



Cover Story: Mosaic Stitchers create unique Triptych

AGM Reports

Progressive Judaism developments explained

Wartime Stories and Wedding Adventures

Mosaic Jewish Community News

Event Reviews and Forthcoming Events

Crossword Winner

# ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

*Since our last issue*

## MOSAIC REFORM

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Marilyn and Laurence Ross  
Mark Turkish

### SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Shirley Freeman  
Simon Turner  
Jane Prentice  
Carol Shama  
Judy Armitt  
Lesley Young  
Joy Zane  
Trevor Pinkus  
Simon Miller  
Karen Order  
Maureen Sclare  
Clive Levy  
Eve Hart  
Norman Kamen  
Bertha Levy  
David Little  
Jean London  
Marylou Bosco  
Simon Groffman  
Anthony Gore  
Davina Murphy  
Margaret Abrahams  
Anne Banks  
Judy Beckan  
Jacqueline Briegal  
June Cass  
Prue Ruback  
Pauline Vickers  
Judy Squires

### MAZAL TOV TO:

June Cass on the engagement of her son,  
Daniel, to Kristina Vaiksalu  
Debbie and Ron Alalouff on the engagement  
of their son, Ben, to Nina  
Mazal tov also to Ray Frost on the engagement of her grandson  
Barbara and Harry Grant on the birth of  
their grand-daughter, Georgia  
Elsie

### ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Hilda and Ivor Cohen on their 40th anniversary  
Jonelle and Jonathan Roback on their 30th anniversary

Elaine and Bernard Sinclair on their 50th anniversary

### NEW HOME:

Stephanie and James Meltzer  
Shirley and Zicky Alpert

### CONDOLENCES TO:

Alex Gerlis on the death of his mother, Daphne  
Helen West on the death of her sister, Rita Koten  
Arlene Howard on the death of her sister, Viv Block  
Marian Marks on the death of her sister, Louise Samuel

## MOSAIC LIBERAL

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:

Gaynia Meranda

### SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS WISHES TO:

Beulah Appel  
June Cohen  
Adrienne Green  
Derek Kasher  
Roberta Levene  
Bryan Raven  
Olga Rosenbaum  
Ursula Warner

### MAZAL TOV TO:

Harry Davies and Rabbi Rachel Benjamin on the birth of their great-grand-daughter, Violet Celia  
Hannah Sanderson and Adam Withers on the birth of their son, Jasper Philip  
Mazal tov also to Danielle and Steven Sanderson on the birth of their grandson  
Miriam Sanderson on her marriage to John Harvey  
Debbie and Leon Rozewicz on the marriage of their daughter, Rachel, to Josh Callon  
Mazal tov also to Avril and Jack Leon on the marriage of their grand-daughter

### NEW HOME:

Beryl and Richard Sontag

### THINKING ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

John Bernard  
Sara Spiegel  
Edna Spielman

### CONDOLENCES TO:

Gideon Fiegel on the death of his wife Ruth-Eva  
The family and friends of Sheila Martin

## MOSAIC MASORTI

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Alex Porter  
Allan Wien  
Fiona and Nick Graham

### MAZAL TOV TO:

Gill and David Ross on the birth of their grandson, Alexander Peter  
Tamar and Gary Italiaander on the marriage of their son, Simon, to Joana  
Daisy Cooper on completing her conversion  
Alex Karet and Daisy Cooper on their engagement  
Jamie Hamilton and Ellie Kosky on their marriage  
Ben Kaufman and Charlotte Melinek on their marriage

### SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Michael S Harris  
Michael Dashwood  
Elaine Glass  
Michael Mendoza  
Elizabeth Kosky  
Nicola Kafka

### ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Laurel and Mark Segal on their 30th anniversary  
Linda and Michael Harris on their 20th anniversary  
Kara Redmond and John Grant on their 10th anniversary  
Jean and Tony Allan on their 55th anniversary  
Joanne and Lloyd Reid on their 45th anniversary  
Linda and Chanan Shuall on their 55th anniversary  
Yvonne and Howard Dove on their 45th anniversary

### CONDOLENCES TO:

Melna Charin on the death of her daughter, Anna-Deborah  
Sheldon Mydat on the death of his mother, Iris Mydat

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## Children's Birthdays in July/August

Theo Margod, 3

Arietta Norman, 6

Ritchie Amior, 2

### Next issue

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Send your articles,  
pictures, letters to  
[newsdesk@choosemosaic.org](mailto:newsdesk@choosemosaic.org)

# Looking back on a great six months

*By Rabbi Daisy Bogod*

**W**ell, I can't say what an extraordinary year it has been, but I can talk about the last six months I've been working for Mosaic Liberal Synagogue.

I arrived in November and slowly started to get to grips with the building, helped endlessly by the people in it. It has been a real joy and privilege to start to get to know you and work alongside you, with the guiding hand of our Rabbi Emerita Rachel Benjamin, our council, Rites and Practices and Care committees, and all the staff – particularly our Community Care Co-ordinators Angela Peters and Sandie Myers, who support our members with such compassion. Our services are made by Joseph Finlay's musical direction, with the support of the soloists, and of course all the lay-leaders and volunteers cajoled into helping.

As well as our weekly events and services, in December we celebrated Chanukah with our candle lighting events for young families and the whole community, with music from Mosaic's newly-formed house band. The Care team also put on a successful Chanukah brunch. In February, we marked Mental Health Awareness Shabbat with a special service and a very well attended talk given by our member Dr Leon Rozewicz, and Rabbis Anthony and Kathleen ran a Tu BiShvat Seder for the whole Mosaic Jewish Community.

March saw us booing and cheering on Erev Purim, and April bought all our Pesach celebrations: the Communal Seder, our 1st and 7th day services, and the amazing Seder Lite organised by the Care team, where the Liberal volunteers truly saved the day after a small salad-related fiasco. Everyone put in so much work, and we all had a wonderful time.



In the last few weeks I led our cross-communal Yom HaShoah ceremony with Rabbi Anthony, and the community celebrated the pain and joy of Yamei Zikaron and Atzma'ut. I've been working closely with Rabbi Anthony in Rabbi Kathleen's absence, and he has been very generous with his support.

Behind the scenes, I've been supporting work on data policies at MJC, and working on several subcommittees for CoLRaC, the Liberal Judaism clergy body. We proposed changes, many of which were accepted, to the governance documents for the newly-formed Movement for Progressive Judaism, and I look forward to continuing our important conversations, both practical and theological, as we come together with our Reform colleagues.

Outside of Mosaic, I've also spoken at a Foreign Commonwealth Development Office event on Faith and Disability, contributed articles to the Council of Christians and Jews and Leo Baeck College, and I've just submitted a book chapter for the Women's Interfaith Network's project on Keeping Faith.

Sadly, since the last AGM, there have been nine deaths of our members. I have been privileged to lead some of their funerals, with Rabbi Rachel Benjamin continuing to provide support. We remember them all with respect and love, and our thoughts are with their family and friends. We have also had the opportunity to come together for joyful reasons: Aimee Pidgeley and Brandon's Bardoley's Admission to Judaism ceremony and Alan and Janet Solomon's Diamond Wedding Anniversary celebration were two particularly wonderful occasions.

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I certainly can't take credit for all of the 17 new members since the last AGM, though Josh and myself do make up two of them. Lindsey Cohen has done an excellent job talking to anyone who expresses interest in joining us, and we are grateful for you all. Welcome – and I wouldn't be surprised to see some of you running for Council next year!

As I start taking three Shabbat morning services a month (and all the Kabbalat Shabbat services which fall under the Liberal responsibility,) I'm excited that our lay-leaders will be taking services more regularly. Anyone who is interested in an aspect of service taking is warmly encouraged to reach out to me and Kevin Ziants, head of our Rites and Practices Committee, and I'll support you however I can. As we think more strategically about

Adult Education across MJC, I'm looking to offer Hebrew, leyning, and liturgy classes – open to all, but especially for our next cohort of Adult B'nei Mitzvah students. Please get in touch if this is something you think you might be interested in!

It feels impossible to thank everyone for all that you do for Mosaic Liberal, because each individual is what makes us a truly special community – and I've probably forgotten something or someone! But I feel so very lucky to have found you, and grateful for all your support and guidance, in particular from Adrian, Kevin and Rachel. I am so looking forward to the next year with you, and growing together as a community.

This is an edited version of my Rabbi's report given at the Mosaic Liberal AGM on 18th May.

## Will yesterday's news be relevant tomorrow?

*By Rabbi Anthony Lazarus Magrill*

**M**y favourite book is Roger Kahn's *The Boys of Summer*. The first section describes the author's childhood in an intellectual Jewish family in 1930s-40s Brooklyn; the second captures Kahn's years travelling with the great Brooklyn Dodgers team of the 1950s, especially the historically integrated pennant-winning team of 1955; and the book's final section revisits those legendary Dodgers in their middle and old age, reflecting on the human condition of sports stars — doomed to spend the major part of their life looking back on a peak reached before the age of 35.



I mention it now firstly because I always want to recommend *The Boys of Summer*, but also because Kahn's account of working at the *New York Herald Tribune* is one of the great accounts of the extraordinary physical achievement of newspaper production. His description of the rush from writer to editor to print, from truck to distributor to store to reader, is a classic account of how

newspapers achieve the almost impossible: bringing polished accounts of one afternoon's events to the breakfast tables of millions of readers day after day after day. It is a description very much in my mind as I write for *Kehila* these days.

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## FROM OUR RABBIS

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After all, one of the great miracles of modern printing has been the newspaper, which is by its nature ephemeral: telling a story of yesterday's news which will be scarcely relevant tomorrow. With all admiration for the dedicated editorial staff at *Kehila*, this is not an accomplishment in which a synagogue publication typically shares. The Torah is the archetype of enduring literature — combed for meaning and relevance today as it was thousands of years ago. But today, the meaning of Judaism and Jewish life seems to be churning and changing on a daily basis — how am I supposed to write something today (in May) which will be meaningful to you, at the end of June?

For as I write, the Gaza strip is threatened by famine. Bringing aid to innocents-in-need has been one of the great challenges of Israel's 18 month war on Hamas, since the conflict was triggered by the evil attacks of October 7th. It is a challenge which has been massively exacerbated by the craven theft of aid by Hamas gangsters inside the Strip. But this moment feels different. Whilst reliable information remains hard to come by, it does seem increasingly clear that many thousands of Gazans, with many thousands of children amongst them, are terribly short of food and water. Most disturbingly, the open statements of a number of senior Israeli strategists and government ministers undermine the claim that this state of affairs is merely a tragic but unintended consequence of war. And I am scared.

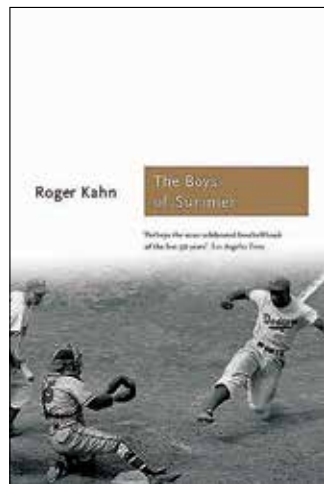
I am scared in part, and selfishly, because were thousands of Gazans to starve to death, the very meaning of Judaism would be transformed; the very essence of our Torah would be undermined; because Israel — perhaps

the greatest modern achievement of the Jewish people — would be irrevocably stained. And so I pray. I pray that by the time you read this, my fears will be shown to have been baseless. I pray that this article shall have been

rendered entirely pointless and irrelevant. I pray that the goodness and integrity which I do believe animates Israel shall have been borne out in a revision of what I believe to be their current military policy. I pray that the hostages — innocent, tortured hostages — shall have returned to their homes and loved ones. I pray that the Jewish people shall not have the catastrophe of the innocents on their hands and consciences.

I pray that the voices of the many thousands of Jews and Palestinians who recently gathered at a People's Peace Summit at the Binyanei haUma in Jerusalem shall be amplified; that they shall gain a firmer foothold in Israeli and Palestinian discourse. I pray that the growing numbers in the anti-Hamas resistance in Gaza shall triumph. I pray that Nation shall not lift up sword against Nation, and neither shall they study war any more.

Speedily in our Days.



## Mosaic Jewish Community AGM 28th May 2025

### *Chairman's Report by David Leibling*

**M**osaic Jewish Community has grown from strength to strength, thanks to the efforts of our Rabbis and staff and the huge number of volunteers who make the Mosaic Jewish Community a unique combination of religious services and communal events.

We have welcomed Rabbi Daisy Bogod to Mosaic Liberal as part of our rabbinic team, joining Rabbi Anthony Lazarus Magrill and Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton.

Student and visiting Rabbis have provided support during Rabbi Kathleen's sabbatical and continue to provide inspiring services and caring pastoral support, together with many lay readers. Our joint services such as the Communal Seder and Seder Lite, Yom HaShoah, Yom Hazikaron/ Yom Ha'Atzmaut, together with Shabbat Shira and Shabbat Beiteinu, show the benefit of three communities sharing a common roof.

The buzz at our communal kiddushim on Shabbat is the highlight of the week. Visitors comment on the warm welcome they receive when they enter our building, having been protected by our security team. Thanks to Gill Ross, Caroline Chadwick, Veronica Music, Daniel Brown, Jo Lewis and all the others who help in these areas.

Our Cultural Hub continues to impress, with a wide range of activities which attract many visitors. Thanks to Jane Prentice, Barbara Grant and their team, plus Tony Fineberg for Film Mosaic. We have debated offering a Friends of MJC membership status for occasional social events visitors but



feel the emphasis should be on full membership of one of our constituent synagogues.

