been held at the Liberal Synagogue. In 1957 there were concerns that membership had dropped because of people moving to the Reform Synagogue in Hove, founded in 1955. But in 1956 a group went to London to look at the layout of various synagogues to give ideas for the new building for a new orthodox synagogue in West Hove and they decided that they liked the arrangement of Hendon Reform Synagogue where the bimah and ark were combined.

How Jewish is Barbie?

By Josi Zane

A pink sensation has swept the nation.

Barbie is back! This time not covered in thick layers of dust (and with missing limbs!) in abandoned household drawers, or cartwheeling in the hands of small children, but unashamedly, on our big screens. According to The Guardian, the film raked in £293m world-wide in its opening weekend.

Jibes at Mattel's creation of Barbie as an unrealistic and soulless doll plague the film through comedic interludes. To Mattel's credit, the film does also highlight the company's shifts towards inclusivity (a black President Barbie and Barbies with different body types are visible too.) The film is likely to quell some recent financial losses for Mattel who will likely gain a hefty profit from the film, according to Reuters.

In BarbieLand, each woman or 'Barbie' has her own large (man-free!), pink DreamHouse equipped with bright pink bins, pink (you guessed it) furniture and pink household appliances. The walls on each house are transparent, inviting non-stop fun socialising with other neighbouring Barbies. The makings of a feminist utopia (or nightmare!) for some of us, perhaps?

BarbieLand features an abundance of pink cars, pink sunbeds, pink aeroplanes and pink street lamps.

Barbie must enter the "real" world and find the little girl who plays with her, in order to stop herself from growing cellulite and becoming "ugly". The struggle is real here for our main Barbie, portrayed by Hollywood star, Margot Robbie. [A clever interlude is where a narrator stops the action and comments that superstar Margot Robbie might be the wrong choice of

actress to portray a decaying Barbie!]

Barbie meets "real" girls in the "real" world and is horrified to discover that she isn't quite the heroine she'd always thought she was.

The film's more serious feminist undertones are exemplified by a monologue from Gloria, played by the superb America Ferrera, in which she beautifully articulates many of the challenges and contradictions of modern womanhood.

The film's most poignant Jewish reference is the portrayal of the spirit of Mattel's co-founder, Ruth Handel. The film concludes with our stereotypical Barbie meeting Handel herself. Barbie declares that she wants to become "human" and experience all the ensuing complexities, just like the film's audience members.

The film certainly made me reflect on the impressiveness of Handel's success as a Jewish businesswoman. We have her to thank for the cultural icon, Barbie, and in part for the film. Far more than a mere superficial watch, the film sparks interesting questions on identity and self-determinism in a way which leaves a profound mark.

Based on its initial opening-weekend earnings, director Greta Gerwig's epic is the most successful film ever directed by a woman. A real win for the women of the real world! Hurrah! .. I'd say Barbie is pretty Jewish!



Calling all budding artists:

Could you or your children design the front cover of the Chanukah or Pesach issues of our Kehila magazine?

We are looking for something colourful and exciting that expresses how we at Mosaic celebrate the festivals, so let your imagination run wild and send us images of your drawings, paintings or digital designs.

There will be two age groups - Under 10 and Over 10 (which includes adults). There will be prizes in each category and the winning entries will be featured on the cover of the respective issues.

Send to the usual email address – newsdesk@choosmosaic.org – to arrive by Monday 4th December. We can't wait to see your entries.

The ancient synagogue of Mád, Tokaj, Hungary

by Malcolm Franks

A recent wine tour that we ran took us to Hungary, more specifically Budapest, Eger and the Tokaj wine region.

Many readers will be familiar with the Dohany Street Great Synagogue in Budapest, the largest synagogue in Europe with in excess of 3000 seats and reputedly the second largest in the world. (See photo)

Having initially visited on a trip to Budapest several years ago it came as a bit of a shock to actually have to pay to enter now (commercialism strikes) but it is well worth a visit. It is a magnificent building on three levels and is a particularly poignant location for Vivienne as her great grand-parents were married there in 1912.

There is also the Tree of Life Holocaust Memorial funded by Tony Curtis in the rear courtyard as well as the Hungarian Jewish Museum with several interesting artefacts.

On this trip we travelled North West to Eger and on to the Tokaj wine region which for many years had become an ideal location for traditional Jewish life. The Jews of Tokaj-Hegyalja became actively involved in agricultural activities and the wine trade and maintained excellent relations with their Christian



neighbours.

Chasidic Jewish leaders were well known for their healing skills and were sought after by many irrespective of their own religion. Sadly, for obvious reasons, there are now no Jewish families left in the region.

The synagogue in the town of Tokaj itself was built in 1890 accommodating up to 1800 worshippers. It was damaged by fire in 1999 and cannot be visited but can still be identified from the cast Mogen David at the top of the building which is now used as a Civic Centre.

The baroque synagogue of Mád was built in 1795 and is one of the most beautiful synagogues in Hungary. It fell into disuse and a major restoration took place between 2002 and 2004. It was given a Europa Nostra Heritage award in 2005 and is now listed amongst the 100 most beautiful synagogues of the world.

The one-time Rabbi's House and Talmud School in Mád has also been refurbished and now holds an interactive exhibition as well as the "Pilgrim's Rest" which has accommodation for up to 32 people and can be used for children's camps, youth or community events. Kosher catering can be made available in the Rabbi's House.

Reflection

by David Bright

It must be said that with the world seeming to be in a freefall from unfathomable weather patterns to International political discord, financial markets and day to day cost of living, that having the one constant, a place to pray, is a literal godsend.

A year ago, HEMS, with our small loyal weekly gatherings at Hatch End Guides, could not have imagined that in such a short time we could have grown into a flourishing shul within the community of Mosaic. It must be said that, while our membership has grown since moving into the new building, the influx of our fabulous new members has set the stage for the longevity of our Masorti voice in the thriving new concept we are proud to be a part of.



I have always looked at Shabbat Morning Services as my detox from the very busy week behind me and an encouraging boost to the week ahead. I have long since enjoyed the warm embrace of the services led by the many talented people who do so and it is a testament to our amazing Rabbi that he ministers to the needs of our Kehila with such commitment, friendship, and aplomb.

This year, our family suffered the sudden loss of Peter who was known by many and loved by all. His charismatic personality, outspoken and sometimes hilarious sense of humour was guaranteed to light up the room and he was a man whose charity work and

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unflinching desire to help others proved that he was a genuine soul and we miss him dearly.

Over the summer, we have travelled through Europe and we were blessed with having visited 5 different Shuls in five different sets of ethos. From an Orthodox Shul in Antwerp to the Egalitarian Shul in the Netherlands, we could not help but be struck by one central theme. Faith has many faces and it is those who pursue their own ethos that brings to life the very buildings in which their approach is housed.

In Tallin we visited a Shul where there were other visitors from Canada. In Helsinki we stood outside a Shul whose MEMORIAL Stones could only bring a tear to the eye. As we enjoyed a fabulous Friday Night dinner in Antwerp, or said Kaddish in Shul in Tallinn, we came to recognise that no matter the religious walk of life chosen, it can only be through personal reflection and acceptance that all will flourish and survive in the world we live in. No approach is exclusively correct in their interpretations, but so too must we respect

those of others to allow them their right to practise in their own way. The accompanying photo was taken outside Stockholm Masorti Shul.

Mosaic Jewish Community, a concept otherwise not tested, has shown exactly this. It has shown that people of the same birthright can come together no matter their focus, that those who join our religion with their new found focus and those from yesteryear with their own focus can singularly come together, pray, learn, eat and laugh, share sorrow and happiness alike and say Lechaim in a way that should be a testament to others. If this last year has taught me anything, it has shown me that the world lacks tolerance. Yet, when I come to shul on Shabbat morning looking forward to our services, I thank God that he has covered me with the Mosaic blanket and allowed me to enjoy heartfelt prayers while I know that others in our beautiful building are doing the same.

I wish you all G'Mar V'Chatimah Tovah

An evening of Jewish Cricketers

at JW3 on Monday 26th June

by Michael Reik



Juliet Wiener (Australia), Mandy Yachad (South Africa), Danny Reuben (England), chaired by Daniel Lightman

First up was Juliette Wiener whose parents were Holocaust Survivors.

He scored a century on debut for Victoria against Queensland. In addition to playing in Australia he played for Kent. He played in one-day cricket for Australia against the 1970/1980 West Indies attack. He also played in Pakistan. He is the only Jew to have represented Australia at Test Cricket. He now works for Cricket Australia

We next heard from Mandy Yachad whose parents came from Lithuania with traditional Jewish values, which Mandy has maintained. Initially Mandy represented South Africa at hockey, a total of 21 times. He did this while representing Northern Transvaal as opening batsman at cricket. In 1991 he represented South Africa at cricket when South Africa was allowed back into the international fold. He played that year in India and was delighted to be provided with Kosher food.

Because of his Orthodox Jewish values, he would play while wearing tzitzit and a kippah. He would play sometimes in the afternoon while attending Schul in the morning, never taking any mobile transport.

