



ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Since our last issue

MOSAIC LIBERAL

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Beulah Appel
Aimee Pidgeley & Brandon
Bordoley
Carol Pinkus & Sheldon
Green

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Irene Conway
Michelle Gersh
David Greenglass
Irene Kessler
Michael Lane
Hila Lash
Neville Price
Iris Simons
Elaine Solomons
Sara Spiegel
George Vulkan
Thelma Windisch

CONDOLENCES TO:

*The family and friends of
Sylvia Vandervelde
Janet Judelson on the death
of her husband, Michael.
Lorraine Bouché on the death
of her mother, Stella Spiegel.
Philip Brand on the death of
his wife, Angela.
The family and friends of Joy
Katz*

*Front cover: Thanks to our
Mosaic photographers, David
Ruback and Pat Zatz.
Thanks also to Joanna Phillips
(see page 17)*

MOSAIC REFORM

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Stephen Cole
Ruth & Malcolm Levison
Shelly & Paul Rose
Gabby Kessler

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Zicky Alpert
Viv Block
Richard Degen
Beryl Levy
Zella Milstone
Sheila Morris
David Ruback
Gordon Smith
Joan Woolfson
Linda Graham
Chaim Bacon
George Myrants
Ruth Levison

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Marilyn & Roger Freeman on
their 35th anniversary
Viv & Steve Levinson on their
50th anniversary

GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOME TO:

Sheila & Alan Garfield

THINKING ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Marilyn Freeman

CONDOLENCES TO:

Ray Frost on the death of her
husband, Larry. Condolences
also to Debbie Alalouff on the
death of her father.

MOSAIC MASORTI

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Hannah Bird
Michelle Davis
Jael & Dan Kirschner
Susan & Michael Leigh
Joanne & Lloyd Reid
Nicola & Anthony Manton

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Emmanuel Aharoni
Sinead Mydat
Joanne Fenster
Jackie Kalms
Mark Kosky
Linda Shuall
Lucy Yudt
David Kosky

THINKING ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Mike Lewis
David Kosky
Howard & Heather Eden

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family and friends of
Robert Pinkus

Next issue

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Send your articles,
pictures, letters etc to

newsdesk@choosemosaic.org

FROM RABBI ANTHONY LAZARUS-MAGRILL

It seems sadly hard to imagine that, by the time you read this, news from the Middle East will carry a more hopeful tone than it does at the time of writing. The last two profoundly challenging months have placed great strain on the Jewish people in Israel and the Diaspora. I have gained personally from the sympathy and warmth of this community since October 7th – and want to thank all those who contribute to making this a holding community of mutual care and support. Where I am/we are falling short, I hope we remain receptive to suggestions of how we can do better – this is substantially uncharted terrain, and we are all struggling to find ways to adapt.

Before Jacob wrestles with the angel – before he has even gained the name of Yisrael – he is fleeing Laban with a huge encampment of family, servants and cattle. And yet, meeting the angel, *Vayivater Ya'akov Levado* – Jacob was left all alone. How so, all alone, the Talmud asks? Well – he had brought his whole camp across the *Yabbok* stream before realizing that he had left a few little jugs (*Pachim Ketanim*) behind. Jacob went back on his own to retrieve them (Chullin 91a) – hence, *Vayivater Ya'akov*.

Well – this somewhat unusual word *pach* (*pachim*, meaning jug/s) strikes a chord in the Rabbinic imagination. It suggests the much better known *pach* of Chanukah; as in the *Nes Pach haShemen* – the Miracle of the *cash* of



oil. And this is where a story of the Dzikover Rebbe comes in, as told here by Rabbi David Herzberg z'll (and as taught to me by Jean Allen, thank you!):

...the olives from the branch that Noach received from the dove were made into pure olive oil. The oil was given to Noach's firstborn, Shem. Shem, otherwise

known as Malchitzedek, the priest to the Most High Hashem—sealed this little jar of oil and gave it to Abraham as a gift. Abraham, in turn, handed it over to Isaac who passed it down to Jacob. According to our sages, Jacob forgot some small jars on the other side of the Jabbok River and returned to retrieve them. One of these jars was the oil from Noah's ark. Jacob [...] hid this oil at the site of the Holy Temple and laid the foundations for the miracle of Hanukkah.

It's a nice story, with an important point. It is not clear at any stage that anyone knows the oil's whole history. It's just a little jar that's been handed down from generation to generation. Who knows why? Heirlooms can remain heirlooms long after their story of origin or purpose has been forgotten. And so something tugs at Jacob – maybe, just maybe, he thinks, it's worth crossing back over that stream to get those last little few pots he had forgotten about. Because that's the problem, but also the possibility, with anonymous pots of oil – you never can tell which one might

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FROM THE RABBIS

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burn for eight whole days just when you need it most.

Hannah Arendt believed that the source for hope in the world was natality: that, no matter how desperate things appear, the constant churn of birth and renewal guarantees a source of novelty, and who knows what problems might be solved by a child who hasn't even been dreamed of yet. I recognize the wisdom of this. But I also like the Rebbe's story of the *Pach HaShemen*, which rather asks: who knows what solutions and sources of hope

already lie dormant amongst us, unexamined in the background. I do not know where or when peace will come - but I do, firmly, believe that it will come. What is more, I choose to believe that the resources for a better world are already present in the great founts of humanity and tradition we carry between us – who knows which little cask, handed down from generation to generation, may yet light up the darkness when we need it most.

Still searching, and wishing you all well for the new calendar year.

SIDNEY FENTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION (SFEF)

The SFEF is named after Sidney Fenton, who was a well-loved, senior Religion School teacher at Middlesex New Synagogue. A generous trust, to further Jewish education, was established in his name over 30 years ago.

The Foundation helps children, teenagers, young adults and older members from all Jewish communities to broaden their understanding of Judaism. SFEF supports many activities, ranging from buying teaching aids and equipment, to assisting participants wanting to join overseas tours to Israel or attend events like Limmud and Shemesh. It can also support any appropriate individual endeavours and challengers.

For further information on how SFEF can help you, please contact us at the Mosaic Office: admin@choosemosaic.org or 020-8864 0133.

Are you thinking about going on a Jewish educational tour, to summer camp or Limmud?

SFEF offers grants each year to help with the cost of these (and similar) Jewish educational experiences and courses.

If you are interested, contact the Trustees c/o the office at Mosaic Jewish Community stating for what purpose you would benefit from our funding.

Some Thoughts about Chanukah

by Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige Middleton

Even though this edition of Kehillah is usually known as the 'Chanukah edition', this year, as all the festivals have come early, Chanukah will have already finished when it arrives through your door. Which is a pity, because Chanukah is so interesting!

The festival of Chanukah is a bit of an enigma. Although we all roughly know its history, the *raison d'être* of the festival seems a little less clear.

The story of Chanukah is based on historical facts; when Syrian Seleucid Antiochus Epiphanes took the throne in 175 B.C.E. he set out promoting Hellenism among the Judean populace of his realm. Frustrated in his attempts to conquer Egypt from the Ptolemies he vented his anger on Judea, and the Jewish resistance to full Hellenization, prohibiting Jewish observance, persecuting those who resisted Hellenization and desecrating the Temple in Jerusalem. This provoked an uprising, led by Judah Maccabee and his brothers. Though greatly outnumbered, the Maccabees defeated the mighty Greek army and in 165 B.C.E. they restored and rededicated the Temple.