The Social Hub, thanks to the efforts of Phil Austin, Jeff Highfield and Jenny Stephany had a successful launch and a follow up event with our three chosen local partners.

Mosaic's two experienced care co-ordinators, Angela Peters and Sandie Myers, continue to work with a team of volunteer visitors to assist those within the community who need a helping hand. Social activities such as the Friendship Club, Knit and Natter, Melody Makers and Music for Memory offer practical support and keep the building alive all week. We are looking to provide more structured support through the Care Committee.

Our Israel activities have expanded via the efforts of Michael Reik and his Committee, including providing support for Kibbutz Re'im. Lawrence Chadwick, besides his support as Vice Chairman, keeps a professional eye on the building, together with Harry Davis and the building Committee. Thanks to Joan Noble and her team of stitchers who have completed a major task of adding attractive art to make the building beautiful. [See feature on Page 26]

HaMakom, our joint children's education programme with Kol Chai, continues to thrive and we are now inviting local schools to visit the synagogue.

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We are pulling together our promotional activities. Our magazine *Kehila* has gone from strength to strength under Andrea Morgale, Roberta Levene and Ann Simon and we now have a team of Josianne Zane, Daisy Cooper and Kay MacElhatton promoting us on social media. We will be updating the website and advertising locally in the coming months.

There are some areas where more work is needed. We need more people coming forward to lead our community, particularly to replace me as Chairman. The question of leadership is a problem, not only for the Mosaic Jewish Community but also for all our constituent synagogues. We need to bring in new younger members to our management structure and to that end we are having discussions after this meeting on a different approach to the running of the board, possibly with a more portfolio structure.

We have had a number of new members in the 20 to 40 range who I am pleased to say are joining in activities. Rabbi Anthony has been maintaining the momentum of organising events for this age group, but more is needed. We are currently looking for opportunities to provide activities for teenagers in the synagogue during the summer holidays.

Thanks to Rabbi Anna Wolfson, our former Development Rabbi, who left in November. Although we have not appointed a replacement, we are working on a plan to increase our membership. With the help of Phil Austin, we have created an operating model using central resources and congregation support to continue the work of recruiting new members. We are looking for a volunteer to join the management team specifically to coordinate membership activities.

My thanks to David Pollak as Treasurer, together with the three synagogue Treasurers who control our finances carefully, and to Chief Administration Officer Debbie Alalouff, who has been working on systems and procedures. We are also grateful to Jeff Highfield as Company Secretary, Joel Abrahams for managing our Health and Safety, and to Gill Ross as our lead on safeguarding. We maintain a good working relationship with the flat owners upstairs, who appreciate the way the site is run.

We appreciate the help of our office staff, Ann Simon, Jackie Alexander and Jackie Silverstone, and the volunteers who now open the office on Friday morning, plus our caretaking team, Prakash, Alpesh and Scottie, who keep our daily operations running. A special thanks to Stefan Roos who is always available to help with IT and AV for our Zoom sessions.

The Chairs of all three Mosaic synagogues — Harry Grant, Adrian Cohen, Phil Austin and Gill Ross — meet monthly with our Rabbis to discuss operational matters, and I would like to thank them and the other Board members for their support during the year, particularly Phil, who is standing down as he has relinquished his co-chairmanship of Mosaic Masorti.

So my targets for the coming year are as follows:

1. Update the website
2. Appoint a Membership Officer
3. Restructure the Board to bring in new leadership potential and in particular to find a Chair to take over from me.

To close, I believe Mosaic Jewish Community is ready to gain further benefits from being a single community. We have retained the sanctity of our separate religious services,

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which is paramount, whilst combining many of the common activities of running a synagogue into our Mosaic Jewish Community. But other activities beyond ritual could benefit from being centralised. This could result in simpler management of membership and finance and a radical change in the role of the individual synagogue councils.

And a huge vote of thanks to Jeanette who besides her work in her own right in so many areas of synagogue life, has supported me throughout the year.

During the AGM, David Leibling was re-elected as Chair, David Pollak was re-elected as Treasurer, Debbie Alalouff was re-elected as Chief Administration Officer and Lawrence Chadwick was re-elected as Vice Chair.

David fielded questions on membership demographics, events promotion, the merger of Liberal Judaism and the Movement for Reform Judaism into Progressive Judaism. He also explained his vision for 'a single community.'

The Minutes of the AGM, together with the Chairman's and Treasurer's Reports, are available on the Mosaic website.

## Garden Party Honour for Mosaic's Bereavement Group Leader

*By Andrea Morgale*



On Wednesday 7th May, Mosaic's Bobbi Riesel was one of the lucky people to be invited to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, attended by King Charles and Queen Camilla.

Taking the place of presentation parties attended by debutantes, Garden Parties have

evolved into a way of recognising and rewarding public service. Organisations and members of the public nominate people who have made a positive impact in their community, and Bobbi certainly qualifies. One of the longest serving volunteers of Bereavement Care, of which she is a Trustee, she is involved in planning their annual conference and heads up the training programme, as well as leading Mosaic's team of bereavement support visitors.

Some 9000 people attended the 7th May garden party, taking the opportunity to explore the Palace grounds and enjoy the tea and cakes. Most guests will attend only once in their lifetime. Bobbi says that although the King and Queen were in attendance, she mainly "saw their backs."

A well deserved honour.

## Mosaic Liberal AGM 2025 Chairman's Report

*By Adrian Cohen*

Last year we said our official goodbyes to Rabbi Rachel Benjamin and Rabbi Anna Wolfson. I am sure it hasn't escaped your notice that Rabbi Rachel is now Rabbi Emerita at Mosaic Liberal Synagogue, a well-deserved position, and we are delighted that she continues her relationship with us. Rabbi Anna has taken up a full-time role as Development Rabbi at Elstree Liberal Synagogue and we all wish her well in that task. I'll say more about Elstree a little later.

Rabbi Daisy Bogod joined us part time last November with options to increase her role in 2025. In the short period of time she has been with Mosaic Liberal, Rabbi Daisy has not only brought her youthful, intellectual and religious energy to us and our services but has also been involved in all the matters that go on behind the scenes of our community.

She has not only done all that successfully, but has also endeared herself to everybody, so much so that I am regularly asked on the Shabbat mornings she is not with us: "When is Rabbi Daisy's next service?" because they don't want to miss it.

At present she takes two Shabbat mornings per month plus a couple of Friday evenings. I am pleased to announce that Rabbi Daisy has now accepted an on-going contract, having sailed through her trial period with flying colours. From next month she will be taking



three Shabbat services per month, increasing her role to 75%. (The fourth Shabbat will be taken by lay leaders or Rabbi Rachel).

The most direct consequence of today's (Sunday, 18th May) Reform/Liberal merger vote [see article on page 14] is that the Mosaic Jewish Community will in effect have two separate synagogues affiliated to the same movement, something that is not permitted under the existing constitution. Obviously we will have to pass a special amendment to the Mosaic Jewish Community constitution to allow this.

Let me make this clear from the outset. We will always have separate Liberal services every Shabbat and High Holy Days and retain our own members, ethos, liturgy and, of course, our own Rabbis.

On a slightly more morbid note, an email was sent out this week about the closure of the Liberal Judaism burial scheme and the transfer of our members enrolled in the scheme into the Joint Jewish Burial Scheme (JJBS,) to which other Progressive movements also belong. [see article on pages 18/19] Of course there is one big difference between the schemes – location, location, location.

At present all Mosaic Liberal members are buried at Edgwarebury Lane. The JJBS scheme uses Cheshunt. Some of our members are concerned about whether this means that they will not be buried at Edgwarebury. I am confident

that our older, existing members will be buried at Edgwarebury when the time comes – and please God it won't be for a long time! There will be some differences and significant cost savings for Mosaic Liberal.

Further changes as a result of the Reform/Liberal merger will take a good six months or so to happen and it may be much longer. But in the meantime you will not notice any difference, simply rebranding. There is a lot of detail to sort out at management level but I am sure that it will work itself out.

I did say earlier that I would speak more about the Elstree situation. Many of you will already know that Elstree Liberal Synagogue is going to merge with Radlett Reform. I'm not sure what that merger will look like, possibly something like the Mosaic Jewish Community. They intend to sell their building in Elstree and will move into Radlett Reform's building, where they will hold their own Liberal services each week.

When we formed the Mosaic Jewish Community many moons ago, we all understood that the only way for most synagogues to survive and prosper was to combine. We here at Mosaic are a shining example of what is possible and have clearly led the way.

Elstree Liberal's move northwards will provide us with an opportunity to pick up Liberal members in the area who don't want to travel so far. I hope to be able to report on growing numbers next year.

We have said goodbye to many members since the last AGM and we remember with sadness the passing of Phyllis and Harold Sanderson, Steven's parents, and lifetime machers in this community. They are sorely missed. The passing of Harold, who was Honorary President, has left a vacancy, and we will be voting on bestowing this well-deserved honour on Alan Solomon, who has done and is still doing so

much for our community. He will become only the fourth president in 77 years!

Despite our bereavements we have made a small gain in the overall number of members.

All things given, I foresee membership increasing year-on-year, albeit slowly, with younger members who will one day take on leadership roles and allow me to finally retire! Speedily in my days!

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## Opening Prayer

*by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat*

*May our hearts open to one another and to the community we strive to serve.*

*May we be kind to one another.*

*May we give one another benefit of the doubt.*

*May we listen to one another generously.*

*May we be willing, when it is appropriate, to set aside our own desires in the service of consensus.*

*May we be willing, when it is appropriate, to stand up for what we know to be right – without diminishing the esteem with which we hold those with whom we disagree.*

*May we see the bigger picture of which we are all a part.*

*May we remember that there are things happening, in each person's life, to which we may not have access.*

*May we be compassionate with one another.*

*May we honour and thank those whose hard work has gotten us to where we are, and celebrate those who are willing to take the baton and continue the work ahead.*

*May all who serve reap joy.*

*And let us say: Amen!*

## Mosaic Masorti AGM: 21st May 2025

### Co-Chair Report by Phil Austin

**T**he past year has been a fruitful one for our synagogue community.

We continued to put roots down in our Stanmore home, as new friendships and relationships were formed within Mosaic Masorti Synagogue and across the Mosaic Jewish Community.

With so many new members joining Mosaic Masorti in 2023 and 2024, we organised tea parties to engender interaction and relationship building. We are still getting to know each other of course — it takes time to build a new community.

Gill Ross and I were particularly pleased to see so many members take up volunteering roles in our synagogue and the wider Mosaic Jewish Community. If you are thinking about helping out, please speak to Gill. I know we are currently seeking volunteers to join the welfare support team.

During 2024, membership numbers increased by 26 to a total count of 205, which represents a healthy 14% gain on 2023. And we were delighted to see younger members join the synagogue — helping to reduce our average age.

Whilst membership growth is really important in terms of making our community more sustainable, we've also seen community development.



For example, we've seen many members lead our Shabbat services for the first time. In fact, the attendance at Shabbat services has been very encouraging — members talk about the ruach (soul) and the insightful spiritual leadership of Rabbi Anthony.

We've also seen more of our members take advantage of the excellent social and cultural activities provided by MJC.

Unfortunately, as I don't need to remind you, last year our venue for the Yamim Noraim was beset by heating problems, which meant it was cold. On behalf of the Honorary Officers I would like to apologise again for the inconvenience caused. This year's venue, which Gill will talk about in a moment, addresses the issues we experienced last year. It will be warm and fully accessible for all.

On a personal note, I have decided to step down from my roles as Co-Chair and Synagogue Councillor. I've noticed that I'm not as young as I used to be. And I have served in numerous roles within MMS and MJC over many years. So, I hope you will understand that it's time for me to step back. It has been a privilege to be part of the synagogue leadership team and the MJC Board, but I now look forward to a few less emails and a few less phone calls.

## Co-Chair Report by Gill Ross

I would like to start by thanking Phil for his many years of service over the years, both in the synagogue and in the Mosaic Jewish Community, as Chair, Trustee, and negotiator of the agreements and underlying practices for MJC.

Rabbi Anthony expounded the breadth and importance of Community in last week's drosh. Community is there for the joys and challenges of life, and I thank Rabbi Anthony for being at the heart of our community, those who attend services, those who attend events and even those who do not attend, as Community encompasses everyone. The Synagogue is there to maintain contact and availability where it is wanted and where and when it is needed, but it develops as a true Community when the relationships are strong and reciprocal.

Our Treasurer David Ross does an excellent job, and his report on the current state of our finances is such that the above-inflation increases of the past couple of years should not need to be repeated this year.

In the year ahead we will seek to develop the Community more, and we will be looking for more people to do a greater number of small



things, both in Mosaic Masorti Synagogue and Mosaic Jewish Community. For example, three members in rotation now make sure the Office is open on Friday mornings.

I am pleased to report that this year's High Holy Day Services will be held in the upstairs events space at The Everest Abercorn on Stanmore Hill, across the road from the Mosaic

building. The Abercorn has a large events space, a small secondary room, accessible entry and provision for toilets on the same floor. The logistics, security and services teams are currently working to make their final arrangements, and more detailed information will be circulated in due course.

We are cooperating in joint Mosaic Jewish Community initiatives to promote membership by developing more streamlined processes, including recruiting an MJC membership leader to help move forward a Community-wide membership drive.

I am grateful for the expressions of support I have received to help fulfil the role of Chair, as well as the offers of assistance, so I can use my time wisely.

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Gill proposed votes of thanks votes to Phil Austin and Rabbi Anthony, which were endorsed enthusiastically by the meeting.