He scored 123 against the West Indies for South Africa but his father, who keenly supported him, could not see that innings as it took place on Shabbat. He found by showing his Jewishness he received increased respect. There have been many Jewish South African players including the previous captain, Ali Bacher. He also mentioned there is an up and coming 19 year old Jewish cricketer who is strictly orthodox, who needed to walk to the ground because of his religious beliefs. The rest of the team (non-Jewish) also went to his house and walked with him to the ground.

Finally, we heard from Danny Reuben. He grew up in Leeds among 10,000 other Jews, where cricket was an aspirational sport. He was wicket keeper batsman and played in three Maccabias. He was an all-round sportsman, playing rugby league and also for seven years football at Burnley. Since 2016 he has been employed representing the English Cricket team to the media. He has therefore been involved in the highs and lows with the English Cricket team, including the winning of the World Cup in 2019 with Eoin Morgan as captain, a major high, as well as the run with Jo Root as a captain of only one win in 17 matches during the Pandemic. He is in favour of Bazball, the recent style of cricket England has been playing under Ben Stokes, though believes the name Bazball is meaningless. He also commented, as did the other two cricketers on the panel, that he had never encountered Anti-Semitism.

Suitcases

by Edwin Lucas

The holiday season is soon going to be over and we will be putting away our holdalls, bags, rucksacks, small cases and, if you are like our daughter Gillian, massive trunks for another day when you will be driving, sailing, flying to a destination for a break. Before you store your portable treasures away that are no longer needed in your loft, garage, or shed, I would like to put out an appeal for cases and carriables, that you do not love any longer or are a bit damaged and could be given to a new user.

A few years ago, MJC collected carriables, which were no longer needed and we donated over 400 items to a Men's prison for prisoners on their day of release, so they could re-enter society without being seen as a former prisoner, by the general public, on the public transport system, be it bus, tram, train, or boat. The Prison Service give some assistance, but not enough and many long-term former prisoners have amassed considerable items that have been collected over many years,



that need transporting to help them start their new lives after spending time in His Majesty's establishments. I know personally of one lady who left prison with two really big cases and travelled across London negotiating a station change, as well as transferring on to National Rail and then having the same experience at the final destination. You could say it is no different to any student going on holiday. MJC however helped to ensure that this person felt like a normal holidaymaker and made the first day easier and more manageable. She was not singled out and that is the mitzvah we are promoting.

Please contact Edwin via the Mosaic office if you have any unwanted carriables and we can arrange a place to drop them off, or we can pick them up. My target is for 300 items of different size and condition, to go to a Ladies' Prison in Staffordshire. That will provide a starting a new life service for every prisoner being released in the next 12 months from that location. This would be a wonderful mitzvah for MJC.

Mosaic Reform Synagogue

Sermon 17th June

by David Leibling

The Rabbi had been at the congregation for a number of years and the Chairman decided it was time for a review. They had a long chat and agreed there was one thing each they wanted to change. The Rabbi was disappointed that no-one ever sat in the front row while the Chairman said the Rabbi's sermons should be shorter. They agreed the rabbi would take a sabbatical and when the Rabbi returned he was amazed that the synagogue had been cleared of chairs, except for the front row. As the congregants came in they had to sit on the only row of seats. When it was full, it moved forward and another row of seats appeared and the congregants had



to fill in the second row and so on till the synagogue was full. The Rabbi was delighted that his wish of a full front row had been achieved. The Rabbi started his sermon but forgot his reciprocal promise of shorter sermons. The Chairman grinned because he knew what would happen. Exactly 10 minutes after the Rabbi began a trap door opened and the Rabbi disappeared into the floor. I promise you I won't take more than 10 minutes.

Sermons often start with a joke but today I have deliberately chosen to start this way because it is my father's yahrzeit and he was a great joke teller, as my family will tell, so this is a

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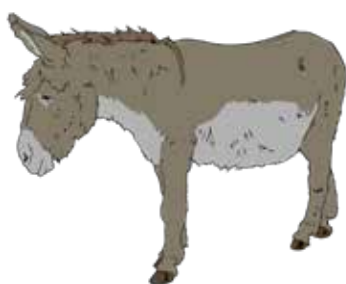
memorial to him. I could easily fill 10 minutes with a long stream of his jokes but that wouldn't really be appropriate. But I have done some research to see where humour and laughter come in the Bible. It won't quite link up with today's parasha but you might have some surprises. I'm going to use illustrations from the Old Testament but there are plenty of examples in the New Testament too. Of course, serious scholars find it difficult to accept there is humour in a book as revered as the Bible but it takes its place amongst the other human emotions in the bible such as sadness or dealing with death.

The book of Proverbs is a very good place to start. American Reverend Shutter gives numerous example such as: Proverbs 26 verse 17: Interfering in someone else's argument is as foolish as yanking a dog's ears. Another quote: "A person of great anger will bear the penalty, for if you rescue them, you will only have to do it again". In other words, someone of violent temper is always getting into difficulties; you have no sooner helped them out of one than they have plunged madly into another. Shutter also says humour is often used to communicate morality claiming, "Can a person take fire in his bosom and their clothes not be burned?" is a sarcastic question about adultery. Shutter includes "Wealth makes many 'friends'; poverty drives them all away" as an example of social satire.

Right in the beginning, we have the message Abraham and Sarah received, putting them into the absurd situation of a ninety year old having a baby. In Genesis 21 verse 6 Sarah says, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." Howard R. Macy, a professor of religion, argues that the Biblical author shows that the situation is full of humour: "Abraham laughs, Sarah laughs, everybody else laughs, and they name the baby 'laughter' or He-laughs [Isaac Yitzack].

The story of Baalam and his ass is of course absurd. When Balaam was on his way to an enemy camp, an angel blocked the path. The donkey Balaam rode saw the angel and stopped, but Balaam urged the donkey forward because he couldn't see the angel.

God enabled the donkey to speak to Balaam. We laugh at Balaam for not seeing, but all the time the Israelites have not seen either what God has done above, or the consequences of what they are doing below." Sometimes we're so stubborn God has to do strange things to get our attention. The story is set up in terms of threes—"three people, three incidents, etc.—that occurs in many types of jokes: "A priest, a vicar and a rabbi where the third element breaks the pattern" and provides the joke.



The Bible provides some examples to show that God enjoys a good joke. As an example of God's good sense of humour we can turn to the story in the book of Samuel Chapter 5 verse 5 of the sin of the Philistines in taking the Ark of the Covenant from Israel. When the Philistines brought the Ark of the Covenant to the temple of their deity, Dagon, they discovered that their idol had fallen in front of the Ark. The next day, the idol was discovered, lying on its face with its hands and head severed and only the trunk left. "Therefore, to this day, neither the priests of Dagon nor all who enter Dagon's house tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod". The joke is that God opted to put Dagon in a serving position instead of destroying the temple to their god, Dagon. God seems to be laughing at the heathens' foolishness.

Some people might find the irony God displayed in Jonah's story amusing. The prophet tried to escape God but ended up in a large fish's stomach instead.

In the book of Kings we have an example of sarcasm, when a group of pagan worshippers challenged Elijah, a prophet of God, to see whose deity could perform the best miracle. When the pagans got no response, Elijah sarcastically mocked them, saying their god must be asleep, on vacation, or relieving themselves. When Elijah called on God to perform a miracle, God showed how powerful God was and how false gods only let people down.

In Ecclesiastes there is an example of sharp Biblical humour giving insight into human nature: "All people spend their lives scratching for food, but they never seem to have enough."

So, in conclusion, we can see that despite the underwhelming treatment that theologians and scholars of the past have paid to the subject of humour in the Bible, enough evidence exists to claim that God has a sense of humour. God is able to laugh with us, and sometimes at us, testifying to the fact that we don't need to take ourselves so seriously.

I'll finish with a story that was not one of my father's repertoire.

Abe, aged 95, and Hetty, aged 89, decide to get married.

They were out walking together when they passed a branch of Boots the Chemist. They went in and said to the pharmacist, "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?"

"Of course", was the reply.

"What about medicine for improving circulation?"

"Yes, we can certainly help with that".

"And remedies for rheumatism?"

"Yes, we can certainly help with that".

"And do you stock that Viagra then?"

"Of course, Sir".

"What about wheelchairs and zimmers?"

"We can certainly help you with those".

Abe turns to Hetty, "That's sorted, we can set up our wedding gift list here".

Fruity Friday Ladies

by Caroline Chadwick, Veronica Music & Gill Ross

Have you ever wondered how the Kiddush fruit appears on the tables on a Shabbat morning? Well I will let you into a little known secret. Every Friday morning, the Fruity Friday Ladies come into the synagogue and prepare the fruit sticks. We are Veronica Music, Gill Ross and Caroline Chadwick.

We would love you to join us for an hour on a Friday morning at 10.00 a.m. to help prepare the fruit and meet and greet trolley and you will get the opportunity to wear a beautiful apron with our MJC logo on it, designed and made by Jeanette Leibling with her wonderful sewing team, Jonquil Nicholls and Judith Sonnenberg.