It is fascinating that despite the "Isto'ical accounts, the Talmudic Rabbis still thought it necessary to ask what precisely it is that we are celebrating on Chanukah. Moreover, they answer their rhetorical question with a version of the story which is quite different from what we find in the Books of Maccabees or even



in Josephus, the first Jewish historian from Roman times.

To be fair, none of these accounts was written when the events actually took place, so discrepancies are to be expected. The greatest difference, however, is that the Rabbis' version mainly focusses on the religious context of the story, rather than the political and military one.

For the Rabbi, Chanukah celebrates not the miraculous defeat of the Greek army, nor the miracle of rebellious ardour that inspired the Maccabees, but a proper miracle that occurred in the Temple at its rededication; a miracle of oil that kept on burning for eight nights, when it should have lasted only for one, which is yet nowhere mentioned in any of the other historical documents. Surely, such a miracle would have been remembered by the historians?

Could it be that our rabbis rewrote history? It seems they very likely did, and they did so for very good reasons. They wanted to stress that it is not good to mix politics and armed conflict with religion. They wanted to divorce the miracle of Chanukah from the political/military miracle. In a time of Roman oppression, they wanted to minimize the appetite for rebellions, thus instead, they refocused Chanukah's message as a motivation to bring light in the darkness and increase peace where there is none. To have faith in goodness and in what is right, rather than in violence and fanaticism.

The story of Chanukah is full of fanaticism

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FROM THE RABBIS

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and death; Hannah and her seven sons, all of whom prefer martyrdom rather than worshipping or being seen to worship an idol and Matthias executing a collaborator with the Greeks ... In fact, the story of Chanukah – the one based on history – is rather violent – that is why the Rabbis concluded that if Chanukah is to serve us as a festival of light and hope, we cannot rely on miracles steeped in violence. Instead, we must seek them in the realm of holiness, ethics, acts of goodness and faith.

At these troubled times we feel torn by the urgent wish to help and support our friends and family in Israel – physically, financially, and emotionally – and by the urgent wish for

peace and safety in the region. Most of us agree that there cannot be peace in the region whilst Hamas is still in power, yet we cannot even fathom how Gaza's relationship with Israel would be without Hamas, nor what an alternative solution could or should look like.

We too need a miracle of light in times of darkness, to guide Israel into finding a way towards peace and justice; to bringing back all the hostages, to disarming Hamas and to finding a credible and trustworthy partner at the negotiation table; a partner who sincerely seeks to implement a two-state solution in which both nations can live side by side in peace, trust and prosperity.

Mosaic Chanukah Party



Why is this night different from all other nights?

By Rabbi Anna

Don't panic, you've not got your dates muddled up, this is the Chanukah not the Pesach edition of Kehillah, but Pesach will be here before we know it. For years there have been different groups of people who have helped to organise our second night Seder. Last year our Seder was different from all other nights because so many of us rallied together to make it happen. We had over 30 volunteers doing so many jobs, some big and some small but well vital. This year is different again because I (Rabbi Anna) will be on maternity leave until just before our Seder starts! That means we need you more than ever to make Seder happen. Just like last year, there are a variety of jobs depending on how much time you can offer. Seder is on the Tuesday 23rd of April, but you don't need to be able to attend



Seder in order to volunteer. If you have time to offer to one of the following jobs please contact office@choosemosaic.org;

- Project co-ordinator/s, overview all volunteers, keep track of numbers and the budget, plan menu (can repeat last year's menu). Set date for "cook in".
- Buy food for meal (paid for by budget)
- Buy wine for meal (paid for by budget)
- Cook part of meal
- Set up tables on the day
- Serve food during the seder
- Clear tables throughout the meal.

Together we'll make this seder as wonderful as every other year.

Chanukah lighting with local interfaith groups



Liberal member, Vera Gellman, has received the following article from her cousin, Ralph Lewinsohn. It was written on 11th November.

Just over a month has passed since the black Saturday, where my kibbutz and others were overrun by an army of terrorists, who murdered, raped, burnt and plundered and finally



took over 200 hostages to Gaza. I will not go into the graphic descriptions of what they did, the human soul cannot digest it.

Barbara and I are now in an apartment in Raanana after having been in emergency accommodation first in Eilat, then Tel Aviv. My son Alon and family and my daughter Michal in a similar set up. We expect to be in this situation for about 6 months, in which time a caravan site will be set up for us, in the south, until the kibbutz can be rebuilt, which we expect to take up to two years. The idea is that this site should be near enough for the kids to eventually go back to their school and that people can return to their jobs in the area, if their jobs are still there.

This war has brought on an unprecedented wave of unity and a spirit volunteering in a population which is normally very fragmented and sectorised. People volunteer to milk cows in the deserted kibbutz communities, pick the fruit, be drivers, prepare food, basically anything that is needed. In our darkest period in many decades, there is a bit of light shining

through.

We spend most of our time trying to set up all the services that we need in our new environment and going all over the country to ceremonies marking the shloshim of

our dead friends, which is a ceremony at the gravesite, 30 days after the burial. Normally, it is at this ceremony that a tombstone is erected, but all have been buried in temporary sites, as our cemetery in Kfar Aza is a closed military zone, too dangerous to have a ceremony. They will be reinterred once it is possible, as the families want their loved ones to be buried near them on Kfar Aza. We have 61 dead and 18 hostages from our small community, approximately 10% of our population.

I have been back to the kibbutz several times, coordinating first with army officials, we need to drive on a roundabout route so as not to be exposed to direct fire from Gaza. There are the constant booms of artillery fire coming from an Israel battery nearby, which causes the ground to shake, the sound of bombing in Gaza and mortar fire from Gaza. I had to retrieve some clothes, documents, laptops, medicines and personal items. Volunteers emptied out and cleaned all the fridges in the kibbutz, because of the stink from the rotting

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food, resulting from no electricity for some time. My beautiful garden is dead, but we are ALIVE, which is unbelievable considering what happened.

On the kibbutz, besides the army being there, different teams of people are operating. First there are the sappers, which are combing everywhere to check for unexploded ordinance, booby traps and weapons and they have found many, including a booby-trapped body. Then there are the volunteers from an organisation called Zaka, who collected all the bodies and human remains, and are now collecting anything with blood on it, and cleaning up the

blood for burial, according to Jewish custom. Then there are the politicians that come to see, tv teams, photographers and ambassadors.

Most of the survivors of the massacre, are slowly trying to heal. I would like to make an analogy with a shattered piece of pottery which are our shattered lives. We are trying to glue all the pieces together again, to make the piece of pottery whole again, but we will only succeed partially, because some of the pieces are too shattered to glue together. There will be holes and gaps in the piece of pottery that we cannot mend, forever, but the piece of pottery will be rebuilt.