The Accounts and Treasurer's Report were

approved. The existing Officers were all re-elected unopposed, and Michael Alexander was elected as a Councillor for 2025/2026.

# Progressive Judaism Movement ratified by Members

*By Roberta Levene*



Rabbi Charley Baginsky, Paul Langsford, Dr Ed Kessler, Karen Newman and Rabbi Josh Levy celebrate the formation of Progressive Judaism

**R**eform and Liberal Communities across the UK voted to unite on Sunday, 18th May, to form the Progressive Judaism Movement.

The move is a landmark moment for British Jewry: 95% of Reform members and 98% of Liberals agreed to the merger. Progressive Judaism will be the UK's largest synagogue

Movement based on the number of its Communities.

Plans for the merger were first announced more than two years ago. Since then Rabbi Charley Baginsky, CEO of Liberal Judaism, and Rabbi Josh Levy, CEO of Reform, covered the country getting feedback from members.

The culmination of 250 years of Progressive Jewish history, the merger is claimed to be the first ever known unification of two Jewish denominations. It also comes more than 60 years after the Jacobs Affair, which led to the birth of the Masorti Movement after it broke away from the Orthodox-led United Synagogue.

News of the vote emerged during the Mosaic Liberal AGM. "The most direct consequence of today's Reform/Liberal merger vote is that the Mosaic Jewish Community will, in effect,

have two separate synagogues affiliated to the same movement, something that is not permitted under the existing constitution," says Liberal chairman Adrian Cohen.

"Obviously we will have to pass a special amendment to the Mosaic Jewish Community constitution to allow this. Let me make this clear from the outset. We will always have separate Liberal services every Shabbat and High Holy Days and retain our own members, ethos, liturgy and, of course, our own Rabbis."

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## *Progressive Judaism Q&A*

### **What has driven this change, and why now?**

This move is driven by a vision of a thriving, well-supported, emboldened, vocal, ambitious Progressive Judaism in the UK. The role of the new Movement is to help to deliver that vision, building an infrastructure to underpin and support the work, amplifying our voices in the wider world, and delivering those aspects that we best do collectively.

It is being proposed from a position of strength. Both movements are financially stable: they have shared values and many shared practices; our Clergy bodies are supportive, and inspiring in their ability to hold and respect diversity. Our two movements represent close to 30% of synagogue-affiliated Jews in the UK and together we make up the largest synagogue body by number of communities across the breadth of the four nations.

Despite this strength, operating as two separate entities we often punched below our weight. We believe that we can achieve more by doing the work together.

### **At the heart of the Movement is the Forum, a new meeting space**

The Forum, a quarterly gathering, will bring together member communities, youth, Clergy, lay leadership and professionals, not only to update, but to discuss, question, and cocreate. It is a transformation: from reporting to discussing; from representation to shared creation; from transactional updates to generative conversations. It's open to all the major stakeholders in the creation of the Movement: representatives of Member communities and associates, Clergy, senior professional staff, representatives of the youth movements, Trustees, and anyone else invited by the Forum Planning Group.

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## **What's the role of Clergy in the new Movement?**

UK Reform and Liberal Rabbis have always trained together at Leo Baeck College and many Rabbis have served both movements. Clergy have a unique place within a religious movement. It is therefore important that Clergy have a clearly defined and embedded place within the structures of Movement leadership. They will play an important role in shaping and contributing to the discussions at the Forum, as well as having a formal representation there and permanent representation on the Trustee Board.

## **How will my community influence the work of the new Movement?**

Participation in the Forum will be the main mechanism for a community to influence the work of Movement. The Forum's success will depend upon the commitment of members, Clergy and other stakeholders to take their place in generative conversations about Progressive Judaism in this country.

## **How will the diversity of communities and voices in Progressive Judaism be protected?**

One of the most precious features of Progressive Judaism in this country is its diversity. The organising principle of the new Movement is that, like the existing movements, it will be a membership organisation made up of autonomous communities with their own leadership. This is why the Forum will be so important – to bring together our different voices, needs and priorities in respectful conversation, striving for agreement where we can and celebrating diversity where we cannot.

## **Why a legal combination instead of just working together?**

Over the last 18 months, Liberal Judaism and the Movement for Reform Judaism have worked closely together in a new way. We have seen the difference that this makes, especially in our external representation. However, as two separate entities, the current collaboration is complex and not the best use of resources. We experience duplication, complex organisational issues (such as IT systems and keeping data separate), and challenges of governance and oversight. By its nature, this model is also fragile and lacks a formal underpinning. It is not a long-term solution. We can be more effective together, consolidating our resources and working strategically across the country.

## **What will be the implications for the two Youth Movements?**

Our two Youth Movements – LJY-Netzer and RSY-Netzer – currently have different offerings at different times of the year and cater to different audiences. It would make no sense to disrupt this. LJY-Netzer and RSY-Netzer are semi-autonomous and the decision about their future belongs to them. By working together with them as one movement, we can ensure that they benefit from better resources and a shared infrastructure.

## **What will happen to the offices at the Montagu Centre and Sternberg Centre?**

The Board of the new Movement will now need to make decisions. We are committed to ensuring that every penny received from Communities is used to strengthen Progressive Judaism, while respecting the heritage of both movements.

## **Will there be any staff redundancies?**

MRJ and LJ are currently at their lowest staffing

levels for many years. The two organisations have also been cooperating closely during this period, with many employees working across both organisations under service level agreements. This being the case, we do not anticipate that any current employee will be made redundant.

## What about the two CEOs?

The new Movement's Board will ultimately decide on the composition of its senior team. In the meantime, we believe the leadership of the two CEOs will be essential in the early years of the new Movement and will ensure continuity and stability.

## The Path to Progressive Judaism

**1841:** Britain's first Reform prayer book is introduced. *Forms of Prayer Volume I: Daily and Sabbath Prayers* modernises and shortens the Shabbat service, with an English translation.

**1857:** The first recorded UK use of the term Progressive Judaism (in *The Jewish Chronicle*).

**1899:** Liberal Judaism begins to form. A service takes place at Marylebone's Great Central Hotel in 1902, with The Liberal Jewish Synagogue founded in 1911. Building on innovations of the UK's Reform communities, further advances are made in equality and accessibility.

**1926:** The World Union for Progressive Judaism is created in London. It now serves an estimated 1.8 million members in more than 1,250 congregations across 50 countries.

**1955:** The practice that Jewish status can be inherited from either parent (whether mother or father), where the child is brought up as Jewish, is introduced.

**1956:** Leo Baeck College is established as Britain's first Progressive rabbinic seminary. The College has since ordained more than 200 Liberal and Reform Rabbis.

**1967:** Following the 1935 ordination of the world's first woman Rabbi, Leo Baeck College

begins accepting female rabbinic candidates. Britain's first woman Rabbi was ordained in 1975.

**1980:** British Progressive Judaism embraces the UK's first openly LGBTQI+ Rabbi. In 1984, openly LGBTQI+ students entered the rabbinic programme at Leo Baeck College.

**1992:** Progressive Clergy begin to lead wedding blessings for dual heritage couples. From 2012, these take place in synagogue, as part of a full inclusion of mixed faith families.

**1995:** Liberal Judaism's *Siddur Lev Chadash* is the first prayer book in Europe to use gender-inclusive language for God. Words subsuming women under men are also changed.

**2008:** Reform Judaism releases *Seder Ha-Tfillot: Forms of Prayer* – Britain's first Siddur containing a complete transliteration (Hebrew words written in English) for Shabbat.

**2013:** Already conducting blessings for LGBTQI+ couples, Progressive synagogues start to host full equal weddings after campaigning for a change in the law to be able to do so.

**2025:** Britain's Reform and Liberal communities vote to unite as one Progressive Judaism for the UK – the culmination of 250 years of history, progress, innovation and change.

## Changes to the Mosaic Liberal Funeral Insurance Scheme

*By Roberta Levene*

Liberal Judaism has agreed in principle with the Joint Jewish Burial Society (JJBS) that following a comprehensive review JJBS will provide LJ's funeral, burial and cremation services from next year.

The reason for the change includes concerns over the rising cost of operating the LJ scheme and an expectation that a larger and more cost-effective organisation should be able to improve the services LJ — and thus Mosaic Liberal Synagogue members — receive.

Mosaic Liberal chairman Adrian Cohen says: "The closure has nothing to do with the Reform/Liberal merger. It's been done for financial reasons and would have happened regardless."

The expected date of the changeover is 1st

January 2026, but this will be confirmed in due course. At present, Mosaic Liberal Synagogue operates the Mosaic Liberal Synagogue Funeral Insurance Scheme. This entitlement is normally included as part of membership, applying to all Full and Country members. The MLS Funeral Insurance Scheme is in turn part of the Liberal Judaism Burial and Cremation Scheme.

JJBS provides similar services to those currently provided to the existing LJ Scheme members. As a result, and as part of this change, MLS will in due course sign an agreement with JJBS to replace the existing arrangements with LJ.

Adrian Cohen is chairman of Mosaic Liberal Synagogue and Steven Sanderson is Treasurer and Burial Officer

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## *Background Notes for members*

The main features for existing LJ members will be:

- They will retain their accumulated entitlements and all plot reservations.
- The current LJ Scheme cemeteries and crematoria will continue to be used by JJBS. For the cemeteries this is subject to there being available plots as in the LJ Scheme. However, JJBS will make surplus plots available to other JJBS members.
- Inside the 'London' area, JJBS provides similar services to its individual members to those the LJ Scheme provides to its members. Additionally, JJBS pays the cost of a standard funeral for each member which means that LJ members will no longer have

to pay undertakers' costs. Those outside the London area will receive a refund towards funeral costs.

- JJBS has agreed that King's Funeral Directors will continue to undertake LJ Scheme members' funerals at least for the first two years.
- JJBS charges for additional services in a similar way to the LJ Scheme. More information about these charges will be announced in due course.
- Members' burial and cremation scheme entitlements will be 'portable' between all JJBS member synagogues, simplifying transfers between synagogues.

- Following the change to JJBS, all new members of JJBS member synagogues will have their burial and cremation services provided by JJBS. These new members will have to pay a supplement to be buried in Edgwarebury and Woodland cemeteries, but this will not have to be paid by any existing LJ Scheme member at the date of the change. All current benefits for existing JJBS member Synagogues remain unchanged.
- The Liberal Judaism Scheme currently provides 12 Liberal synagogues in London and the Home Counties with burial and cremation services. The Scheme makes available burial in Edgwarebury, Cheshunt (JJBS), Cheshunt (Western) and the GreenAcres Chiltern cemeteries, and cremation at Hoop Lane and other crematoria.
- In eight of the 12 synagogues the Scheme is complemented by a funeral expenses scheme which provides the cost of undertaking and other funeral-related expenses. In the other synagogues, members' families pay these expenses.
- JJBS currently has 46 members including Reform, Masorti, Independent and some Liberal synagogues. They are based across the country and their membership is in excess of 18,000 individual members. JJBS currently has Burial rights for all its London-based members, including mixed faith couples, in Cheshunt (Western), Southgate and in its own Cemetery, the Woodland, in Cheshunt. There is an extra fee for woodland burial in the Woodland. Those members living outside of London receive funds towards a funeral in their area.
- Under current JJBS rules, individuals joining after the age of 50 are required to pay a Late Entry Payment. However, we anticipate that existing members of the LJ Scheme who join JJBS as part of this transition will not be subject to this payment. Final confirmation will be provided once legal agreements are completed.
- The JJBS website, <https://www.jjbs.org.uk> has a booklet on the Woodland Cemetery. It is anticipated that LJ Scheme members joining the JJBS scheme on or before this date will not be liable for Late Entry Payments.

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## Diamond Celebration At Mosaic Liberal

*By Kevin Ziants*

**A**t the Shabbat morning Mosaic Liberal service on 26th March, long-standing members Alan and Janet Solomon celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. Janet jokingly (I hope!) described this landmark as three life sentences.

Rabbi Rachel came out of retirement to lead this service as requested, and

to accommodate the extra numbers from their following, Mosaic Reform kindly allowed the sanctuaries to be swapped.

It was a lovely service, where Alan and Janet's work over the years for our community — their extended family — was recognised.

Mazel tov to them both, and here's to the next 60 years.



## Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut at Mosaic

*By Michael Reik*



*Rabbi David Ebstein*



*Rene Magun*



*Part of the ANU presentation*

**O**n April 30th, some 50 Members of Mosaic Jewish Community prayed with Rabbi Anthony to remember the soldiers who had fallen in the far too many wars that Israel had experienced in the first 77 years of its existence.

These past two years have been the most poignant in Israel's history since the foundation of the state in 1948, with a war with Hamas and Hezbollah since October 7th 2023 and continuing. We mourned for all those who had died since October 7th, numbering 856 (but growing) to date.

We read prayers since the declaration of independence of May 1948 to the present day, beautifully put together by Rabbi Anthony.



*Members enjoying Yom Ha'Atzmaut*

We then heard from our guests for the evening: Rabbi David Ebstein, who explained as a Rabbi and

father how he had to cope and to explain to his family about October 7th, and his wife Rena Magun, WZO Board Associate Member, who explained the importance of registering for the WZO (World Zionist Organisation) elections, to further the needs of a Progressive world within Israel.

In the previous few days, 43 boards had been erected in the area where the Yom HaZikaron/Yom Ha'Atzmaut service was taking place. These were prepared by ANU, the Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv, a Museum of Culture and Art. The boards represented a cultural view of the terrible events of October 7th at the Nova Festival by Re'im on the Gaza Border, and included a film of 300 photographs taken on and around October 7th. This graphic exhibition had been loaned to us by the Ark Synagogue in Northwood and was put up only for the three days around YHz/YHm.

