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# ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

*Since our last issue*

## MOSAIC LIBERAL

### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

Valerie Brown  
Dario Celaschi  
Barbara & Ivan Shapero

### **SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:**

Simon Albury  
Leslie Bouché  
Philip Brand  
Sheila Cohen  
Gideon Fiegel  
Sheila Goldman  
Jack Leon  
Linda Paice  
Joy Pearson  
Michael Richman  
Edna Spielmann

### **THINKING ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE ILL:**

Millicent Levan

### **CONDOLENCES TO:**

The family and friends of  
Dena Cohen  
The family and friends of Bob  
Rose  
Harold Sanderson on the  
death of his wife Phyllis  
Steven and Wendi on the  
death of their mother, and  
Hannah and Miriam on the  
death of their grandmother  
The family and friends of  
George Vulkan  
Paul Hart on the death of his  
brother, Ashley

## MOSAIC REFORM

### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

Lynda Gray  
Merna Conway  
Sharon & Andrei Elian

### **MAZAL TOV TO:**

Arlette & Neil Kaas on the  
marriage of their son, Joel, to  
Tasha Banks. Mazal tov also  
to Renee Shama.

### **SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:**

Richard Degen  
Zella Milstone  
Gordon Smith  
Chaim Bacon  
Nigel Davis  
Linda Edward  
Steve Levinson  
Rachel Solomon  
Ann Wilson  
Rachel Young  
John Kent  
Gloria Faber  
Mel Marsh  
Richard Freedman  
Arnold Gee  
Roger Hart  
David Leibling  
Fay Lifschitz  
Ruby Nerva  
Lydia Safir  
Rosalie Tobe  
Linda Brunnsden  
Stanley Carvin

### **ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:**

Viv & Steve Levinson on their  
50th anniversary  
Sonia & John Barnett on their  
65th anniversary

### **GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOME TO:**

Sandra & Bernard Fisherman

### **THINKING ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE ILL:**

Judy Silverton  
Trudy Segal  
Michael Reik  
Linda Holman  
Cynthia Shaw  
Renee Shama  
Ruby Nerva  
Dennis Goodman

### **CONDOLENCES TO:**

The family and friends of  
Willie Witkover  
Prue Ruback on the death of  
her mother, Sheila Baker  
Gerald Samuels on the death  
of his wife, Angela  
Anita Feldman on the death of

her mother, Ruth Markan  
The family and friends of  
Shirley Abrahams  
Rose Stern on the death of  
her sister, Margaret Heilbuth  
Andrea Morris on the death of  
her mother, Sheila  
Yvonne Goldstein on the  
death of her husband,  
Edmund  
Angela Green on the death of  
her husband, Warren

## MOSAIC MASORTI

### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

Stephanie Segal  
Yehudit & Evgeny Gens  
Hazel & Laurence Cohen  
Douglas Cohen  
Eva Lipman

### **MAZAL TOV TO:**

Kara Redmond & Jon Grant  
on the birth of their son, Felix  
Beverley & Sass Ezekiel  
on the birth of their grand-  
daughter

### **SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:**

Lore Lucas  
Sarper Imren  
Melna Charin  
Jeremy Morgale  
Neil Mendoza  
Laurel Segal  
Reggie Goldner  
Jack Kushner

### **THINKING ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE ILL:**

Howard Eden  
Michael Lewis

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Frances & Michael Marx on  
their 35th anniversary

### **Next issue**

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Send your articles,  
pictures, letters etc to

**newsdesk@choosemosaic.org**

# Purim: delivering Jews from harm

*By Rabbi Rachel Benjamin*

On Saturday evening, March 23rd, and Sunday morning, the 24th, MJC will be celebrating the festival of Purim. And just to begin with a bit of Purim miscellany.... The word *mishteh* (banquet) occurs 20 times in the Book of Esther, which is equal to the total of all the other times it is found in the rest of the Bible. The longest verse in the Bible is Esther

8:9, which has 43 words in Hebrew and 90 words in English. All the letters of the Hebrew alphabet are found in Esther 3:13.

Everyone is commenting on how 'late' all the festivals are this year! That is because this is not only a leap year in the secular calendar; it is a leap year in the Jewish calendar.

The Jewish calendar is calculated according to the cycles of the moon. A 12-month lunar year has 354 days (11 fewer than a solar year). A 13-month lunar year has 384 (19 more than a solar year). Using a 12-month lunar calendar, Nissan, which should be in the Spring, would occur 11 days earlier each year, eventually falling in Winter, Autumn, Summer and then Spring again! Using a 13-month lunar calendar, we would find the same thing, in the other direction, and faster!

To compensate for this, the Jewish calendar uses the 12-month lunar calendar, with an extra month added in occasionally, so that the festivals fall in their correct seasons. Nissan occurs 11 days earlier each year for 2-3 years,



and then jumps forward 30 days, adjusting the drift. A year with 13 months is called a *Shanah M'uberet*, literally 'a pregnant year' (which we call a leap year). The additional month is known as Adar 1, Adar Rishon (the First Adar), or Adar Alef. That month is inserted before the regular month of Adar (which is then known as Adar II, Adar Sheini (the Second Adar) or Adar Beit).

In every 19-year cycle (established by Hillel II in the 4th century CE), Adar I is added seven times. Adar is the month in which Purim falls and, in a leap year, it falls in Adar II. (Are you confused yet?!!...) In this way, Purim always falls a month before Passover.

In the Babylonian Talmud (Ta'anit 29a), we learn *mi'she'nikhnas adar marbim b'simchah*, 'with the start of the month of Adar we greatly increase joy'. We generally associate Purim with joy and laughter, but it has its serious side, too. In *Gates of the Seasons* (ed. Peter S. Knobel, CCAR, New York, 1983, p. 95), we read that 'The story of Purim is about hunger for power and about hatred born of the Jews' refusal to assimilate and their unwillingness to compromise religious principles by bowing before the secular authority. It is an old story. However, it has been repeated many times, making it both an ancient and modern story...

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# FROM THE RABBIS

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'Purim recalls the dangers of minority status. Hatred of the foreigner and the stranger is still prevalent throughout the world. Antisemitism has not disappeared but, despite everything, the Jewish people has survived. Purim, however, is most of all a happy story – a story of survival and triumph over evil.'

In the book of Esther, there is no mention of God, though the Rabbis saw God working throughout the story, to save the Jews. When Esther expresses to Mordecai her fear of approaching the king, he tells her, "...if you keep silent in this crisis, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another place (Makom – which is one of the rabbinic terms for God), while you and your father's house will perish. And who knows, perhaps you have attained to royal position for just such a crisis' (Esther 4:13-14). In Deuteronomy 31:18, God says 'I will surely hide My face from them.' The Hebrew for 'I will surely hide' is *haster astir*, and that same Hebrew word for 'hiding, concealment,' is at the root of Esther's own name. This, and other allusions, suggest God's working behind the scenes, in a hidden fashion.

The story of Purim is found in *Megillat Esther*, the Scroll of Esther, in the third part of the Tanakh, the Hebrew Bible, called *K'tuvim*, the Writings. There are four *Mitzvot* (commandments) associated with Purim:

- 1) reading Megillat Esther, the Scroll of Esther
- 2) rejoicing and feasting (*Mishteh*)
- 3) sending food gifts to friends and neighbours (*Mishloach Manot*) and
- 4) giving gifts to the poor (*Matanot L'Evyonim*)

I wonder if we could see a link between the Four Children of our Pesach Seder and the four principal characters in the Purim story, Ahasuerus, Haman, Mordecai and Esther, in considering that we all contain a bit of each of them. In the Torah, Yom Kippur is known as *Yom ha-Kippurim*, and the Vilna Gaon (18th century Lithuania) explains that this could mean Yom ha-k'Purim, 'the day which is like Purim'. Rabbi Alexandra Wright writes that, 'though the two festivals seem worlds apart in many ways, on Yom Kippur we look to our conduct, to tipping the scales on the side of goodness. Perhaps at Purim, we might think about what we need to do to make the Mordecai and Esther within us triumph over the Ahasuerus and Haman.'

The word 'Purim' has come to symbolise the deliverance of the Jews from harm, and there are other 'Purims' that are commemorated in Jewish communities all over the world.

We fervently hope that this Purim we will see some relief from the wave of antisemitism experienced since October 7th, and an end to the war in the Middle East. We hope to see you at our Purim celebrations next month when, for a day, we can try to forget all our troubles and be joyful and merry together. *Chag Purim Sameiach* – Happy Purim!

**See page 38**

**for details of**

**Mosaic Purim**

**services and celebrations.**

# Purim, this very moment

*By Rabbi Anthony Lazarus Magrill*

The Talmud (Berakhot 17a) records that after each and every Amidah the Babylonian Rabbi known as Rava would add the following supplication:

אלהי, עד שלא נוצרתי איני כדאי,

ועכשיו שנוצרתי כאלו לא נוצרתי

*My God, before I was formed I was as nothing. And now that I have formed it is still as if I had never been formed.*

*For I am just dust in this life - and how much more so in death. See then, I stand before you as a vessel full of shame and mortification. May it be your will that I should sin no more, and that what I have sinned before you shall be cleansed through your great compassion, and not by means of sufferings or sore illness.*

It is perhaps unsurprising that our tradition decided this was too painful, too self-abasing, to recite three times a day as did Rava. Instead, we recite this meditation of mortification and repentance only after the Amidahs of Yom Kippur; apparently following the different practice of the sage Rav Hamnuna Zuti.