The three of us also organise and prepare the sponsored kiddushim on a Shabbat morning, and all the shabbat morning kiddushim. If you have a special simchah, such as a bar or bat mitzvah, big birthday, anniversary, engagement, baby



blessing, or no excuse at all, please speak to one of us on a Shabbat morning. You will see us wearing our blue MJC aprons. You can also ring Ann Simon in the office if you would like to book a date in the shul diary and any other information you may require. We would be happy to organise your special kiddush working with your budget and what you would like to us to provide.

Our Shabbat kiddushim and meet and greet teams provide such a wonderful atmosphere and enable everyone from Mosaic Reform, Mosaic Masorti and Mosaic Liberal to socialise

before the service with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit or two and then afterwards at the Kiddush. This is prepared by our wonderful team of volunteers from our three communities.

PS - If you would like your own personal Mosaic apron, they will be available from the office at £10 each. Please contact the office to place your order.



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Shana Tova

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A selection from the Mosaic Members' Summer Exhibition



by Alex Landau



by Debbie Rozewicz

September 2023 / Tishri 5784

Rosh Hashanah

Message from the President



This Rosh Hashanah, I would like to focus on two wonderful events which demonstrate the esteem in which the Jewish community is held in this country. The first of these was the coronation of King Charles III in May. I was privileged to be invited to represent the Jewish community at the coronation. The King has said on a number of occasions that he wishes to be the 'protector of faiths' and he has been as good as his word. Having experienced King Charles' warmth towards our community on several occasions, I know he will be a wonderful monarch both for the Jewish community and the wider nation. I wish him much success.

Leading the service on that day was the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. We were delighted that he accepted our invitation to be interviewed by historian and novelist Simon Sebag Montefiore at Bevis Marks Synagogue this summer. We invited every Board of Deputies-affiliated synagogue to send representatives to this wonderful event. The Archbishop spoke with great passion of his personal commitment to fighting antisemitism, the duty of care that universities have for their Jewish students and the historic relationship between the Church and the Jewish community. His views were both heartfelt and heartwarming for all who were there.

The Board's key work is in two areas. Firstly, we engage with politicians, civil society, and other faith groups throughout the UK at national, regional and local level, sharing with them the Jewish community's views about a wide range of topics including antisemitism, Israel, religious practice and social issues. Secondly, we work proactively to advance causes of great concern to our community. For example, we run Pikuach (The Jewish Ofsted) to inspect our Jewish schools, helping to ensure they provide an excellent Jewish education. We also have our Jewish Living Experience Exhibition, which is travelling around the country educating children and adults about the Jewish way of life, and we are developing a new online digital programme to teach non-Jewish children around the UK about Jews, Judaism, Israel and antisemitism.

There are still threats to the safety of our community. We have previously campaigned successfully to have both Hezbollah and Hamas proscribed in their entirety as terrorist organisations. We strongly believe that the Government has a duty to ban the state-sponsored terror group the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). In July we held an event in Parliament which featured impassioned evidence from advocates of proscription.

There is still bias against Israel in the media. One particularly egregious example occurred recently when a BBC News presenter, in an interview with former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, said that "Israeli forces are happy to kill children". We contacted the BBC's Director General to protest in the strongest possible terms. On this occasion the BBC



A High Holy Day Message from Rabbi Josh Levy, CEO of The Movement for Reform Judaism & Rabbi Charley Baginsky, CEO of Liberal Judaism

The Yamim Noraim are a time for reflection; for pressing pause to think back on the year that has passed and imagine what the next year might bring.

This year, reviewing our lives feels particularly exciting. Over the last few months we have taken an enormous leap, both professionally and personally, which means that this year's High Holy Days will be very different to those of the past.

In April, the Movement for Reform Judaism and Liberal Judaism announced that we would be working in close partnership to create a new movement to represent all of Britain's Progressive Jews. We recognise that this announcement took many by surprise. Nonetheless, the response has been positive, and that this is a welcome move felt by many to be long overdue. The enthusiastic support has been overwhelming within our clergy bodies, our communities and in the wider Jewish world.

In May, we both began to work two days a week on this project, which will expand in November when Josh will join MRJ full time.

Although we are still in the early stages of the project there are already tangible ways in which it is making a difference. We have been moved by the way in which Liberal and Reform communities and staff have welcomed each other, and by the new space that has been created to work collaboratively on projects.

We have begun to raise initial funds so that we can start the work without taking away from the two movements. As we build a new organisation, they will continue to focus on the crucial support they provide to our communities, youth movements and members.

Most significantly, we have witnessed the way in which combining our voice, modelling collaborative leadership and the power of a trusting partnership has already had a significant impact on the Jewish, faith and national stages. From every corner we are being invited in and the profile and optimism of Progressive Judaism in the UK is on the rise.

Some will say this has been tried before and that it did not work, but we are confident that this time is different.

This is a new moment: our clergy are together, our boards are committed, we have symmetry of leadership, and there is a new commitment to diversity of practice within shared values. The new language of this moment is also powerful. We are not talking about merger, but co-creation. One in which we reaffirm the importance of movement, of being stronger by working together. We see the possibilities that are created when we ask what we can build together, to take this opportunity for renewal and imagination.

And that is where you come in.

We need you to help us develop the vision; to help us imagine what a shared, sustainable and effective movement will look like. To help us think through how we have a more powerful voice in the Jewish, faith and national spheres, how we invest in and what makes Jewish life flourish, how we recognise the centrality of our synagogues and communities and support their development, and how we ensure that we have growth and breadth for the future.

After the High Holy Days, we will be visiting Reform and Liberal communities, asking what we can build, sharing ideas and, of course, answering all your questions. Everyone's voice here is essential if we are going to get this right and build the movement we all deserve. When we visit your community later in the year, we very much hope you will join us as we shape the future together.

As the vision grows, we will also begin the work of building. An Advisory Board will oversee the emerging movement. Working groups will ask the big questions and make recommendations on specific areas, as well as having detailed discussions, covering governance, finance, assets, communities, rabbinic bodies, status and outreach, youth, education, leadership and so on. We will soon have an active website with opportunities to contribute as well as regular updates and information.

As we approach the end of 5783, we are delighted by the leap we have taken and the progress we have already made. In the short time our movements have been working together we have already made a huge impact. With your input, support and commitment, the year ahead will be one in which we build together an exciting future for Progressive Judaism in the UK.



Rosh Hashanah Message from Rachel Sklan, CEO Masorti Judaism

One of my lasting memories of Rosh Hashana is standing by my father's side during the final blow of the shofar of the Neilah service, swaying amongst the faithful people of our community. I remember feeling excited, although a little fearful, about the future and the year ahead. There is something deeply hopeful, while somewhat intimidating, about Rosh Hashana: an opportunity to start afresh, to do-over, and to aspire for more.

In my new role as CEO of Masorti Judaism, I can feel the familiar bubbling of nervous excitement as Rosh Hashana approaches. The world has taken a pummeling over the past 4 years, and yet slowly we have emerged from the depths of fear and uncertainty. As a community, we have had to work hard to regroup and become hopeful once more.

Our Masorti communities have flourished due to the dedication of their leadership and members. New communities have emerged from committed young people,

seeking to develop creative Jewish communal life. We are a community of creators and innovators; of inspirational and dutiful people, who are all, in our own ways, answering the call of the shofar. We enter the new year not only as individuals, but as a community, deeply bound by our Masorti values.

This year the call for the Masorti Judaism team is to support and nurture growth. Growth is essential for the survival of our individual communities, and of our movement. It is necessary to ensure that our Judaism remains accessible and relevant for generations to come.

We will achieve this through 3 key priorities: nurturing Rabbinic relationships; sowing seedling communities and strengthening our existing communities. We aim to ensure that our members are supported, inspired and provided for, to help create the communities we all wish to be a part of.

This is our calling...what will be yours?

Shana Tova

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree

Each year, we dip the apple and honey and wish one another a happy and sweet New Year, feeling hopeful about the coming months.

Last year, as Rosh Hashanah approached, Michael noticed his dad, Leon, was becoming forgetful and losing weight rapidly. Soon after that, Leon received a dementia diagnosis.

Leon and Michael had always been close, and Michael moved in with him to care for him. Their roles reversed as Michael returned the love and care that Leon had always showered on him. By December, Michael says, 'there were heart-breaking moments, when dad forgot who I was.'

Michael reached out to Jewish Care Social Work and Community Support Team who support both Leon and Michael, as his family carer. Jewish Care's specialist staff and volunteers provide support to Leon when he visits The Sam Beckman Centre for people living with dementia in a nurturing environment. "I love it," says Leon, "going there is like walking on sunshine."

Tracy in the Family Carers Team is there for Michael, listening to him, offering guidance and support as he navigates his way to the best care for his dad. Michael also enjoys meeting others in similar situations at the Dementia Carer's Tea.

Adam Overlander-Kaye, Jewish Care's Director of Fundraising & Community Engagement, says, "Jewish Care is there for hundreds of people who are living with dementia, as well as for their family and carers. Each week, these services cost £300,000 and we rely on your generous support to support families like Leon and Michael."

To donate to Jewish Care services for people living with dementia and their family carers, please call 020 8922 2600 or visit jewishcare.org/donate

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Shana Tova



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These values drive everything we do. These are the principles by which we will be recognised.