We then continued to the Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebrations, with plenty of Israeli food, wine and fruit drinks, as well as pleasant photographs and music of the State of Israel in 2025.

## Mosaic Second Night Seder

*by Karen Pollak*



**H**ats off to Mosaic Jewish Community for having, once again, pulled off a wonderful joint event.

Second night Seder is often a time when people feel a bit jaded and leaden from a surfeit of food, matzah and wine and a previous late night.

However, we had an early kick off at Halsbury Close, starting at 6pm. Ages ranged from one year to 90+ Some 80ish of us were greeted by a wonderful fresh aroma of daffodils, charoseth and food from the kitchen. The tables looked lovely and bright, which made for a good start to the evening.

We were very ably guided by student Rabbi Rachel Berkson, who led the meal with great aplomb. She told us to not be shy about asking questions, and she was more than happy to respond to queries which opened up discussions. She was suitably accompanied

by the Mosaic minstrel David Pollak and it all passed with much humour and singing.

Whichever community has Rabbi Rachel as their Rabbi when she qualifies will truly be blessed. She is a natural. Very approachable. Her Hebrew was clear and, from the short time I spent with her, I think she would be a great asset to any community.

My thanks go to the team who helped make the evening happen. The bakers, the table layers, the server uppers and clearer uppers, but most importantly to Gill Ross for organising the catering side of things and a particular mention to Denise Meltzer who was in charge of the cooking. She went well beyond the call of duty and her cooking was delicious.

Proceedings were done and dusted by 9pm, and all left having enjoyed a good evening of discussion, eating and singing.

Roll on next year. Come and join us.

[Continued on following page >>](#)

# PESACH AT MOSAIC

Continued from previous page...

## Appreciation for Pesach Sederim

A few of the letters received after the Pesach events in April. Congratulations to the organisers and catering team for a magnificent effort that was really appreciated by members and guests.

*Thank you ALL at Mosaic for the delightful Seder!*  
*A warm welcome was extended to everyone.*  
*From the well-laid tables, the food and wines etc., nothing was missed!*  
*Thank you again.*  
**Jean Burke**

We would like to convey our thanks to the wonderful members who put on such delightful meals at the Communal Second Night Seder and the lunchtime Seder Light.

It was a pleasure to be included, and it is so lovely to be with such a Community.

Thank you again, and we look forward to next year, PG.

**Audrey and Phil Phillips**

At last we went to our synagogue, Mosaic. We attended the communal Seder and it was a really wonderful do.

There were about 70 people and six or so Rabbis and officials. The Seder was really wonderful, easy to follow and the explanations so clear and joyful. Our own Rabbi Kathleen de Magtide-Middleton was on sabbatical and could not attend, The food and wine and Seder plates were extraordinarily good. We gathered that they were done by one lady and were beautifully cooked and presented.

We knew very few people but that was our fault, not theirs. The evening flew by, starting just after 6pm and finishing at 9pm.

Please can you convey our thanks to all who made the evening so memorable and enjoyable.

**Rose and Benno Stern**



Edwin Lucas with his trademark matzah tie



Seder Light

## Join us at “Our House” for Shabbat Dinner - Shabbat Beiteinu welcomes everyone

*By Josi Zane*

**M**embers from all three Mosaic communities and of all ages and walks of life come together to celebrate Shabbat and the vibrancy of our community at our monthly Shabbat Beiteinu event.

Hosted at the synagogue once a month, Shabbat Beiteinu is a fantastic way to get to know members of the community in a relaxed setting. Dinner is preceded by a Masorti or joint Liberal/Reform Friday night service. Members are warmly welcome to join just for dinner and/or services.

A core team of volunteers take turns to coordinate the event. Dinner is ‘pot luck’ style, so you never know what to expect. Everyone brings a vegetarian or fish dish of their choice and it’s a great opportunity to assess our members’ culinary skills (or lack of!)

Snacks, salads, side dishes and shop-brought desserts are also welcome contributions, so members who are time-poor or lacking skills in the culinary field are also very welcome to join.

Our special Valentine-themed dinner back in February was very popular, and the July event will be Pride-themed.



Reminders are in the weekly email bulletins and also on the Mosaic social media Facebook and Instagram pages.

The next Beiteinu Friday Night Dinners are taking place at the synagogue on 11th July and 8th August. Just let us know you’re coming (preferably by midday on the day before the event so we have an idea of numbers ) and what you’re bringing by emailing [beiteinu@choosemosaic.org](mailto:beiteinu@choosemosaic.org).

A big thank you to all of the fabulous volunteers who make Beiteinu happen each month and for everyone’s culinary efforts to-date.

We look forward to seeing you there!

*Dear Editors*

*I would like to thank the person who sent in the recipe for roast chicken with pomegranate molasses for the Rosh Hashanah issue. [page 27, Ed] I decided to try it out on my family and friends for lunch on first day Yom Tov. My family are often late for mealtimes; the excuse this time was the bad traffic. So I was very pleased that the chicken was still delicious two hours after it was put in the oven, instead of 45 minutes as called for in the recipe. It was also given a thumbs-up by a friend who is the daughter of kosher caterers in Glasgow; she has asked me for the recipe.*

*Kind regards* **Linda Lucas**



# God bless the Child ...

*By David Pollak*

It seems appropriate to use a song title to write about our singing service known as Shabbat Shira.

Since Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton became our Rabbi some 15 years ago, the children's service at what is now Mosaic Reform has grown into a gathering that is widely accepted as a family service for all ages and in particular, the younger generation.

Shabbat Shira now attracts families from all three Mosaic communities so, while each synagogue retains its own Shabbat service, we can now rightly claim to have a service that crosses the boundaries between Masorti, Liberal and Reform.

We have 30 families within Mosaic, with 43 children between them. In addition, there are a number of families that enjoy Shabbat Shira and bring grandchildren and friends who belong to synagogues other than Mosaic. Whoever is leading Shabbat Shira, we do our best to involve as many children and adults as possible.

Since much of the service is sung, it aims to be inclusive and joyful. The Torah service has always proved popular with everyone as children are entertained by stories relevant to the portion of the week and adults are often introduced to explanations that are not always apparent in the more conventional service.

With so much to offer and a proven formula to deliver a service that is meaningful and enjoyable, we'd like to encourage more parents and grandparents to bring their families.



We are achieving an average attendance at our services of between 15 and 30. With the numbers of children, parents, grandparents and other family and friends, we should be able to expect 50-plus each month.

My hope is that this article is being read by the families for whom Shabbat Shira is intended. Without your attendance, there can be no guarantee that the services will continue.

We should all be aware that the future of our Mosaic Community can only be guaranteed by sustained growth, especially in the number of young families joining us and encouraging them and their children to participate in synagogue services, events and activities. Shabbat Shira can be a critical element in achieving this ambition.

I very much hope to see many of you at Shabbat Shira in the coming months, leading up to and beyond Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Services feed off the atmosphere created by the people who attend and the more children and adults there are, the more we shall enjoy our Shira services.

The next Shabbat Shira service is on 19th July.

**David Pollak is Treasurer of MJC**

## 2024/2025 activities by the Board of Deputies Highlights of the past year

*By Michael Reik*



### **Fighting Antisemitism**

The Board of Deputies of British Jews (BoD) launched a groundbreaking Commission on Antisemitism led by the Government's Independent Adviser on Antisemitism Lord John Mann and former Secretary of State for Defence Penny Mordaunt, pictured here.



*Lord John Mann and Penny Mordaunt*

A new survey carried out by BoD, the Jewish Leadership Council and Work Avenue found that nearly two-thirds of Jewish employees had encountered antisemitism in the workplace.

### **Defending our Religious Freedoms**

The Union of Jewish Students and BoD came together to produce The Apprentice Providers Guide to Judaism.

BoD affirmed its support for Jewish employees as it launched the latest updated edition of the *BoD Employer's Guide at Parliament*. (<https://bod.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/employersguide2024-7.pdf>)

### **Making our Community more United, Inclusive and Outward-looking**

BoD launched its Gender Equality Plan. It will seek to enhance the representation of women and make the organisation fully inclusive and meritocratic in future.

Sixty Muslim and Jewish leaders came together for the launch of what new BoD President Phil Rosenberg has dubbed the "Optimistic Alliance".

### **Standing Up for Peace and Security in the Middle East**

BoD met the leadership of the BBC to discuss

ongoing concerns relating to the coverage and culture of the broadcaster.



*October 7th commemoration in Hyde Park*

More than 20,000 people assembled in Hyde Park in London to mourn the victims of October 7th a year on from the attacks, and to call for the release of the hostages.

### **Celebrating our Faith, Heritage and Culture as British Jews**

Politicians came together in Parliament to celebrate the festival of Chanukah, at a reception organised by BoD together with the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Representatives of the UK's major faiths gathered for an interfaith Seder led by BoD President Phil Rosenberg and Chief Executive Michael Wegier.



*Interfaith Seder*

**Michael Reik is Deputy for Mosaic Reform**

# Jewish Journey Triptych is culmination of work by Mosaic Stitchers

*By Joan Noble and Andrea Morgale*



Visitors to the Mosaic building on Stanmore Hill cannot help but be struck by the range and ambition of the stitched panels that adorn its walls. Much more than substitutes for what in an older Synagogue would have been stained glass windows, each element has been designed and created by members to illustrate different facets of Jewish life and the Mosaic principles.

The latest installation, pictured on the cover of this issue, is an ambitious narrative of our Jewish Journey depicted in a colourful Triptych, now displayed in Halls 2/3.

The first panel depicts the phrase “They sang a new song on the shores of the sea” recording the Exodus from Egypt. The second

features the Jewish people wandering in the desert for forty years and reaching Sinai, and finally arriving in the land. The final panel portrays Jerusalem, the holy city, with the words “If I forget thee O Jerusalem”- The panels are the work of the Mosaic Stitchers, a group of ladies who since Covid days have been committed to a project to create artifacts which would enhance the new Mosaic building.

They started with the abstract chair backs for the blue and purple chairs inherited from the Liberal community. The group created original geometric designs, then meticulously constructed 180 backs to fit the chairs and hold our prayer books.

Energised by the community's complimentary comments, nine large stitched textile panels were then created and now adorn our walls: three with colourful geometric mosaic designs, five with the Tallit fringes that are a daily reminder for us as Jews, and another with our Mosaic message of the three key values on which Judaism stands: "On Torah, work and Good Deeds"

Following a discussion with Rabbi Kathleen de Magtigue-Middleton, the group embarked on the impressive Jewish Journey triptych, which completes the project of 12 significant stitched panels that now enhance every visit to the building.

Our textile works have certainly become a talking point by many who visit Mosaic. "The creativity of this devoted team of stitchers has added beauty to the otherwise plain walls of our communal building, helping to make it into a real kehila for prayer, study and community events," says David Leibling, Chairman of Mosaic Jewish Community.



The original design concepts were developed by textile artist Joan Noble, who leads the group, pictured above as they celebrated the completion of the Triptych in May. They are (left to right) keen embroiderer Jonquil Nicholls; Linda Baum, who has a keen interest in needlework and dressmaking; painter and emerging textile



enthusiast Alison Imren; former couture professional and pattern cutter Jeanette Leibling, who ensures works are assembled correctly, and Joan Noble. Not pictured, but equally involved in the project was accomplished calligrapher Viv Levinson.

Joan learned many new techniques over the years and inspires and challenges the group to venture into creating interesting textures. Some unusual effects have been created by boiling and dyeing fabrics with onion skins, or random marks by rusting fabrics, as seen in the backgrounds. Layers of fabrics are stitched, slashed, embellished and worked with free machining, resulting in the varied textures and effects such as the seascape.



*Stitchers choosing and placing the mosaic design*

Joan stressed that everything was made with minimal cost. Many lush, colourful samples were very generously acquired from Antonia and Howard Berger when they closed their family furnishing shop after nearly 100 years, while other fabrics were mainly assorted scarf samples.

"This is not just a 'ladies only' undertaking, and we would like to offer thanks to some 'handymen' in our shul for constructing the frames," says Joan.

A home-grown project of which the whole community can be proud. The group is now embarking on a new series of hangings – so watch this space!

## Mosaic live sculpture event culminates at Lake Windermere

*By Stewart Rose*

A live sculpture event held at Mosaic last September reached its culmination in May, at the Windermere Museum in the Lake District.

On 22nd September 2024, over 100 guests had enjoyed watching renowned celebrity and Royal family sculptor Frances Segelman as she created a bust of Holocaust survivor and Mosaic Liberal member Joanna Millan. The teatime event was a highly successful fundraiser for the Edgware & Stanmore committee of the British Friends of Israel War Disabled (BFIWD,) to bring Israeli war veterans to London.



*Frances and Joanna at the sculpture presentation*



*Sculpting in action at Mosaic*

Frances, who has sculpted both King Charles III and the late Queen, as well as many celebrities and Holocaust survivors, completed the bust in her studio before unveiling it

and presenting it to Joanna in April in front of her friends and family and members of the BFIWD at Jewish Care Sandringham in Stanmore, where Joanna is a resident.

Joanna had been orphaned at 18 months old in Theresienstadt after her mother died of TB, her father having been murdered by the Nazis in Auschwitz. After the war she was brought to a care facility at Lake Windermere as one of the group of youngsters who became known as the Windermere Children.

On VE Day, 8th May 2025, which was also the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Theresienstadt, the Windermere Museum launched an exhibition devoted to the Windermere Children. They had already planned to include Joanna's story when fate took a hand: Joanna told them about the sculpture and the coincidence of its timing with the forthcoming exhibition, and they were delighted to accept her offer to donate it to the exhibition.