*Masorti member, Michael Dashwood,
wrote the following:*

My son Gavin Dashwood, lives on Kibbutz Re'im with his wife Maayan, who grew up on the kibbutz, and their 3 children, Leah (age 16), Ronnie (12) & Adam (9). Maayan works in the kibbutz nursery & Gavin works in the refet (milking parlour) in Kibbutz Holit, a few miles down the road, along the Gaza border. On the day of the attack they spent several hours holed up in their safe room, physically holding the door closed to prevent the terrorists from entering. The next day they were evacuated to a hotel in Eilat & are now preparing to relocate, for a longer-term stay, with the rest of the kibbutz to an apartment block in Tel Aviv. On 29th November Gavin posted on the family WhatsApp group the following article:

A few days ago I went back home for my first proper visit since the awful events of October 7. It's something that until that point, I hadn't felt ready or able to do. So when the temporary

ceasefire was announced, I knew this was my chance. It's not a trip I was looking forward to, but something I felt I needed to do. I was going to see how the Kibbutz, which is our home, looked, and to visit the brave volunteers I'd heard about, who were keeping the dairy farm up and running. It was a long and lonely

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journey. I didn't turn the radio on, I still wasn't ready to listen to music. I arrived on Saturday evening. After being let in the gate by soldiers, I took myself on a tour by driving the long way around, to where I planned to park my car. The place was eerily quiet. But the silence did nothing to dampen the memories of what had happened here seven weeks earlier. It had the opposite effect. This is a community. It's supposed to be full of life and activity like the sound of children laughing as they play and ride their bikes outside. Instead, the atmosphere was of an abandoned, haunted, ghost town, which is exactly what it is right now. I parked the car and walked to the house, not hearing a sound or seeing anyone. I came inside and walked around. The house was dirty and the silence deafening. As I came to our safety room, which is Adam's bedroom, memories of the fear and terror we experienced in this small space came flooding back. The hairs on my whole body stood on end and a cold shiver went through my spine. I asked myself how we'll ever be able to live here again. I also wondered how I'd get through the next three days that I planned to be here. I had something to eat, spent an uneasy evening on my own and went to bed. I didn't sleep very well. The next morning I got up, got dressed and drove off towards the dairy farm at Kibbutz Holit. A place that had suffered even worse horrors than the Kibbutz where we live. I spoke to the soldiers on guard at the gate and told them who I was. They had to make a phone call before they could let me in. I approached the farm and saw that the Thai workers' accommodation area was totally destroyed. Metal structures were burned and blackened. A wooden building was now a pile of ash. What was the centre of life for our amazing group of foreign workers

had been reduced to a site of total destruction. The Thais were a central part of the team at both the farm and other agricultural activities in Holit. But now they are gone. Some were murdered, others kidnapped. The rest have returned home to Thailand. As have the Cambodian students, one of whom was also killed. The Bedouin workers were kidnapped and still missing and the Israelis from the area like me were evacuated. One heroically stuck around, another returned for the first time a few days before my visit. The farm has suffered terrible damage. On the face of it, irreversible damage. I walked around and met the manager. He'd bravely been there almost every day and so has the new manager who's supposed to replace him soon. These two men are heroes. I couldn't have done what they've done. Then I was introduced to the volunteers. People that have come together to help us out in our hour of need. People from all different backgrounds and different parts of the country. Men, women and young people between the ages of 17 and 70+. Some have dairy farm or technical experience, others have none. But all of them have positive energy, enthusiasm, optimism and willingness to do whatever they can to help! These are the most amazing group of people I've ever met. Volunteering to do what is anyway an extremely difficult and demanding job, but in a damaged farm, in a war zone, with rocket sirens and explosions going off all around them. Along with the few remaining staff, they have saved the farm and are keeping it running under the most unimaginably difficult and dangerous circumstances. Meeting these heroes is what gave me hope for the first time since October

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7. They assured me that the farm will survive. They promised me that the region will recover and that maybe not yet, but one day, life here will return. I stayed for the day, working with them, hearing stories about the past seven weeks and being amazed by the care and dedication with which they are working. It's hard to put into words how amazing these people are and what they are doing. I went back to our Kibbutz after my visit to the farm feeling a lot happier than when I left in the morning. And unlike the previous day, I saw some people in the Kibbutz. People that like me, had come back to the area for their work, leaving their families in the safety of the Hotel in Eilat. The Kibbutz was still quiet and dark but it had less of the eerie feeling that it had the day before. This time, I knew I wasn't alone there. Perhaps I would manage to stay another one or two days, after all. I felt happier that evening and got a good night's sleep. The next day, Monday, I went back to Holit. I spent the whole day there, helping out and getting as involved as I could with the work. There was an amazing sense of determination and togetherness between this new, temporary crew. It was very uplifting

being there and feeding off the energy of these amazing people. I left at the end of the day, not knowing when I'd be back, but hoping it would be sooner rather than later. My third and final evening at home was the easiest of the three. I reflected upon my short visit and had got a bit more used to being in the quiet house by now. I even watered the plants outside, even though half of them were already dead. It made me feel like I wasn't giving up. The next day, late morning, I set off for the long drive back to Eilat to rejoin my family and most of the other people from our community. Just outside the Kibbutz, as I was driving along, people were working in the fields. Tractors were driving back and forth, people were walking amongst the crops and irrigation sprinklers were pouring life back into the fields. It was then I knew we would survive. I suddenly felt a huge sense of optimism. For seven weeks, I hadn't been able to listen to music. I couldn't hear anything joyful and happy after what had happened. But my visit to the farm and seeing those people working in the field made me see that life will go on. It has to. I turned on the radio. "Something" by the Beatles was playing. I sang along and kept the radio on all the way to Eilat.

Purchase Decorated Match Boxes in aid of Magen David Adom

Mosaic Reform member, Antonia Berger, has been covering large matchboxes with beautiful fabrics and braids and is donating all the proceeds to Magen David Adom. If you are interested please contact the Mosaic office to make your purchase. Antonia is selling them at £6 each or 4 for £20.



Anti-antisemitism March – 24th November

by Karen Pollak

On the morning of 24th November, I donned thermal under clothes, armed myself with a bottle of water, an apple and banana and set out to join some 60,000 to 100,000 fellow Jews and gentiles to march against anti-Semitism. I felt a mixture of pride and trepidation about going as there had been word that there could be trouble from opposing groups.

I got on a very empty train at Watford. Some more travellers got on the train at the following stations – and then we got to Northwood. As the train slowed down you could hear the twittering of a group of people. Some 20 or more Jews from Northwood got on the train. There was a tangible atmosphere of anticipation and togetherness as the train rumbled along to Pinner. More Jews. More noise. A slight cheer was raised from the Northwood crew as the Pinner crew got on. It was wonderful and, although travelling on my own, I certainly did not feel alone. Lots of familiar faces from past



dinner parties and simchas and we all settled down to the second most important part of Jewish life – mishpuchology. The first – if you need to ask – is food!

We all stumbled out at Temple station which I thought was quite an appropriate name for a crowd of Jews. Parked police vans from all over the south of England lined the streets. It was reassuring to know that we would be watched and protected. We all shuffled along to the Strand where we took position to march, joining thousands of others already waiting.

Lots of Zionist flags and Union Jacks were flying alongside some wonderful signs and banners such as “Make Humus not War”, “Wanted: One Single Jewish Doctor” and, the weirdest, “God is the Worst Anti-Semite”. Having tried to read, with difficulty, what he had written, I did feel he had a point but then that’s another discussion entirely. There were non-Jews marching as well which was so

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heartwarming. There was a hippy oik leaning up against a lamp post playing a flute. I think he must have got lost on the way back from Glastonbury. Some people brought their Jewish dogs which I thought was a bit mean.