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CST serves every single British Jew, and every one of the schools, shuls, charities and events that together make up our community.

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It is our Jewish communities throughout Britain, who provide all of CST's volunteers, all of CST's resources, and that permit CST to do this work on behalf of us all.

SECURITY is what we give

The physical security we provide, with guarding and equipment, is obvious to everyone, but there's also our research; and everything that we do for the political and intellectual defence of our community.

All of the security only has one purpose: to enable each and every British Jew, and our families and communities, to **lead the life of your choice**.

TRUST is the bedrock of all this

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Trust is the basis for the partnerships that enable every aspect of our work.

We are only ever as good as the last time we protected our community.

We are only ever as good as the help we gave to the last person who phoned us in tears because they, or their child, or elderly relative, had suffered a racist attack.

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New Year
and well, over the Fast





Movement for Reform Judaism

Forms of Prayer: Days of Awe

Coming in early 2024, the ninth edition of Forms of Prayer: Days of Awe will offer a Reform Machzor for a new generation. Almost forty years since the previous edition, Days of Awe will enable us to make the extraordinary journey of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in a way that expresses our Reform Jewish values and our place in Jewish tradition.

The new Machzor will bring the innovations of the 2008 Seder Ha-t'fillot Siddur into our High Holy Days, enabling us to more easily follow the services and including transliteration to increase inclusion and accessibility. Days of Awe will also be an excellent study resource, with many of the classical texts we are familiar with and many more contemporary sources in our high quality study anthology.

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We are now inviting you, members across the Reform Movement, to celebrate this exciting moment and have your name and dedication inscribed in the new Machzor. By sponsoring a dedication, you can include up to 18 words of text to commemorate the life of a loved one, an anniversary, your gratitude or a special or important occasion. For each dedication, there is a suggested donation of £180. To submit your dedication (prior to 6th November 2023), and for further information, please visit <https://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/resources/forms-of-prayer-days-of-awe/>

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A weekend celebrating Progressive Judaism
15-17th March 2024

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GARY GREEN

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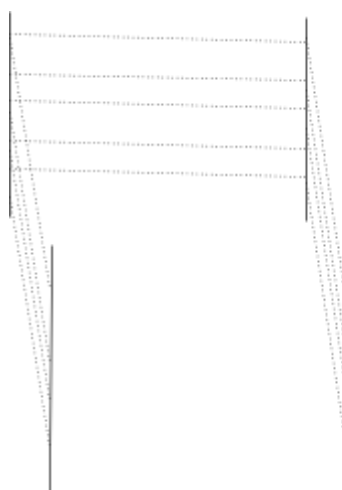
Sukkah Building 101

by Rabbi Anthony

Eating in a sukkah, sleeping in a sukkah, just being in a sukkah: these are some of my favourite mitzvot. We might have been misled into thinking that the meaning of life is found in houses: new bathroom, new kitchen, jazzed up wallpaper, upsizing, downsizing... So the Torah spends a whole week teaching us that success is not having the biggest house; that comfort is not having the softest bed; that security is not having the strongest locks. Security and comfort are found in our freedom, and in our living lives of purpose and meaning; remembering that our most treasured heritage is a settlement of tents in the desert. It is, then, a shame that anyone should feel put off building a sukkah by the difficulty or the expense involved. Here, based on the writings of our Sages, are some lighthearted, handy halachic hacks. If you'd like any help or support putting up your sukkah - please do let me know and I hope we can find shleppers within the community. I'm also happy to serve as anyone's sukkah advisor for questions of a halachic, structural or aesthetic nature.

How Many Walls?

Ideally, your sukkah has 4 walls, but at a minimum you only need two full walls - each with a minimum length of roughly 70cm. Your Sukkah would then need a third 'partial' wall of at least 8cm. That is, the minimum area surrounded by your sukkah walls should be 70 square cm - but you don't actually need 4 walls. A Sukkah is kosher if it's a square (like the Hebrew letter Samekh); if it's got three sides (like the Hebrew letter Kaf); or if it's got 2-and-a-little-bit sides (like the Hebrew letter Heh). And a Sukkah wall is kosher even if it curves at the top (like the Hebrew letter Vav). Your handy mnemonic, then, is the word sukkah -

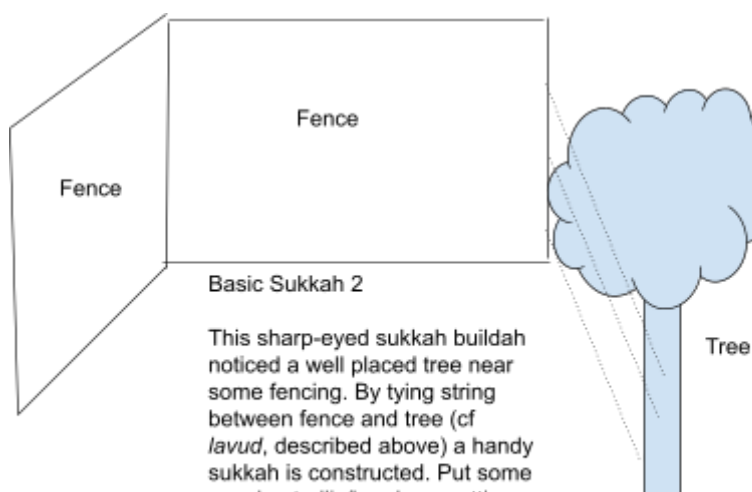


Basic Sukkah 1

Look, no walls! Rather, this Sukkah owner, finding four conveniently located anchors/trees/poles/posts, has tied strings between three of them. By keeping them within 10 inches of each other, and relying on the principle of *Lavud* - these count as fully kosher sukkah walls!

What makes a Wall?

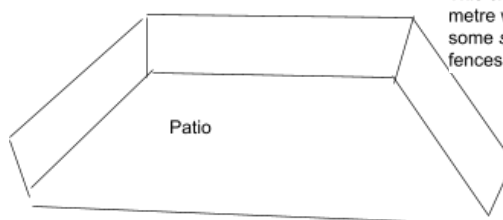
There is a halachic principle of *Lavud* - by which small gaps in surfaces are disregarded if they are less than about 10 inches. This makes sense in property law: you don't need a solid wall to demarcate property, since a series of tightly spaced wooden poles is equally effective. In its application to the laws of Sukkahs, *Lavud* means you do not need a solid piece of wood to make a wall. Indeed a few poles tied together with string - so long as the pieces of string are separated by less than 10 inches, is perfectly adequate.



This sharp-eyed sukkah buildah noticed a well placed tree near some fencing. By tying string between fence and tree (cf *lavud*, described above) a handy sukkah is constructed. Put some wooden trellis/bamboo matting between tree and fence for *sechach* and you're golden!

How High the Wall?

There is a halachic principle of *Gud Asik Mechitza*: that is, walls surrounding an airspace are considered to ascend indefinitely - this is like saying that a homeowner has ownership of the airspace above their house. As a principle, that made more sense in the Talmudic era when flats were routinely built above existing housing stock, but aeroplanes rarely flew overhead. This principle means that a Sukkah wall need only ascend ~40 inches/1 metre to be considered as 'extending' to wherever you can hang your roof ('sechach', pronounced so as to cover your listener in spittle). The sechach does not need to rest on all of the walls.



Basic Sukkah 3

Basic Sukkah 3
This crafty sukkah builder noticed three 1 metre walls surrounding her patio - hang some *sechach* from the overhanging fences and you've got a sukkah!

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Made of What?

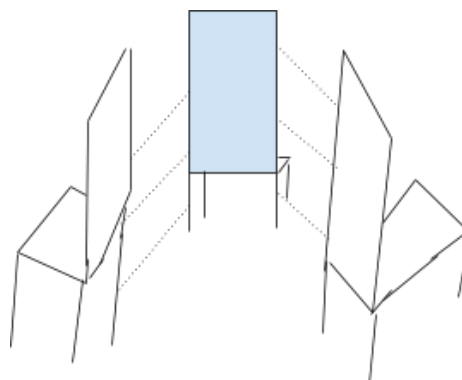
Your walls can be made of pretty well anything, so long as the wall structures don't flap around too much in the wind. The material for your roof needs to be vegetable (i.e. neither animal nor mineral), both detached from the ground and not having been fashioned into a tool or vessel. That is, you can use narrow wooden planks/branches as sechach - but you cannot use your dining room table.

Overhang and Shade

Your roof needs to be added on anew for the festival of Sukkot - the rest of your structure can be pre-existing - you could take off the roof of your shed, and just put some sechach on top. The roof needs to offer more shade than sun. The structure cannot be entirely overhung by a tree (which is still attached to the ground, and so not kosher for the roof) or entirely overhung by part of your house (the shelter would not then be temporary). However, some overhang from your house is acceptable: we treat the overhang as the curved top of your wall (Dofen Akumah). So long as there is adequate kosher sukkah beyond the overhang, it does not invalidate the sukkah.