So if you happen to be at Lake Windermere, do drop in to the museum and see Joanna's 'Mosaic' sculpture and learn more of her incredible story for yourself.

Joanna's amazing life is told in the book *My Story: Joanna Millan BEM JP*, published by AJR, The Association of Jewish Refugees. [www.ajr.org.uk](http://www.ajr.org.uk)

**Stewart Rose is a BFIWD committee member**

# A Wartime Mystery

*By Cynthia Shaw*



*Cynthia and her children with Annie and Arthur in Nakskov*

**M**y darling grandma's sister, my aunt Annie (Hannah Nathan) broke with tradition when on 17th November 1917 she married 24-year-old Arthur Carl Clausen, a non-Jewish refrigerator engineer from Denmark.

The wedding took place on the day after Annie's 35th birthday — although she lied about her age, admitting to being only 24 years old!

The newlyweds made their home at 38 Grove Road, Mile End in London, the house where Arthur had previously lodged and where their son Lewis was born on 1st October 1918. Their happiness at starting a family was not to last, however, as on 12th February 1921 Annie gave birth to a daughter, Phoebe, who at the age of two months passed away from 'accidental asphyxia,' aka cot death.

Prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, Annie and her family emigrated to Denmark, and in the early 1940s Lewis, for reasons known only to himself, enlisted into the German army.

Lewis's extraordinary behaviour came to light when his mother discovered a German army uniform concealed within a trunk in his bedroom. When questioned by his angry father, Lewis stormed out of the house and his parents neither saw nor heard from him ever again.

## The search begins

My investigation into the life of my grandmother's nephew began with a search for his military record. The Danish archives had no information pertaining to him and were sceptical that any evidence would be found regarding his alleged entry into the Wehrmacht, because "no Jewish boy would ever have considered joining the German army;" and with that comment I was politely dismissed.

There seemed little point in my pursuing the Danish authorities. It was clear that my research must be abandoned, the file closed, and the subject laid to rest.

I gave little thought to the matter until I chanced upon a book entitled *Hitler's Jewish Soldiers*, which gives an account of Nazi racial laws and of 150,000 men of Jewish descent who were in the German military. These men were known as Jewish *mischlinge* (half and quarter Jews,) and the book discusses how it was possible for Jews and *mischlinge* to have served in the Wehrmacht.

I contacted the author, who suggested that I write to the Bundesarchiv in Berlin for available data relating to Lewis Clausen, and I received from them the following information:

- In 1942 Lewis was living at Kopenhagen Norre Farimagsgade 42 with his fiancée Olga Jensen.

[Continued on following page >>](#)

# FEATURE ARTICLE

*Continued from previous page...*

- In 1943 he joined the Wermacht and was given the identification mark of Anti-Aircraft Company 272 Regiment.
- On 2nd August that same year he was stationed in mid-Germany with 6th Company heavy AK-AK 272.
- From 16th December 1943 to 27th June 1944 he was in a 3rd Company punishment prison, though it is unclear whether he was staff or prisoner. The prison, known as Dept. 4, was part of the army in Northern Russia in 1944 and belonged to group G in the West on the Oberrhein.

I was further assured that there is no doubt whatsoever that Lewis died in Northern Russia, as the soldiers there were used only as 'cannon fodder' (soldiers regarded merely as material to be expended in battle) for the Russians.

## Family reunion

Grandma and her sister Annie lost touch during the war, as there was no way of communicating, but in the early 1950s — at the age of 13 and without Grandma's knowledge — I contacted the Danish embassy, who agreed to try to trace the whereabouts of the Clausens, if indeed they had survived the war.

In a matter of weeks I received a letter saying that Annie and Arthur were alive and well, and living in Nakskov, Denmark,

It is hard to describe my darling Grandma's reaction when I broke the good news. She was astonished, touched, delighted and tearful all at the same time. She had not expected to see her sister again.

Contact was made and a few weeks later there was a family reunion when Annie and Arthur came to visit. They came again a year later and in August 1962 my husband Martin and I took our children Gary and Loren to Nakskov to meet their great aunt and uncle.



*Cynthia's beloved Grandma*

Nakskov lies in a sheltered position on Nakskov Fjord. An industrial town with a shipyard, it is also home to Scandinavia's largest sugar factory. The town enjoyed its heyday in the 16th century but has succeeded in retaining its medieval ambiance to this day. Narrow lanes and old houses rest between the harbour and the marketplace, where stands an old pharmacy and a Gothic church that boasts an impressive carved altar and a Baroque pulpit. The large Jewish population of Nakskov which existed in the 17th century has long since disappeared, and the premises of the Synagogue are currently in use as offices.

I will never ever forget the look of anguish on the face of my aunt when she showed me the trunk where all those years before Lewis had concealed his German army uniform.

It was clear that the actions of her son had caused deep psychological wounds to his mother, wounds that would never heal.

Aunt Annie died on 1st November 1976. Uncle Arthur passed away on 7th August 1979.

## Our Black Taxi Tour of London

*By Elaine Glass*



*Simon and Elaine with their Ukrainian friends by Stuart's taxi*

**Y**ou're a Londoner, so you know London, right? That's what we thought until we took a private black cab tour of London.

It was Mosaic Masorti's Auction of Promises that led us to bid for a Black Taxi Tour of London, which had been kindly donated by former member and friend of Mosaic Masorti, taxi guide extraordinaire Stuart Rosen. We already had a good idea who we would take with us: our Ukrainian friends who had lived with us when war broke out in the Ukraine and who had never been in a London black taxi before. So on a sunny day in May, we all met at an appointed place in Bond Street and began our two-hour tour. Stuart's fun and informative commentary throughout the tour left us in no doubt that his 50 years as a black cab driver before becoming a guide had given him a vast knowledge of London, its sites and its history.



*Stuart with his taxi*

Our tour took in the iconic London sites — including Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament, Trafalgar Square, Horse Guards Parade, St James's Palace, Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral — stopping where we could for a closer look and getting out to roam around and take photos, all the while learning about the sites and hearing stories of events and the people who lived or visited there. Whilst as Londoners we could proudly boast that we had visited these places before, many of Stuart's insider anecdote 'gems' were new to us. What we particularly loved though was our tour through the back streets of Mayfair and Belgravia, stopping at some iconic hotels to say hello to beautifully dressed porters and sites where security guards (all of whom knew Stuart by name) let us take a peek at otherwise no-go areas such as Clarence House.



*Stuart with the Ukrainians*

A wonderful time was had by all, and it's no wonder Stuart has 5-star ratings for his tour on Viator, having completed over 400 tours. Certainly a great thing to do, particularly if you have non-UK guests visiting.

# Going to Non-Jewish Coffee Shops on Shabbat: a halakhic debate

*By Rabbi Anthony Lazarus Magrill*

**A**t last month's Yom Masorti — a wonderful gathering at New North London of roughly 200 Masorti Jews; do come next year if you missed it! — I had the chance to teach one of my favourite teshuvot (halakhic responsa.) I'd like, briefly, to recount it here, and explain why I think it speaks so pertinently to the modern Masorti Jew.

Rabbi Moshe HaKohen Drihem (1906-66) was one of the great sages of 20th century Djerba. Djerba, off the North coast of Tunisia, is distinguished as one of the last significant Jewish centres in the Arab world. It has had a Jewish population for at least 2000 years and is, in at least two respects, unique amongst Jewish communities.

Firstly, it has been an extraordinarily literate community: in 1982, when the last polling was done, roughly 10% of men on the island had published sifrei kodesh (Hebrew religious scholarship). That makes 20th century Djerba

perhaps the most Jewishly literate community of all time. Secondly, at least until the founding of the State of Israel, Djerba was an island with unusually positive relationships between its Jewish and non-Jewish populations. For example, The haqq al-Yahud Law of the Jews was the Arab term to describe the intense interweaving of Jewish and Muslim relationships, especially within the economic realms of the wool and jewellery trade.

Both of these factors make Djerba an interesting place to look for precedents in Masorti halakha. In the first place, because a highly literate population is a population which Rabbis have to trust to make responsible decisions in Jewish law and practice, and Masorti halakha has also been distinguished by placing greater weight on the actual practices and tolerances of current Jewish communities.

Secondly, whilst much Ashkenazi halakha assumes basically hostile relationships between



Jews and non-Jews, Masorti halakha aspires (like Djerban halakha) to function in a realm where strong Jewish and non-Jewish social relationships are not only possible, but actually desirable.

And so to the question at hand: Drihem is asked by Rabbi Mordechai Sigron, another of the giants of 20th century Djerban Jewry, about a situation which has developed whereby some third of his community are going to drink in non-Jewish coffee shops every Shabbat afternoon v'l'Efshar l'Taken haDavar ('and it is not going to be possible to change the thing'). These Jews are drinking on credit — nobody suggests it is permissible within halakha to buy coffee on Shabbat — but the halakhic issues are still complex. Does it transgress the prohibition of cooking if the non-Jew makes coffee for the Jewish customer? Is the case different if, instead of drinking coffee, the Jew has a cider, or some other pre-made drink? Is it even plausibly within the 'Spirit of Shabbat' to visit such a cafe?

It is interesting that Sigron's question presupposes (1) that the community will not listen to him if he tells them not to go to the cafe at all; but that (2) it is still worth asking the question, so presumably there is halakhic guidance that they might listen to if it is delivered in the right way. The question presupposes a Jewish community who want to keep Shabbat, and want to remain within the halakhic system — but not if it stops them going to coffee shops on Shabbat; that is, not if halakha is too onerous to be lived with.

We can imagine a Masorti Jew today asking such a question: if they have a Club Pret subscription allowing them free drinks from a chain of cafes, can they take up the offer on Shabbat? If a Jew is travelling, can they take free drinks from the hotel breakfast, or might they thereby be transgressing cooking on Shabbat? The nature of the Djerban community is significant: they want to keep Shabbat, they want to be halakhic Jews, but they also want to live in the modern world; and they will choose the modern world over the strictures of Jewish law if they perceive the latter as too unbending.

So what does Drihem advise? Firstly, he underscores that asking a non-Jew to make you a coffee is absolutely prohibited on Shabbat: contrary to popular perceptions of the Shabbes Goy, we cannot ask a non-Jew to do Shabbat-labour for us unless our health or wellbeing is at stake.

The institution of the Shabbes Goy was developed only to permit non-Jews to light fires in Jewish houses during the harsh Eastern European winter, not to get us our caffeine fix on a Shabbat afternoon. However, if most of the customers are non-Jewish then the pre-made coffee is permitted to the Jewish clientele — since it is not like it has been made with a Jewish customer in mind. That is to say, if today you go into Pret with your Club Pret subscription, you should not order a macchiato ... but you can probably have a cup from their pot of filter coffee.

If, however, the majority of customers are Jewish, Drihem cautions, such a heter (permission) becomes invalid — since even the filter coffee has presumably been made with the Jewish majority in mind. Even so, Drihem will not prohibit going to the cafe in toto; but rather he counsels that in such a case it would be preferable to order a fizzy water, or a cider, or some other drink imported from the Tunisian mainland, such that there can be no concern that Shabbat was violated to procure the drink on a Jew's behalf.

The question, in part, is really about what you want your Jewish life to look like. Would you rather live a pristine Jewish life beyond all halakhic doubt — in which case, certainly, you should keep your distance from such a cafe on Shabbat. Or would you rather live a mixed life, enmeshed in the real world around you, even at the cost of sometimes choosing a b'dieved (after the fact, non-ideal) relationship to Jewish law? I do not think Drihem is endorsing the latter course — that would be beyond his purview as a senior religious decisor — but he is accepting that many in his community will, and he seems to say that this is certainly something we can live with.



## Candles and Stories on Yom HaShoah

*By Edwin Lucas*

This year I was selected by Maccabi to be one of 60 candle bearers at the official Yom HaShoah ceremony on 23rd April outside the Houses of Parliament. This was a personal honour and also one for our community. There are a number of members who lost relatives in the Shoah and I felt I was lighting this particular candle on behalf of all the descendants in our community. There were a number of us walking slowly and in step to the rostrum and whilst our candles were battery operated, compared to the six live candles lit by prominent survivors, it did not lessen the mitzvah at all.

I saw a number of Mosaic Jewish Community members at the event, including Alan Solomon, Hazel and Laurence Cohen, Linda Lucas and Rachel Kalb, and I know some of our CST badge holders were there too.

Hearing a 100-year-old person who was at the liberation of Belsen was so touching it gave me goosebumps. Kurt, the father of Michael Marx from Mosaic Masorti was there at the ripe young age of 99.5 and also spoke, which was gripping. [You can read Kurt's story in the February issue of *Kehila*.]

I could not stop thinking about the past and how we live in freedom, and the poor survivors must have been thinking about bygone days and their times in the camps. One of our congregant's fathers survived the

camps and it is chilling to hear his story from his daughter.

I cannot imagine that this ceremony will have many living survivors in ten years' time, although it is mathematically possible. I would think that the traumas of their young years live on forever and a day. I urge all the people that could be around to look after themselves, so we can hear their story of the brutality and darkness in 2035.

For me, it was a sad but wonderful day when I received my Yellow Candle. It excited me a great deal and reminded me of the 1960s TV game show presenter Michael Miles of *Take Your Pick*, whose catchphrase was "Open the Box!" There was a prize in the box, and it was always fun to see.

My Yellow Candle box was no different, and on Yom HaShoah I took my pick of a few boxes and opened it outside the Houses of Parliament. We had already opened our first box at the family Seder, as is our tradition, and reminisced about the tragedies that befell people and how so many people perished.