It seemed a light hearted eternity before we started to march, or rather, shuffle along the route. The police presence was impressive with them lining the route. My friend and I took every opportunity to thank them and they were thankful for our thanks. Chants of "Bring them Back" kept rising out of the crowds along with singing, but generally, it was a quiet march with everyone there willing to help one another.

No ranting. No climbing or draping flags onto monuments. We marched with dignity to Parliament Square to hear speeches from the great and the good with Rabbi Mirvis telling us that us Jews should not be intimidated.

Newspapers reported that the only problem there was that of Tommy Robinson, the far right activist, who was there with some of his followers. He had been asked not to attend but said he was there in his role as a journalist. Unfortunately it took pepper spray to be rid of him.

Tommy Robinson's appearance was to be expected but the only upset of the afternoon for me – and it was a great upset – was the appearance in Trafalgar Square of a group of Notorei Karta shouting anti-Zionist slogans and shouting at the Jews opposing them. It was like watching bear baiting. Apart from them looking like a "murder" (the collective noun) of skinny crows, the police had to make a cordon around them to keep the peace. They were/are despicable. I can't imagine what the police made of them. They don't seem to be aware that, given half the chance, they would be the first to be picked out of a crowd to be beaten up or worse. Or maybe hashem will save them. Most people have a place on this earth but I struggle to understand theirs. I don't think of them as Jews and feel ashamed at being associated with them by people who don't understand.

Other than that I am so pleased that I went and will happily go on the next one. I felt proud to be a part of such a wider family and found it a great comfort. Hopefully I'll see you there at the next march.

The following letter was sent to Jane Prentice by Revd. Margaret Scrivener :

Dear Jane,

I just wanted to contact you to say that you and all at Mosaic have been in my thoughts and very much in my prayers in recent weeks.

I remember so well this time last year when we were working towards the opening of your new premises and the inaugural concert of JazzPsalms. You were all so kind and generous.

I pray to God that these dreadful times will end and that you and your community will all feel safe and settled again.

Much love to you all. Margaret. (Revd. Margaret Scrivener)



Honours and leadership - transition and continuity at Mosaic Masorti

by Phil Austin

At the Mosaic Masorti AGM in November Edwin Lucas moved on from his role as Chairman to become the synagogue's first Honorary President. This honour, conveyed by the membership, recognises the sterling work Edwin has contributed to Mosaic Masorti (formerly HEMS) since its inception.

Edwin will be an active President, continuing to help Mosaic Masorti and Mosaic Jewish Community to grow and flourish.

Phil Austin and Gill Ross assumed the role

of co-chairs. Both incumbents have already worked in community leadership roles.

At the AGM each Co-chair spoke briefly about the year ahead. Both intend to focus on helping the synagogue to put down roots on Stanmore Hill. Membership growth in 2023 has been very positive and with more growth expected in 2024 they are keen that all of our members - new and old - become increasingly engaged in our new home both as members of Mosaic Masorti and Mosaic Jewish Community.



Latest news from Knit and Natter Hats Galore!

We are delighted that we have currently knitted 30 hats for the soldiers of the IDF. This project is ongoing so more to follow.

This has been a combined effort with the Mosaic Knit and Natter group, the Ark Synagogue in Northwood and other individual members of Mosaic Jewish Community.

We are thrilled that these hats will now be on the way to Israel.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone involved. If you are a knitter and would like to contribute to this worthwhile cause please phone the office or email angela@choosemosaic.org

Everyone is welcome to join us at our next knit and Natter, Crochet and Kibbitz meeting on the first Wednesday of each month, 10.30 am to 12.30pm.

RABBI ALEXANDER DUKHOVNY

by Olivia Ziants

For our Shabbat service on 21st October we were privileged to have in attendance Rabbi Alexander Dukhovny and his friend Venya on a flying visit via the UK from Ukraine, where he led High Holy Day services, to Israel where he is currently residing.

After the service we had a lunch where Rabbi Alexander spoke to the group. He started off describing his early links with the then called HWPS. He was inducted as a Rabbi nearly 25 years ago. He remembers meeting Rita Asbury and Frank Dabba Smith on 4th October 1995, this his wedding date, as the first part of the journey. He has remained firmly linked with our community ever since.

Rabbi Alexander recounted his 40 years' friendship with Venya who was best man at his wedding. They have shared their lives through thick and thin and are neighbours in their country of origin as well as in Israel.

Rabbi Alexander described how he went from being a newly ordained Rabbi to Chief Rabbi straight away in Kiev. There were no other Rabbis in the area!

Rabbi Alexander recalled that he was in Ukraine 5 days before Russia invaded the Ukraine and managed to escape via various forms of transport to Israel. He told us that more than 8 million people have left the Ukraine since the war began.

Rabbi Alexander now volunteers his rabbinical services in Israel, which keeps him very busy. He described Ukraine as his true "home" and Israel as his "homeland", where there is a lot of community support around even though he still feels like an outsider.

R a b b i Alexander has returned to the Ukraine recently to discover that the whole of the apartment block has been



taken over by the Ukraine military in Kiev. He has been at home when bombs have been dropped. He mentioned that part of his apartment is underground and re-enforced well. Kiev has never fallen into Russian hands and remains as a city that is well protected by the Ukrainian military.

To our surprise, Rabbi Alexander said that he is now 73 years old!! He looks so much younger. He recently had open-heart surgery performed by the number one surgeon in Israel. Rabbi Alexander feels like he has been given another chance of life, which he fully embraces.

Sadly, his wife Erlene died 19 years ago. As part of his current visit, he will go to her grave in Cheshunt cemetery and leave two red hearts.

Rabbi Alexander concluded that his parents, who gave him excellent advice and guidance whilst he was growing up and which he abides by to this day, is to always be on a mission to do his very best.

We were moved and uplifted by Rabbi Alexander's presence and talk to us that provided some inspiration for these incredibly difficult times.

Refuah Schlemah

by Edwin Lucas

Every Shabbas in shul, we recite prayers for renewed health, if someone is sick in the community. It is very touching to me and every week I think of the people that I know, who are being highlighted on the list. On many occasions our words of hope are answered and the person makes a recovery and in some cases, some recoveries are quicker than others. That does not matter, as a recovery, is a recovery. I would urge members of the community to advise their rabbi if they would like to have a name mentioned at the appropriate time in the service. The name being mentioned out loud or just to yourself, could be a source of comfort to the rest of the family of the person being mentioned. That in itself is caring and shows that person that you are thinking of them, in not such good times, as well as in good times. That is what true friends are about.

In our service, we have been mentioning a person named Kirsten, who was 43 years of age with a husband and two young children. She was seriously unwell and, as a doctor herself, she knew that the odds were not stacked in her favour. Her parents knew that

she, despite not being of the Jewish faith, was being mentioned in our service every week and took comfort from that. Her prognosis was that she would pass away just before her young son's birthday which was on Halloween. With our Refuah Schlemahs and her determination, she managed to be around for the key date of his birthday and just last week she saw her young son attend his first stay overnight



away at cub camp. Kirsten sadly passed into a new world yesterday, shortly before our Refuah Schlemah part of the service. I was thinking of her at that time, as I am now as I write this just 24 hours later. Kirsten knew that we as a community of a different faith group were wishing her well, as did her husband and parents.