In Conclusion

The only real takeaway from this article is that a sukkah can be easy. We are commanded to eat our meals in a sukkah for 8 days, and providing yourself with a space in which to do it need not take either great effort or expense. The essence of a sukkah is that it is not a fixed home (dirat keva) but rather something transitory and impermanent (dirat arai). A Sukkah is a temporary dwelling, and the more rag-tag your sukkah is, perhaps, the closer you are to fulfilling the essence of the mitzvah: which is to emerge from bricks and mortar into something like trusting fragility.



Minimal Sukkah

Jam three chairs next to each other outside, tie string between them if you need to fill in the gaps, balance some branches or planks on top, and eat on the floor. Good enough for a mitzvah!

Mosaic Weekly Walks

by Henry Altman

Our walks have now been 'running' for more than six years. We offer a variety of walks of about 4 miles in countryside locations, near canals, rivers, and lakes. They are almost all on paths and not too hard going or hilly. We are a mix from across the Mosaic community, friendly and welcoming, and there is much talking en route. There is always a coffee stop, with facilities, at the end of each walk, with even more time for talking. We ensure that there is car parking available, usually without cost, and often a nearby station for those who want to use public transport. Our walks are circular, always returning to our starting point.

So do come along, good exercise and fresh air awaits, usually with sunshine. No booking necessary. Every Tuesday at 10.00 am throughout the year, weather permitting, with between twelve and twenty walkers joining in. Call Ann at the office for more details of how to join our walks, and to go on the mailing list.





Mark You Mark Me

by Bernard Fisherman

Tattoos come in all shapes and sizes
many designs offer different surprises
Names of loved ones dead or alive
are popular and always on show
Maybe a snake of some description
crawling up an arm with nowhere to go
A travelling man might show a train,
an animal lover a cat or a horse
A baker a cake, a cobbler a shoe
A boyfriend his girlfriend, naturally of course
A husband a wife, a bride a groom
Anything goes as long as the arm has plenty of room
From the wrist to the elbow as long as there's space
There's plenty of pictures to fill this place
But once the jobs done there's just a small doubt
It's a rough tough job to rub it all out
So love your tattoo through trouble and strife
Admire it lovingly for the rest of your life
Because this procedure could turn out a disaster
Resulting in damage needing a large STICKING PLASTER



To Sea or Not to Sea

by Janet Byrne

A life on the ocean waves
Is simply not for me
I want to be on terra firma
Not swaying on the sea

I don't want to take a plane
To fly me to the boat
Nor sail on stormy seas
And pray we keep afloat

I don't want to rock and roll
Whilst lying on a bunk
Taking pills for sea sickness
Feeling worse than if I'm drunk

I don't want to book excursions
To visit foreign sites
Where I don't speak the language
Or know what are my rights

I don't want to get dressed up
To sit at the Captain's table
And be compelled to be polite
When I'm feeling most unstable

So please don't ask again
It's just not what I would choose
Sailing doesn't float my boat
That's why I refuse to cruise

POETRY CORNER

My Birthday of the World Story

Rosemary Wolfson



Let there be Light -
fluorescence, radiation,
a sparkle of heat from a
glowing fibre, a scorching flame,
visible from the Darkness!

Then Heaven – Eden...Paradise:
states of great or complete happiness
or a mythical skyward dream?

Thirdly - Dry Land - emerging
from grainy sandy beaches,
blue grey and yellow pebbles;
then from the black textured rocks
of a once furious but now serene sea,
with only the white froth of gentle waves...
next trees: apple, olive, fig, almond,
myrtle, cedar, sycamore, and perhaps
Wisteria, Areca Palm Trees, and plants:
maybe Amaryllis, White Sweetclover,
Birds of Paradise...

And so the Sun -
the fireball star around which
our world revolves...
the Moon, lit by
the sun and reflecting
some brightness to the earth...
the Stars: celestial bodies
appearing as luminous points
in the night sky

Next the creation
of sea creatures:
leafy seadragons,
fire-breathing crocodiles,
blue whales, seahorses,
and the Legendary Cryptids?
And creatures that fly:
turtle-doves, eagles, the
flying dinosaur Pterosaur?
But also cattle, and
the dreaded locusts!

Day six – mankind!
Will these humans be
obedient, dependable,
(or lacking sensitivity, without
sensitivity, springing
from innocence?)

But on the seventh day
everything apparently
appeared very good,
so God rested on the seventh day.
On Shabbat we too may be refreshed...

Talk Matters With Jenny Nemko

*TalkMatters with Jenny Nemko,
15th June by Rosemary Wolfson*



TalkMatters' goal is to sow the seeds for a fair and equitable society by supporting grass roots projects that enable Israeli and Palestinian of all ages to meet, talk and build up trust. The organisation was launched by Jenny in 2020.

TalkMatters were joined by three of their associates:

The Freddie Krivine Tennis Initiative that brings young Jews and Arabs together to play tennis, make friends and have fun.

Neve Shalom-Wahat al Salam – the unique village in Israel where Palestinians and Israelis live in a shared, equitable society.

The Abraham Initiatives, who are making Arab communities safer, promoting shared learning opportunities to break down segregation in Israeli schools.

After an introduction by Jenny, Jane Krivine told us about her father, Freddie Krivine, in connection with his tennis project. The nature of this particular sport encourages children's self-confidence, especially for Arab kids, who come from three marginalised villages in Israel. The young tennis players are 5–17-year-olds. Many enjoy participating in competitive matches.

The project is run by a team of volunteers and coaches. The Freddie Krivine Tennis Initiative also offers an after-schools programme and summer camps. The Arab children are encouraged with their Hebrew language skills. There are other extracurricular activities such as card games. Religious festivals such as Hanukkah and Ramadan are equally shared between the youngsters. Arab and Jewish parents are encouraged to sit together at meetings.

Although the young people play tennis together and get to know each other well at the summer camps, it is not inevitable that they remain friends in later life. But while there they may even take a great interest together in such things as boy bands! A short video was shown of their activities. It is often true, as in the words of Nelson Mandela: "Sport has the power to change a nation".

Tal Arrowsmith is the Executive Director of Oasis of Peace

UK. Oasis of Peace UK supports the educational institutions at Neve Shalom~Wahat al Salam – the village in Israel where Jewish and Arab people live in a shared, equal society. One of Tal's priorities is to help support the Village in advancing social equity and cohesion in Israel and the UK, and one of her interests is in the primary school. Within the community there are educational activities such as talks and debates, and an interest in spirituality. The Holy Days of Jews, Muslims and Christians are celebrated. In the future it is hoped that a secondary school will be built in the Village. Tal showed a short film clip including the boys playing football together. Although there are underlying difficulties, there appears to be no racism. Both Hebrew, Arabic and English are taught.

Hezzie is a resident of Neve Shalom~Wahat al Salam and he was born in Jerusalem. He has developed film studies for the young people in the village school, in which they write scripts, produce, direct and edit material; he has been a teacher for almost 30 years. Dr Suliman Boulous spoke to us on zoom, from Cambridge. He is second generation as he grew up in the Village; there had only been nine kids there when he joined. All the students had become very close and still remain friends. With the good early mentoring he had been enabled to study medicine. Suliman is now one of the Trustees of the Village.

Lindsay Simmonds and Laurie Kay represented the Abraham Fund Initiatives. Laurie talked about the joint Jewish and Arab projects; there are about 50 of these, mainly working for equality for Arab citizens. He mentioned shared learning projects and classrooms. Laurie referred to the effect on their work due to the eruption of violence in May 2023.

Lindsay talked about how being an observant Jewish person fits with her interest in the minority Arab community. Her work is informed by having an LSE Masters in aspects of Arab/Palestinian matters. She said that the Council of Christians & Jews had become involved with the Abraham Initiatives. She talked about seeing the world through others' eyes with biblical examples, social justice, and dealing with the reality on the ground and how each community has a different narrative and a different idea of the truth.

In the question-and-answer session the issue of fund raising arose and the difficulties of dealing with the government at the top level were discussed. In answer to another question, Jane Krivine said that she does have Arab friends and is invited into their homes, but most Jewish Israelis keep themselves separate from the Arab population.

This was an interesting evening, and many thanks to Jenny Nemko.

Meet the author – Professor Peter Lantos by Joseph Newman



On 20th June, some 40 members attended a Culture Q & A between Steve Levenson and Professor Peter Lantos, where we heard a very interesting, heartfelt and informative account of a little boy's life. The subject was Peter's recently published book, *The Boy Who Didn't Want to Die*. The idea had come to him during the Covid lockdown. In 2007 he had published *Parallel Lines*, a Holocaust memoir for adults. Now he wanted to retell the story through the eyes of a child, so that children can learn to recognise early on in life when things start being done that should be prevented. He had to recall events from his earliest memories as well as collate them with facts that he had gleaned from his mother, other Holocaust survivors and the archives.

Peter was born in 1939 in Mako, Hungary, where he and his extended family had a comfortable secure life owning and running a timber yard. All this changed in 1944 with the rise of the Arrow Cross, a far-right ultranationalist party, and the Nazis. The local Jews had to relinquish their property and possessions and they were initially herded into a ghetto. Later they were transported in railway cattle waggons to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, and the less fortunate on to Auschwitz. At first, he thought he was on an adventure, but this all went horribly wrong. He and his mother remained together while his father went to a different barrack as a labourer at Bergen-Belsen.