Rav Kook, the Chief Rabbi of mandatory Palestine, offers a beautiful comment which ties Rava's lament into this Purim season (*Olat HaReiyah*):

*In all that boundless time from the Creation of the Universe until I was first conceived, it is clear that the universe had no need for me; for if there had been some cosmic lack, or any purpose which I could have served,*



*presumably I would have been created to make it right! So the fact that I was, in fact, born just when I was is a sign - a sign that I could have had no meaning or purpose in creation until 'this very moment' (לעת כזאת). For the time did come when perhaps I was needed for some purpose, to effect some change. And if it is still possible that I can direct my*

*actions towards that purpose - then **Hineni**. Here I Am. Certainly and Now.*

Rav Kook's reference to 'this very moment' points us towards the Megillah (Esther 4.14). Here, Esther is unsure about approaching the King - does Mordechai not remember that anyone whose visit is not approved shall be put to death? Mordechai offers by way of riposte:

*If you keep silent at this time, relief and salvation shall come to the Jews from some other place; but you and your family will perish. And who knows? Perhaps it was for just for **this very moment** (לעת כזאת) that you came to the Palace.*

This is my favourite verse in the whole Tanakh. It bespeaks a Judaism of infinite responsibility - the high standard that in every moment, in every interaction, we should wonder if this was the very moment for which we were created. So then, do we want this to be a moment of kindness or wrath? Of

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compassion or dismay? Of care or of fury? This is a verse that says: don't worry about the Jews, the Jews will be fine, and Israel will live to fight another day; but worry about *you and your Jews*. Are you building the community you would wish to thrive? Is the voice of compassion and care as loud and as clear as you can make it? Might this be the very moment for which you were created? This is a burden too staggering for us to live with every

moment. But the halakha teaches that we should hear the Megillah at least twice every Purim (there will be a reading at MJC at 7pm on the 23rd and 8.30am on the 24th). At least twice a year, it's a clarion call we are enjoined to hear with good attention and intention.

Purim Sameach

*See page 40 for details of Mosaic Purim services and celebrations.*

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## Pesach is coming!

**D**on't panic, we're not asking you to get out your feather and candle just yet. But it's not too soon to start thinking about Pesach-themed articles and favourite recipes for the next issue of *Kehila*.

Do include photographs where possible, ideally as separate attachments rather than embedded in your copy.

As well as the usual articles, we are planning a series on Pesach family traditions that we are calling 'Pesach Nuggets.' Here's a couple to show you the idea:

"We always start the Seder meal off with a potato cut up in slices according to how many attend, to remember a congregant who Sedered in the Warsaw ghetto when he was seven years of age." Edwin Lucas

"In our family, the tenth plague was always called *Makat Bechorot* and don't lick your finger! I can still hear my father saying it and we still say it to this day, even when Seder-ing at friends or relatives." Andrea Morgale



So what do you do in your family? Were you brought up outside the UK or in a Sephardi home? We look forward to hearing your family traditions, no matter how quirky or outlandish - not just at the Seder, but throughout the Pesach week.

Please email your articles, photographs, recipes and nuggets to [newsdesk@choosemosaic.org](mailto:newsdesk@choosemosaic.org) to arrive by Monday 18th March at the latest please.

## Mosaic Accord signed at last

On 24th January, six significant documents were signed by representatives from Mosaic Reform Synagogue, Mosaic Liberal Synagogue and Mosaic Masorti Synagogue, as well as Mosaic Jewish Community. They represent the formal structure of our unique community and how we work together in collaboration.

The first is the **Accord**, which sets out the various key principles and conditions which shape and guide our collaborative efforts to make Mosaic Jewish Community a partnership where everyone works towards its collective aims. It describes our vision for Mosaic Jewish Community: as a pluralistic Jewish community organisation, designed and governed to meet the needs of modern Jewry; embracing a diversity of ritual services and religious practices, plus communal activities, within a single shared building. It also lays down how Mosaic is managed, and its responsibility in providing central services to each of the three constituent synagogues. Closely connected with the Accord is the **Financial Management Agreement**, which defines how the central costs of Mosaic are shared, based primarily on the number of members in each community. These documents can be read on the Governance page of the Mosaic website – [www.choosemosaic.org](http://www.choosemosaic.org).

The second group of documents we signed were to do with the legal ownership and use of the Stanmore Hill building. Mosaic Reform Synagogue holds the main lease of the synagogue, which is for 999 years, the freeholder being Griggs JDR



(Stanmore) Ltd., who built the building. Mosaic Reform has given a seven year under-lease to Mosaic Jewish Community, which has now taken responsibility for the management and maintenance of the building. Mosaic Jewish Community in turn has given seven year licences to each of the three synagogues, enabling them to use space in the building. This is on a non-exclusive basis, which means that each synagogue can use different spaces according to its needs, while sharing common areas such as the kitchen and office. The only exception is that Mosaic Reform has first option on the whole building for the High Holy Days.

We're now looking forward to the next stage of our communal journey.

David Leibling  
Chairman, Mosaic Jewish Community



## Looking After Our Building

*By Harry L Davies*

When building the Mishkan (tabernacle) in the wilderness, the Israelites used expensive and ornamental materials including gold, silver, animal hides, copper, woven tapestry and mirrors. Accumulating this must have been quite a challenge in the desert, and on the move. Our building in Stanmore has also had its challenges, but in comparison it is permanent, of its age, and of more modest materials.

The process of creating a building begins well before a spade or an excavator goes on site. Often years of planning, designing, decision making and detailing take place until the contractor gets involved. Thinking through the needs of three communities, the flexibility required, and the multi-purpose options, is quite a task, and a considerable responsibility for the volunteers involved. In our case it was further complicated by having residential premises on the upper floors.

Since occupying the building in October 2022 we have all been on a learning curve as to how the site works, and how it can be used. On top of these practical and functional uses we have had to make it into a spiritual home, art gallery, concert hall, cinema, youth club, school, and communal venue. It is a hub of Jewish life and activity for us, the area, and beyond: a good example of a Beit Ha'Knesset.

And, of course, the building needs looking after, which is why there is a House Committee that meets regularly and deals with day-to-day issues plus liaising with the administrator and caretakers. Key issues include security

(at a high alert level currently), health and safety (meeting regulations and standards), and maintenance (repairs, decorations, etc.).

In addition, service contracts for major elements including partitioning, alarms, heating and ventilation plus electrics, have been established, and some of these have already started. The contractor's remedial work following the building contract has not yet been fully completed, although the 'snagging' list has been reduced to just a few items.

There are many in our community who contribute to the success of the building by their voluntary work, not only in assisting the committee, but also in security duty, catering for Kiddushim and events, cultural activities, craftwork and artwork. They certainly deserve thanks for the time and commitment they put in. To support them and keep our building looking clean and welcoming we can all help, even in small ways to lighten the load.

I have heard arguments that people are more important than premises, and in terms of Jewish religious observance there is truth in that, but I also believe that modern, attractive and welcoming environments can enhance one's enjoyment and spiritual well-being. How fortunate we are in having such a facility. To parody what was said in Field of Dreams: "Build it and they will come". It is there to be enjoyed.

Harry L Davies is chair of Mosaic House Committee







a member of Liberal Judaism

Rabbi Rachel Benjamin  
Rabbi Anna Wolfson

1st March 2024

**NOTICE** is hereby given to all members that the 75th Annual General Meeting of Mosaic Liberal Synagogue will be held at 1a Halsbury Close, Stanmore, HA7 3DY on **THURSDAY 18th APRIL 2024 at 7.30 pm**. It will also be possible to attend and participate in the meeting on Zoom.

Any member wishing to submit a motion or resolution for consideration at the Meeting must do so in writing to the Administrator at the Synagogue address **NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY 21st MARCH 2024**. Motions or resolutions received after this date cannot be considered at the Meeting.

Paragraph 9.6 of the Constitution and Rules is reproduced below for the benefit of those members who are unable to attend the meeting:-

*“Any member unable to attend an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary Meeting may vote by post by requesting a ballot form from the Synagogue Secretary not later than 21 days before the Meeting. The Synagogue Secretary shall comply with all such requests not later than 14 days before the Meeting. A postal vote will only be valid if the ballot form is returned duly completed and signed and is received by the Synagogue Secretary not less than 48 hours before the start of the meeting. If a Member who has submitted a postal vote subsequently attends the Meeting, such postal vote will not be counted.”*

**Members are invited to nominate for election to Council** individuals who have been Members or Associates of the Synagogue for at least one year. Nominations must be received by the Administrator on the form below **NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY 28th MARCH 2024**, and must be accompanied by the nominee’s written confirmation of their willingness to stand for election.

**NOMINATION FORM FOR ELECTION TO MOSAIC LIBERAL SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL**

Nominee(s) .....

Proposer ..... Date .....

I hereby agree to stand for election to the Mosaic Liberal Synagogue Council

Signed .....Date .....

## Mosaic Baby and Toddler group

*By Judith Sonnenberg*

In November we started the Mosaic Baby and Toddler group, and we would love you to come and join us at the Synagogue every Tuesday between 1.30 and 3.00 pm for an afternoon of fun and adventure. Although the session revolves around babies and toddlers, all ages are welcome as long as you have a child in tow between the ages of 0 and 4 years.

We provide a safe and exciting space where babies and toddlers can

enjoy a whole spectrum of toys and creative experiences. There are interactive play mats for the very young, along with soft toys and sensory objects to stimulate development. For toddlers we provide road and rail layouts, along with vehicles of all description. We have imaginative play areas with tea sets, cookers and pots and pans to provide dolls and teddies with all they need for a tea party. There is an area for ride-along bikes, where toddlers learn to share and take turns. A corner is provided with small tables and chairs, where toddlers do painting, sticking and create works of art to take home. In this area we also demonstrate counting and letters and shape formation. There is often a theme to talk about, such as the seasons or the seaside.

The afternoon begins with a welcome to everyone and a check on who is present.



Then, the children choose where they want to play. They often choose the large soft construction bricks to build castles and hideaways, where they interact with each other under the watchful eyes of their mindful parents, grandparents or carers, and especially me. I am a fully qualified playgroup leader and teacher (as well as a child and adolescent counsellor). I see the session as an opportunity for adults as well as children to engage

with each other and there are often lively discussions between them. In future Rabbi Anna will be joining us in a leadership role.

After time spent in play and creative work we have refreshments, usually consisting of satsumas, tea and biscuits. This is followed by story time, courtesy of Polly and Bert our resident puppets, who never fail to enthral the little ones. To finish off we sing songs together, and then it's a tidy-up session before sadly saying goodbye, while hopefully looking forward to next week when we can meet once more.

Our sessions revolve around school term times, and there is an opportunity to make a small donation every week to maintain and replace equipment, toys and other expendables as well as providing refreshments.