Please may I repeat, at this time of personal grief and sadness, that if you wish a name to be mentioned in the section of the service which deals with renewed good health, that you inform someone, even on the day of the service, so that the officiants and community can be with you and offer you, our support. That is what a community is all about and especially in hard times.

Join the Mitzvah team and help those in need

by Edwin Lucas

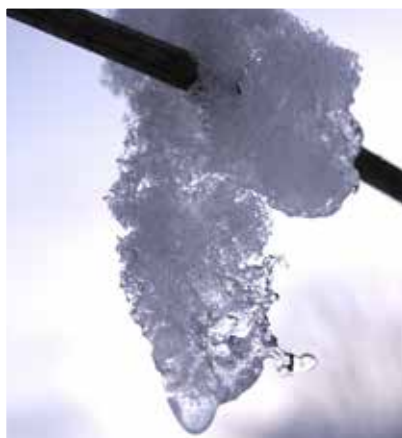
MJC is committed to performing mitzvahs at every part of the life cycle. We all like to be involved with baby blessings, b'nei mitzvah, engagements and weddings. We are not quite as comfortable, which is very understandable, when dealing with people passing away.

I know that our Rabbis are looking at renewing the important role of the community by restarting the MJC Chevra Kadisha mitzvah group. The role of helping someone on their final journey is a mitzvah, which is not only special but, as highlighted in the last edition of Kehila, is one that is so meaningful for the officiants, to



know that they have helped the deceased in death, as they had previously done in life. The names of people involved are not openly publicised, as this is a no-thanks required mitzvah. If you are fit and able, irrespective of age, and would like to hear more about the preparation involved in the last journey and what the chevra kadisha do, please contact your rabbi, who will be able to advise

you what is required and may also be able to put you in touch with an experienced non rabbinical person, who can tell you about their personal uplifting experiences, confidentially. The team is looking for additional men as well as women to join the Mitzvah team.





The 'Judaism' display for Interfaith Week at the Zoroastrian Centre with Bobbi Riesel, the Mayor of Harrow and Gopal Bhachu, the chairman of Harrow Interfaith Council.



David Leibling laying the wreath on behalf of Mosaic Jewish Community at the Remembrance Day ceremony in Stanmore

Birthday celebrations at the Friendship Club

by Trudy Segal

At the end of October the Friendship Club was delighted to host a very special occasion- the 103rd Birthday of our oldest member- Doris Rosenberg. With many family members and friends in attendance it was a truly memorable party. Doris, who trained as a dancer and appeared on the West End stage in many shows, was greeted with a huge round of applause and received many gifts and cards.

The club had a birthday of its own on 21st November, celebrating 46 years since its founding. We were delighted to welcome David Leibling, Mosaic Community chairman; Rabbis Rachel and Anna, our Community Care co-ordinators, Angela and Hayley, and Jackie from the admin office to celebrate with



Bertha Levy & Doris

us. Following a delicious lunch we enjoyed musical entertainment with lots of singing and dancing.

The club is going from strength to strength with up to 40 members each enjoying our gentle exercise class, 3-course lunch and varied musical entertainment. Most importantly they enjoy making new friends in a welcoming atmosphere. Come along and see for yourself or let your family members/friends and neighbours know. You do not have to belong to Mosaic. Everyone is welcome.

For further details please contact Bertha Levy or Trudy Segal via the Mosaic office 020-8864 0133.



MOSAIC BIBLICAL GARDEN

by Barbara Grant

The spell of unseasonably warm weather during the month of October gave us an ideal opportunity to plant up our new Biblical Garden at Mosaic. When you next visit the Shul you will be able to see a number of shrubs which have now been planted in the space adjacent to the Synagogue entrance. There will then be a significant injection of colour to look forward to in the springtime and hopefully some annuals (currently germinating in my greenhouse) to add further colour in the summer. All of the plants in the garden are from species mentioned in the Old Testament of the Bible

The garden is South facing which is an ideal situation for these plants to thrive and we are hoping that the lack of drainage will allow them to live happily in this limited space

For now you can see the following :

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Olea Europa | Olive Tree |
| Myrtus Communis | Myrtle |
| Triplex halimus | Saltbush/purslane |
| Hyssopus officinalis | Hyssop |
| Ficus | Fig |
| Tamarisk Aphelia | Tamarisk |

Ideally the garden will require minimal maintenance but we already know from experience that weeds quickly establish in this bed. Access is not easy and there is a limited space in which to work. However if you are not put off and would like to join a small band of volunteers to maintain the garden over the coming months, please contact Barbara Grant via the shul office



BEREAVEMENT CONFERENCE

by Jane Harrison



Try and be gentle to yourself and give honest support. These were the words from a leading rabbi whose son drowned on his honeymoon only six months ago.

You could hear a pin drop when Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain MBE spoke about his own tragedy at a Bereavement Conference entitled “Coping with Life Alone”. Somehow this renowned rabbi from Maidenhead shul held it together as representatives from all faiths and none heard about how he was coping as well as helping others.

He said: “It is a brutal reality. Life is difficult and death is difficult. Some deaths are much harder than others. Life is challenging but we have to get on with things as best we can. Human resilience is astonishing. I saw a couple laughing and joking and knew five years ago their son had committed suicide. I was pleased for them”.

He was asked if his faith helped him and said: “My faith didn’t help me because I didn’t believe God was responsible. What helped me was my community, who rallied round,

letters and emails, hugs, the warmth of human kindness was the best tonic. I was also protected by work, I had a routine. “I wanted to crawl into a corner but so many people came up to me, crying or wanting to hug me. Often I ended up comforting them.”

He spoke about the important of helping people cope before they died, when they had been given a terminal diagnosis, and their families. “It is important to give honest support. If someone is suffering from an incurable disease, pray for qualities to help them cope, not for a miracle cure, but to accept what is happening.”

He told delegates it was important to discuss practical things such as what kind of funeral someone wanted, did they want to donate organs, have they made a will. Rituals, such as the Jewish shiva, usually a week of mourning, can be comforting, especially as people wanted to tell their story over and over again.

Continued on following page >>

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He talked about the various stages of grief, the sense of dislocation: 'how can life go on when my husband has died.?'

The rabbi's tips for coping alone were:

- always accept invitations because you might not be asked again.
- don't move within a year, you have lost someone; Don't lose everything else as well.
- Try and take up a new activity. You then become an individual, not a surviving half.
- Do something every day, no matter how small.
- Try and be gentle on yourself.

A series of workshops were held throughout the day, including supporting those who have lost a child and WAY (Widowed and Young).

The new chairman of bereavement care, Mr Gopal Bhachu, welcomed delegates to The 42nd annual conference held at Emmanuel church, Northwood on October 26. He praised the work of bereavement care but said there was a "lot more to do and I want to open new avenues to work together."

Judy Silverton, from Mosaic Reform and chairman of the conference planning group, thanked all the speakers, delegates and sponsors and everyone involved in making the day such a success.