Mike Lewis from Mosaic Masorti, like me, enjoys opening the box, but he also does research about the person whose name is on the memorial card and who perished. Opposite is his research from this year.

Thanks for doing this Michael; next year I will do it too.



## Honouring the individual victims

*By Mike Lewis*

**M**y habit is to research each name on the cards inside the Yellow Candle box and to explore their lives to honour them. There are many resources including the Yad Vashem site, JewishGen and the multiple published articles online.

Last year I explored the world of an Estonian lady, 39 years old, a teacher, who was murdered in a forest outside her home town with some 30 of her schoolchildren.

This year my box refers to a three-year-old girl, Aline Korenbajzer.

Aline was born on 31st August 1939 in Paris. Her parents Liba and Abraham were born in 1911 in Warsaw and, like many other Polish Jews, would have moved to France for what seemed a better life. This meant that Aline was a French citizen, unlike her parents, who would have been regarded as foreigners. In the early hours of Thursday, 16th July 1942 French police rounded up 12,884 Jewish men, women and children in the Paris region and sent them to the camp at Drancy, also under French control. This was the notorious Vel d'Hiv roundup, where Jews were herded into the Velodrome in Paris. They were deported to Auschwitz on 28th August 1942.

### The records show:

*Transport 25, Train 901-20 from Drancy, Camp, France to Auschwitz Birkenau, Extermination Camp, Poland on 28/08/1942*



On 31st August 1942, Aline was murdered there with her mother, Liba.

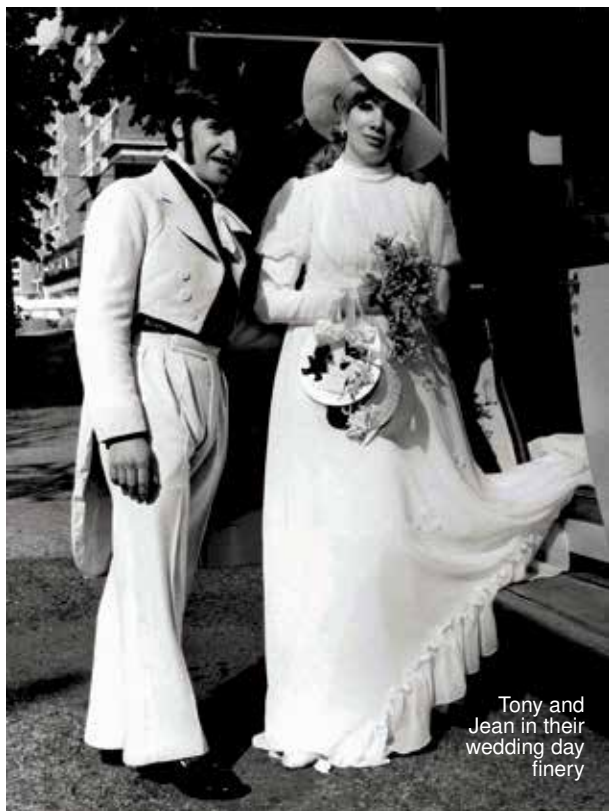
There is no record of her father, but testimony about Aline at Yad Vashem was given in 1999 by Marc Korenbajzer, who records himself as her half-brother. It may indicate that the father survived and remarried. This would explain why this photograph of Aline and what appears to be a painting of her are attached to the records.

She would have been 86 this year.



# The Allan Wedding Adventures

*By Tony Allan*



Tony and  
Jean in their  
wedding day  
finery

It all started when neither set of parents could decide how many of THEIR friends and relatives they wanted to invite. After three weeks of toing and froing, Jean and I had had enough. We turned around and said we'll organise and pay for our own wedding; you can each give us the names of 30 people and that's it!

It took us weeks of planning: booking the venue, ordering the band, the catering, the invitations, the car to take Jean and her father to the synagogue then to the hall afterwards. We left the bridesmaids' dresses to our mums. All seemed secure and ready for the day: 24th May 1970 — a date to remember.

The day arrived, and with it the first hint of things to come. Whilst Jean was having her hair and makeup done (see below) and getting last minute adjustments to her lovely dress, my best man and I decided to play an early morning tennis game. Afterwards we dashed to St John's Wood to decorate the chupa with flowers, then straight back to my home in Golders Green to get ready. In the rush I cut my face shaving, meaning I arrived at the shul with special 'blood stop' plasters all over my face.

Meanwhile, although Jean had booked her hairdresser well in advance, she received a phone call

to say they couldn't make it, so she had to find someone quickly on a Sunday morning. This made her and her mother very stressed, to the extent they couldn't do her eye makeup; in the end her brother had to do it for her.

The wedding ceremony itself went well; but then the Rabbi (not happy!) came up to us and said the "newspapers were outside." Apparently my aunt had rung them and said I

had threatened to turn up in a Napoleon outfit. (At this stage I have to tell you that this was my 'Napoleon era.' I was fascinated with him and made everyone aware by even booking Elba as our honeymoon destination.)

In actual fact I had gone down to an East End second-hand shop wanting something different, and saw this genuine white suit as they wore aboard cruise ships in the 20's. It cost me £10 including moth holes!! If you've seen the Beatles' *Magical Mystery Tour* film and album, you'll have seen them dance down the steps wearing the same style suits. If you missed it, see the picture below right.

All the usual photographs were taken and then it was time to go to the reception. The Corinthian Suite was so close we had told the driver to do a little detour for a ride. Then it happened... or didn't happen: the car wouldn't start! We had booked an old 20's Rolls-Royce from The Horseless Carriage Co next door to Buckingham Palace, to be certain we had the best. Can you imagine Jean and I standing there while guests pushed the car down Abbey Road? Eventually it started and we continued to the venue. The evening went well, and we left for our secret hotel for the night.

The next morning we had ordered breakfast in bed and were surprised to find a newspaper included, something I had not ordered. Imagine our shock to see our wedding photograph on page three under the headline: 'The bridegroom wore white!' It seemed the front

desk had recognised us and thought we would like to see the article.

We had a few days of peace before going on our honeymoon and arrived in Elba all prepared to see Napoleon's place of exile. On day two we went swimming. I thought I was clever and bought a Lilo to go out to sea, while Jean was on the beach sunbathing. I must have been paddling around for some time as when I returned Jean was shocked to see my red skin, which by the morning was very painful and sore and I was feeling very ill. The hotel advised me to visit the local hospital, where I was told I had a sunburnt foot and would need to rest for three or four days, ruining most of our honeymoon. From that moment on I have never sunbathed on a beach and always hidden from the sun.



**Editors' Note:** If you have any unusual Wedding Tales, send an email to [newsdesk@choosemosaic.org](mailto:newsdesk@choosemosaic.org) and we'll try and publish a selection.

### Crossword winner gets his prize

*By Edwin Lucas*

Crossword setter Tony Simons presented Mosaic Reform member David Wyman with a bottle of Palwin for winning the Quick Cryptic Crossword set in the Pesach edition of *Kehila*. Look out for Tony's next prize crossword in the Chanukah edition.

**See the completed puzzle on page 42.**



### Soetendorps celebrate at new Dutch Liberaal Synagogue

*By Ruth Soetendorp*

David Soetendorp, Rabbi Emeritus of Mosaic Masorti, with his wife Ruth and daughter Naomi, joined his brother Rabbi Abraham Soetendorp and other members of the Soetendorp family in Holland to celebrate the naming of the location of the recently built Liberaal Synagogue in Amsterdam.

It stands on a tiny island in the canal system almost entirely surrounded by water. A beautiful bucolic setting.



The island (Eiland in Dutch) has been dedicated to honour the memory of Rabbi Jacob Soetendorp, Rabbi David's late father, who founded the congregation in Amsterdam after the horrors of the Shoah.



## Remembrance of a particular famine...

By Rosemary Wolfson



Wheat and barley crops wrestled  
for existence within the earth  
morning, noon and night,  
on the drought-stricken ground.  
There was aridity, dehydration,  
a torridity, and a scorching  
in this crematorium of the land.  
And a man of Beth-lehem-judah  
went to sojourn with his wife  
and his two sons in the  
country of Moab....  
It was a land of many colours on  
account of its fertility –  
a veritable feast of blazing green –  
a glory halo of orange fields...  
The name of the man was Elimelech  
and the name of his wife was Naomi –  
she of elegant nobility of appearance  
with a flowing white headdress  
of enabling coolness...  
Then Elimelech died, and  
Naomi was left with her sons.  
They took them wives: Orpah,  
and the name of the other – Ruth.  
Ruth too was of noble and

graceful bearing and had  
chosen to dress in the  
purity of a white ethereal manner –  
seemingly not to be of this world...  
Then Mahlon and Chilion died.  
Naomi arose with her daughters-in-law,  
that she might return to the land of Judah.  
And Naomi said to them:  
“Go, return each of you to your mother’s  
house.”  
But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave thee...”  
And after these words, not a bird sang; the  
world stood still, but there was an echo through  
the clear air as Ruth uttered these words:  
“For whither thou goest, I will go...  
thy people shall be my people, and  
thy God, my God...”

But what guilt in spirit, and thorns  
came to pass upon Orpah on  
account of her return to Moab,  
unlike Ruth? But did Ruth  
too experience any headwind of  
conflict in her renunciation  
of her own people?

## My Hero

By Bernard Fisherman



My dentist who cares for my ancient teeth again and again  
Who makes it nearly a pleasurable job because  
There’s never ever any unwanted pain  
Of course I’m not James Bond so it’s not a walk in the park  
That final crunch when it comes out is certainly isn’t  
A jolly lark  
I’m gripping the chair like my life depends on it  
Then pause for a moment to relax and spit  
It’s over quickly and the panic has thankfully gone  
And I ask him politely to please carry on  
I now and then polish off the odd portion of cake  
Come on I plead with my wife give me a well-earned  
Confectionery break  
My dentist, my hero, a friend for many years and there’s certainly  
Isn’t any doubt  
When push comes to shove dental wise  
He’s the one to take it so painlessly out

# Meet the Auctioneer: *Ian Shapiro*

**W**e were privileged to hear the experiences of Ian Shapiro, senior consultant at the old-established firm of Spink & Son, the auction house specialising in the sale of stamps, coins, medals, autographs, books etc. And thanks to the untiring efforts of the Culture Hub, on Wednesday, 2nd April we were treated to his fascinating talk preceded by a convivial lunch.

Ian came from South Africa 35 years ago after starting life as an Accountant in Cape Town. His enduring love of historical artefacts meant that he was well qualified to work at Spink in this distinguished field. It is indeed a fascinating occupation and he regaled us with anecdotes of his many experiences.

He explained that you never knew who would be walking through the door and his first example concerned a little old lady carrying a shopping bag containing a variety of medals. His colleague valued them modestly at around £800 until he spied a Waterloo medal bearing the name 'Colquitt'. It appears that this campaign medal was awarded to a hero of the Napoleonic Wars and equivalent in importance to the VC. Rather than the original estimate of £800, the figure was increased to £8,000 and the sale reached a final figure of £20,500.

Another lady with a collection of medals was told that one of them was an important VC with an extremely high valuation. This lady had brought her collection (which had been hanging in her loo) to be reframed, and though she travelled to Spink by bus, she was told it would be wiser to choose another way to return when she collected it.

There were many more anecdotes, one involving a legal document involving Sir Moses Montefiore which was sold and is now residing, proudly on display, in a private collector's home.

It was not just matters of history, Ian had many stories concerning the Royal Family and celebrities. He was once invited to visit a mystery client, bringing with him certain

items of interest. On arrival he discovered that his client was Madonna. Apparently her following was too great to permit her to go to the antique fair in person.

He spoke about Queen Mary's dolls house. Apparently it was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and the accoutrements were provided by famous artists and furnishers of the time. A beautiful box by Lutyens was brought to Spink containing all the details of the dolls house, and this is now in the Royal collection.

Ian displayed a variety of photographs in special frames bearing the Royal coat of arms on top. This included one of the late Queen and Prince Philip and a beautiful study of the Queen Mother taken by Sir Cecil Beaton. These were often given as gifts to important people. The photographs were all signed and whilst these were genuine he explained that in recent times the Royal Family could resort to a mechanical means of signing and it was therefore important to know how to distinguish these. Ian also brought along a selection of fascinating letters.

His advice to those contemplating the sale of any of their artefacts was that they should be sure to consult the expert and not rely on approaching any random shop.

Our thanks go to Ian Shapiro and also the Culture Hub for this entertaining and instructive afternoon.

**By Marion Bloom**



## The Komediant And An Evening With Oshra Schwartz

**M**osaic Jewish Community's Israel Society put on a captivating evening featuring Oshra Schwartz, a leading light of the Reform Movement in Israel. She showed us her acclaimed film, *The Komediant*, about the heritage of Yiddish theatre in the US.

Screened at Mosaic on 24th March, the film was in the form of a documentary about the famous Yiddish actors Pesach Burstein and his wife Lillian Lux – and later their twin children. They became known as the Four Bursteins. Pesach got his name because he was born in 1896 during Pesach and died in 1986 on... you guessed it.

The film explained how the authentic Yiddish theatre was born out of poverty and the community's desire for education and entertainment. The Yiddish theatre performed anything from high drama and operettas to lowly comedies. All were popular.

Pesach was born into a poor Russian family and, much to the disdain of his family, joined the Yiddish theatre and then moved to the US in his teens where he met his fellow actor and soon to be wife, Lillian.

They started their own troupe and worked relentlessly, travelling around South America and Europe via Ukraine, Warsaw and Łódź.