## A very special Bar Mitzvah

*By Charlie Blue*

**M**y name is Charlie Blue. I am 13 years old, and I live in Hermosa Beach, California. My Bar Mitzvah was going to take place in Israel, but we had to switch it to London because of the attacks on Israel. While I was disappointed at first, I am very glad it took place in London, as so much more of my family was able to come and support me.

It was great reconnecting with Rabbi Kathleen and Ann Simon. Rabbi Kathleen gave me my baby blessing when I was two years old, only a few weeks before we moved to America. Now, eleven years later, she conducted my Bar Mitzvah.

My Bar Mitzvah is very special to me, as I became a Jewish adult, which comes with more responsibilities. It's a big milestone in my life and it allows me to make my own decisions.

I am very proud of my Jewish heritage. It's something I can always connect with and relate to. I'm part of a big community that teaches me values like being kind to other people and being a good person by doing good deeds. The Torah teaches us to perform Mitzvot – acts of goodness and kindness by being kind and loving everyone no matter what. I strive to be kind to everyone and to be helpful.



*Charlie Blue with his family*



*Charlie's Bar Mitzvah took place at Mosaic Reform on Thursday, 28th December 2023*

I am very thankful for everyone that helped with my Bar Mitzvah, and I still hope to visit Israel in the near future.

## LORD AUSTIN OF DUDLEY VISITS MOSAIC

*By David Wyman*



*Lord Austin with Rabbi Kathleen and Rabbi Rachel*

**O**n 27th January - Holocaust Memorial Day - Lord Austin visited the Mosaic Community on Stanmore Hill.

After 35 years as a member of the Labour Party, Ian Austin resigned his membership in 2019, stating that extremism and antisemitism had poisoned the party under Jeremy Corbyn's leadership. He stood down as the Independent MP for Dudley North at the 2019 election and was nominated in 2020 to the House of Lords. He was appointed by then Prime Minister Theresa May in 2019 as Trade Envoy to Israel and currently chairs the Parliamentary Group on Holocaust Commemoration.

On the morning of HMD, he attended

the Reform Shabbat Service and gave the 'sermon'. He mentioned that his adoptive father was a Jewish refugee who escaped to the UK in 1939 from Ostrava in then Czechoslovakia, and recalled seeing the Germans in the street. Members of his father's family were murdered in Treblinka. He told us that at 28, his father became the youngest headmaster in the UK. As a result of his upbringing, he has always had a lifelong fight against bigotry and intolerance. He was ashamed about antisemitism and said you didn't have to be Jewish to fight against it.

After lunch, Lord Austin spoke to the whole Mosaic Community. In his role as Trade Envoy,

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# HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

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he explained how trade had grown between Israel and The UK to £6 billion a year and mentioned the importance and success of Israeli start-up businesses.

He paid his respects to the victims of terrorism and the atrocities of October 7th in Israel. He said he was shocked by the Palestinian marches in London, with people supporting Hamas and not supporting peace or the release of the hostages. He was appalled by comparisons of Israel with the Nazis and the accusations of genocide.

He reminded us that the Holocaust started

with words and speeches, people being singled out and conspiracy theories, and compared it with what is now going on with social media.

On an optimistic note, he said that we should not underestimate the support for Israel in the UK by ordinary decent people. He pledged to continue to fight prejudice and racism wherever it is found.

He then fielded a number of questions from the audience, including the lack of impartiality of the BBC, whether it was now safe to vote for Labour and the need and siting of the Holocaust Memorial in London.

## MITZVAH DAY POSTSCRIPT

This photograph was taken on Sunday 15 October in the Rose Garden at Canons Park



As a pre-Mitzvah Day activity, members of Mosaic helped with clearing weeds and general gardening.

It was organised by Stanmore and Canons Park United Synagogue as an interfaith event and included members of the Hindu community from Wembley.

Laura Marks is Chief Executive of Mitzvah Day (centre, beige coat) addressed the volunteers who held a minute's silence for the situation in the Middle East before starting work.

Philippa Lester, Pat Zatz and Rabbi Rachel of Mosaic are also on the front row.

We realise it is a while since Mitzvah Day, but this was such a happy picture we thought it worth including.



# 80 years ago my grandfather was murdered in Auschwitz

I found out the date by a strange turn of events

*By Edwin Lucas*

**O**n 19th November, I said Kaddish for my grandfather. It was the first time in 80 years that it had been recited on the correct date.

It is all down to the city in Germany where my mother Lore - our oldest congregant - was born. On Friday 15th December, the city of Krefeld laid Stolpersteine outside the family home, to which they had moved 100 years ago, when my mother was nearly 5 years old. The stones commemorated the fact that Lore's mother, father and sister were murdered in Auschwitz and Sobibor. The family had been separated in life and then, too, in death.

The officials of Krefeld had made contact some time previously, after seeing in the Watford Observer that my mother was 100 years of age.

I only got the design of the Stolpersteine on 15th November – just in time for my grandfather's Yahrzeit. My daughter Gillian, wifey Linda and I – together with a life-size image of my mother - then travelled to Krefeld for the ceremony in December, after which we went to shul for the Friday night. It was magical, and we saw a sewn memorial showing the names of all the residents of the town who had perished in the Holocaust.

I did not previously know the dates of my grandmother's and aunt's deaths, but I think my mother had them via Yad Vashem. She never



*The Lucas family [with the 'virtual' Lore] outside her family house in Krefeld*

talked about it, and I never asked. As she lost her parents, sister and other relatives it was not a discussed topic. I have now added my grandmother and aunt's names to my Yahrzeit listings. This coming July will be the first time I have said Kaddish for them too.

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## What's in a name?

To recite Kaddish, one ideally needs a Jewish name to remember the person by. I did not have my grandfather's name, and my mother did not remember it. I called the Krefeld synagogue, but due to the Holocaust, they had no records of his name. What was I to do? There was only one thing to do and that was, 'ask the Rabbi.'

Rabbi Anthony came up with a brilliant solution: he suggested I find out my great-grandfather's name, which would be needed, but my mother could not remember that either. I went through her files, which are in superb order, and found my grandfather's marriage certificate...and there it was. Easy as shelling peas from a pod. So, my late grandfather had his 'Christian' name translated into Hebrew and he now, 80 years after his murder, will be remembered going forward, as 'Chaim ben Yosef.' Rabbi Anthony explained the name: "Chaim, which means Life, the son of Yosef, who was freed from slavery. Your grandfather was denied life and freedom."

Reciting Kaddish was not easy, and just one day later I went with Alan Solomon and David Wyman to the annual AJEX commemoration

at the Cenotaph, which I find really moving as it recalls the war dead. This time I also thought of my grandfather, who was denied life in 1943. While he himself was not a British soldier, my father, a Holocaust survivor, was a member of the British armed forces. If my grandfather had not been murdered, he might have had the same privilege.



*The Krefeld Stolperstein for Edwin's grandfather*

## Happy Birthday in February/March:

Nathan Morrow, 8

Ria Morrow, 8

Isaac Wolff, 12

Eliyahhu Gens, 7

Aviva Ashkenazi-Bakes, 11

Cici Rutstein, 14



# A SOCIETY WEDDING

*By Cynthia Shaw*

In January of 1932 my father Eddie met and fell in love with my mother Letty at the Alhambra Ballroom in Bow, and on 30th September that same year they became engaged. An announcement was placed in the Jewish Chronicle:

**BOAS-HARRISON:** Letty, only child of Mr and Mrs A. Boas of 25 Eric Street Bow E3 to Cecil (Eddie) eldest son of Mr and Mrs H. Harrison of Portsmouth, Hants.

My mother's engagement ring cost the princely sum of £36, and it took my father several months to save enough to purchase it from M. Max Jeweller of 116 Commercial Road E.1.

In the ensuing months my dad composed a romantic assortment of letters, poems and cards, which my mother kept in a drawer for more than 65 years, and which only came to light after her death in 2000.

My parents married at 1pm on Wednesday, 27th June 1934 at the Mile End and Bow District Synagogue in Harley Grove (now a Sikh Temple): Cecil Brentman (otherwise Harrison) (Insurance Agent) to Leah Letty Boas (Milliner).



*The happy couple. Photo by 'Boris', an East End photographer well known for his Hollywood-style Jewish wedding pictures*

My darling grandma called it a Society Wedding, 'Society' being her word for posh, and it truly was a grand affair.

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The venue was the La Boheme Ballroom in Bow. The caterer was Joe Reece, long-time friend and next-door neighbour of my grandparents, for whose daughter, Sophie, I was bridesmaid some thirteen years later.

Superstition decrees it unlucky for the groom to cast his eye on the bride the night before their wedding, and my dad spent his pre-wedding hours at the home of the Reece family, where all were in festive mood in advance of the forthcoming nuptials.

Somehow my dad (who was teetotal) was persuaded to have a drink or two (maybe more) and allegedly spent the night giggling uncontrollably, while counting the money received in wedding gifts! In defence of the lapsed bridegroom I have to say that he vehemently denied this serious accusation whenever it came up in conversation!

The bridesmaids numbered six: Joyce and Pat Press (my father's nieces), Lily Cohen (my grandfather's niece), Olga Cohen and Josie Schildkraut (my mother's friends) and Hetty Stavitsky (my father's cousin.)

My grandparents did not do things by halves. Two elaborate meals were served at this 'society wedding': a breakfast/lunch banquet plus afternoon tea, and an extravagant reception followed by a sumptuous thirteen-course dinner, during which an orchestra played music by Offenbach, Strauss, Faust and Ferraris, and popular music by request.

The speeches began with a toast to His Majesty the King, and everyone raised their glasses to the Bride and Bridegroom, the Parents and the Visitors.

My parents loved to dance, and following the first waltz of the evening they continued to trip the light fantastic - performing the intricate

steps of the rhumba, the foxtrot, the samba and the tango, never pausing for breath until the last waltz at 2am.

The following afternoon they caught the 2.28pm train from London to Torquay where they had reserved a room at the Devonshire Hotel, Park Hill Road.

My beloved father paid great attention to detail and by prior arrangement, the hotel sent a car to meet them as their train drew into Torquay Railway Station. Every afternoon of their week-long honeymoon they indulged in a cream tea of scones, jam and Devonshire clotted cream, followed by delicious chocolate cake.