Mitzvah Day 2023

by Toria Bacon & Viki Kenton



HaMakom has just taken part in Mitzvah Day, which is now the UK's largest faith-led day of social action. This year the theme was Repair the World and we contributed by taking part in a litter-pick at Harrow Recreational ground, making tasty sandwiches for the charity Firm Foundation, packing comfort cases for children going into

foster care and stencilling cards for children in hospital in Israel.

But the highlight of the morning was visiting the local Tesco with a £5 voucher each and putting together a bag of food for a healthy meal that would be donated to local families in need. The children were incredibly thoughtful about the items they chose, thinking about nutrition, cost and variety and choosing healthy meals that they knew children would like.

We are so proud of the children at HaMakom; they join in Mitzvah Day every year with such enthusiasm and gusto. And for many of them it is not just a one-off event, they continue to take the ideas of Mitzvot and Tikkun Olam into their day-to-day lives, helping to Repair the World in many, many ways.



A BUNCH OF BILLS

by Janet Byrne

I wandered slowly with head bowed
 With thoughts of all my trials and ills
 When all at once I saw a crowd
 A load of horrid unpaid bills
 Beneath the door, beside my toast
 Amassing and mounting in the post

Unending as the stars that shine
 And twinkle on the Milky Way
 They stretched in never ending line
 Whilst waiting there for me to pay
 Ten dozen saw I at a glance
 How could I pay? There was no chance

Grave faced I looked askance but they
 Lay jumbled staring up at me
 A growing debt I could not pay
 All I could think was woe is me
 I gazed and gazed but little thought
 What wealth to me the post had brought

For there, amongst that cluttered mess
 And lying there before my eyes,
 Was a letter sent by express
 Informing me I'd won top prize
 And now my heart with pleasure fills
 And dances 'cos I've paid my bills!

Poem by Bernard Fisherman

Things don't always go the way you hope
Good times can quickly turn upside down
Try as you might to understand
You still get buffeted unceremoniously around



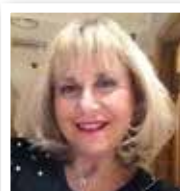
Life is not a plain sailing journey
It's full of occasions, some to be rapidly rejected
So when dark times come calling as they will again and again
Turn the tables and wholeheartedly embrace the unexpected

Get stuck into the challenge face it without any fear
Seek out those chinks of desolation and
Replace them with feelings of blessed good cheer

Hiccups afflict us constantly adding more trouble and strife
So put on a smile, take a deep breath and embrace
The unexpected wholeheartedly all your life.

WE SHALL REMAIN

By Antonia Berger



Time and again atrocities occur that leave us devastated,
And the condemnation from the rest of the world -
Is not nearly as loud as it should be.
Man's inhumanity to man is beyond comprehension,
As antisemitism fuels the hatred of a mis-informed world.

Who would they blame for their woes if Judaism didn't exist?
Another scapegoat would come to the fore -
To take the focus away from our door....
We are here, we shall remain and we hold our heads up high,
No amount of conflict shall allow our faith to die.

We pray for the lost and the fallen,
But words alone are not enough to say,
Once again our hearts are broken into a million pieces,
For all the lives tragically taken away.
And if, and when the dust settles,
Walk the path of fearsome obstacles – to seek a better day.



Mosaic Reform High Holyday Appeal 2023

One of our favourite responsibilities every year is to consider how to distribute the donations so generously given by members of Mosaic Reform Synagogue to the various charities who you have nominated or who have contacted us. All charities are worthwhile, they all need financial support, and there is never enough to go around. However, this year you have all been more generous than ever, many specifically asking us to send money to Israel to help the dreadful plight of our Israeli families and friends, and we have been delighted that Council agreed to send large donations to Magen David Adom as well as the Israeli Movement for Progressive Judaism. We also feel extremely grateful to CST for all the hard work they do keeping us secure and safe, so we suggested a large donation for them as well.

The synagogue always appreciates donations which enable us to buy those extras to beautify the building, make it more comfortable and enhance our new home. The Ark Fund benefited considerably, so much that we have now collected almost enough to fund it without touching our day to day account; however a little more would still be appreciated

Council also agreed to make donations to:
 Admiral Nurses (dementia specialist nurses)
 Bereavement Care (supporting bereaved)
 Harrow Police Benevolent Fund
 Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre/Paul Strickland Scanner Centre
 New Hope Trust in Watford (homeless)
 Noah's Ark Children's Hospice
 Harrow Mencap
 St Luke's Hospice
 British Friends of Israel War Disabled Stanmore & Edgware branch
 Abraham Initiative (Interfaith)
 Camp Simcha (seriously ill Jewish children)
 Chai Cancer Care
 Leo Baeck College
 Residential Care Provider Kenton

We always receive such appreciative thank you letters particularly from the small charities who rely on the support we give them

A big thank you to you all from the High Holyday Appeal distribution committee

Board of Deputies Plenary held at JW3, Sunday 19th November 2023

by Michael Reik

I am recording these notes online.

We were first addressed online by Mark Regev, former Israel Ambassador to the UK, now the Israeli Government spokesperson. He mentioned how the phrase 'From the river to the Sea' was being repeated all over the world, almost like a request for a global Intifada.

We then heard from Edward Isaacs, President of the Union of Jewish Students. He reported how students were being attacked, with Campus rooms being broken into, in what is the worst period Jewish students have had to face in living memory. His current five-point plan includes (a) Education, (b) Briefing 120 Vice Chancellors, (c) Meeting Government and Shadow Ministers, (d) Funding Jewish life on Campus and (e) establishing Interfaith Week. There is a Welfare Hotline available (used by 400 students to date.) The greatest disappointment is that Allies on Campus have disappeared. It was noted later in the meeting that a deeply hostile reaction to Jewish medical students had been noted on the Manchester University Campus.

We then came to the President's Statement. A meeting was held by Marie Van der Zyl, Mark Gardener (head of CST) and Keith Black (Head of JLC) with the Home Secretary. Lord Mann, the Government representative on Anti-Semitism, is to organise a ceremony with a number of Politicians in the next week or two to remember the murders of October 7th.

Comment from the membership that more

needed to be done to protect Jews in the UK. Marie said a number of BOD Members will be requested to volunteer for specific roles. It was noted that Cornell and other universities in the US have been making Antisemitic statements and that 50 lawyers in the US have directly written to the Vice-Chancellors. Commendations made to Marie for advocating the continuation of a two-state solution and the release of all the hostages when she appeared on Question Time. Marie has spoken directly to the Emir of Qatar to request the release of the hostages. Andrew Gilbert voiced his concern about the CAA Rally against Antisemitism the following week (26th November). However, Marie believed the march/rally to be correct in the context of free speech.

Amanda Bowman, Vice President Defence Division, then commented that she was meeting twice a week with the London Metropolitan police. There has been a 10% increase in Antisemitism, with 29 incidents of Antisemitic abuse of children on the way to school. Complaints have been made to the media on misinformation and on how journalists on TV are not following up on totally incorrect comments made by their interviewees. Great concern at Jews finding themselves isolated at work. The representative from Luton Jewish Community commented how successful it was to attend a local Muslim community and speak openly with them. It was agreed that interfaith relations was a priority at this time. Concern

Continued from previous page...

was raised at how to tackle Twitter (X) when Elon Musk is so openly Antisemitic. We should note there have been 98 arrests by Police in Antisemitic Incidents at the recent marches.

