

Many thanks to all who have contributed to our **PHOTOFUN** challenge

Judith Sonnenberg - David Ross - Vera Gallman - Mike Lane - Rabbi Middleton - Sandra Amber
Jane & Michael Harrison - Margie Goldman - Jane Prentice - David Martin - Gillian Goldsmith - Steve Levinson - Robert Pinkus
Claire Silverstone - Prue Ruback - John Lewis - David Safir - Bernard Schueler - Henry Altman
Mark Phillips - Adele Franklin - Tony Fineberg - Ann Steiner - Joan Noble

CHILDREN

Jonathan Goldsmith - Victoria de Magtige - Annie Ruback - Coby Ruback - Erin Ruback - Max Lemer
Gracie Lemer - Emma de Magtige - Harrison Rutstein - CiCi Rutstein - Leora Goldsmith

You'll find the **PHOTOFUN** quiz on pages 12 - 13 of this edition ... **ENJOY!**

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Since our last issue

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Martin Simonis

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Bryan Kesselman on the death of his father, Harvey.
Kathy Phillips on the death of her mother, Victoria Pashei-Nia.
Judy Silverton on the death of her mother, Hazel Richman.
Ivor Cohen on the death of his father, Israel.
Mark & Richard Phillips on the death of their mother, Margaret.

BEST WISHES IN THEIR NEW HOME

Andrea Morris

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Marilyn Finester

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David Benson on the death of his mother, Anita.
Deborah Rafalin on the death of her father, Geoffrey Rose.

MOSAIC LIBERAL

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Anne Davis
Cynthia Green
Jack Sugarman
Ursula Warner

GET WELL WISHES TO:

John Matlin
Danielle Sanderson
Stella Share
Tony Share

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Editor: Martin Simonis

The next issue will be that for Rosh Hashana – copy date 6th August, distributing 3rd September. Articles of wide appeal with a Jewish/community theme are always most welcome. Send your articles, pictures, letters, etc to newsdesk@choosemoaic.org



Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton

25th June 2020

Dear Members

Traditionally your July "Kehila" would contain our High Holyday supplement with full details of all the services, High Holyday Appeal and Security requests etc. However, in this respect too, 2020 is so different!

At the time of writing the Synagogue remains closed for all services and activities and, as you know, we have continued to function in every possible way via Zoom.

Current Government legislation does not allow us to hold communal services at the Synagogue. Should these rules be relaxed at some point in the future we still need to be aware of likely restrictions that would apply – wearing of face masks, exclusion of the vulnerable, social distancing and a ban on singing / choir. Taking these restrictions into account, together with our overriding desire to keep the community safe and inclusive, we have taken the decision that no physical services will be held at Bessborough Road for the forthcoming High Holydays. We have been encouraged by the increased attendance and participation at all our online services since lockdown began and are working to provide meaningful and thought-provoking services for this year's High Holydays.

We are, however, aware that we have a small number of members who have been unable to access our online services and events. If you fall into this category, we would love to provide you with the means to join us online together with all the relevant instructions to do so. Please contact the office at the earliest opportunity so that we can welcome you into our online family.

The Rosh Hashana edition of Kehila, to be published on 3rd September, will contain the High Holyday Supplement with details of all the online services throughout the High Holydays. In the meantime, if you don't have a High Holyday Machzor and would like to purchase or borrow one, please contact the synagogue by the end of July so that we have time to order them. The High Holyday Appeal will also be included in the supplement. Final details of all the codes to access these services will be included in our weekly emails immediately before Rosh Hashanah.

The details above reflect our current plans. Should circumstances change we will be monitoring the situation and will amend our plans if necessary. Any changes will be communicated via the website, weekly newsletter and Kehila.

With best wishes

Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton
Lawrence Chadwick, Chairman
Stefan Roos, Chair Ritual Committee

Rabbi Rachel Benjamin appointed to Mosaic Liberal Synagogue



Mosaic Liberal Synagogue is very pleased to announce the appointment of Rabbi Rachel Benjamin. Rachel's appointment will commence on 1st July, and she will be with us on a part-time basis, to support us, as our Rabbi, until we have a full-time, permanent Rabbi in place.

Rachel has extensive experience across the Liberal movement. She was ordained in 1998 and served as Assistant (and then Associate) Rabbi of Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue until 2004. After that she served as Rabbi of the Progressive Jewish Community of East Anglia and Woodford Progressive Synagogue, before joining South Bucks Jewish Community in 2006 where she served as Rabbi until December 2015. She then served as part of the rabbinic team at LJS, before earlier this year re-joining South Bucks, for a six-month appointment. She has also taught at Leo Baeck College,

and at Heythrop College, the University of London. From 2005 to 2008 Rachel served as Joint Chair of Liberal Judaism's Rabbinic Conference. She is committed to interfaith dialogue. Rachel also plays the guitar and is passionate about Jewish music.

Rachel will be supporting us on a 50 per cent basis and performing all key rabbinic tasks for our community. This includes taking one Friday evening and two Shabbat morning services per month, working with our Care Coordinator, Esther Aronsfeld, to support the current essential pastoral needs of our members, liaising closely with other Mosaic Jewish Community congregations (both at a rabbinic and community level), including adult education, and participating in rabbinic and other meetings of our parent body, Liberal Judaism. We are delighted Rachel has chosen to join us and extend a very warm welcome to her.

Mosaic Liberal Synagogue and The Liberal Synagogue Elstree

To work together

Representatives from the Council of Mosaic Liberal Synagogue and Trustees of The Liberal Synagogue Elstree have been in dialogue over the last few months to see what opportunities there might be for us to work together. The TLSE Trustees agreed to approach Mosaic Liberal after hearing about their plans to relocate to Stanmore in 2021 to explore the possibilities as we will become closer neighbours.

With no particular agenda or thoughts on where any discussions might lead, one actual meeting and a number of virtual meetings have taken place. Adrian Cohen, Chair of Mosaic Liberal says: *"With the full support of our Council we've had wide ranging discussions, from looking to the future to the present-day issues affecting us both and the possibilities of our two communities working together"*.

We have talked about the type of events and services to which one community could invite the other and, looking a little further ahead, about what activities would lend themselves to be held jointly. Mike Walton, Chair of TLSE, says: *"As we're going to be so close together, it makes sense that we offer each other some hospitality. I am sure that there are a number of opportunities for us to help each other"*.

TLSE, a community of around 350 families with their own Synagogue building in Elstree, holds a daily short informal service at 6:30 pm each evening, streamed on Facebook. Members of Mosaic are warmly invited to join Rabbi Pete Tobias – please join the TLSE Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/199576486771529> where you will be made very welcome.

Mosaic Liberal Synagogue is a community of around 200 families. They will be moving to a new Synagogue building in Stanmore towards the end of 2021, which will be home to all three Mosaic communities (Liberal, Reform and Masorti). Rabbi Rachel Benjamin is currently providing rabbinical and pastoral support services to them and will serve as Rabbi on a part-time basis from 1st July until a permanent Rabbi is in place.