Yiddish theatre became so popular that, at one point, there were five different Yiddish theatres on Second Avenue in New York alone. They also performed in the Catskills which at the

time was as big a deal as playing Las Vegas. Auditions were brutal as the shows were so popular and there was great demand for actors to get work and have membership of the Union. The Union of Hebrew Actors was one of the first unions of its kind.

Oshra, who had previously taught theatre in Israel, spoke about trying to get the film off the ground which hadn't been an easy task but, having watched it, I can assure you that it was well worth it. It gave an amazing insight into the dynamics of a working theatrical family.

The Burstein children, Susan and Michael, (who were billed as Zisele and Motele) often performed with their parents and followed them around the world.

Susan became a ventriloquist in her parent's variety shows but later quit show business. It was apparent, from the film, that she had not been happy with her family's way of life and, despite the fact that she spent a lot of time with her parents, she felt quite distant from her father who obviously prioritised his work with the Yiddish theatre over his children.

His son Mike, who later used the stage name Mike Burstyn, was not so badly affected and went on to follow his parent's path. He became a successful actor in the US and Israel and took part in the Israeli heats of the Eurovision Song Contest in 1981.

Oshra then went on to speak about the development of the Reform Movement in Israel for which she is working, and of how it is growing and now numbers some 55 communities.

She also spoke of Kibbutz Re'im which is the kibbutz whose people are in need of help after the October atrocity and is being supported by the Mosaic Jewish Community.

**By Karen Pollak**



*Oshra Schwartz with Joan Noble*

*Mosaic shakes all over  
with Elvis Shmelvis*



The community gathered to hear Ricky Lopez/Elvis Shmelvis perform his multi award-winning ensemble on Sunday, 9th March.

Some are lucky enough to have lived through the Elvis years and some simply love his music. The venue hummed with anticipation as we all sipped our drinks, chatted and reminisced with friends whilst waiting for the show to begin.

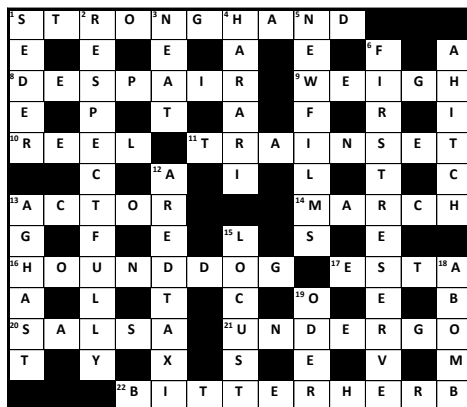
When Ricky Lopez finally took to the stage, the crowd erupted in cheers. As the night unfolded, laughter and nostalgia filled the air. Ricky started with some absolutely fabulous songs by Johnny Cash, Manfred Mann, Neil Diamond, Roy Orbison, Buddy Holly plus Gerry and the Pacemakers.

We then broke off to enjoy a delicious buffet supper and a raffle. Eventually the moment we had all been waiting for. Elvis Shmelvis, dressed in a dazzling jumpsuit, entered the room. He crooned classics like *Suspicious Minds* and *Can't Help Falling in Love*, and my personal favourite, *In the Ghetto*. His deep, velvety voice stirred memories and sparked impromptu singalongs. Some people hit the dance floor, swaying to the music, while others enthusiastically clapped along from their seats. Drinks and laughter flowed.

By the end of the night, we left with a phone full of blurry photos, aching cheeks from singing and smiling, and a special appreciation that Elvis, in some small way, brought our lovely community a little closer together.

### Report by Toria Bacon

Completed crossword puzzle



## MEET THE AUTHOR AND PLAYWRIGHT: *Diane Samuels*

One of the UK's most prolific creatives, Diane Samuels, has been writing for more than 30 years. She began by talking about work that has a strong emotional connection with the audience, giving as an example the 2024 TV series: *Mr Bates vs The Post Office*.

But for her, live theatre is a different and good experience.

The event, on 5th March, started with a short discussion about Diane's 1993 play *Kindertransport* (which Wembley Liberal members went to see at Watford Palace Theatre in the mid 1990s!) The theme of the play highlights children's forced separation from parents and how this uprooting left emotional scars. From memory, the play very touchingly concerns Eva Schlesinger and the rejection of her biological mother in favour of her foster family in England.

Diane asked our audience whether they would choose to give up their children for safety with the *Kindertransport*. Most of the audience preferred to risk keeping their children with them as young ones did not realise the seriousness of the situation and most would want to stay with their parents.

Diane attended King David High School, Liverpool, studied history at Cambridge, and then did a PGCE in Drama at Goldsmiths. Although she attended a Jewish school and grew up within the Liverpool Jewish community, Diane explained she was

not particularly aware of Holocaust and Kindertransport issues when young.

Diane then went on to discuss the difference between history and fiction in writing.

She talked about her new play, *As Long As We Are Breathing* – directed by Ben Caplan – inspired by the life of Miriam Freedman. This immersive theatre play premiered at the Arcola Theatre in London earlier this year.

The moving work reflected on Miriam's childhood experience of living in danger, hiding with some of her family in Slovakia during the Holocaust. It charted her journey to London in adulthood, where she discovered yoga and meditation. This enabled her to begin processing the depths of her trauma and grief.

Diane then initiated a general discussion with the audience. She said that most people could be more imaginative in their thinking, but often this is not encouraged. When asked she said that her next work will be based on a biblical story and also gave us some indication of the difference between writing a novel and a play.

Many thanks to Diane for a fascinating talk and to the catering team for a delicious quiche and salad lunch.

**Report by Rosemary Wolfson**



# Board of Deputies of British Jews President visits Mosaic



It was a bright, sunny day when Phil Rosenberg visited Mosaic on 30th March and talked to an audience of around 50 from the three constituent communities.

Before Phil began his talk, he thanked Michael Reik, who organised the event, and also wanted to remember David Safir, Mosaic member and Deputy, who sadly passed away recently.

Phil, who is the 49th President, gave us a potted history of the Board which was established in 1760. The Board represents more than 200 organisations and has over 300 Deputies who are entitled to submit ideas, attend meetings, sit and lead various committees, vote etc. In essence, the Board's role is to represent British Jewry to the Government, media, and religious bodies.

Elected in 2024 for a three-year term, Phil set out his five key priorities.

A commission has been launched to **fight antisemitism**. Working together with over 30 religious organisations, the Board helped create the **Optimistic Alliance**. An Accord

document was signed and presented to King Charles III. The Board has also met with Dr Samir Shah, the Chairman of the BBC, saying that some of its output is unacceptable and needs to change. The BBC has yet to respond fully but has now agreed to introduce antisemitism training for all staff.

Standing up for **peace and security in the Middle East**: Phil said he understands we do not all agree and have differing views. A delegation from the Board recently went to Israel and met with Government and Opposition politicians, and other bodies. It conveyed concerns about aid, the remaining hostages plus peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians. The Board supports a two-state solution with a State of Israel that is Jewish and democratic.

To defend **Jewish religious freedoms** where all Jews can live their lives in the way that they want, for example on assisted dying. The Board has recently launched an *Employers Guide to Judaism* and has met over 100 Jewish staff networks. If any member of Mosaic wishes the Board to talk to their employer on this issue, it can help.



To **represent all Jews**, whether black, Mizrahi, or wherever in the country they are. The Board has created its own Gender Equality plan for more equal representation and is due to launch a Disability Commission later this year.

To **celebrate faith and culture**. The Board believes that it can't be right that the only public celebration for Jews is of the Holocaust. There is so much else that British Jews can celebrate: as he explained, "Less Oy more Joy!" To that end, Phil explained that the Board will launch a British Jewish Culture Month in 2026 (now confirmed for 16th May to 14th June 2026, the month of Sivan.)

Phil then took some questions on subjects such as fighting antisemitism, the Palestinian issue, the far right in the Israeli Cabinet, Jewish students and a range of other topics.

At the end of the event, Phil was asked that with so much trouble in the world, could he give the community something optimistic to go away with? He said that as he travels the UK, speaking to many Jewish communities, he finds so much positivity. He added that British Jewish Culture Month will help celebrate our diversity and show a positive, joyful community to the outside world.

Michael Reik led a vote of thanks, and the afternoon finished with a light tea.

**Report by Brian Balkin**

## Brunch, Laughter, and a Touch of Romance: An afternoon with *Hampstead*

**M**osaic was filled with warmth and chatter as 50 of us gathered for a special brunch and movie event on Wednesday, 21st May. The feature film was *Hampstead* — a heartwarming romantic comedy starring Diane Keaton and Brendan Gleeson, set against the charming backdrop of London's Hampstead Heath.

The morning began with a delightful spread of brunch favourites: bridge rolls, fresh fruit, cakes and plenty of tea and coffee. Conversations buzzed as old friends caught up and new acquaintances were made — a gentle reminder of how meaningful these shared moments can be.

Once the plates were cleared, the lights dimmed and the room quieted for the film. Its themes of unexpected friendship and second chances struck a resonant chord with the audience. Laughter filled the hall during light-hearted scenes, and many left with smiles and thoughtful reflections.



"It was a perfect choice of film," one attendee remarked. Events like these do more than just entertain: they strengthen community ties and offer a joyful pause in the week. As the afternoon came to a close, many were already asking about the next screening.

A heartfelt thank you to the Mosaic Jewish Community Care Group for all their effort in putting the event together as it truly made for a meaningful and enjoyable experience.

**By Angela Peters and Sandie Myers**  
**Community Care Co-ordinators**

# The History of Zionism

*Michael Wegier's lecture series comes up to date*

In our Pesach issue we summarised the first two lectures in the series developed for Mosaic by the Chief Executive of the Board of Deputies, Michael Wegier, which took us up to the first half of the 20th century. The series concluded with lectures in March and April.



**T**his course looked into how Zionism evolved through examining original sources. It has highlighted key moments that challenged concepts

of Zionism as well as tensions between different strands. The third instalment highlighted the years between 1948 and 1973.

Initially, Michael Wegier posed the question: "Is Zionism a continuation of Jewish life now expressed in a nation state, or is it a radical departure from Jewish history that now sets it apart from all other dimensions of Jewish life?"

About 60 people from across the Mosaic Jewish Community attended the session and there was a productive Q&A afterwards.

This lecture focused on the Declaration of Independence in 1948, the shift in population in the period to 1973, the Six Day War in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

Documents and arts-based examples helped illustrate these key moments.

### **Some key points from the talk:**

The Declaration of Independence in 1948 marked a shift to 'global legitimacy' through the creation of a nation state, in contrast to the previous reliance on a 'religious mandate,' as in Nathan Rapoport sculptures memorialising the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.



*Nathan Rapoport, The Last March.*

*Continued on following page >>*

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Following the creation of Israel there was a 'nervousness' among Diaspora Jewry about being accused of dual loyalties, which led to the agreement between American Jewish Committee President Jacob Blaustein and Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion in 1950.

The Six Day War, together with the expansion into 'occupied territories', gave rise to different visions and the creation of the 'greater Israel movement'. This was expressed in documents from Rabbi Yeshayahu Leibowitz and Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook which were explored in detail during the session.

The period saw waves of Aliyah including from the US and the Soviet



*Ben Gurion/Blaustein*

Union. This in turn shifted the balance within Israeli society from Ashkenazi to a more 'traditional' majority.

The Yom Kippur War shattered the illusion of Israel's unchallenged power in the region and was deeply traumatic within Israeli society.

**Report by Jenny Stephany  
and Pat Zatz**

## Modern writers look at Zionism

The final instalment of Michael Wegier's course was held on Wednesday, 9th April. It concentrated on present day views, highlighting a range of articles by journalists, Rabbis and former Israeli politicians, some of whom had written books on the subject.

I had attended the previous parts of the series, as I was interested to see how Michael would present information on this important subject. We all think we know what Zionism is, but this series showed us how complex it is.

More than 25 people attended the event. Some like me turned up for all four

Continued on following page >>

## EVENT REVIEW

Continued from previous page >>

instalments but others dipped in and out, depending on their commitments. What was obvious is that everybody found the content really interesting and thought-provoking.

History in a learning situation can be dry, but Michael brought the content to life by using fascinating slides. Light-hearted video clips of Israeli comedy/satire programmes by humourists like

Internet personality Yohay Sponder (right) to illustrate various points went down particularly well.



The series has shown that there is an appetite for adult learning among the Mosaic Jewish Community and the History of Zionism will hopefully be the first of many such events.

### *Media extracts featured in History of Zionism 4*

The first piece: *A Moral Wreckage that we Need to Face* was written by Peter Beinart, the American columnist and journalist. It appeared in *The Guardian* in January of this year. His book is called *Being Jewish after the Destruction of Gaza: A Reckoning*.

The second article was by Shaud Magid, an American Rabbi, Visiting Professor of Modern Jewish Studies at Harvard Divinity School and Distinguished Fellow in Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College. He wrote *The Necessity of Exile: Essays from a Distance* in 2023.

The third article was by former Israeli politician Einat Wilf who served as a member of the Knesset for Independence and the Labor Party. She wrote in December 2024: "Jews are



*On the bus - All Israelis united after October 7th*

never allowed to win, and Arabs are never allowed to lose."

The fourth article was an Op-Ed written by Major General (res) Yair Golan, chair of the Democrats party which originally appeared in the English language version of Haaretz on 9th February 2025.