### **After the ball was over**

The Eric Street house was divided into two flats: my parents made their home on the first floor, whilst my grandparents occupied the ground floor accommodation. It was in the first floor flat at 2.30am on the morning of 16th April 1937 that I was born into this loving family unit, the only child of an only child. (Attending the birth was Dr J. I. Collier, Physician & Surgeon of 131 Mile End Road.)

On 2nd September 1939, my father joined the Metropolitan Police War Reserve and became Special Constable CF 320/03702 of E Division, Gray's Inn Road and was issued with a helmet, an armband, a truncheon and a whistle.

The following day war with Germany was declared.

**If you have any family history stories, please send them to us, together with any photographs.**

# Two for the price of one

*By Andrea Morgale*

When I arrived to interview Mosaic Masorti member Sharon Royce about her collection of giraffes, I was surprised to find that Sharon is not the only collector in the family. Her husband Martin's passion is kaleidoscopes – optical devices containing mirrors that reflect images of bits of coloured glass in symmetrical geometric designs.

On a trip to Israel with her family, Sharon was entranced by the giraffes in the Jerusalem zoo. 'Look at those elegant kangaroos!' she exclaimed, so astounded by their beauty she jumbled the names. Corrected by her laughing grandson, a new passion was born.

A couple of years later, in South Africa, Sharon saw her favourite animals again. This time she bought wooden giraffe bookends from the hotel gift shop, and a beautiful, beaded model from a local trader. She now has at least thirty, in glass, wood, ceramic and silver. The framed picture she is holding was created by her grandchildren for their Diamond Wedding, and features words and phrases summing up the past 60 years.

Martin's first kaleidoscope was an unusual



musical one he found in California in the early 1990s. "We were driving up the coast when we stopped at Cambria, a lovely artists' colony. I liked what I was looking at, bought it, and went on buying more.'

He now has about twenty, from all over the world, each with unique patterns which change in different lights. Some are made of bamboo, others of wood or metal. When they went through Customs at San Diego with a metal one in their

luggage, the border police thought it was a gun!

Martin spotted the glass Noah's Ark in the picture twenty years ago in New York. "Walking to our hotel in the rain we glimpsed this beautiful model in the window of a gallery. I loved its delicacy and colour, and it was so clever."

When Sharon and Martin moved to their

current chalet bungalow, they got rid of lots of 'stuff'. But the collections moved with them, and they have bought more since, although Sharon says their three daughters - Melanie Seligman, Stacey Levy and Mosaic Masorti member Lorraine Sarsby - are convinced it's time to put up the 'full house' notice.





## Aesthetics Update: New additions at Mosaic

*By Joan Noble*



**T**he last few months have seen a number of creative developments within the Stanmore Hill building.

The long-term aim is to create a permanent holistic appearance throughout the building. There was no urgency to do things all at once, as we needed to get used to how the building works for its three Mosaic communities, but we are now taking small steps to make this happen.

You have probably noticed that the stitching ladies who brought you the 180 chair cover/book holders have also produced five wall-hangings based around the theme of wearing Tallit. Their inspiration was taken from our prayer book: that the fringes on the corner of one's clothes should catch your eye and be a reminder for each generation of all the commandments.

The picture above shows a small band of ladies from the three Mosaic communities, who are now working on the next project with

other keen stitchers. Three new hangings will be in place in a few months' time, based around our chosen maxim: On three things the world stands: on Torah, on Service and on Good Deeds.

**על שלושה דברים העולם עומד:**

**על התורה, ועל העבודה ועל גמילות חסדים**

*Al shloshe devarim ha olam Omed: al haTorah, v'al haAvodah v'al gemilut Chasadim.*

You may have seen these words at an earlier ceremony during the construction, when they were inscribed on the three bricks inlaid into the front wall as you enter the building.

Among other innovations, if you look in the Czech Torah Scroll cabinet, you will now find this specially designed Holocaust memorial panel.



Initially conceived by Steve Noble (in the middle of the night), executed by ceramicist Karen Pollak and metalworker Jane Prentice, and brought together by Joan Noble, it is based on the stumbling stones - Stolpersteine - found in Germany, and features the single word Zachor, or Remember.

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The picture features Jane Prentice, Joan Noble and Karen Pollak creating the memorial panel.

This collaboration by truly home-grown Mosaic talent will be followed by an Eternal Yahrzeit light within the cabinet, designed by Jane with technical help from Lawrence Chadwick.

Future ideas will emerge to adorn the walls permanently, and the tall windows onto Stanmore Hill, creating the complete Mosaic look.

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## Israel Update

*By Ralph Lewinsohn*

As Kehila goes to press, there are still over 100 hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza, soldiers are killed every day and rockets regularly land in Israel, albeit in significantly lower numbers. We're in Raanana, the centre of the country, enjoying the "luxury" of a 90-second missile warning, compared to the 15-second warning at home. When driving on the highway, it is still common for vehicles to stop and drivers to lie flat on the ground, covering their heads and waiting for a rocket to strike.

The majority of the Israeli armed forces is a civilian army made up of reserve soldiers. It's common to see young men and women, with a few hours off, pushing a pram or walking the dog with an assault rifle over their shoulder. The reason is that they don't have a safe place to leave their guns at home and therefore take them everywhere.

We spend our days visiting friends who have lost loved ones or family members, joining them at daily memorial services. These included the funerals of the young men from our Kibbutz who escaped captivity only to be tragically shot by our soldiers because they thought they were terrorists. These funerals were number 63 and 64 and were from our small community. It's heartbreaking to hear the pain at these ceremonies. It's a world gone mad when a grandfather says Kaddish for his murdered children and grandchildren, instead of them praying for him when he passes. All over the streets we are confronted with posters of the kidnapped in Gaza. They look like "wanted" posters, but some of them show friends and kids from the Kibbutz.

When I recently went to my house at the Kibbutz to pick up some belongings, the area

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was full of Zaka volunteers. It's an organisation that collects the dead to identify and prepare them for burial. After that, they go door-to-door, clean all the remains of blood and collect all the objects with blood on them, wrap them up and take them to the funeral, according to Jewish tradition. Along the road in Kibbutz, I saw a stack of large white Zaka sacks waiting to be picked up for funeral.

There's still the constant thunder of flying artillery, helicopters firing missiles over them, drone and machine gun fire, and occasionally mortar grenades landing in the Kibbutz. State damage inspectors in their yellow vests are going door- to-door to assess damage so that rebuilding can hopefully begin soon.

Next week my visiting daughter will be back in Australia and I plan to spend a couple of nights a week at Kibbutz. Water and power are back on so I can stay home and start fixing the yard, fences and a lot of things that need mending which is my way of dealing with the trauma.

Some young Israelis have adopted a new way to remember the events of 7.10.23 by

having this date tattooed on their forearms. My grandson decided to tattoo the last photo of him and his best friend taken together the night before his friend was murdered.

My highlight last week was talking to my 11-year-old granddaughter who was very traumatised by her experience and asked to cut the vegetables for our salad. While she was cutting I suddenly heard a silent buzz, the first time in 10 weeks that she was showing signs of happiness. What more can a grandfather ask for?

Now I have another painful task to do. It's about deleting some 50 numbers of friends, co-workers, friends of my kids etc. from my phone contacts list who are no longer with us. I've never done more than one at a time. I just don't get round to it and it almost feels like it dishonours them.

For more than a 1,000 years, Jews around the world have ended their prayers on the Day of Passover and Reconciliation with the words: "Next year in rebuilt Jerusalem." We say a silent prayer that ends with: "Next year in the rebuilt Kfar Azza."

## Mosaic Garden

*These daffodils were on the tables at the Communal Seder last year. Barbara Grant replanted them in the Mosaic Garden, and they have now bloomed again.*





# Shop&Give

## A Mobile Phone App can generate funds for Mosaic when you shop

**W**e can generate funds for Mosaic Jewish Community for free via TheGivingMachine. If you shop using your mobile you can easily contribute to this with a handy app called Shop&Give, which will help generate funds for MJC at no extra cost to you.

Just follow these simple steps:

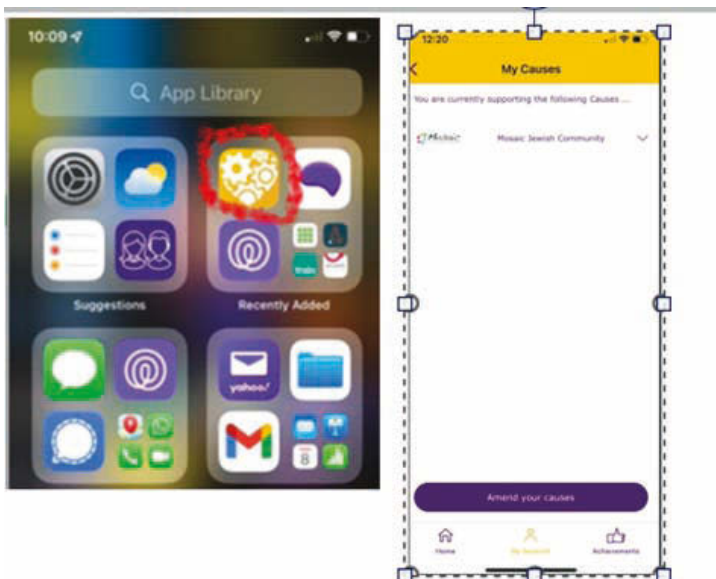
- 1) Download the Shop&Give app (available for iPhones, iPad or Android phones)
- 2) Choose the cause as Mosaic Jewish Community
- 3) Go into the Shop&Give app and choose the shop

There is a wide range of shops and services that participate, including John Lewis, Marks & Spencer, Oliver Bonas, the Trainline, The Village Hotel and Ebay. For MJC to receive the donation, you must select them via the Shop&Give app.

- 4) Shop as normal
- 5) Choose “my account” on the menu at the bottom and you can see your donation history

Screenshots of steps 1 and 2 shown below.

For further information please contact Gillian at : [giving@mosaicreform.org.uk](mailto:giving@mosaicreform.org.uk)



## 104 Candles for Lore Lucas

Mosaic Community's oldest member enjoys a special birthday

*By Linda Lucas*

**O**n Sunday, 7th January we celebrated Lore's 104th birthday. She is an amazing woman, who never complains. She is very careful in her attire and always wants to look smart and tidy. She did not like it when her son Edwin attended Shabbat candle-lighting on one occasion not wearing the obligatory tie. This has stuck, and the residents at Elton House are treated to a different tie each Shabbat. She also has her nails manicured every week. - one has to maintain standards.