HIGH HOLYDAYS

All our services for the High Holydays will be "virtual" via Zoom. Full details will be published once they are known.

Message from Mosaic Masorti co-chairs – Edwin Lucas and Gill Ross



Rabbi Natasha Mann

Dear Members,

Gill and I are pleased to have seen so many people at our regular on line Monday and Friday events We are aware that people are keen to know what is happening as we move towards the High Holy Days and what we may be allowed to do, bearing in mind that the Government is indicating that social distancing will still be in place. We quote from the stage 3 of the government document.

“The Government will monitor carefully the effects of re-opening other similar establishments elsewhere in the world, as this happens. The Government will establish a series of taskforces to work closely with stakeholders in these sectors to develop ways in which they can make these businesses and public places COVID-19 Secure.”

We have therefore, in addition to medical advice, decided that it would not be right to hold traditional services where we can get together in person and daven as a congregation. We know this may be upsetting and it is certainly a challenge. However, we feel we have a responsibility to keep all members and your extended families safe. We are therefore looking at innovative approaches as a Masorti Movement and as a shul, so that each and every one of us have an uplifting High Holy Day period. The rabbis across the Movement are looking at what we could do that is halachically acceptable to the rabbinate and will be enjoyed by the congregations.

We are planning to involve our regular service leaders through technology and will be preparing content through the summer, so we will be able to have access to many of our favourite parts of services as a community, alongside opportunities for individual prayer. Some may call it our “Yom Tov Greatest Hits” but we are also mindful of the solemnity of the High Holydays and we hope to touch everyone’s hearts.

In addition, we will expect to have face to face contact via Zoom in the run up to the chaggim with Rabbi Natasha on hand, to guide us through Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

As you know we had planned to have 20 shofar blowers lined up for a “20 shofarot for 2020” event. We would like to take the opportunity to hear the shofar during the month in the run up to the chaggim and to bring the experience to everyone virtually. Please let Gillian Lucas know if you have a shofar and can blow it at gillian.lucas@hotmail.co.uk

With Succot in mind do let us know if you have a succah at home where we can get small groups of socially distanced members together in a virtual succah crawl.

We wish you all a good summer and most importantly, we wish you all good health.

Edwin and Gill

Co-chairs, Mosaic Masorti

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formerly Hatch End Masorti Registered Charity 1080951

Is this time of COVID a sha'at dahak?

In the midst of this pandemic, the Masorti rabbis are of course turning our eyes toward the High Holy Days, and what we might be able to do to ensure that our communities are provided with love, comfort, and ability to pray. As you likely know at this point, this is complicated by the halakhah surrounding technology on Shabbat. It is not an easy situation for any of us to be in, and we are working to find ways to be lenient where that is possible. I believe in our ability as a community to create meaningful experiences within the realm of our tradition.

I wanted to share a few of my thoughts on what that might look like. I would first like to outline a few of the halakhic issues that we are facing, then mention some of the potential areas for leniency, and finally make a comment on where I feel we might end up. Please know that this is very much a work in progress, and that I am working hard at ensuring that we can find a solution that is both halachically rigorous and emotionally valuable. I also very much welcome your thoughts.

First, the issues around the halakhah of technology on Shabbat/Yom Tov. It is no secret that traditional Judaism seeks to put away technology on Shabbat. So for us as Masorti Jews we take note of the great many spiritually and emotionally significant reasons



for this. It is also (I believe certainly) a truth within Jewish law that technology cannot be reconciled with the halakhah of Shabbat. There are two main areas in which this comes into play: electricity and writing. The third potential issue that we need to deal with is *lifnei iver* – the prohibition of putting a stumbling block before the blind, which means that providing a method for breaking halakhah might be considered tempting someone to break halakhah.

I would also like to explain a few of the areas for leniency around these important areas of Jewish law. Halakhah is an evolving process, an unfolding tradition, which holds within it structures and rules for its own evolution. One of those is the concept of *sha'at dahak* (a pressing time). The idea here is that in the most extreme of situations, and only temporarily, violation of halakhah might be justifiable. The question here is: is this time of COVID a *sha'at dahak*? Some rabbis say yes, and others say no. I am not yet convinced either way, and am still seeking other, less extreme means within Jewish law. In particular, I am interested in leniency around (non-life-threatening) emotional distress. I will be continuing this research and welcome your thoughts on it.

We will still have to grapple with the boundaries [Continued on following page >>](#)

© Portrait by Italiaander – www.Italiaander.co.uk

(Rabbi Natasha continued from previous page...)

of *lifnei iveir*, but it is looking promising, and I do enjoy finding creative solutions. Finally, it is worth noting that most Ashkenazi rabbis (myself included) are okay with things happening automatically on Shabbat as long as we are not interacting with them (e.g. lights on timers, cholent, etc). In an ideal world, live streaming would be able to happen automatically without anyone touching technology on Shabbat – and perhaps it will be there in five years, but my discussions with techy people have concluded otherwise.

The above is just a taste of some of the

complexities around this issue. The conclusion is still in the future, and the Masorti Rabbis will be issuing guidance at the end of June, but I think that it is fair to say that we will be finding a way to provide you with content for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur in a way that is both halakhically justifiable in the Masorti tradition and spiritually significant.

Please do contact me with any thoughts that you have around this process.

Wishing you all the best in these strange times.

B'shalom uv'rakhot.

Appreciation of the Friendship Club

by Marie Capitelli

The Monthly Friendship Club has been held in the Synagogue for many years and has been a lifeline for very many people over the age of sixty. Now that the meetings have been suspended it is fitting to record the gratitude of its members for the welcoming atmosphere and the selflessness of its volunteers, led by Bertha and Harry Levy, who go out of their way to make Mondays 'special'.

Happy Birthday in July and August

Leo Banks, 6

Jasmine Bell, 12

Audrey Jackson-Rauch, 2

Harrison Rutstein, 13

Phoebe Ellison, 10

Our new home

Our move to Stanmore Hill – update 3



The Covid pandemic has inevitably complicated the planning processes involved in our move to Stanmore, as we indicated in our last update regarding our move.

As a result, we have been in discussions with the developers and have agreed some changes to the building timescale and length of time we can remain in Bessborough Road while the new site is being constructed.

Adjustments have been made to the programme that will now allow Mosaic to only vacate Bessborough Road once Stanmore Hill has been developed up to the point where the foundations are laid together with the ground floor slab. It is anticipated that this stage of the project will be reached by January/February 2021, and that the overall construction

programme is then foreshortened to under a year from then.

The coronavirus pandemic has obviously also had significant impact on likely property values and this is leading to changes to the financials of the deal; the Property Working Group, supported by Mosaic Reform Council, remain confident the deal will be an excellent outcome for the community. We will provide further details and updates over the coming months. If you have any questions before then please email: newhome@choosemosaic.org.