Edwin Shucker, Vice President for Communities, then spoke. He commented that the Board of Deputies started in 1760 to support the hour of need of British Jews and 270+ years later this phrase was never truer. The Board is hoping for their new home in Camden Town to be ready in February. The Charedi Community agreed the Board's priority to help those in financial need could go on hold at this difficult time.

The BOD moving exhibition had had

successful visits to South Wales and Borehamwood. The visit to Hounslow, however, has had to be postponed for safety reasons. The Council of Christians and Jews are currently very supportive.

Finally we acknowledged the excellent work of Edgware and Hendon Reform Synagogue bringing 200 Israelis over from the current War Zone, with the local Barnet Council providing bus transport from the airport to the Synagogue. Proposal that MPs who put their heads above the parapet to support Israel be appreciated, and request made that Deputies be trained as to how to part of phone-ins.



Music for Memory

– this group meets on the last

Thursday of the month

Next meeting 28th December



REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS

Meet the Author – Alex Gerlis

By Lindsey & Adrian Cohen

As part of the “Meet the Author” lunch time events, after a tasty soup and titbit lunch an eager crowd was treated to an excellent interview by Steve Levinson with published author and fellow Mosaic member Alex Gerlis.

Alex described his successful career as a published author, with 11 books already to his credit, all in the spy genre. Steve particularly asked him about how he develops characters and how he blends fictional characters with the historical. His most recent book “Agent in The Shadows” is the latest one in the Wolf Pack series and is set in Lyons, France in 1942 – so plenty of Jewish interest. Alex described how he does his research, and how he likes or does not like his fictional characters and how and when he decides whether to kill them off.

Alex, in the time-honoured custom, brought his books for sale. The audience was so enthralled by the interview that there was a run on the books, and Alex hadn't brought enough to satisfy the demand. We bought all three in the Wolf Pack trilogy and look forward to reading them as well as his earlier works. They're all available on Amazon.

We are very fortunate in Mosaic that we have at least 3 published authors in our community. Steve Levinson will be talking about his newly published book – From Fleet Street to Tweet Street – in February though whoever will be interviewing him has a hard act to follow!



Meet the Author, Amanda Weinberg

by Hilary Segal

Italian Bookshop
Among the Vines

Once again, as part of the Mosaic Culture Group, we were entertained by a fascinating talk by author Amanda

Weinberg on her discovery of and consequent falling in love with a small Italian village called Monterini. The description of the village and its inhabitants, Catholic and Jewish, living together in harmony was breathtaking.

Amanda concentrated on the Jewish aspect, including the synagogue, the cemetery and the matzah making facility in the village. In particular kosher wine being readily available in the non-Jewish shops.

During World War 2 the Jewish inhabitants were protected, as much as they could have been by their Catholic neighbours, from the Germans.

It sounds as if it could be a model for peoples with differing religious leanings to live together in perfect harmony.



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REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS

Continued from previous page...

A Mosaic visit to the Koestler Arts 'In Case of Emergency' exhibition at the Royal Festival Hall

by Vera Gellman



Edwin Lucas organised this thought-provoking visit for Mosaic members with an excellent guide who was a former prisoner.

Koestler Arts plays a unique role in motivating prisoners, young offenders, secure

patients, and immigration detainees across the whole of the UK to lead creative and positive lives. Participation in the arts can be a game changer for people within the criminal justice system, especially for those on rehabilitative journeys. Koestler Arts seeks to inspire them to create, to reward their effort, and to share their talents with as many people as possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Art @ Mosaic

During the month of January there will be no official artist exhibition. Instead we have chosen to exhibit copies of the four Memory quilts made in honour of "The Boys" who came to Britain in 1945 to Windermere from the camps.

A celebration of life

Memory quilts were handmade at the 70th Anniversary of their Liberation in 2015 in

honour of "The Boys" who came to Britain in 1945 to Windermere from the camps.

They were either made by members of their families or Textile artists to capture a little of their life stories.

These 4 large quilts tell each person's story in a square. They powerfully represent 732 of these Holocaust survivors, 156 visually, others in name only with 5 maps from their country of origin.

The general message was that they individually had survived, but creating a family as legacy which was the ultimate victory!

A book was made to accompany the launch in 2015 showing each of these stories and a few copies will be available.

Monday 8th January, 8.00 pm

Film Mosaic "Lemon Tree"

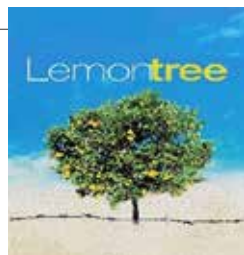
Salma Zidane, a widow, lives simply from her grove of lemon trees in the West Bank's disputed territory. The Israeli Defence Minister and his wife move next door and the Secret Service orders the trees removed for security. Salma seeks assistance from the Palestinian Authority which is useless, the IDF which is dismissive, and a young attorney, Ziad Daud who takes the case.

The feisty Salma attracts him. While the courts deliberate, the Israelis fence her trees and prohibit her from entering the grove. As the trees wither, the defence minister's wife and, separately, an Israeli journalist,

look on Salma with sympathy. In this allegory, does David stand a chance against Goliath or perhaps it is just a plea for peaceful coexistence? You decide.

An Israeli, German & French Co-production and winner of numerous awards (With English Subtitles)

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 10th January 12.30 pm

Mosaic Culture Hub invites you to 'Meet the Author' Dr David Lawson

Join us for a light lunch before David Lawson discusses his book 'Ostrava and Its Jews'.

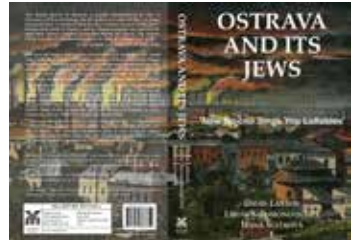
'The story of Ostrava and its Jews encapsulates in 85 square miles and about 150 years, a miniaturised history of Central Europe. It covers industrialisation and massive economic growth, immigration and emigration, intolerance and tolerance, multi-culturalism and nationalism, high culture and social welfare, the Holocaust, communism and the diaspora.'

For the past 16 years, inspired by a sefer torah that came from Moravská Ostrava in what is now the Czech Republic, David has been researching the history of Ostrava and its Jewish community in collaboration with the Jewish Museum in Prague.

David will talk about the story of the beginning, flowering and destruction of the Ostrava Jewish community and how he came to be involved and wrote the story.

David is a committee member of the Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust and will also talk about the role of this trust.

Please book via the Mosaic website by Wednesday 3rd January for catering purposes. There is a £7 charge which will increase to £10 from 4th January.



Wednesday 17th January 12.30 pm

Mosaic Book Group

The group will meet at the Synagogue when they will be discussing - "The Golem & The Djinni" by Helene Wecker.

Please bring your own non-meat packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.