King Charles III was represented at the celebratory tea by Patrick Moriarti, a Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, who came in his official uniform and said a few words on the occasion. He was previously the first headteacher of JCROSS. Lore also had a special visit from Rabbi Anthony and his two daughters which as you can see made her day. She loves meeting the younger generation and seeing



*Deputy Lieutenant Patrick Moriarti represented the King at Lore's party*



*The birthday girl with Rabbi Anthony*

them grow up. She is 104 years older than the youngest Mosaic Masorti member Felix Grant.

Lore still enjoys playing bridge whenever she can, and never talks during the game, which is the rule in bridge clubs. She would welcome more games if anyone would like to make up a foursome. In the olden days, when she was in her late 90s, she often played bridge in the afternoon and evening of the same day. Now, at 104, Lore has a new hobby: she enjoys watching snooker on television, explaining to Edwin the rules of the game. Last summer, she avidly watched the ladies' tennis from Wimbledon and cannot wait till the 2024 tournament starts on 1st July. She also regularly tunes in to Antiques Roadshow and The Repair Shop.

We look forward to celebrating many more birthdays with Lore and the residents at Elton House.





# Israel Guide Dog Centre: the challenge to maintain its mission

Ardent supporter Jacqueline Briegal heard from the charity's UK's executive director Martin Segal how it is managing to help its blind and disabled clients

Jacqueline became aware of Israel Guide Dog Centre's amazing work at a talk given by the charity at Bessborough Road several years ago. Martin has recently updated her about what has happened since the outbreak of war.

"The immediate impact on our operations were multi-faceted and complex. However, having only recently updated our contingency plans due to Covid, we managed to put a plan in place," said Martin.

But the challenges were immense.

At least 70% of its puppy raisers were called to emergency reserve duty in the IDF

The Guide Dog Centre south of Tel Aviv was subjected to daily red rocket attack alerts

A number of clients and volunteers living in the south of the country had to be evacuated.

And some of the charity's donors suspended their support, redirecting it to the IDF and other

emergency organisations.

The Israel Guide Dogs team went into overdrive. Within weeks as many puppies as possible were relocated to other volunteer families or brought back to the Centre to be cared for by staff. Training at the Centre was suspended in favour of one-to-one courses at clients' homes and staff rotas were restricted so there were fewer staff working at the Centre at any one time.

It also assisted its clients in the south with relocation to family, friends or hotels in the centre of Israel.

"We diverted funds to replace the money from our corporate sponsors and reached out to our amazing donors like Jacqueline for additional support. Nothing will stop us from helping and caring for our clients and dogs," said Martin. He added: "So thank you for your support and AmYisroel Chai."

## Czech scrolls celebration of 60 years since their rescue

*By Jenny Stephany and David Leibling  
(with help from Rabbi Rachel)*

On Sunday 4th February, a moving service was held at Westminster Synagogue, not far from the Royal Albert Hall, commemorating the day in February 1964 when a large lorry pulled up outside the Synagogue. In it was the first of 1,564 Torah scrolls arriving from Prague. This priceless collection had been recovered from a Prague synagogue, where they had been stored since they were collected by the Nazis from hundreds of Czech synagogues. The scrolls and other religious objects were to be displayed in a Prague synagogue as a memorial to the lost race of Jews destroyed by the Nazis.

The scrolls which arrived were of all sizes and ages; they were carefully examined, catalogued and numbered, and a huge programme of restoration carried out to enable as many as possible to be used. In an extraordinary coincidence, a few months later a travelling Sofer arrived at Westminster to ask if any scrolls needed to be repaired: David Brand worked on the restoration of the texts of Czech scrolls for over 20 years. Recently, one of the scrolls has been carbon-dated: it proved



to be from the late 12th century. The scrolls were then distributed to congregations around the world on permanent loan. Mosaic Reform Synagogue and Mosaic Liberal Synagogue are both fortunate to have been allocated a scroll: the Liberal one is in regular use, while the Reform one now sits in a case as a Holocaust memorial.

The Liberal scroll, number 1091, came from Horni Cerekev and was written in the last quarter of the 19th century. Horni Cerekev is located in Bohemia, approximately 3 miles (5km) from Batelov, near the border with Moravia. Until 1918 the region was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Between the two

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World Wars, and from the end of World War II until 1993, it was part of the Republic of Czechoslovakia. The community was established in the mid 17th century and remained until the Shoah. At its height (1880), about 100 Jews lived there – alongside others in the village. The Synagogue was built in 1867 and a Jewish cemetery (which has about 130 tombstones, dating from the 18th to the 20th century) also existed.

Beginning in 1941, the Jews of the protectorate were concentrated in Terezin (Theresienstadt), prior to being deported to concentration and death camps. Before being sent to Terezin, the community – then numbering less than 50 - transferred around 48 ritual objects (including the Torah scroll) to the Central Jewish Museum in Prague. The synagogue building was demolished by the Czech authorities in 1951. After the war there were no Jews remaining in Horní Cerekev.

Mosaic Reform's scroll bears the original catalogue number 1340, still visible on the wood of the left Eitz Chayyim (pole). This links the Scroll to Prostějov, a rather picturesque town in Moravia's Hana region near the town of Olomouc (about 30 miles north-east of Brno, the capital of Moravia), on a key trade route connecting Europe's south with Europe's north, which made it an important centre of culture, trade, and industry.

The history of the Prostějov Jews traces back to 1454, when the Jews were expelled from Olomouc (as all Jews were expelled from the royal towns at the time); many of them settled in Prostějov, around the church. Because of its trading connections it soon became one of the biggest Jewish communities in the Olomouc region, which earned it the name of the 'Jerusalem of Hana.' According to a 1930

census, there were 1,400 Jewish residents in Prostějov before the war. That number had risen to an estimated 1,650 in 1942, when the Nazis put the Jewish community on transports to Terezin. Only 84 survivors returned, 10 of whom were children. Little remains of the old Jewish quarter, besides the two synagogue buildings, one of which now belongs to the Czechoslovak Hussite Church and the other to an Orthodox Church.

The service on 4th February recognised the 60 years since the scrolls came to England, their renovation and distribution to Jewish communities throughout the world. Over 60 scrolls from the UK, Netherlands and the USA were carried in procession by representatives of the synagogues where they are currently in use. The names of each synagogue, the original home of the scroll and the name of someone who had read from the scroll were read out by Rabbi Benji Stanley and recently appointed Rabbi Kamila Kopřivová, the first woman Rabbi from the Czech Republic. The service booklet and service itself is available on YouTube. <https://www.westminstersynagogue.org/following-our-czech-scrolls-60th-celebration.html#>

Rabbi Rachel carried the Mosaic Liberal Czech scroll and David Leibling the Mosaic Reform Czech scroll. Hana Schlesinger's name was read out as a reader of the Liberal scroll and Victoria de Magtíge for the Reform scroll.

The picture on the previous page shows the Mosaic contingent, our scrolls and the 12th century scroll currently in the museum at Westminster Synagogue – which is open to visitors. <https://memorialscrolltrust.org/index.php>.

You can read more about our Czech scrolls on the Mosaic website – search for "Czech."

# When Judaism costs too much: Mishnah Keritot 1.7

*By Rabbi Anthony Lazarus Magrill*

**T**he Mishnah is the first comprehensive codification of Jewish Law outside the Torah, written down in c200 CE, when the pressures of Roman persecution threatened the survival of a hitherto oral Rabbinic tradition. The Mishnah is divided into six 'Orders' (*Sedarim*), further divided into 'Tractates' (*Masekhtot*), and these finally divided into single 'Teachings' (*Mishnayot*). I recently encountered a fascinating mishnah from *Masekhet Keritot* (the Tractate of Excisions/Excommunications) in *Seder Kodshim* (The Order of Sanctified Things) which I'd like to share.

The Torah teaches that a woman who gives birth, and either a man or woman who has a discharge of zivah (often understood to be gonorrheal, but in any case irregular), were expected to bring an offering of birds to the Temple to purify them from each birth, or from each period of zivah. The Mishnah teaches:

**חֲמֵשׁ לְדוֹת נְדָאוֹת, חֲמֵשׁ זִיבוֹת וְנָדָוָה,**

**מִבִּיאָה קָרְבָּן אֶחָד,**

**וְאוֹכֶלֶת בְּזָבָחִים, וְהִשָּׂאָר עָלֶיהָ חֻבָּה**

*If a woman had five births, or five periods of zivah, a single offering afterwards renders her tahor (purified) to allow her to eat from sacrificial food [e.g. the Pesach offering]; but she is nonetheless obligated to bring the [four] remaining offerings.*

In other words, if a man or a woman have a sequence of irregular emissions, each of the requisite length, they are required to bring



Birds flying at the Kotel

separate offerings to the Temple for each and every one, even though they regain the state of 'taharah' with a single offering.

**מַעֲשֵׂה שֶׁעָמְדוּ קָנִים בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם בְּדִינָרֵי זָהָב. אָמַר**

**רַבִּן שִׁמְעוֹן בֶּן גַּמְלִיאֵל, הַמַּעֲוֹן הַזֶּה, לֹא אֵלִין**

**הַלֵּילָה, עַד שֶׁיְהִי בְּדִינָרִין. וְכֵנֶס לְבֵית דִּין וְלַמֵּד,**

**הָאִשָּׁה שֶׁיֵּשׁ עָלֶיהָ חֲמֵשׁ לְדוֹת נְדָאוֹת, חֲמֵשׁ זִיבוֹת**

**וְנָדָאוֹת, מִבִּיאָה קָרְבָּן אֶחָד, וְאוֹכֶלֶת בְּזָבָחִים, וְאִין**

**הִשָּׂאָר עָלֶיהָ חֻבָּה. וְעָמְדוּ קָנִים בּוֹ בַּיּוֹם בְּרַבְעָתִים**

*But it once happened that the price of birds in Jerusalem had risen to one gold dinar [roughly equivalent to £200 today]. So Raban Shimon ben Gamliel said: I swear by this Holy Place, that I will not sleep tonight until the price can be counted in silver dinars [25 single dinars = a single gold dinar]. He entered the court and taught: a woman who had five births or five periods of zivah should bring a single offering to render her pure for the purposes of eating sacrificial food, but the remaining four offerings are not an obligation. That very day the price of birds stood at one quarter of a silver dinar [that is, 1% of its previous price].*

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I hope you weathered the intimate context to arrive at Shimon ben Gamliel's final teaching, because this is the clearest example in the whole Rabbinic literature of how Rabbis could be responsive to the financial needs of the community, even to the extent of effecting a substantial change in the interpretation of Torah law. His reasoning seems clear: if the price of purification is too high, then individuals will come to eat their sacrificial foods in ritual impurity, which is a much graver concern. That is to say, if the price of being Jewish is too high, Jews leave Judaism; and it's as simple as that.