What happens between now and January at Bessborough Road is obviously dependent on the situation with the virus and the science-based guidance we receive. We will also provide updates in that regard over the coming months.

Let's be creative – Joan Noble's artistic journey!

by Michelle Singer

Let's be creative!' said Joan Noble to friends and members of Mosaic Jewish Community on Sunday May 24th as she took us on a whirlwind tour of her artwork.



Sailing Boats – by Joan Noble

Joan's artistic journey is characterised by curiosity and sensitivity, a rebellious streak, a deep and soulful view of the world and far more talent than should be allowed in one person. And like the best artists, a failed A-Level in art.

Paul Klee said, 'One eye sees and the other eye feels' and this is perceptible in Joan's work. During a woodland walk last year, she photographed bluebells and then using a method involving Gelliplate and paints she stitched into the painting to produce a delicate portrayal of the bluebell wood. 'It's lovely to capture things that speak to you,' she said.

I was fascinated with Joan's picture 'Sailing Boats', in which she built up textures with layers of tissue paper, painting the boats onto the layered canvas and using a credit card as a paintbrush. This painting, like so many other of her pieces, takes pride of place in the homes of friends and admirers and can be found in the home of Rabbi Simon Franses z"l.

Being a keen recycler, Joan took us through the process of painting over a canvas that has already been painted on. She was curious to

look for images as they emerged. In one painting named 'Haunted' five faces surfaced to produce a soulful painting of people which she described as 'freaky'!

On a similar theme, Joan showed us her 'wild' Cubist phase in which she focused on abstract work. I love the collage

of three musicians with a violin, keyboard and a drum that emerged from what started out as collage papers laid onto a canvas allowing the musical images to evolve. But then Joan (who joyfully admits to being something of an artistic hoarder) sees everything through the lens of an artist, from producing prints out of a Tetrapak carton to boiling nuts and bolts with onion peel and using the results to give fabrics unique tones and shades. It may sound whacky, but the delicate patterns on the fabrics are distinctive and will feature in her next planned exhibition in Germany.

Joan's art has been displayed at many exhibitions. In 2016 NPLS curated 'Out of the Shadows' with its themes of identity and migration. She used large stitches to depict a particularly moving picture of 'Migrants on a Boat', on their way to Palestine. On arrival, they would be held in the Migrant Detention Centre at Atlit. In another piece, Joan captured the barbed wire and the boat with chilling precision.

Joan collaborated [Continued on page 25 >>](#)

Staying Sane

by Bernard Fisherman

I've painted the damp course front and back
With turps and a brush, I'm getting the knack

The garage door and cobwebbed ceiling
Are now bright red and quite appealing

I've cut the lawn from top to bottom
And pulled up weeds that were mostly rotten

I've trimmed up some bushes and cleaned out the shed
I found lots of rubbish and mice that were dead

No jobs to do fills me with doom
So I'll get out my iPad and ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM

Mosaic synagogue gives us plenty of choices
Friendly faces and familiar voices

No need to fill my days with gloom
I'll get myself off to the land of ZOOM.

Mosaic is still up and running during the lockdown

JULY

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------|---|
| Sunday 5 th | 16:00 | Sharing our Hobbies – Nick Prentice – Extreme Birding |
| Tuesday 7 th | 14:30 | Interview – Martin Noble (editor to the stars) |
| Sunday 12 th | 16:00 | Songs to sing along to – Esta Williams, professional pianist and singer |
| Tuesday 14 th | 14:30 | JACS – Doping, Bribery & Violence – Murray Rosen QC, chair of the Premier League Judicial panel |
| Sunday 19 th | 16:00 | Question Time – Ask the Rabbis Kathleen, Natasha & Rachel |
| Tuesday 21 st | 14:30 | Interview – Ronnie Landau |
| Sunday 26 th | 16:00 | Mosaic Online Tea-time Quiz – with John Ashmele |
| Tuesday 28 th | 14:30 | JACS – Divorce Dramas Over the Decades – Pamela Collis, Family Lawyer |