Overall, he remembers the hardships, extreme boredom, always being hungry, and the many train journeys where they were kept in the dark about their destination. Peter's mother oversaw her precious son's survival, ensuring that he ate small regular amounts of food despite his perpetual state of hunger. (This became particularly important once they were liberated.) She turned the daily counting of prisoners, a long and laborious process, into a game of counting and taught him German, which he found helpful later at school. She also saw to his personal hygiene and insisted on a regular wash even when the water was freezing cold.

Unlike Auschwitz, which was primarily an extermination

camp, Bergen-Belsen was a holding camp for inmates who could potentially be exchanged for German citizens/prisoners of war, food, medicines, and other goods. Nevertheless, huge numbers of inmates died due to overcrowding, starvation and epidemics. Tattooing was not a policy in Bergen-Belsen.

Peter was aware of a first aid centre run by a Jewish doctor for the inmates, including his mother and father, who needed treatment. A fully equipped hospital was available for the German guards which, after liberation, was used by the British for the inmates.

Religion was rarely mentioned in the camp. His mother found it difficult to conceive of a God because of what they were experiencing but eventually she did pray regularly. She even went into a Christian Chapel and when asked why replied that God would also be there.

In 1945, a few days before liberation, while being transported to Theresienstadt, they were liberated by the Americans at Farsleben and then housed in Hillersleben. They were offered a choice as to where they wished to go - America, Palestine or Hungary. His mother opted to return home and reconnect with the past, a decision with which he agreed. Twenty-one members of his family had perished, including his father, older brother, aunt and a favourite cousin.

On their return they re-acquired their home and the timber yard and he attended school. They soon came under the Communist regime, and as a result Peter had no Bar Mitzvah until he was 70 years old. He studied Medicine at the Szeged University, having been inspired by his observations at the First Aid Centre in Bergen-Belsen, and in 1968 he won a Wellcome Trust Fellowship to do research and study in the UK. A Visa was required, and the secret police were aware of his application. When he refused to return, he was tried and sentenced in absentia for defection, and was unable to return to Hungary until after the collapse of Communism. Eventually he was able to obtain and read the 39-page file the security police held on him.

In due course he investigated the archives and identified that the American 743rd tank Battalion had liberated them, and he was able to make contact with his actual liberator now living in San Diego, visiting him and staying in contact.

Likewise, 96 British medical students had volunteered to help care for the survivors in Germany and wrote up their experiences in medical school magazines. From these sources he was able to trace and meet his own carer, now a retired Professor of Neurosurgery. In recognition he had been presented with a silver watch and insisted on giving it to Peter. This is now a precious possession of his.

After the Q&A, Peter answered a few questions from the audience and we were able to buy a signed copy of *The Boy Who Didn't Want to Die*, which has been very favourably reviewed.

Peter has had a very distinguished career in the UK and in 1979 was appointed to the Chair of Neuropathology at King's College London. He has published several books and over 500 articles on neurodegenerative disease. In 2020 he was awarded a B.E.M. for his services to Holocaust education.

Archbishop's visit to Bevis Marks Synagogue by Gillian Goldsmith



Conversation between Archbishop Justin Welby and Simon Sebag-Montefiore, Wednesday 5th July 2023

A delegation from Mosaic Jewish Community was invited to the splendid setting of Bevis Marks Synagogue for the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, in conversation with Simon Sebag-Montefiore. This was indeed a momentous occasion, as it was the first time that any Archbishop had visited this beautiful synagogue.

We were given a welcome by the Board of Deputies' president, Marie van der Zyl, who said that Bevis Marks Synagogue is the oldest synagogue in Britain (built in 1701) and the oldest one in the world to have continual services. She pointed out that the Archbishop is a great friend of the Jews and supported us in the dark days of the widespread antisemitism within the Labour Party under Jeremy Corbyn and the apathy in combatting it.

Simon Sebag-Montefiore thanked the Archbishop for coming and suggested that they drop the formalities, so he should address him as Sebag, which he immediately did, amidst a ripple of laughter in the audience!

Simon opened the main conversation stating that, although the Church is undoubtedly favourable to Jews now in Britain, this is a fairly recent development. Archbishop Welby replied that the Church had an appalling record of cruelty to the Jews and that he was profoundly sorry for it. The Church has a historic responsibility to rectify this.

Simon asked him about the importance of family and how that helps him in his faith. The Archbishop replied that he comes from a complex family and had a difficult childhood. His (first) father actually wanted to prevent him from being friends with a Jewish boy, despite him having Jewish roots! He recalled quite clearly his feeling of how that was dreadfully wrong, even at the tender age of 8 and so he continued to be friends with this boy but didn't tell his father. He gives credit

for his anti-racist attitude to his mother and grandmother, as they steadfastly refused to hate anyone individually nor by category.

He made us laugh when describing his early days at church services at school. He and his fellow classmates would revise irregular French verbs behind the prayer books. The only time they ever paid attention was when the vicar nearly had a fatal accident with the microphone cord around his neck!

Simon explored the controversial and current topics of repentance and reparations – when if ever should they be paid. The Archbishop's response was that repentance is ongoing, but reparation stops when the last remaining victim is no longer alive.

Simon also asked if he can recommend ways to combat virulent anti-Semitism at universities and how to defend Israel but also criticise it without being anti-Semitic. Justin Welby suggested practising difficult conversations face to face, but said it is very difficult and sometimes he gets it wrong. He said that we need to treat Israel like any other country and not avoid criticising it when there is cause for this, but not to exaggerate blame either.

Simon mentioned that it was amazing to see people of different faiths being included in the Coronation service. The Archbishop said that the highlight for him was the intensely moving part of seeing the King being anointed just in his shirt sleeves, behind the screens, while he was kneeling down and praying. This emphasised that the obligation of power is to serve and not be served. The oil was from Jerusalem, as it is a sacred place for Christians and he added that they could not use the oil from Queen Elizabeth's coronation, as it had gone off! Archbishop Welby pointed out that in 1953 there were around 500,000 non-Christians in Britain, compared to now when there are several million non-Christians. Therefore, it is fitting for the King to be Defender of the Faiths and to include senior members of other faiths in the Coronation.

The Archbishop also stated that he felt he was an imposter to receive all our praise, as much of the good work came from his hard working team. His humility was very much evident during the conversation and perhaps unusual in someone with such an important position in society. He also came across as a very eloquent, humorous and decent man. In short, he is a real mensch and a true friend of the Jewish people.

Memorable Quotes from the Archbishop

"I am talking while I am thinking of what to say next – this is what Archbishops do."

"The Jewish community will be safe in the UK when you no longer need security at synagogues and other places of Jewish interest."

The afternoon was very interesting and indeed felt momentous, listening to two very learned and distinguished men discussing aspects of Christianity and Judaism in the magnificent and historical setting of Bevis Marks Synagogue. I was privileged to have attended it.

“Hitler, Stalin, Mum & Dad” by Alex Gerlis



A warm Wednesday lunchtime in the middle of July at the start of the holiday season saw one of the largest ever turnouts for the popular ‘Meet the Author’ events.

A hundred Mosaic members were there to hear Times journalist and member of the House of Lords, Daniel Finkelstein, talk about his recently published book: *Hitler, Stalin, Mum and Dad: A Family Memoir of Miraculous Survival*.

The book has received a raft of glowing reviews and has quickly become a best-seller. It manages to be an intimate family memoir, a gripping story of survival against extraordinary odds and a well-researched history of Europe during the Second World War.

One of the strengths of *Hitler, Stalin, Mum and Dad* is that – as the title suggests – it tells the story of the two very different sides of the family, with their very different experiences during the Second World War, yet at the same time not losing sight of a shared suffering.

Daniel’s mother’s family were the Wieners, from Berlin. Her father – Alfred Wiener – was a respected archivist who was

one of the first people to warn of the dangers of Hitler. Very early on – at a time when many were prepared to dismiss Hitler as a passing phenomenon – he warned of the dangers of Naziism, so much so that for many years before the Nazi’s came to power, he’d assiduously collected a vast amount of printed materials relating to this. In 1933 the family moved to Amsterdam, where they became friendly with another family of Jewish emigres from Germany, the Franks.

But as Daniel explained, Alfred Wiener remained alert to the Nazi threat and in 1939 moved with his collection of Nazi material to London. He was there when war broke out, his family were stranded in the Netherlands and Daniel told of their dreadful suffering – they were in Bergen-Belsen (where she was one of the last people to see Anne Frank). He detailed the circumstances of their near-miraculous escape to Switzerland.

The story of how Daniel’s father Ludwik survived the war is equally extraordinary. The family were from Lwow and managed to escape the Nazis, though the fact that Ludwik’s father was a prosperous businessman marked him for ill-treatment by the Soviet authorities. Ludwik spent the war in Soviet gulag camps and on collective farms in the most difficult of conditions.

And like his mother, Miriam, Ludwik found his way to London after the war, where they met and married. As Daniel said, having experienced contrasting but similar ordeals, they were determined to create a normal life for their three children, which they did in Hendon. And perhaps most remarkably, it was not a life overshadowed and dominated by their wartime experiences, which explains Daniel’s reasons for researching and then telling their story.