*The Jews are Coming*

**By Jackie Alexander**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*Monday 7th July, 8.00pm*

### Film Mosaic: *The Debt*

Join Mosaic for a viewing of *The Debt*. This tense espionage thriller begins in 1997, as shocking news reaches retired Mossad secret agents Rachel Singer (Dame Helen Mirren) and Stephan Gold (Tom Wilkinson) about their former colleague David Peretz (Ciarán Hinds). All three have been venerated for decades by their country because of the mission they undertook in 1965, when the younger trio (Jessica Chastain, Marton Csokas, and Sam Worthington) tracked down Nazi war criminal Dieter Vogel in East Berlin. At great risk, and at considerable personal cost, the team's mission was accomplished – or was it? The suspense builds in and across two different time periods, with startling action and surprising revelations.

Film Mosaic is open to anyone, why not bring a friend? There will be time for an informal discussion or a chat with friends, with tea, coffee and biscuits after the screening. Donations for our chosen charity would be appreciated if you care to give. Audio subtitles available.



*Wednesday 9th July, 10.30am*

### Melody Makers

Come together to sing at Mosaic. From musicals to Motown and everything in between. Requests welcome! Please contact [angela@choosemosaic.org](mailto:angela@choosemosaic.org) or ring 07435 722600 to register your interest.



*Wednesday 9th July, 12.30pm*

### Meet the Author: Alan Ereira

Mosaic Culture Hub invites you to join us for a light lunch before Alan Ereira's presentation about his "*startling history of that paradoxical substance*", gold. Gold is known by some as the doomsday metal, and national reserves measure the size of a nation's nightmares. *Gold: How it Shaped History* reveals the material's malevolent force as it has shaped the entire history of Europe.

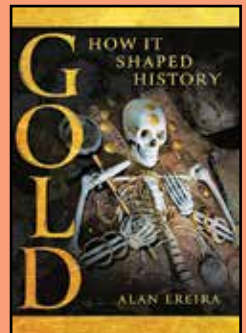
Alan makes prizewinning BBC history documentaries and is the author of many books on history. In his presentation he will set out a new understanding of the ground we stand on, informed by his extensive research.

"He threads news, current concerns, artistic and literary allusions and his own impressive relevant experience deftly into the narration," says Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, author of *The Oxford Illustrated History of the World*.

Alan will sign discounted copies of his book, *Gold: How it Shaped History*.

Please book via the Mosaic website by Wednesday, 2nd July for catering purposes.

There is a £7 charge which will increase to £10 from 3rd July.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*Friday 11th July, 6.30pm*

### **Shabbat Beiteinu**

Choose between a joint Liberal/Reform service at 6.30pm (also via Zoom) or a Masorti service at 6.45pm followed by dinner at 7.30pm. People are welcome to come for all or some of the evening and don't be afraid to come if you can only make it for the food!

Bring a vegetarian or fish meal for a Potluck dinner and if you require rabbinically supervised food (KLBD), please let us know.

We are asking people to RSVP (preferably by midday on the day before the event) so that we have an idea of numbers.

Please email [beiteinu@choosemosaic.org](mailto:beiteinu@choosemosaic.org).



*Saturday 19th July, 10.45am*

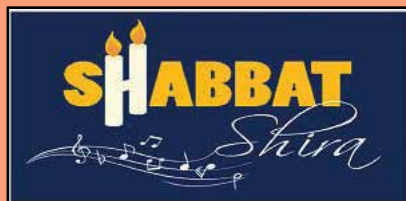
### **Shabbat Shira**

We are delighted to invite you to Shabbat Shira, our family-friendly service led by David Pollak. Sing all the familiar and joyous Shabbat Shira tunes.

See, touch and hear the Torah

Help in dressing and undressing the Torah Scroll and hear the story of the week.

The service is recommended for children under 11, but all ages are welcome and older siblings are invited to take a more active part in the service.



*Wednesday 30th July, 12.00–2.00pm*

### **Angela, Sandie and the Mosaic Jewish Community Care Group invite you to a Summer Brunch Party**

Musical entertainment by David Pollak together with Steve Noble and the Mosaic Melody Choir.

Help with transport available on request. RSVP [angela@choosemosaic.org](mailto:angela@choosemosaic.org) or [sandie@choosemosaic.org](mailto:sandie@choosemosaic.org) or call 020-8864 0133 by Tuesday, 22nd July for catering purposes.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*Thursday 31st July, 11.00am–12.30pm*

### **Music for Memory**

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

Our professional, highly experienced facilitator will lead everyone in singing well-loved classics which are sure to uplift and bring smiles and laughter to all. Each session starts with a half-hour of social time and refreshments. You are welcome to come on your own or together with a family member or supportive friend.

To register, please contact Angela Peters, Community Care Coordinator.  
[angela@choosmosaic.org](mailto:angela@choosmosaic.org).



*Saturday 2nd August,  
10.00pm–11.00pm*

### **Erev Tisha b'Av**

Mosaic Masorti will have ma'ariv, megillah reading and kinot. All Mosaic members are welcome.

*Sunday 3rd August,*

### **Tisha b'Av**

Venue to be confirmed for shacharit and mincha. There will be Mosaic-wide learning at Halsbury Close at 8.00pm followed by Masorti ma'ariv and break-fast at 9.25pm.

*Wednesday 6th August,  
10.30am–12.30pm*

### **Knit and Natter**

Come along to our Knit and Natter and Crochet and Kibbitz group. An opportunity to share this fulfilling hobby with others, make new friends and enjoy tea and biscuits in a welcoming atmosphere. Suitable for all ages and levels. Email Angela Peters, Community Care Coordinator [angela@choosmosaic.org.uk](mailto:angela@choosmosaic.org.uk) or call 020 8864 0133.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*Wednesday 6th August, 12.30pm*

### Meet Harrow's Local Policing Lead: Zubin Writer

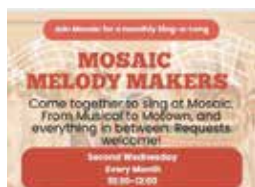
Culture Hub invites you to meet Police Superintendent Zubin Writer. Join us for a light lunch before Zubin explains the journey that has led him to being the local policing lead for Harrow, and how that has influenced a completely different way of tackling crime, increasing public trust and raising standards. This ensures a performance that is now at the highest level recorded for Harrow local police. This will be followed by an informal Q&A for audience members to ask questions. Please book via the Mosaic website by Wednesday 30th July for catering purposes. There is a £7 charge which will increase to £10 from 31st July.



*Friday 8th August, 6.30pm*

### Shabbat Beiteinu

See Friday, 11th July. Please RSVP (preferably by midday on the day before the event) so that we have an idea of the numbers. Email [beiteinu@choosmosaic.org](mailto:beiteinu@choosmosaic.org).



*Wednesday 13th August, 10.30am*

### Melody Makers

See Wednesday, 9th July. Please contact [angela@choosmosaic.org](mailto:angela@choosmosaic.org) or ring 07435 722600 to register.

*Thursday 28th August, 11.00am*

### Music for Memory

See Thursday, 31st July. To register please contact Angela Peters, Community Care Coordinator, [angela@choosmosaic.org](mailto:angela@choosmosaic.org).



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS



*Wednesday 3rd September, 10.30am*

## **Knit and Natter**

See Wednesday, 6th August. Contact Angela Peters, Community Care Coordinator [angela@choosemosaic.org.uk](mailto:angela@choosemosaic.org.uk) or call 020 8864 0133.

*Wednesday 3rd September, 12.30pm*

## **Meet the KC:**

## **His Honour Nigel Lithman**

Mosaic Culture Hub invites you to Meet the KC: His Honour Nigel Lithman.

Join us for a light lunch before His Honour Nigel Lithman KC presents: *Nothing Like The Truth – The Trials and Tribulations of a Criminal Judge*. Pre and post October 7th 2023. Nigel was a Criminal Silk at the Bar for over 20 years during a career of more than 40 years. In that time he defended in over 100 murder trials and many other substantial cases. He was Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association and led the Bar in its strike against the Government.

Nigel's book, *Nothing Like the Truth* is available on Amazon.

Please book via the Mosaic website by Wednesday, 27th August for catering purposes. There is a £7 charge which will increase to £10 from 28th August.



*Friday 12th September, 6.30pm*

## **Shabbat Beiteinu**

See Friday, 11th July. Please RSVP (preferably by midday on the day before the event) so that we have an idea of the numbers. Email [beiteinu@choosemosaic.org](mailto:beiteinu@choosemosaic.org).



*Saturday 13th September*

## **Selichot service**

Full details to follow.

## ROSH HASHANAH GREETINGS

### Get Writing For The Rosh Hashanah Issue

**T**he Rosh Hashanah issue of *Kehila* will be published on Thursday, 11th September, and we look forward to receiving contributions from members about their High Holy Day experiences and favourite recipes, as well as any Travellers' Tales or Memoirs. The copy date is Monday, **4th August**.

**Stop press:** If you haven't yet sent in your entry to the Mosaic Short Story competition, to be judged by Sue Krisman, you still have a few days to polish your story and send it to [newsdesk@choosmosaic.org](mailto:newsdesk@choosmosaic.org). The closing date is **5th July** and the results will be announced in the Rosh Hashanah issue.



You are invited to place a New Year greeting to friends and family in the Rosh Hashanah edition of *Kehila*. The cost is £10 for up to 30 words.

**Please email the greeting to: [newsdesk@choosmosaic.org](mailto:newsdesk@choosmosaic.org) or use the form below (or a photocopy) and post to *Kehila*, 1a Halsbury Close, Stanmore HA7 3DY.**

Payment can be made in the Mosaic office by card or by BACS directly to Account No. 43671224, Sort Code 20-74-12, making sure that you provide a reference that includes your name. Please notify the office if your payment is sent via BACS.

**The LAST DAY for acceptance of orders is 4th August 2025**

### Rosh Hashanah Greetings Order Form

Greeting (max 30 words) .....

.....

.....

.....

Family Members' Full Names .....

**£10 payment by card or via BACS**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

020-8864 0133

<b>Mondays</b>	10.30	Creative Writing Class (Fortnightly)
	13.00	Drop In and Play Group
	20.00	Talmud class
<b>Tuesdays</b>	10.00	Mosaic Walks – email <a href="mailto:walks@choosemosaic.org">walks@choosemosaic.org</a> for meeting point
	11.00	Mosaic Friendship Club
	20.00	Untangling our Tradition with one of our Rabbis
<b>Wednesdays</b>	10.30	Knit and Natter (First Wednesday of the month)
	10.30	Mosaic Melody Makers (Second Wednesday of the month)
<b>Thursdays</b>	11.00	Chit-Chat b'Ivrit – Beginner and Intermediate levels, alternate weeks
	11.00	Music for Memory (Last Thursday of the month)
	14.00	Games Afternoon
<b>Fridays</b>	18.30	Shabbat Beiteinu (Second Friday of the month unless otherwise stated)
<b>Saturdays</b>	09.45	Services
<b>Sundays</b>	09.45	HaMakom Religion School (during term time)

## JULY

Mon 7th	20.00	Film Mosaic: <i>The Debt</i>
Tues 8th	20.00	Mosaic Reform AGM
Wed 9th	12.30	Culture Hub: Meet the Author: Alan Ereira
Sun 13th	09.00	Tombstone consecration: Sylvia Berg, Edgwarebury Lane
	10.00	Tombstone consecration: David Safir, Edgwarebury Lane
Sat 19th	10.45	Shabbat Shira
Sun 20th	12.30	Tombstone consecration: Robert Rose, Edgwarebury Lane
Wed 30th	12.00	MJC Care Group Summer Brunch Party

## AUGUST

Mon 4 <sup>TH</sup>		<i>Kehila</i> copy date
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Culture Hub: Meet the Harrow Police Superintendent: Zubin Writer

## SEPTEMBER

Wed 3 <sup>RD</sup>	12.30	Culture Hub: Meet the KC: His Honour Nigel Lithman
Thu 11 <sup>TH</sup>	12.30	<i>Kehila</i> distribution
Sun 13th	TBC	Selichot
Mon 22nd		Erev Rosh Hashanah
Tues 23rd		Rosh Hashanah, day 1
Wed 24th		Rosh Hashanah, day 2
Tues 30th		Kol Nidre



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
Friday	10.00 – 12.00

**1a Halsbury Close  
Stanmore Hill  
Stanmore HA7 3DY  
Office: 020 8864 0133**

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

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

**Chairman:** David Leibling  
[chair@choosemosaic.org](mailto:chair@choosemosaic.org)

**Community Care Co-ordinators:**

Angela Peters 07435 722600  
[angela@choosemosaic.org](mailto:angela@choosemosaic.org)  
Sandie Myers 07435 652328  
[sandie@choosemosaic.org](mailto:sandie@choosemosaic.org)

**HaMakom (Religion School):**

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

**Bereavement Support:**

Bobbi Riesel 020 8428 7977

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

**Rabbi:** Rabbi Daisy Bogod  
[rabbidaisy@mosaicliberal.org.uk](mailto:rabbidaisy@mosaicliberal.org.uk)

**Rites and Practices:** Kevin  
Ziants 07841 375458

**Liberal Judaism:**  
020 7580 1663

**Undertakers:** Kings Funeral  
Directors  
020 8368 7453 / 07595 956 936



**Chair:**  
Gill Ross – 07428 162473

**Burials Officer:** Edward Kafka  
020 8904 5499

**JJBS:** 020 8989 5252

**Rabbi Anthony Lazarus Magrill**  
[rabbianthony@mosaicmasorti.org.uk](mailto:rabbianthony@mosaicmasorti.org.uk)



**Chairman:** Harry Grant  
07836 507807

**Hon Secretary:**  
Gillian Goldsmith  
07957 310849

**Rabbi Kathleen Middleton**  
[rabbimiddleton@mosaicreform.org.uk](mailto:rabbimiddleton@mosaicreform.org.uk)

**JJBS:** 020 8989 5252