AUGUST

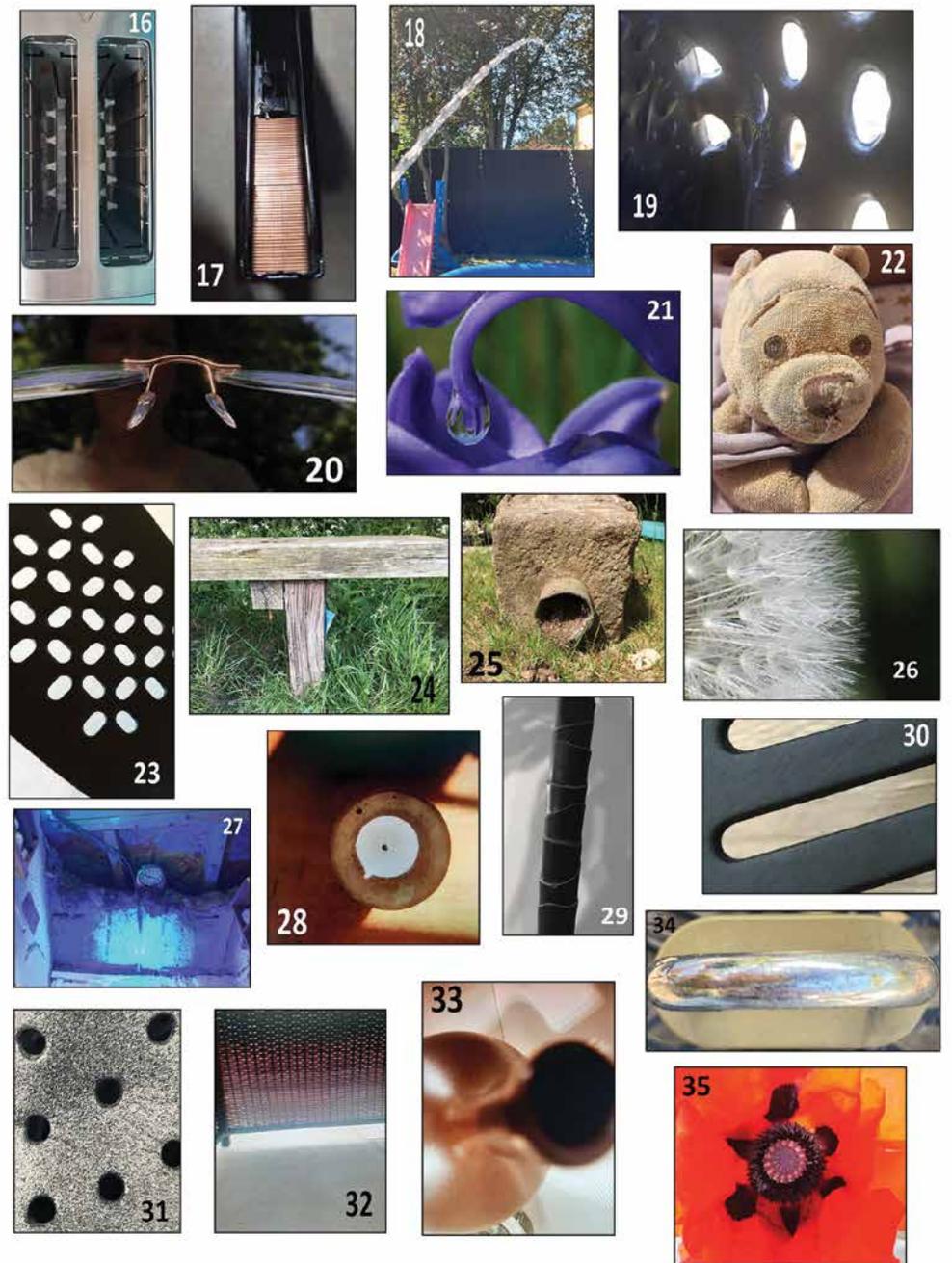
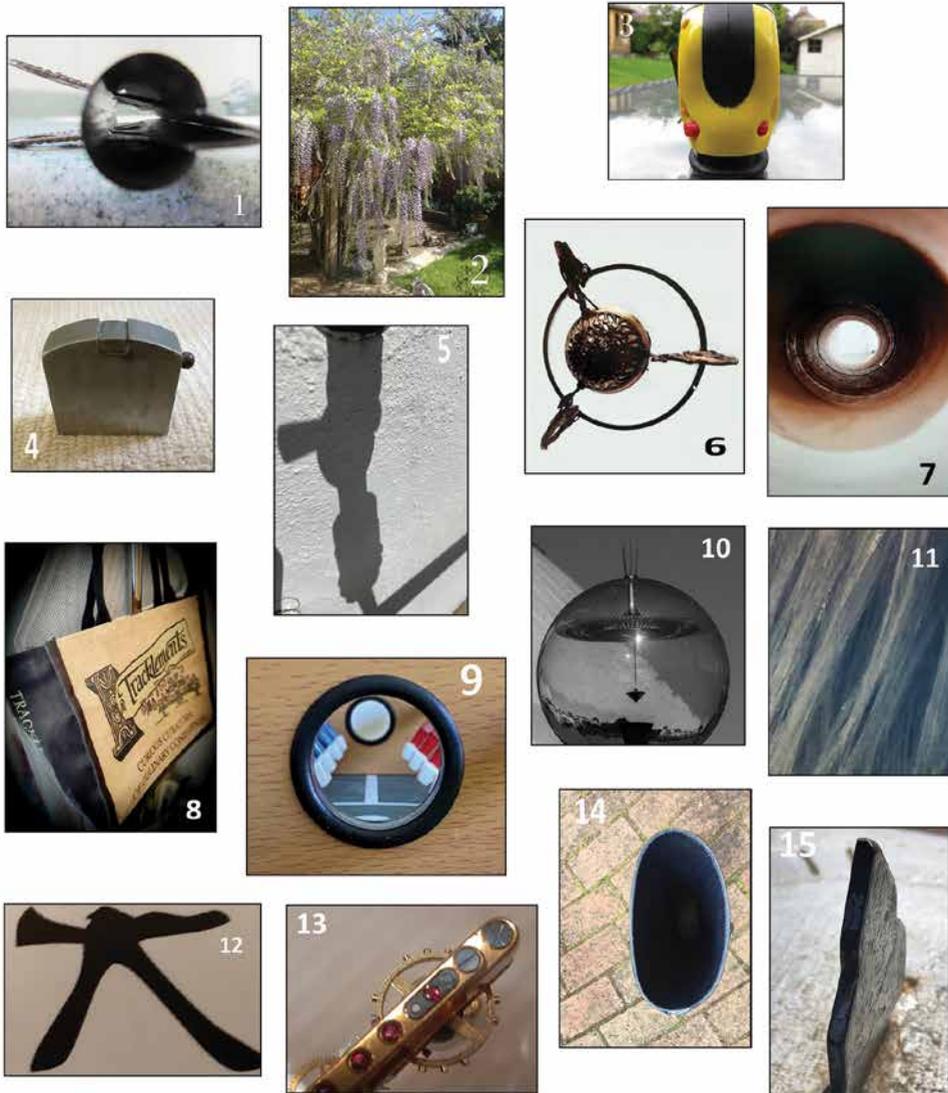
| | | |
|--------------------------|-------|---|
| Sunday 2 nd | 16:00 | Savoury cooking with Suzy & Emma Hershman |
| Tuesday 4 th | 14:30 | Meet the Author – Gary Italiaander – Tribute to Larry Adler |
| Sunday 9 th | 16:00 | Sharing our Hobbies – Philip Silverton – "Restore & Revive" |
| Tuesday 11 th | 14:30 | JACS – Magen David Adom |
| Sunday 16 th | 16:00 | Sharing our Hobbies – Karen Pollak – Pottery |
| Tuesday 18 th | 14:30 | Meet the Author |
| Sunday 23 rd | 16:00 | Watch this space! |
| Tuesday 25 th | 14:30 | JACS |
| Sunday 30 th | 16:00 | Mosaic Online Tea-time Quiz – with John Ashmele |

Many thanks ...
for taking part in our **PHOTOFUN** challenge

We had great fun trying to identify your entries. One entry from each person has been included here for Mosaic readers to guess.

ALL ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 26

Keep your eyes peeled for more photo challenges to follow ... !



Should you wish to see the images larger, simply go to the following website page:
www.italiaander.co.uk/mosaic-photos.html --- the password is PHOTOFUN (in caps)

VE Day Celebration

by Jane Harrison

This year's VE day took on a whole new meaning as the Mosaic community held a virtual celebration for the first time ever on May 10th

As we all zoomed into a special day on our computers – many of us, living through lockdown, perhaps had more understanding of what it was like to live through the war years.

The trip down memory lane, with black and white photos of parties, the Royal family, soldiers climbing lampposts and Vera Lynn singing “We’ll meet Again”, held an extra poignancy for us all. I am sure I wasn’t the only one wondering when we would indeed meet again and to never take our freedom for granted.

In spite of, or maybe because of, the Coronavirus, this VE celebration was particularly emotional. Journalist Alex Gerlis interviewed veterans Marion Bloom and Michael Italiaander whose 75-year-old recall was astonishing.



Pictured: Marion Bloom

Marion Bloom

Marion was aged 16 and on holiday in France when war was declared.

Her father called her home and she was evacuated to

Dorset with her gas mask and sent to the village hall. She said: “The villagers were prepared for little children and we were strapping 16-year-olds. I was billeted with a lovely family who welcomed me with open arms, but we had no running water, an outside loo and oil lamps.”

Her second family weren’t so kind. Marion said: “They were obliged to take us. They didn’t really want me and made it perfectly clear.”