He spoke movingly of how his parents refused to see themselves as victims of the war and to be trapped by it and, more importantly, not to allow Daniel and his sister and his brother to feel that too.

This was a powerful talk, very well received by an appreciative audience.

Hitler, Stalin, Mum and Dad: A Family Memoir of Miraculous Survival

By Daniel Finkelstein

Published by William Collins



Mosaic Community Bereavement Support Group

Our group is looking to build its team of visitors supporting those bereaved within Mosaic and the wider community.

If you have good listening skills/empathy/want to help others, please me in confidence to discuss.

Full training will be given. Please contact Bobbi Riesel via the Mosaic office.

Upcoming Events

Meet the Artist – Roy Rodgers

Sunday 3rd September 2.00 - 4.00 pm

"This exhibition of my paintings represents the last three years of my output including Lockdown. My inspiration and drive has constantly been inspired by landscape, in particular East Anglia, which I discovered later in my life. I lived in Suffolk for 38 years and became entranced by the magic of the atmospheric light, history, and deceptive simplicity of the landscape.



My creativity is dependent on my use of sketchbooks and drawings, often in watercolour as the starting point, For me painting is drawn from one's own imagination, and is a mixture of that and memory, plus the reality of what is actually there, and the love of doing it,

If my work gives pleasure and thought to others then that is a bonus".

The exhibition will be open 1st – 29th September. Please ring the Mosaic office to make an appointment.

Mosaic Film – “Three Mothers”

Monday 4th September, 8.00 pm

This delightful and thoughtful Israeli film tells the story of the Hakim Triplets, Rose, Yasmin and Flora. Born in Alexandria in 1942, their saga is one of powerful familial love and deadly deceit played out in three languages and across three generations.



Israel Leads the World Technically

Monday 7th September 8.00 pm

Mosaic Israel section is pleased to entertain Arnon Pearlman, head of Israel Bonds International Operations, together with the Commercial Attaché from the Israeli Embassy, Ofer Forher.

Arnon Pearlman previously served as head of the Media and Information Division in the Government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and, as a result, was involved in discussions at Cabinet level. Arnon also spent five years as Consul General at the Israeli Consulate in China. Arnon frequently lectures on International topics in Israel, the USA, Canada and within Europe. He will no doubt be informing us of the latest political situation within Israel. Ofer Forher is one of the top representatives of the Israel Embassy and will be providing the latest video on Israel's trade.

Come and learn about Israel's major technological achievements in the world.

Selichot Service

Saturday 9th September, 9.00 pm

THE HIGH HOLY DAYS START HERE.....



Traditionally, the Selichot Service is held during the hours of darkness on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah. It provides an opportunity to prepare for "The Days of Awe" in a quiet atmosphere, which is enhanced by some of the music of the High Holy Days.

Join us at 9.00 pm for our beautiful Liberal, Masorti and Reform Selichot services.

We will be having our annual joint effort to make our own tasty honey cakes to serve over Rosh Hashanah.

If you are happy to participate in producing cakes for the community and some for members who are on their own at home, we invite you to come along at 10.00 am.

Just bring an apron, roll up your sleeves and BAKE.
Please contact the office to let us know you're coming.



Mosaic Culture Hub presentation: Learning New Skills Prior to Release.

Wednesday 20th September, 8.00pm

Edwin Lucas has been involved with the wider prison sector for over 30 years and has provided meaningful purposeful activity as part of his day job for many of those years. Time can drag in prison and has to be managed which can be a real challenge. New skills are sometimes taught officially and in other cases, they are learnt from fellow prisoners.

Edwin will also explain the Koestler Arts Project which is on show once again in November and December in the South Bank Centre. Mosaic Culture Hub will be organising a visit to this project where hundreds of prize-winning items including poetry will be on show. One can also buy selected items on show at the exhibition and Edwin will describe some of the exciting things he has bought over many years covering paintings, woodwork and paper mâché.

The photo shows a house made from waste materials.



Shabbat Shuvah Lunch and Learn Saturday 23rd September

On this Shabbat the call to Teshuvah, to turn, is at its most acute.
Stick around after the services to do some seasonal learning with the Rabbis over a light lunch.


UPCOMING EVENTS



Succah Building

Tuesday 26th September, 4.00p-m

Come and help build/decorate our new Mosaic Succah

A stack of four books with blue spines. The top book is titled 'The Forever Moment' by Paul A. Mendelson. The other books have similar titles: 'The Forever Moment', 'The Forever Moment', and 'The Forever Moment'.

Mosaic Culture Hub invites you to 'Meet The Author' - Paul Mendelson 'Writing About What (and Who) You Know'

Wednesday 27th September 12.30pm

Join us for a light lunch before BAFTA-nominated comedy writer and author Paul A Mendelson talks about how a writer's own life and relationships will always influence their work - and how to avoid being sued!

Paul's latest novel *The Forever Moment* is out now and Paul says: 'There's an interesting story attached to this one - and in fact to quite a lot of my work.'

Paul has created several much-loved BBC comedies, including 'May to December' and 'My Hero', and also the Martin Clunes cancer drama 'Losing It'. His work is shown in the UK, US and all over the world. He has also written seven acclaimed novels, including two for middle-grade children. Three have been optioned for movies.

Please book via the Mosaic Website by Wednesday 20th September for catering purposes. There is a £7 charge which will increase to £10 from 21st September.

Art at Mosaic

The exhibition of Linda Zelin's pictures will be open from Tuesday 3rd - Monday 30th October.



Linda enjoys painting in all media and has developed a strong expressionist style with emphasis on colour. She is also a sculptor who specialises in stone carving (can be viewed on-line).

Linda has exhibited frequently at the Mall Galleries London with the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours, the Pastel Society, the Royal Society of British Artists and is a member of the Society of Women Artists.

She has won many awards, including one at the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours at the Mall Galleries.

The Exhibition will be open Mondays to Thursdays 9.00 – 17.00; Fridays 9.00 to midday. Please ring 020-8864 0133 for an appointment.

Interfaith Tea & Torah in the Mosaic Succah

Wednesday 4th October, 11.00 am

Study the Haftarah portion of the week – with one of our Rabbis.

Come along for an enjoyable hour of engaging with our wonderful Haftarah text, and each other!

It's a delightful way to study Torah, to discuss themes that emerge from the portion – and also an opportunity to find out and contemplate what is in the reading for Shabbat morning.



Cameo Meets at Mosaic

Wednesday 4th October, 3.00 pm

Have you suffered the loss of a partner, relative or friend? Do you feel sad, lonely and isolated? Would you welcome the opportunity to meet others in a similar position to yourself?

Mosaic has a group to meet the needs of people like you who meet once a month.

Our next meeting for CAMEO is a tea at 1a Halsbury Close, Stanmore HA7 3DY.

If you'd like to attend, please contact Bobbi Riesel on 07787 547383.

We hope to offer support and enjoyment to people with common interests.



London Guided Walk

Monday 9th October, 10.30 am



Mosaic Culture Hub invites you to join London walks led by Steve Levinson, a qualified Institute of Tour Guiding Blue Badge Guide.

The original walk, scheduled for 4th September, is now full! The October date has been allocated and the walk will take place if there is sufficient demand. Please contact the Mosaic office on 020-8864 0133 or email admin@choosemosaic if you are interested.

For Richer For Poorer. This is a story of how Jews have fared in the City of London over the centuries: some very rich and some very poor. They traded rags and they traded riches. Picking up with Steve Levinson from the spot where the very popular

"Jews in Strange Places" walk ended, this continues a fascinating story. It takes you through the centuries and you'll meet mystery people and connections, that were there all the time - you just never noticed them.

Adult B'nei Mitzvah Classes

Tuesday 10th October, 8.00 pm

If you never had the chance to celebrate your bar/bat mitzvah but have longed to read from a scroll and actively take part in this link in tradition, this class is for you. This session will be held at 1a Halsbury Close. Future classes will be held every 4-6 weeks with some held via Zoom. Please contact your own Rabbi to register your interest and join this exciting new project



Art Workshop

Thursday 12th October 10.00 – 12.00

Please come along to our first art workshop where you will be encouraged to experiment with mixed media for all, including beginners. It will be run by practising Mosaic artists who will give you an opportunity to explore different ideas, mark making and develop your own creativity.

Come along to have fun and find inspiration to unlock your own art.

Further workshops are planned for 9th November and 14th December. If these are popular, we will look at other possibilities in the New Year. Please add Contact the office if you're interested in coming. Bring a sketchbook.

You never know your work might be in next year's, Mosaic Summer exhibition!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Film Mosaic – “It Always Rains on Sunday

Monday 16th October, 8.00 pm



“It Always Rains on Sunday” was made and set in the bleak environment of post-war east London and shows Robert Hamer to be an extremely talented and sophisticated film maker. Hamer does not impose a moral framework on his characters. The film shows two sides of adultery between Googie Withers and the escaped convict and between her daughter and a Jewish shopkeeper. What makes this film stand out is its intentioned ‘realism’ and complex character portrayals. This little-known classic is probably one of Ealing’s finest films.