Shimon ben Gamliel came from a wealthy and aristocratic family, but was nonetheless able to perceive that a crucial role of Jewish leaders and institutions is to enable Jewish living and to make it accessible - or, at least, plausible. As we approach Pesach and have to consider whether or not to buy salt and tea which have been supervised for the festival - and also, as synagogues consider the financial pressures affecting all aspects of participation in Jewish life in these straitened times - I found Shimon ben Gamliel's example deep and inspiring. I hope it speaks to you as well.

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## Tea with the President

*By Phil Austin*

Edwin Lucas was elected as the first Honorary President of Mosaic Masorti Synagogue at our AGM in November 2023. A few weeks later, on a sunny January afternoon, more than 90 people turned up to celebrate Edwin's appointment at a delightful inauguration tea party.

The large turnout reflected Edwin's popularity and the widespread respect for the work he has done for our community. He has supported our shul for more than 25 years, but the honour conferred upon him was not a long service award ... although he would qualify for one of those too!

In fact, he was appointed Honorary President because of the truly outstanding contribution he has made over the years to the affairs of Hatch End Masorti Synagogue and to Mosaic Masorti Synagogue, as it has now become.

It says in our Byelaws that this honour 'shall not be conferred lightly.' No worries there:



*Full house for the President's Tea*

the election of Edwin is clearly warranted. His unstinting contribution to his synagogue is peerless. On happy occasions and sad occasions, in good times and in challenging times, Edwin has always been available, offering his time and support to the Shul.

Yes, his selection of ties is rather fancy, and

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*Edwin with wife Linda, daughter Gillian, mother Lore, Linda's father Fred Stern and sister, Ruth Evans, and Rabbi Anthony's daughter*

let's not even talk about his colourful socks! However, whilst his fashion sense might be light-hearted, he is profoundly serious about his love for Jewish people and organisations. Edwin cares passionately about our Masorti synagogue, about Mosaic Jewish Community and the wider UK Jewish community.

Back to the tea party. After the guests took their seats, Gill Ross (MMS Co-Chair) welcomed everyone and warmly congratulated Edwin on his appointment. Co-Chair Phil Austin reminded the guests (and an emotional Edwin) just why he so richly deserved the honour he has received, thanking him for his schlepping, his leadership, his quiet words of encouragement and his small acts of kindness.

Phil and Gill presented Edwin with a framed certificate, complete with Presidential seal, and an inscribed silver tie pin. Rabbi Anthony then stepped forward to add his own very personal and heartfelt recollections of working with his friend Edwin. He noted that the decision he made to join MMS was heavily influenced by the inspirational discussions he held with our new President.

It was then Edwin's turn to speak. He thanked all those who had helped to organise the party and then took us back in time. He movingly

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*Gill and Phil presenting Edwin with his Certificate*

described how his early discussions with Uncle Sydney from Stoke Synagogue (more than 45 years ago) had kindled his interest in synagogue life and Jewish community.

He was clearly surprised and delighted by the warm reception he got from the large crowd and barely managed to keep his emotions in check. Because for him, doing good for others is just what he does. The fact that his exceptional contribution has been recognised in this way left him a little startled.

It seems to me that we all owe a lot to Uncle Sydney, because he, in effect, inspired the Edwin Lucas who has worked so tirelessly for our synagogue since its inception.



*The Presidential Certificate*

# Loving the Stranger in Your Midst:

## The story of HostNation

*By Anthony Berman*

**H**ostNation is an organisation that matches asylum seekers and refugees with local people in the Greater London area in befriending relationships.

It was the brainchild of Anneke Elwes who worked as a volunteer at the organisation Freedom from Torture (FfT). She realised the only contact many asylum seekers have with the 'host' community is in a professional capacity: case workers, lawyers, therapists, doctors and Home Office officials. She also knew there were many altruistic Londoners who wanted to offer friendship to this isolated and often stigmatised group of people, but had no idea how to go about it. The solution was to set up a sophisticated digital platform where criteria like geography, gender, age, personality and interests could be used to create suitable matches between the two groups. Two of the small management team she recruited to run HostNation, including me, had known Anneke when we were involved in a befriending project for unaccompanied minors at FfT, 12 years earlier. Nearly six and a half years since launching HostNation in September 2017, we have made over 850 matches and have recently rolled out new hubs in Newcastle and Manchester.

We ask our befrienders to make a three-month commitment where they meet up on a weekly to fortnightly basis with their refugee friend and do the sort of things that friends do together: visiting a gallery or museum, going

to a street market, football game or a gym class, enjoying a stroll in the park or simply hanging out together. Three months after the introduction we contact both parties and get detailed feedback as to how it's gone. 84% of our befrienders and refugee friends report a positive befriending outcome and of these positive outcomes, 45% say they have formed a genuine long-lasting friendship. For the refugees and asylum seekers, they often report that their English has improved and that they feel more included, confident and perhaps, most important of all, less lonely, since getting to know their London friend. Feedback from the numerous refugee organisations who refer their clients to HostNation has also been extremely positive.

For me the ethos behind HostNation is perfectly encapsulated in this quote from one of our befrienders:

***I think that the best thing is the satisfaction of feeling that no matter the money you donate — no matter the marches, or the petitions you sign, or anything — being able to have a personal relationship with somebody and feeling that you can be part of a positive change in somebody's life - that's the best thing of all.***

For more information or to get involved, please visit the HostNation website: [www.hostnation.org.uk](http://www.hostnation.org.uk).

HostNation is a registered charity no. 1180004.

## Jerusalem

*by Rosemary Wolfson*

June 7 -  
The tinkle and  
jewels, the thrill of  
a stream on  
cream stone upon  
the consciousness of  
a searing heat in

the Middle East...

and a blue, blue sky -  
no cloud, but  
sometimes

an immense black bird,

and a whiff of  
sweet scented  
pale grey  
green leaves,  
the pearly odour  
and gentle cloud of  
an exotic spice,  
oven warm...

then October 7

but 7 December -  
my bonny baby  
Jerusalemite grandchild  
is still thriving...  
the first night - Chanukah!



*Temple Mount view from Mount of Olives*

## Leap year Lament

*by Janet Byrne*



They say that patience is a virtue  
And patient I have been  
I've waited many years to get wed  
And now I'm really keen  
I thought my wait was over  
On Valentine's Day last year  
But in spite of wine and candles  
His intentions were unclear

And when we were on holiday  
He said to close my eyes  
Into my hand he pressed a box  
Which was very small in size  
I felt my face flush crimson red  
My excitement knew no bounds  
But when I opened up the box  
It was just a silver charm I found

Then there was my birthday  
I felt sure this would be the day  
But he didn't celebrate with me  
He said he had to go away  
So as it's Leap Year I've decided  
That I will have to do the deed  
And ask him please to marry me  
And that our wedding be agreed

Oh no! I've just been sent a text  
Which has cut me like a knife  
It says that he's very sorry  
But he already has a wife!  
He could have told me earlier  
And saved me many a tear  
But at least I've time to look around  
Until the next Leap Year!

### A knitted prayer

*Anonymous*



Black stitch after black stitch  
Black row after black row  
Each stitch, each row  
Carries with it ... hope  
Carries with it ... courage  
Carries with it ... determination  
Black shape carrying a wish for peace  
Will the wearer feel the strength and blessing  
Transferred in the back and forth of the bam-  
boo? Will the wearer feel the opposing sides  
of the seam? Is it rough or is it smooth?  
Rhythmic clicking of the needles ...  
Do they mimic the rattle of an M16?  
Creating and destroying  
Clicking and rattling stop ...  
Is that peace or another end?



### TO RHYME OR NOT TO RHYME

*By Bernard Fisherman*

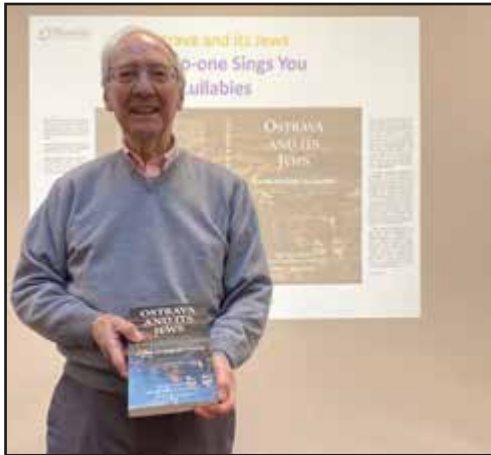
It appears to me the well has run dry, I just can't get to grips  
With writing a poem as hard as I always try  
Ideas arrive but quickly pass inspiration is lost in time  
I'm now finding it very difficult to write that perfect rhyme

It's starting to keep me awake at night, I think I might explode  
Maybe it's not a poem that's needed but a full blooded witty ode  
Poems, odes, rhyming words are driving me insane  
I don't know why I carry on I really can't explain

I put down my pencil, then pick it up again  
Struggling fit to burst  
I'll sleep on it then try tomorrow to write that elusive verse  
Maybe for a while I'll just cogitate then cheekily propose  
Instead of rhyming poetry write down some scintillating prose

## Meet the Author – Dr David Lawson

Report by Prue Ruback



After another tasty soup-and-bagel deli lunch, a sizeable crowd of Mosaic members gathered to hear about **The Jews of Ostrava**, from Dr David Lawson.