She returned to London when her school in Acton re-opened but left to go to the French Lycee (school) because she wanted to become a bi-lingual secretary. She joined the department of the newspaper France, which had links with the resistance.

Marion ended up working with the famous French journalist Andre Bernheim who joined the RAF.

She admits she had no idea what he was involved in. She said: “AB would have me working late at night. Then he’d go to the Ivy and I’d be asked to bring him papers about D-Day. I didn’t realise what they were. I worked throughout the Blitz, found my way into the office on the tubes during air raids. We just took it in our stride. It was part of life. It was quite scary, but we never complained.”

She also worked part-time for the fire service in the control room in Ealing where she was born.

Marion was in a Dartmoor pub when she heard the war was over, but said the jubilation was muted as fighting was still going on in Japan. She always believed in a positive outcome. She said: “We had faith. It was unthinkable that Britain would lose. It didn’t enter my mind. It’s a bit like this lockdown. You just have to get on with it.”

Michael Italiaander

Michael Italiaander, a renowned artist, said he was probably the youngest war artist during that time. After going to the London School of Art, he was called up aged 19 for the army. He had volunteered for the air force and Dutch and “not British enough.”

At one point he was asked to serve behind enemy lines in the Netherlands but again rejected because he could not read or write in Dutch. He said: “I could imagine myself holding a bunch of tulips and wearing clogs as I was parachuted in.” It was a lucky break as many of those that did serve were betrayed and none returned.

He went on a map making course in Wales before being sent to the Middle East. Based in the Sahara Desert, Michael, who was in the 8th Army, said: “All the map equipment was in caves. The information was brought to us to make the maps. The range of maps was tremendous. For infantry knowing about a gap in the hedge would be vital and the RAF

needed to know where to drop their bombs.”

Perhaps the most inspiring story Michael told was about his cousin Herman, who he bumped into when he was on leave, waiting for a bus in Jerusalem.

Herman had survived Belsen and escaped with a group of workers outside the camp. Michael said: “He didn’t have any papers,



Pictured: Michael Italiaander

but he hid in a hut and found some porters’ uniforms. So he dressed up as a porter thinking no one would ask a porter for papers. He later became a lone saboteur, taking women and children through the Pyrenees to Gibraltar. He was very shy and when we asked him about this, he just said it was so long ago.”

He later met General Montgomery on Salisbury Plain after being involved in a

display which demonstrated work done by the forces. He said: “We were told we would meet two high-ranking officers, but they couldn’t say who. It was the Duke of Gloucester and General Montgomery, who was very charming and down to earth.”

When asked how he felt on VE day, Michael said: “As far as we were concerned the war was not over. We were still fighting the Japs.”

Jane Prentice, who organised the event, thanked everyone for taking part and shul members for watching. She told Marion and Michael: “It has been a privilege to hear your stories and memories. All our veterans are self-isolating, making our tribute more poignant. We look forward to a time when we can all get together again.”

HaMakom online

by joint Head teachers Viki Kenton and Toria Bacon

On the 22nd March, we sadly closed our doors to HaMakom in accordance with Government guidelines.

For the three sessions before the Pesach holidays, our teachers continued to plan some fun activities for the children in their classes, which we emailed home to parents. This meant that the children still had some Jewish Studies to work on, whilst we were coming to terms with the new way of teaching online. One of the activities sent home was a Hagaddah to complete and hopefully use during their special Seder during lockdown. The photos show Leora preparing for her family seder and her design for Elijah's cup.

During the Pesach holidays we decided that we wanted to take HaMakom online, in order to provide some consistency for the children (and a bit of a break for their parents!) We had discussions with our incredibly reassuring Chairs of Governors, had copious amounts of training on Zoom and then held a staff meeting with our wonderfully supportive staff and were ready on April 26th for our first ever Zoom HaMakom!! Now, after four exciting mornings, barring the occasional technical hitch, we are delighted to say that HaMakom has very successfully transformed into its new online format. HaMakom will continue online for the next half term at least.

It is a delight to see our staff and families turn up each Sunday and to see how we have all

stepped up to the challenge – teaching and learning on line can be a daunting task, but everyone has found new and creative ways to access the curriculum and engage the children at whatever level they are happy to join in. This Sunday, the younger classes even had a cookery lesson from their wonderful teachers Sophie and Aron. We hope the whole family enjoyed their hummus at lunchtime!

We have tried to keep the mornings as grounded in a normal routine as possible, with an assembly led by us at the start, followed by lessons, which teachers aim to keep accessible, pacey, fun and relevant.

We have had some lovely feedback from parents which is, as always, wonderfully uplifting to receive. We hope to build on our first forays into Zoom lessons, by kicking off the next term with a whole school scavenger hunt for the whole family!

In other news, we recently held a “design a new logo” competition for HaMakom and are delighted to announce that our worthy winners are Tali (Kol Chai), Talia (Mosaic Liberal) and Alex (Mosaic Reform). Their excellent designs will be merged into a fabulous new logo that will represent the children, families and Jewish values that are so important to us all.

Thank you to everyone – staff, parents and children for pulling together and making this venture so successful. And a special thank you must go to Stefan Roos, our much-needed

tech support, who has patiently trained us and our staff in the ways of Zoom. He has guided us each Sunday morning by staying online for the duration of HaMakom, so that he is ready

for any technical issue which may arise and prevent a child from taking part.

Thank you!!!

Steve Levinson interviews Alex Gerlis

28th April

by Barbara Grant

Members and friends of Mosaic Jewish community were treated to another ‘Meet the Author’ from the comfort of their own lounge today, over 5 weeks after lockdown began.

Today was the turn of Mosaic Reform member Alex Gerlis to tell us about his journey to become an accomplished author of Second World War espionage fiction. Steve Levinson conducted a lively and fascinating interview in which we learned of Alex's first foray into this subject after he covered a 50th Anniversary of the D-Day landings for BBC television. The film exposed the deception of the German army by Allied forces that finally led to the end of the War.

Although Alex regards himself as a journalist rather than a historian, his passion for extensive research is coupled with his fascination for this period and has allowed him to focus his effort on what has now become a very popular genre, especially in ebooks. During these unprecedented times, this medium has enabled authors to continue to publish while



the production of traditional books has come to an abrupt halt. Alex told us how he has written extensive biographies for all of his characters which he can refer back to, and also has a rough plan for each of his books. But as to the story, this is something that evolves as he starts to write and gets deeper into the heart of the book – in short, he has an idea of where he wants to get but at the outset has no real idea of how he is going to get there!

The talk was followed by a lively Q&A and was a welcome distraction on a cold and wet afternoon for all who joined this live Zoom event.

Steve Levinson interviews Felicity Brennan

12th May

by Philip Silvertown



This week, Steve Levinson talked to Felicity Brennan who writes under the name Felicity Radcliffe. Her contact with our community came through Judy and me as we had become friendly through a bittersweet series of meetings when a mutual friend became terminally ill, held a swift marriage ceremony with his long term partner and soon after came together and contributed to his funeral service.