With Sidney Tafler, Alfie Bass and Jack Warner

In Glorious Black & White

Mosaic Culture Hub invites you to ‘Meet The Author’ Amanda Weinberg

Wednesday 18th October, 12.30pm

Join us for a light lunch before Amanda Weinberg discusses her novel *The Italian Bookshop Among the Vines* and the journey and village that inspired her.

This novel is an historical piece of fiction previously known as the *Tears of Monterini*. Amanda has a deep connection with the village where the novel is set and has thread the characters she invented, their romance, their fears and longings through real life situations and events. Villa Sofia and saving the Jewish orphans is one such example of historical fact interwoven into the story.

Amanda has a degree in modern languages and a PGCE and is currently working as a copywriter for the Care Home, Nightingale Hammerson, as well as writing novels and tutoring French. She is married with two grown up children, lives in London but spends a lot of time in Italy.

Please book via the Mosaic Website by Wednesday 11th October for catering purposes. There is a £7 charge which will increase to £10 from 12th October .



New at Mosaic – Abraham’s Tent

Sunday 29th October 11.00 am

About us

Whether it is sharing stories over a cuppa or a group activity we aim to create a new men's social group. Think a Jewish “Men in Sheds”. Our first meeting will be over a relaxed brunch at the shul and we hope the group will organically evolve from there.

First Meeting

Sunday 29th October 11am
at Mosaic

RSVP: 020 8864 0133 or admin@choosemosaic.org

Nosh

A light brunch will be provided

The Event

An informal gathering to meet new and old friends. Opportunity to discuss what you wish to happen at the next event and sign up.

FOOD FUN FRIENDS





Mosaic Tea Time Quiz

Sunday 19th November, 4.00 pm

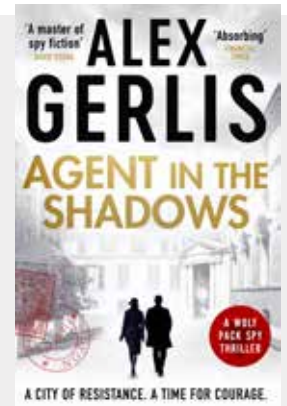
Neil Goodman will present another entertaining on-line quiz for the Mosaic Jewish Community & friends. No winners, no prizes, just a lot of fun. Refreshments: whatever is left over from lunch!

Mosaic Culture Hub invites you to 'Meet the Author' - Alex Gerlis

Wednesday 22nd November, 12.30pm

Join us for a light lunch before Steve Levinson interviews Alex Gerlis about his latest book - Agent in the Shadows. This was published in February and is the third in his 'Wolf Pack Spies' trilogy featuring two British agents: Sophia, the wife of an SS officer and Jack, an American journalist. This book is set in and around Lyons in occupied France and has the French resistance, collaboration and betrayal at the core of its plot. It is factually based, so features the notorious Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie and also the notorious raid on the Jewish orphanage at Izieu, which led to the murder of 50+ children.

Please book via the Mosaic Website by Wednesday 15th November for catering purposes. There is a £7 charge which will increase to £10 from 16th November.



The Jews Left Behind

Monday 27th
November,
7.30 pm

Meketa and Mosaic Jewish Community present:

The Jews Left Behind

The stories of Jews living in Ethiopia today

Hear first-hand from Avraham Neguse from Israel about the situation of Ethiopian Jews today, and how Meketa, a UK charity, is helping to support the community.



Avraham Neguse was one of the first Ethiopian MPs in the Knesset, and is the foremost campaigner from and for the Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel. He was born in Gondar, Ethiopia and went to school there, making Aliyah to Israel at the age of 27. He was chair of the Knesset committee for Immigration, Absorption and Diaspora Affairs.

Monday November 27th 7:30pm
Mosaic Jewish Community, Halsbury Close,
Stanmore Hill, HA7 3DY
Light refreshments, stall selling Ethiopian hand made tallitot, kippot, and mezuzot.

Meketa raises funds to support Jews who remain in Gondar, Ethiopia. Our goal is to provide educational support, training and livelihood improvement. We try to encourage children to stay in education and help them better their economic and social future. We run training, employment support and microloan projects as well as provide an afterschool club for the community's children.



www.meketa.org.uk
UK Registered Charity No. 1159130



SAVE THE DATE : Wednesday 13th December 12.30

Mosaic Culture Hub invites you to meet a Sculptor and an Engineer, Robert and Liam Erskine

#NorwoodRH23

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I LOVE TRADITION.

My dad was the local Rabbi when I was growing up. He's no longer around, but living in a Norwood home enables me to keep up the traditions he taught me, my brothers and my sister. Like putting on my tallit to say the Shema, which I learned by heart. But most of all, this Rosh Hashanah I'm looking forward to hearing the shofar, sharing a meal and passing round some apple and honey to my friends.

I'm Norman. And I am Norwood.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Regular Events | | |
| Tuesdays | 10.00 11.00 19.00 | Mosaic Walks – email admin@choosemosaic.org for meeting point Mosaic Friendship Club “Untangling Our Tradition” with one of our Rabbis (From 12/09/23) |
| Wednesdays | 10.30 11.00 | Knit & Natter (First Wednesday of the month) “Tea & Torah” with one of our Rabbis (From 13/09/23) |
| Thursdays | 11.00 11.00 20.00 | Bridge & games (1 st & 3 rd Thursdays of the month) Music for Memory (Last Thursday of the month) Talmud class with Rabbi Anthony (From 07/09/23) |
| Saturdays | 09.45 10.30 10.45 | Masorti service (unless otherwise stated) Reform service (unless otherwise stated) Liberal service (unless otherwise stated) |
| Sundays | 09.45 | HaMakom (during term time) |
| September | | |
| Friday 1 st | 09.00 10.30 | Roy Rodgers’ Oil Painting Exhibition opens (Until 29/09/23) Kids’ Drop-In and Shabbat Songs |
| Saturday 2 nd | 09.30 | Meditation & Yoga session Kiddush – Maureen Daniels 80 th birthday |
| Sunday 3 rd | 14.00 | Meet the Artist – Roy Rodgers |
| Monday 4 th | 10.00 10.30 20.00 | Honey Cake Bake-In Mosaic Guided Walk Mosaic film evening |
| Thursday 7 th | 20.00 | Israel Leads the World Technically |
| Saturday 9 th | 21.00 | Selichot Services |
| Friday 15 th | | Erev Rosh Hashanah |
| Saturday 16 th | | Rosh Hashanah – Day 1 |
| Sunday 17 th | | Rosh Hashanah – Day 2 |
| Saturday 23 rd | 12.30 | Shabbat Shuvah – Lunch & Learn after the services |
| Sunday 24 th | 18.40 | Fast begins. Kol Nidre |
| Monday 25 th | 19.39 | Fast ends. Yom Kippur |
| Tuesday 26 th | 16.00 | Succah building |
| Wednesday 27 th | 12.30 | Mosaic Culture Hub – Meet the Author |
| Friday 29 th | | Erev Succot |
| Saturday 30 th | | Succot – Day 1 |
| October | | |
| Sunday 1 st | 15.00 | Succot – Day 2 Open Afternoon |
| Tuesday 3 rd | 09.00 | Linda Zelin’s Art Exhibition opens (Until 30/10/23) |
| Wednesday 4 th | 11.00 15.00 | Interfaith “Tea & Torah” in the succah at Halsbury Close Cameo meets at Halsbury Close |
| Friday 6 th | | Erev Simchat Torah (Liberal, Reform) Erev Shemini Atzeret (Masorti) |
| Saturday 7 th | | Simchat Torah (Liberal, Reform) Shemini Atzeret (Masorti) |
| Sunday 8 th | | Simchat Torah (Masorti) |
| Monday 9 th | 10.30 | Kehila copy date Mosaic Guided London Walk |
| Tuesday 10 th | 20.00 | Adult b’nei mitzvah classes commence |
| Thursday 12 th | 10.00 | Art Workshop at Mosaic |
| Sunday 15 th | 13.45 | Tombstone consecration – Martin Simonis. Edgwarebury Lane |
| Monday 16 th | 20.00 | Mosaic Film evening |
| Wednesday 18 th | 12.30 | Mosaic Culture Hub – Meet the Author |
| Wednesday 25 th | 12.30 | Mosaic Book Group |
| Thursday 26 th | | Kehila Distribution |
| Saturday 28 th | | Kiddush – Judy & Philip Silverton’s 50 th anniversary |
| Sunday 29 th | 11.00 | Abraham’s Tent |



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

**1a Halsbury Close
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Email: admin@choosemosaic.org

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HaMakom (Religion School):

Toria Bacon and Viki Kenton
headteacher@hamakomschool.org.uk

Bereavement Support:

Bobbi Riesel 020 8428 7977

Development Rabbi – Rabbi Anna Wolfson

rabbiana@choosemosaic.org



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Rites and Practices: Kevin
Ziants 07841 375458

Liberal Judaism:
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Undertakers: Kings Funeral
Directors
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Chairman:
Edwin Lucas – 07973 312851

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