Ostrava, as we discovered, was a town in the middle of Central Europe, where before 1750 nothing much happened! The population was less than 3,000 and there was no Jewish presence.

But of course economic developments bring changes, and the discovery of hard black coal resulted in significant economic migration. Emperor Joseph II very sensibly allowed non-Catholics to practise their trades and Ostrava became the centre of the coalmining industry. By the 1930s, 44,000 people were involved in this flourishing region.

And where there are many inhabitants, you need brewers of beer, publicans, shopkeepers, doctors and lawyers and all the rich diversity

of occupations, hence the influx of Jewish people to service these needs. Over the next 200 years, six shuls were erected, and an old-age home and Jewish cemetery were

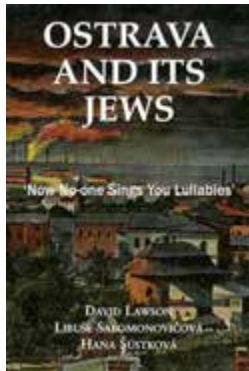
established. In 1898, the first Jewish school opened. Ostrava was a thriving city with department stores and railway connections; even the International Maccabiah Games were held there!

But as you will have surmised, fast forward to 1939; the

Germans arrived in Ostrava and systematically burnt down all the synagogues, deporting the entire Jewish population, mostly to Terezin. Even Oscar Schindler lived for a time in Ostrava. And the reason that Dr Lawson got interested in the town was because a Sefer Torah from Moravská Ostrava was rescued and eventually acquired by his shul in Kingston.

He knew nothing about its provenance, or even where Ostrava was located. So he set about doing an enormous amount of research, travelling to the Czech Republic on more than one occasion, scouring archives, meeting up with local historians and relatives of those who had lived there. He illustrated his talk with maps, diagrams, documents and old photographs. He co-produced a book entitled *Ostrava and its Jews: Now no-one sings you Lullabies*. It bears testament to the fact that you don't have to be an academic historian to unearth fascinating information from across the Diaspora, even if you don't speak the Czech language!

Well done and many thanks to David Lawson.





## EVENTS REVIEW

### **Robert and Liam Erskine: the father and son team who are combining their skills to create a new ark for Mosaic Reform**

Sculptor Robert and engineer Liam entertained and informed Mosaic members with an interesting talk about the world of public sculpture and much more. Rosemary Wolfson reports.

Robert Erskine is an award-winning sculptor of public contemporary sculpture. His son Liam is a mechanical engineer with experience in performance and design engineering. Together they have been tasked with creating a unique ark for Mosaic Reform which will soon be unveiled accompanied by the blowing of the Shofar.

Robert started with slides of his public sculpture, including a stainless steel piece which benefited from Liam's engineering skills. He was invited to represent Great Britain with White Rhythm, a raw steel piece found on the Dutch coast. This is a most effective abstract sculpture portraying a crowd of people.

We learnt there are benefits when a sculptor and engineer collaborate: a large public sculpture should be finely balanced to avoid toppling over! Apparently this is the first time an engineer has worked with a sculptor. Amusingly, Robert said he is often answerable to his son, but they do listen to each other,



Slides highlighting techniques and combinations of artistic and functional works were shown including work by German designer of seminal domestic products Dieter Rams. Robert also talked about his associate Dan Gelbart, the Israeli electrical engineer, famous for his design of the best selling mobile data terminal.

The discussion then moved on from contemporary sculpture to the Ark of the Covenant and ark designs of ancient times.

## Meet the Author: Steve Levinson

Mosaic member Steve talked about his journalistic career and new book.

By Rosemary Wolfson

After a lovely soup and bagel lunch, Steve gave us a most entertaining account of his career as a journalist, based on his biography: *From Fleet Street to Tweet Street: My Life in the News*.

Steve gained good experience while a student by editing the Newcastle University newspaper. He amused us with his knowledge of the local shipping industry which came in useful at the start of his career. Some of his sporting knowledge was also an asset; he got a job on *The Shields Gazette* in South Tyneside where he became addicted to print, even the odour of the printing presses was evocative for him.

The word 'Shields' always had to be in the headline in order to sell the newspaper. Steve completed a three-year journalism graduate scheme at the paper; part of his training was in subjects including media law and shorthand. He covered the miners' strikes there were many of them in those days. Steve talked to the miners every morning, but it was often difficult to comprehend their strong Geordie accents! Steve found it an excellent experience being chucked in at the deep end of a local paper.

He read a short passage from his book; he well remembers his first day at work which was the day former president of Egypt, Gamal Abdel Nasser died: 28 September 1970. In his younger years, Steve wished for a foreign posting, an idle dream then.

Steve mentioned that today's journalists are more concerned with speed of reporting than during his news career. He talked about employment on local papers; some journalists

spent their working life with them. With local papers the emphasis is on strict accuracy. When covering a funeral you had to make sure you had the correct names of the mourners. He also talked a little about the Press Association, the UK's national news agency.

Socialising was important in Steve's career, such as overhearing conversations, and going to the pub with fellow journalists. He also mentioned politicians with whom he was impressed, even if not always agreeing with their views. These included Denis Healey, Margaret Thatcher, and Nelson Mandela. He particularly admired Thatcher's driving ambition, but this could be exhausting for all. Steve worked for *The Independent* for three years, and finally got a phone call from the BBC. At first Steve was not interested in broadcast journalism because he was a print journalist. He worked for 2 to 3 years at the BBC concentrating on news and also worked on Channel 4 News.

He was in Fleet Street for eight years. But he didn't like working for other people. There were questions and Steve briefly gave his opinion of other journalists.

This was a fascinating talk, and many thanks to Steve.



*Steve Levinson (right)  
with fellow author and  
Mosaic member  
Alex Gerlis*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*Sunday 3rd March 2.00 – 4.00 pm*

### **Meet the Artist – Laura Reiter**

During March, Laura Reiter will be exhibiting her paintings.

Laura is a painter/printmaker working organically in mixed media and screen printing. She is in love with colour and tries to exploit it as much as possible in her work by layering one colour over another, sometimes transparent, sometimes opaque. The resulting colours and effects of colours on each other are exciting and often surprising.

This semi abstract process is part of her creative journey. The narrative of Laura's subject matter varies from observing the



contrast of the natural world and the city and a new strand – ‘there but not there’ letting images disappear and then reappear.



*Monday 4th March – 8.00 pm*

### **Mosaic Film – Concert**

In the late 70s, Andrei Simoniovich Filipov, the renowned conductor of the Bolshoi orchestra, was fired for hiring Jewish musicians. Now, a mere cleaner at the Bolshoi, he learns by accident that the Châtelet Theatre in Paris invites the Bolshoi orchestra to play there. He decides to gather together his former musicians and to perform in Paris in the place of the current Bolshoi orchestra. As a solo violinist to accompany them, he wants Anne-Marie Jacquet, a young virtuoso. If they all overcome the hardships ahead this very special concert will be a triumph. This is the story of that challenge.

This is a wonderful, warm, uplifting and funny European International collaboration that also contains an outstanding soundtrack.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*Wednesday 6th March – 12.30pm*

### **Meet the Author – Dave Rich**

Mosaic Culture Hub invites you to meet Community Service Trust (CST) head of policy Dave Rich.

Join us for coffee/tea and biscuits before he discusses his book *Everyday Hate: How Antisemitism is Built into Our World - and how You Can Change It*.

Blending personal anecdotes, contemporary examples and historical insights, the book takes you on a journey through the contentious and often confusing subject of antisemitism. Spanning Shakespeare to South Park, Israel to Covid-19 and ancient stereotypes to internet memes, it reveals surprising truths about how antisemitism continues to



thrive in the interactions, assumptions and views of decent people around the world – and how we can change this for the better.

Dave Rich is one of the UK's leading experts on antisemitism and extremism, and writes for a range of national and international media including the New Statesman, Guardian, New York Times and Jewish Chronicle and regularly appears on TV and radio including BBC News, Sky News and ITV News. He has worked for almost 30 years with the CST and advises the police, Crown Prosecution Service, football clubs, political parties and many others about how to tackle antisemitism. Please book via the Mosaic website by Monday 4th March latest. There is a £5 charge with profits going to support the CST.



*Saturday 9th March – 9.45 am*

### **Meditation and Yoga**

Come along for a 45-minute session of meditation and gentle movement, either as a standalone session or as the perfect preparation for Shabbat services. With trained yoga teacher Sharon Grossman. Sharon advises wearing loose-fitting clothes. As the session will be gentle there is no need for 'sports wear,' and one outfit should be enough for those choosing to attend her session and going on into Shabbat services.

*Wednesday 13th March – 8.00 pm* **Malt Whisky Tasting**

Mosaic is having another whisky tasting, when we will be savouring five malt whiskies from the Lowlands to the Highlands and Islands and several points between.

If you think all whisky tastes the same, please come along and let us show you that you are wrong! Snacks included. Cost: £18 per person by 3rd March; £23 from 4th March; £25 on the door.

Please note that if not coming by foot or bus you will need to be accompanied, or dropped off and picked up, by a designated driver, for whom there will be no charge if they stay to listen (but no whisky either!).



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **Saturday 23rd March 7.00pm** **Erev Purim services and Megillah reading**

*Sunday 24th March*

**8.30 am Mosaic Masorti Shacharit and Megillah reading**

**10.00am Purim activities for all.**

**Joint event with Mosaic, SHEMA and Kol Nefesh**

Hamentashen making, story telling, Purim crafts, face painting and more. Come in fancy dress, bring your graggers, kosher treats for your Mishloach Manot gift boxes plus a charity or food donation for Matanot L'evyonim.

**For full details see below**

**Happy Purim**

**Sunday 24 March**

**Purim Family Morning**

8:30 am Shacharit, 9:15 am Megilla reading  
10:15-12:00 Purim family activities including  
Hamantashen making, story telling, Purim crafts, face  
painting and more.

- Come in Fancy Dress bring your graggers
- Bring kosher treats for your Mishloach Manot gift boxes
- Bring either a charity or food donation for Matanot L'evyonim - gifts for those in need

**Joint event with Mosaic, SHEMA & Kol Nefesh at Mosaic Stanmore**

**Saturday 23 March**

Maariv & Havdallah  
Megilla Reading  
Mosaic - 7pm



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*Wednesday 3rd April – 12.30 pm*

### **While I'm Here Doctor – Dr Brian Posner**

Mosaic Culture Hub invites you to meet Dr Brian Posner.