Felicity lives in a small village where she writes novels, poetry, short stories and a local radio 'soap opera' called "Huntsford".. Her other output also is broadcast on radio and with her partner Ian (a senior police detective who worked on the Soham murders) cycle silly long distances every week.

Her first novel was based around the local book reading group (and in carefully disguised

form) the members of that group. It is called "The Dark side of the Book Club". Her recently published book is called "Union Clues" using her experiences on her narrow boat as the backbone of the tale.

Her research into characters' names, locations and police protocols is very thorough as has been her study of publishing options and story structure. This is not unexpected from a person who worked in business management and consultancy for many years.

Felicity answered a raft (sorry about the boat pun) of questions that included the mechanics and psychology of attracting interest from publishers, particularly Amazon and the like. As an aside, she has a dog called Boris but she assures me that it was not named after our current PM.

Kiddish booking b'ezrat hashem, 26th June 2021

by Edwin Lucas

Rabbi David and Ruth Soetendorp are so well-organised that they have booked a kiddish b'ezrat hashem, for June 2021 already – to avoid any chance of double-booking.

The confirmation from Ann in the office is wonderful: "How very lovely! Mazal tov on your 49th anniversary,

Ruth and David, which I know is coming up this Shabbat. Your 'golden' date is in our 2021 diary, but I don't think I'll ask Lynne to buy the fish balls just yet!"

Rabbi David, Ruth and Ann have brought smiles to our faces and we look forward to being one year on and hopefully no lockdown.

Alex Gerlis interviews Steve Levinson

26th May

by David Lobb



ways of presenting the same news for each of the many bulletins – 1pm, 6pm, 9pm. Each bulletin had its own producer who wanted his programme to show the same news differently from the one before. It was hard to get out of the office to get the news or do interviews. Most news had to be discovered by telephone!

Eventually he went to Channel 4 as Chief Economics Correspondent. This was great – a more senior position and only one bulletin and that at 7pm!

I do love these ZOOM meetings. You get to meet your friends, no problem with parking, your own choice of cakes and tea – even Earl Grey if you want! Other people must feel the same – 150 people tuned in to this one on 26th May. More tried but our ZOOM capacity was full.

Steve's first job after Newcastle University was as reporter for the local newspaper – the Shields Gazette. But soon he got the offer of a Fleet Street job as reporter with the Press Association, so he took himself and Viv off to London. This was an excellent opportunity as it gave him the chance to make contacts and gain experience in many different spheres, especially business and economics.

His next moves were to "The Independent" and then to the BBC, where he worked for three years. He enjoyed being at the forefront of news journalism, but the scheduling became very difficult – he was expected to find new

Over the years Steve had the opportunity to interview many prominent people – Chancellors of the Exchequer, Prime Ministers and Presidents – Nelson Mandela. Mandela must have been a highlight – the lowlight was trying to interview people who didn't want to be interviewed – like the curmudgeonly Alan Sugar.

After Channel 4 Steve opened his own Consultancy, training people in journalism and in presentation skills.

So, that was a very interesting meeting, which gave us the feeling of what it was like to be inside the world of journalism.

Steve Levinson interviews Lionel Ross

9th June

by Jane Prentice

The latest in the series of Zoom interviews involved author and publisher Lionel Ross who joined us all the way from Manchester.

For the half hour he answered questions from Steve about his personal history, his writing and how he came into book publishing. This was an opportunity to discover how, why and when, an older member of Anglo-Jewry, completed a complete career change and one which obviously gives him and his fast-growing band of authors, great satisfaction.



Lionel has been a dear friend for over thirty years, and it has been most satisfying to hear about the growth of I2I Publishing and its wonderful collection of books on a huge range of subjects.

A number of members of the audience then asked Lionel some probing questions which received more than adequate replies. This was an enjoyable and fascinating journey to be part of, and I am sure we all learned much about the publishing industry and how it is affected by the current pandemic.

Sharing our Hobbies – Barbara Grant’s Garden

14th June

by Phil Austin

I had the pleasure of listening to Barbara this afternoon as she gave a conducted virtual tour of her beautiful garden.

It was a fascinating tour packed with interesting information and Barbara’s passion for her hobby came across very clearly.

There is no doubt this has been a labour of love which, in her own words, has been an antidote to the pressures of everyday life.



Barbara explained that not every new experiment succeeds first time and she often has two or three attempts to get the right results – but over many years she has created an exciting and unique garden which

expresses her own horticultural flair and brings great pleasure to those lucky enough to see it in person.

If you missed it, you can see a recording of this session (and others) via the website.

Mosaic Tea-Time Zoom Quiz

3rd May

by Frank Manches

Liz and I have just entered John Ashmele’s third Sunday Zoom Tea-time Quiz. We were impressed by the variety of subjects included. These varied from General Knowledge, Geography, History, Literature, Films, Music, Crossword Clue and even one question on Egyptian Hieroglyphics.

The format was in five rounds of 10 questions plus one round of pictures to be identified and the whole quiz lasted around one hour. 70 per cent of the contestants this week averaged around 30-40 out of 50 including recognising the 12 pictures that were available in advance online. In my opinion, his quiz was pitched at exactly the right standard for us all.

Now, if you know what drink a ‘Snakebite’ is or who wrote ‘What the Butler Saw...’ or who composed ‘Bluebeards Castle’, you are



cleverer than Liz and Me!

So whilst we are all in lock-down and not knowing what to do with our Sunday afternoons why not give it a try? Thank you so much John for all your efforts and you can be sure that we will be competing and looking forward to the next time.

Singalong with Rabbi Rachel

4th June

by Lindsey Cohen

On Sunday afternoon, Rabbi Rachel led a singalong session with her guitar and nearly 40 Mosaic members on Zoom.

It was great fun, with Rabbi Rachel giving a short introduction to each song with details of the composer and the words of the song on our screens. The repertoire contained old favourites such as Bob Dylan’s “Blowing In The Wind”, Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah”, songs

from musicals and even some very well-known Hebrew songs – “Hava n’gilah”, etc .

We all had a great time, partly because we were all MUTED (except obviously Rabbi Rachel!) and we all sang our hearts out with gusto. It was lovely seeing old friends on the screen and singing old favourites together. Thank you, Rabbi Rachel – I’m sure we all look forward to the next singalong with you.



Board of Deputies online meeting

3rd May

by Michael Reik – Deputy for Mosaic Reform

The first meeting ever held online took place on Sunday 3rd May at 11:15am.

Marie Van De Zyl asked us to remember the 360 members of the Jewish community who, at that date, had died due to Covid-19.

She then invited the Israeli Ambassador – Mark Regev – to speak, celebrating 72 years of Israel Independence. Mark explained how, against American advice on May 14th, 1948, Ben Gurion declared the new Independent State.