Wednesday 24th January, 6.30 pm

Tu b'Shevat Seder

Celebrate Tu b'Shevat with Mosaic Jewish Community. An evening with some beautiful liturgy and lots of beautiful fruit, in celebration of the New Year for Trees. Tu b'Shevat, the ancient agricultural tax year, was transformed

by medieval Kabbalists into a celebration of Life and Creation in its many forms. The Tu b'Shevat Seder continues to develop in conversation with our own changing relationship to the natural world. We look forward to celebrating with you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 27th January

Holocaust Memorial Day – Meet Lord Austin of Dudley

We are fortunate to welcome **Lord Austin of Dudley** who will join us at the Reform Shabbat Morning Service. After our joint kiddush he will talk to the community during a light lunch about his thoughts on this important day of remembrance

Lord Ian's father was a Jewish Refugee who escaped to the UK in 1939 from Ostrava in then Czechoslovakia. He is ideally qualified to talk to us. After 35 years as a member of the Labour Party, he resigned his membership in 2019, stating that extremism and antisemitism had poisoned the party under Jeremy Corbyn's leadership.

He stood down as an Independent MP for Dudley at the 2019 election and was nominated in 2020 to the House of Lords. He was appointed by the Prime Minister as Trade envoy to Israel in 2019 and currently chairs the Parliamentary Group on Holocaust Commemoration

As we are expecting a large number of members to be present to hear Lord Austin's thoughts, we ask that you advise the office if you intend to be present for catering purposes. admin@choosemosaic.org



Monday 5th February, 8.00 pm

Mosaic Film “Max”

At the close of the First World War, Germany enters the era of the new Weimar Republic following the collapse of the Kaiser's Imperial Reich. Max Rothman (John Cusack), a veteran of the Great War and

now art dealer, searches for new talent on the streets of Munich. Into Max's life comes an eccentric young artist, also an Army veteran, named Adolf Hitler (Noah Taylor). Impressed by Hitler's artistic ability, Max befriends the former Army Corporal and attempts to guide and mentor him into the life of a successful artist. Hitler, however, soon finds himself losing interest in art and begins studying the art of public speaking. Max tries to convince Hitler that art is the better of line of work ... before it is too late.

MAX is a particularly interesting example of an intriguing “what if” or perhaps “if only” Hollywood movie.

(with subtitles available)

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 7th February 12.30 pm

Mosaic Culture Hub invites you to ‘Meet The Author’ Steve Levinson

Join us for a light lunch before you have a chance to find out what happened to good journalism. Steve Levinson in conversation with Alex Gerlis.

This event is part of a book tour to promote Steve's new book. It's a journey through his career at the BBC, provincial and national press, Channel 4 News and elsewhere and is an eye witness account of how journalism has changed (for better or worse) from the era of hot metal to the age of social media and AI. On the way there are many encounters from militant coal miners and drunken journalists to Nelson Mandela and Margaret Thatcher.

Please book via the Mosaic website by Wednesday 24th January for catering purposes. There is a £7 charge which will increase to £10 from 25th January.



Tuesday 13th February, 8.00 pm

Join Mosaic Culture Hub to hear from Emily Green, Founder of GesherEU.

People from Jewish ultra-orthodox and Chasidic communities who choose to enter mainstream society, do so as “new immigrants”. They face cultural disorientation and isolation and lack the practical knowledge and skills needed to function independently in a totally new environment. GesherEU provides the first steps to building a new community of friends, both ex-charedi and from the wider community, offering social support as well as advice on educational and vocational opportunities.

After deciding to leave the ultra-orthodox Belz community in Stamford Hill in 2012, Emily faced a long, lonely and difficult process of integration into mainstream society.

Emily will talk about her experience of



growing up within the charedi community, her arranged marriage at the age of 20 and the challenges she faced when leaving the community with her (then) 5 young children.

Emily will also talk about the charity she founded and now runs to support those leaving the charedi community and will show a short video clip which includes testimonies and stories from their members.

Emily now lives in Harrow with her six children and is Head of English at a large, mainstream secondary school. She says: “My aim is to use my own experience of leaving to help others who make the same choice, and to show them that it is possible to leave the community and live a successful life”.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 25th February, 7.30 pm. Doors open 7.15 pm

The London Jewish Male Choir in Concert

Come and enjoy a rich and varied programme of Jewish music including Yiddish, Ladino (Judeo-Spanish), Chassidic and Renaissance music, as well as musical theatre, folk and contemporary and modern Israeli compositions.

Something for everyone!

Conducted by Mosaic Liberal Musical Director, Joseph Finlay.

www.ljmc.uk

Tickets £15* each for Mosaic Members. £18* each for non-members. Including light refreshments.

* Please book early: a late-booking supplement of £5 extra per ticket applies after Wednesday 14th February.


Ticket sales will close on Wednesday 21st February at midday.

Wednesday 28th February, 12.30


Mosaic Book Group

Save the date! Book to be announced

Happy Birthday in February and March:



Orlando Kafka, 15
Darwin Kafka, 13
Max Burzynski, 11
Maia Leigh-Ellis, 8
Naomi Witte, 11
Connie Ashford, 8
Asher Leigh-Ellis, 6



MOSAIC CALENDAR

Regular Events

| | | |
|------------|-------|---|
| Tuesdays | 10.00 | Mosaic Walks – email admin@choosemosaic.org for meeting point |
| | 11.00 | Mosaic Friendship Club |
| | 13.30 | Drop in and play (from 2nd January) |
| | 19.00 | “Untangling our Traditions” with one of our Rabbis (From 9th January) |
| Wednesdays | 10.30 | Knit & Natter (First Wednesday of the month) |
| | 11.00 | “Tea & T’hillim” with one of our Rabbis |
| Thursdays | 10.30 | Bridge & games (1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month) |
| | 11.00 | Music for memory (Last Thursday of the month) |
| | 20.00 | Talmud class with Rabbi Anthony |
| Saturdays | 09.45 | Masorti service (unless otherwise stated) |
| | 10.30 | Reform service |
| | 10.45 | Liberal service |
| Sundays | 09.45 | HaMakom (during term time) |

JANUARY

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Mon 8 th | 20.00 | Mosaic Film |
| Wed 10 th | 12.30 | Mosaic Culture Hub |
| | | -Meet the Author, David Lawson |
| Fri 12 th | 18.30 | Shabbat Beiteinu |
| Sun 14 th | 09.30 | HaMakom – new term begins |
| Wed 17 th | 12.30 | Mosaic Book Group |
| Wed 24 th | 18.30 | Tu b'Shevat Seder |
| Sat 27 th | 12.30 | Holocaust Memorial Day |
| | | – Lord Ian Austin talking |
| | | after the services |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

FEBRUARY

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| Mon 5 th | 20.00 | Mosaic Film |
| Wed 7 th | 12.30 | Mosaic Culture Hub |
| | | – Meet the Author, Steve Levinson |
| Fri 9 th | 18.30 | Shabbat Beiteinu |
| Sun 11 th | 12.30 | HaMakom half-term |
| | 11.15 | Tombstone consecration |
| | | – Alan Orchover. Cheshunt |
| Mon 12 th | 18.30 | Kehila Copy Date |
| Tues 13 th | 20.00 | Mosaic Culture Hub, |
| | | Founder of GesherEU |
| Sun 18 th | | HaMakom half-term |
| Sun 25 th | 19.15 | Jewish Male Voice Choir in Concert |
| Wed 28 th | 12.30 | Mosaic Book Group |
| Thur 29 th | | Kehila distribution |



The Mosaic office
opening hours are:

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Monday | 08.00 – 17.00 |
| Tuesday | 08.00 – 16.00 |
| Wednesday | 08.00 – 13.30 |
| Thursday | 08.00 – 17.00 |

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