Mark announced the new Israeli Proposed Government has split the senior posts 50:50 between left and right. This is a National Unity Government set-up to avoid a fourth election in the period of Covid-19. The current death rate is 232 out of a population of 9 million. Israel immediately stopped flights from the Far East when the pandemic started. This included South Korea, to the annoyance of their Parliament, but proved the correct policy. This is one major reason why deaths per head of population in Israel are exceedingly small – only 6% of the equivalent UK rate.

Marie announced that a new Deputy has joined the Board – Shmuel Joseph for the Stamford Hill area – he will represent views of the Charedi Community there. Marie

announced the considerable work the Board have been doing to help volunteers within the Jewish Community during this Coronavirus period. Marie considered the letter from 20 anonymous deputies, who had complained about staff being taken on because of their supposed left-wing leanings, to be cowardly.

Louise Ellman indicated she was happier with Kier Starmer as leader of the Labour Party and now expected a change in direction on anti-semitism. However, she was still concerned that Momentum and the left wing were fighting back. Marie made clear, despite meeting with the new leader, she wanted to see action rather than words.

Thank you Thursdays!

The Board show their appreciation to those who have responded to the call to help their local communities through volunteering. Each Thursday, they highlight a few individuals who have taken on the pioneering and caring Jewish spirit, so we can say 'Thank You' for their work on behalf of the entire UK Jewish Community and from all those who are benefiting from their efforts.

On 28th May, the person thanked was our very own Jonelle Roback (top of facing page).



Jonelle Roback – Mosaic Reform

Jonelle (pictured) is using this time to help at the ICU units at both Northwood Park Hospital and Watford General Hospital through Watford Football Club. Jonelle is making and organising others to make an array of cakes for the nursing staff.

Watford Football Club in the age of Coronavirus

by Michael Reik

Many shul-goers are aware of my love and infatuation with the Watford Football Club.

I have been a season ticket holder from the time they came up to the first division back in 1982, principally because I had a factory in the Watford area. Up to that time, like far more people, I had been a Manchester United supporter. However, in that first season in the first division, having come up through the three lower divisions, Watford finished second to Liverpool on the last day of the season (May 1983). In the process, they beat Liverpool and, with Man United losing, Watford finished second and Man United 4th. I never looked back.

Well, now for the main part of this story. Two days after we were all put into lockdown (with yours truly stuck at home for at least 12 weeks because of my lymphoma two years ago) I received a letter from Watford Football Club asking whether I required any help,

whether I needed any shopping done or odd jobs attended to. They also offered for me to phone-up and chat to any of the Watford staff about what I might have on my mind, or simply to catch up on any Watford FC chat.

Since then I have received a phone call from Alec Chamberlain, who was the Watford Goalkeeper back in the noughties. The club has arranged for past and present players involved at the club to make a telephone call to season ticket holders and just have a chat and ensure the supporter is OK.

Separate from my possible requirements, the club has made the stadium a home for NHS workers during the day and night, to get away from the intensity of Watford General Hospital, providing a thousand meals a day and a place to rest in one of the many boxes around the ground.

I am so very proud to be a part of this great club that is so much a part of the local community.

Take Your Pick

by *Edwin Lucas*

Take Your Pick! is a United Kingdom game show originally broadcast by Radio Luxembourg starting in 1952. The show was moved to television in 1955 with the launch of ITV, where it continued until 1968. It was the first game show broadcast in the UK to offer cash prizes.

That takes me back to my youth. I loved the programme and the catch phrase of “Open The Box”. This expression comes to mind in 2020 after 52 years of not being heard. The box I am thinking of today, is the Zoom Box. This box does not give congregants a cash prize. It does give congregants a prize of camaraderie, communication, keeping in touch and opportunity. The old TV programme Opportunity Knocks was last shown in 1990, so another old show from 30 years back. How things have changed with Zoom and the Mosaic membership is benefitting big time. At Mosaic Masorti, we have introduced a Monday tea and chat with Rabbi Natasha that has attracted 48 individuals tuning in and the Friday nights are also gaining in popularity with 44 visitors. We would not have wanted Covid-19 virus for anything. We are so sad how many people have suffered personally with hospitalisation and for those who have lost family and friends to the curse of the virus. Zoom has however become part of our lives and it has benefitted Hamakom children, right up to our centenarians. In fact, grand- and great-grandchildren who are toddlers can speak to their centenarian relatives. It is just wonderful. The age span is probably over 100 years. I personally take the greatest pleasure

in seeing the older generation come to grips with the technology of today. Thanks for this must go to Mark Phillips and Stefan Roos, who have been pioneers in making the technology user friendly.

We at MM have learnt a lot about our congregation and Rabbi Natasha has shown a great deal of weekly humour. I had no idea how many congregants had pets and talked about animals. We have seen at least three cats at screenings and when I mean seen it means seen, as the cats have walked right in front of the camera. We have also had four dogs visit and heard about a badger too. We are also up to date on news items. The news is personal, and we have had lots of discussions about personal appearance. I was staggered about how everyone is into hairdos. We have heard about how to cut long hair, short hair, fringes, sideburns, as well as tinting hair and managing highlights. I highlight this, as I have not bought, unlike many others, scissors, clippers, razors and the like. My hair is growing naturally and I shall wait till my barber is open. I have never been into DIY and am not starting now.

“Take your pick” was the title. For those of the congregation who do not read the bulletin, you are really missing out. “Take your Pick”

comes to mind, as there is so much to zoom into and there is actually something of interest every day. “Take your pick”, as to what takes your fancy. There are lectures, and tea and baking and cooking and it is easy to see and watch and hear. Everyone has a front seat. In addition, you do not have to travel anywhere as you can park yourself in your home without having to think of parking meters or off-street parking. Ann does not need to find a place for you, and you do not have to phone in either.

I really have enjoyed the services. We had Lag B’Omer and Tikun Shavout and we have

regularly been with Rabbi Natasha at services. We have been able to attend life cycle events which has been so meaningful for families and friends. Zoom is here to stay. So, “Take your pick” and pick off what you would like to see and be part of. Look at the bulletin and click on the zoom access code and enjoy what is on offer. There is help available and with the students being off over the next two months, there will be an abundance of help waiting and eager to help you. All you need to do is “Take your Pick” as to when you want assistance in relation to day and time.

(Joan Noble continued from page 10...)

on a frieze in the Aspire Centre Stanmore. It’s a large and colourful painted mural telling the story of a journey and gives much pleasure to patients as they progress on their own journey to recovery.

Visitors to Mosaic Reform synagogue will immediately have noticed a beautiful collaborative community project on the wall as they enter. Stitched into bricks are the signatures of individual members. Another collaborative piece, ‘Shiru l’Adonai – Sing to the Lord’ is a pretty piece of stitchwork designed by Michael Barnett, created by Joan and with beautifully crafted metalwork by Jane Prentice.

Memorabilia and Joan’s Jewish Heritage are important. She uses copies of photos and merges paint and fabric together to make collages for display of otherwise forgotten people. Three powerful photo collages of Joan’s mother and brother are currently in Germany awaiting an exhibition commemorating Kristallnacht in her mother’s hometown, including details of the convoy number in which her family were transported to Auschwitz.

Some time ago, Joan became involved in an important quilting project. In 1945, 1000 young Holocaust survivors were given the opportunity to come and live in Britain. 736 young boys made the journey. Each square of the quilt features one of ‘The Boys’ and their name is stitched into the square with artwork telling their story. Copies of the quilts have been travelling around schools, sharing these important stories with young people. The original quilts are waiting to be exhibited in a museum.

Ever the artist, Joan has spent lockdown experimenting with online YouTube sessions.

This is just a snapshot of Joan’s artistic journey. Her versatility and talent as an artist are remarkable. It was a privilege to gain a brief insight into her processes and artwork which bring so much joy and interest to so many people. She is now on a mission to help others find their creative selves and has offered to run sessions in which people of all artistic experiences can begin or build upon their own artistic journey. I can’t wait to get going!

The great online bake-off

by Sam Feldman

On Sunday we took part in a zoom baking session led by the very patient Suzy and Emma Hershman. We made delicious chocolate brownies and a slightly more unusual biscuit covered in crushed cornflakes! We had fun baking them and even more fun eating them – licking the spoon was actively encouraged and they tasted so good – they didn't last



Sam Feldman with his culinary creations

long in my house! Our kitchen smelt so good that even my kitten Oreo popped in from his afternoon nap to see what was going on.

I would like to thank Suzy and Emma for guiding us through the recipe, Jane for organising the afternoon and Stefan for managing zoom – it must have been hard to watch over the screen without getting any of the end product!

Photo Quiz List

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Adele Franklin – Bulldog clip | 12. Bernard Schueler – Letter 'K' from Kehila magazine | 24. Margie Goldman – Park bench |
| 2. Judith Sonnenberg – Wisteria | 13. Henry Altman – Watch movement | 25. Leora Goldsmith – Brick through a climbing frame |
| 3. David Ross – Tape measure (retractable) | 14. Anne Steiner – Wellington boot | 26. Jane Prentice – Flower seed head |
| 4. Vera Gellman – Lighter | 15. Tony Fineberg – Sundial | 27. Jonathan Goldsmith – Clock in garden games room |
| 5. Mike Lane – Shadow of outdoor tap & hose | 16. Steve Levinson – Toaster | 28. Victoria de Magtige – Candle in the shadows |
| 6. Rabbi Middleton – Lamp holder from below | 17. Robert Pinkus – Stapler | 29. Annie Ruback – Exotic house plant stem |
| 7. Sandra Amber – Kitchen roll | 18. Harrison Rutstein – Hems of paddling pool | 30. Coby Ruback – Spatula |
| 8. Claire Silverstone – Bag hanging on a rail | 19. Gillian Goldsmith – Croc shoe, from inside | 31. Erin Ruback – Crocks from above |
| 9. Prue Ruback – Table football through ball entry hole | 20. Emma de Magtige – Pair of glasses | 32. Max Lemer – Radiator cover |
| 10. John Lewis – Building looking through round glass lamp | 21. Mark Phillips – Water droplet on flower | 33. Gracie Lemer – Vase from above |
| 11. David Safir – Human hair | 22. CiCi Rutstein – Teddy bear | 34. David Martin – Padlock |
| | 23. Jane & Michael Harrison – Spatula | 35. Joan Noble – Poppy |

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

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

JULY

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------|---|
| Saturday 4 th | | Shabbat Chukkat-Balak |
| Sunday 5 th | 16.00 | Share our Hobbies – Extreme Birding – Nick Prentice |
| | 15.00 | Chat with Rabbi Natasha |
| Tuesday 7 th | 14.30 | Steve Noble interviews Martin Noble |
| Thursday 9 th | | Fast of Tammuz |
| | 14.30 | Chat without a cuppa |
| Saturday 11 th | | Shabbat Pinchas |
| Sunday 12 th | 16.00 | Singalong with Esta Wyatt |
| Monday 13 th | 15.00 | Chat with Rabbi Natasha |
| Tuesday 14 th | 14.30 | JACS – “Doping, Bribery & Violence” |
| Thursday 16 th | 14.30 | Chat with a cuppa |
| Saturday 18 th | | Shabbat Mattot/Massei |
| Sunday 19 th | 16.00 | Question Time – Ask the rabbis Kathleen, Natasha and Rachel |
| Monday 20 th | 15.00 | Chat with Rabbi Natasha |
| Tuesday 21 st | 14.30 | Steve Levinson interviews Ronnie Landau |
| Thursday 23 rd | 14.30 | Chat with a cuppa |
| Saturday 25 th | | Shabbat Devarim |
| Sunday 26 th | 16.00 | Quiz |
| Monday 27 th | 15.00 | Chat with Rabbi Natasha |
| Tuesday 28 th | 14.30 | JACS – Divorce Dramas Over the Decades |
| Thursday 30 th | 11.00 | Tisha b'Av service |
| | 14.30 | Chat without a cuppa |

AUGUST

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------|---|
| Saturday 1 st | | Shabbat Vaetchanan |
| Sunday 2 nd | 16.00 | Savoury cooking – Emma & Suzy Hershman |
| Monday 3 rd | 15.00 | Chat with Rabbi Natasha |
| Tuesday 4 th | 14.30 | Steve Levinson interviews Gary Italiaander – tribute to Larry Adler |
| Thursday 6 th | | Kehila copy date |
| | 14.30 | Chat with a cuppa |
| Saturday 8 th | | Shabbat Ekev |
| Sunday 9 th | 16.00 | Sharing our Hobbies: Restore & Revive – Philip Silverton |
| Monday 10 th | 15.00 | Chat with Rabbi Natasha |
| Tuesday 11 th | 14.30 | JACS – Magen David Adom |
| Thursday 13 th | 14.30 | Chat with a cuppa |
| Saturday 15 th | | Shabbat Re'eh |
| Sunday 16 th | 16.00 | Sharing our Hobbies: Pottery – Karen Pollak |
| Monday 17 th | 15.00 | Chat with Rabbi Natasha |
| Tuesday 18 th | 14.30 | Meet the Author |
| Thursday 20 th | 14.30 | Chat with a cuppa |
| Saturday 22 nd | | Shabbat Shoftim |
| Sunday 23 rd | | Watch this space |
| Monday 24 th | 15.00 | Chat with Rabbi Natasha |
| Tuesday 25 th | 14.30 | JACS |
| Thursday 27 th | 14.30 | Chat with a cuppa |
| Saturday 29 th | | Shabbat Ki Tetze |
| | | Bat Mitzvah Mosaic Reform – Maya Shackell |
| Sunday 30 th | 16.00 | Quiz |
| Monday 31 st | 15.00 | Chat with a cuppa |



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