Join us for a light lunch before a journey with the doctor through the history of the family practitioner and also his personal experiences. This will be an informative talk with many amusing anecdotes. Brian Posner was educated at Durham University Medical School. He was a GP for 40 years and a medical administrator for a decade. For much of this time he was clinical tutor to Newcastle University and medical advisor to Sunderland University. In retirement, Brian lectures on medical subjects and the history of Roman Britain, and was the English Heritage Guide on Hadrian's Wall for 15 years. Please book via the Mosaic website by Wednesday 27th March for catering purposes. There is a £7 charge which will increase to £10 from 28th March



*Sunday 7th April 7.00 – 9.00 pm*

### **Meet the Artist – Rosalind Barnett**

Rosalind is a contemporary colourist, and this is her third solo exhibition. Following a career in property she attended Harrow Art Centre, and was selected although not hung, at the Royal Academy. She enjoys flattening 3D images and outlining her work.



### **Culture Hub presents Walk, Talk, Bake with Esther and Ray Rinkoff**

Join us for Ray's challah-making demonstration, followed by sampling delicious Rinkoff Danish pastries with a hot drink. We will then hear from Esther all about Rinkoff Bakery and taste Ray's challah before going home. Rinkoff Bakery is a family-run business working with

*Tuesday 16th April 7.30 pm*

wholesale and retail customers. The bakery was established in 1911 by Hyman Rinkoff, who came to London from Kiev with a passion for baking and a determination to establish himself in the UK as a master baker. Rinkoff has been producing speciality bread, cakes and rolls for over a century. This includes traditional Challah breads, sourdoughs, cheesecakes, muffins, croissants, exceptional Danish pastries and now its famous Crodoughs. Please book via the Mosaic website by Monday 8th April so we have enough Danish pastries! There is a £8 charge which will increase to £13 from Tuesday 9th April

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Once upon a time in Stanmore... there was a Creative Writing Course

*April 8th and April 15th*

Once upon a time in Stanmore a very useful petrol station closed. Oh no. Not another restaurant, we all moaned. There was a rumour that it was to be a new synagogue. As Tevye would have sung – “Impossible! Unthinkable!”

From our garden we watched in wonder as Mosaic emerged brick by brick, thump by thump. Thinking how wonderful it would be to be part of such a bright new concept, I joined after a couple of visits to this endlessly friendly place.

It has been an exciting year, watching the emergence of so many new ideas being put into action whilst the steady background of prayer, kiddushes and kindnesses continues. You can only want to add to that.

I would love to run a Creative Writing Course – and or full day Masterclasses - to get people together, whether beginners or not, who have always wanted to write stories. Maybe a book? Always wanted to get down to writing that life story you have promised yourself - or your family -but have never started – or maybe started but not finished.

I'm a writer myself and there is no joy quite like being lost in writing a story that will maybe even give joy to others. If you would like to join this carousel of creativity, I am doing two trial sessions on the mornings of April 8th and April 15th if you'd like some

encouragement and inspiration. It would be great if this leads to a regular Mosaic class.

In the meanwhile, to show your interest, contact the Culture Hub via the Mosaic office (admin@choosemosaic.org ) and save the dates. Look forward to seeing you.

**Sue Krisman**

*Sue Krisman is a member of Mosaic Masorti Community and is a novelist, playwright and lecturer. She was formerly Creative Writing Fellow at Reading University and has lectured at Limmud and Spiro's Ark.*



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Enrol online and books will be delivered to your home each month.

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**pjlibrary.org.uk**

PJ Library is for families raising 0-8 year old Jewish children living in the UK.

## Second Night Communal Seder Tuesday, 23rd April @ 6:00 pm

An opportunity for Mosaic members and non-members to enjoy a second night Seder. A salmon meal will be served with a vegetarian option.

**Please book as soon as possible on the Mosaic website [www.choosemosaic.org](http://www.choosemosaic.org) or contact Ann Simon in the office on 020-8864 0133 so that we can make sure we have enough food for everyone.**

The cost of the Communal Seder is £10 for Mosaic members, £15 for non-members and £7 for children (up to 12) up to 9th April. After 10th April, the cost will be £15 for Mosaic members, £12 for children and £20 for non-members.

We would be immensely grateful for volunteers who would be happy to help with cooking (in advance!), setting tables, serving food and clearing tables. Please let Ann Simon know if you are willing and able to help by emailing [admin@choosemosaic.org](mailto:admin@choosemosaic.org).

We look forward to seeing you there  
and enjoying a wonderful communal Seder together.

## Thursday, 25th April – 12 noon - 2pm Passover Seder Light

Mosaic senior members are invited to an enjoyable daytime Seder full of songs and music led by the Rabbis. This will be followed by a delicious light lunch.

Help with transport is available. Contact [angela@choosemosaic.org](mailto:angela@choosemosaic.org) or 020 8864 0133 if you would like to attend.

### Passover Seder Light - Thursday 25th April

Community Care Co-ordinator Angela  
warmly invites

Our Senior Members

To a wonderful and uplifting daytime short  
seder  
led by the Rabbis followed by a delicious  
light lunch,  
Passover songs and music.

Come together at Mosaic to celebrate Pesach  
12 noon to 2.00pm

Rsvp: 020 8864 0133  
[Angela@choosemosaic.org](mailto:Angela@choosemosaic.org)

Help with Transport available.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

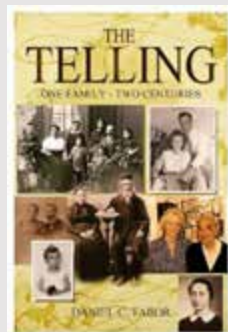
*Wednesday 8th May 12.30pm*

### **Mosaic Culture Hub invites you to ‘Meet the Author’ Daniel Tabor**

Join us for a light lunch before Daniel talks about the issues and challenges involved in writing his latest book, *The Telling*, which describes 200 years of European and Middle Eastern history through the experiences and life-stories of his extended family. This lively talk will be presented with photographs from Daniel's family archive and extracts from the book.

Daniel was born and brought up in Cambridge. He read English at Sussex University, completed a B.Lit in Social Anthropology at the University of Oxford, before taking a PhD at the University of Warwick.

Working as Head of Department in a secondary school Daniel also published two books, one about curriculum continuity, and another about writing at primary-secondary transition, and has contributed many articles for the TES. He has published a book of his late father's religious talks, and is a keen student of Yiddish



*Sunday 12th May - 7pm*

### **Mosaic Culture Club invites you to meet Antiques Roadshow antique jewellery specialist John Benjamin**

Mosaic Culture Hub is delighted to welcome our Mosaic member John Benjamin, well known from his appearances on BBC TV's ever-popular Antiques Roadshow.

Join us for light refreshments before John's fascinating presentation **'AT THE SIGN OF THE FALCON': the remarkable life and career of H G Murphy, designer, goldsmith and silversmith.**

There will be time for questions after the presentation.

John Benjamin is a jewellery historian, lecturer, author and broadcaster. Formerly International Director of Jewellery at Phillips Fine Art Auctioneers, since 1999 he has been an independent jewellery consultant on behalf of the private client network. John is well-known from his appearances over 30 years on BBC Television's ever-popular Antiques Roadshow. He is a Freeman of the Goldsmiths' Company, Founder Liveryman and Renter Warden of The Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars and in 2021 was appointed Honorary Jewellery Adviser to the National Trust.

Please book via the Mosaic website by Monday 6th May. There is a £12.50 charge, which will increase to £15 from Wednesday 2nd May.



# MOSAIC CALENDAR

## Regular Events

Tuesdays	10.00	Mosaic Walks – email <a href="mailto:admin@choosemosaic.org">admin@choosemosaic.org</a> for meeting point
	11.00	Mosaic Friendship Club
	13.30	Drop in and play (from 7th November)
	19.00	“Untangling our Traditions” with one of our Rabbis
Wednesdays	10.30	Knit & Natter (First Wednesday of the month)
	10.30	Mosaic Melody Makers (second Wednesday of the month)
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
Fridays	18.30	Shabbat Beiteinu – Second Friday of the month (unless otherwise stated)
Saturdays	09.45	Masorti service (unless otherwise stated)
	10.30	Reform service
	10.45	Liberal service
Sundays	09.45	HaMakom (during term time)

## MARCH

Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	14.00	Meet the Artist – Laura Reiter
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	20.00	Film Mosaic – “Concert”
Weds 6 <sup>th</sup>	19.30	Mosaic Culture Hub
		– Meet Dr Dave Rich
Thur 7 <sup>th</sup>	11.30	Chit-chat b'Ivrit
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	09.35	Yoga. Family Service at 10.45
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	20.00	Whisky Tasting Event
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Tombstone consecration
		– Sue Kessler, Bushey New
		15.30 Tombstone consecration
		– Alan Orchover, Cheshunt
Thur 21 <sup>st</sup>	11.30	Chit-chat b'Ivrit
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	19.00	Erev Purim
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	08.30	HaMakom – term ends
		Mosaic Masorti Shacharit
		& Megillah reading
	10.00	Purim Activities
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Mosaic Book Group

## APRIL

Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12.30	Mosaic Culture Hub
		– Meet Dr Brian Posner
Thur 4 <sup>th</sup>	11.30	Chit-chat b'Ivrit
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	19.00	Meet the Artist – Rosalind Barnett
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Mosaic Creative Writing Session
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	09.45	Bar Mitzvah – Vanna Addis
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	09.00	Tombstone consecration
		– Jeff Young, Edgwarebury Lane
		14.45 Tombstone consecration
		– Iris & Basil Cohen, Cheshunt
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Mosaic Creative Writing Session
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	19.30	Mosaic Culture Hub
		– Rinkoff Bakery
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	11.30	Chit-chat b'Ivrit
		19.30 Mosaic Liberal AGM
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	09.45	Bar Mitzvah – Jayden Brummell
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Erev Pesach
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>		1st Day Pesach
		Communal Sederl
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>		2nd Day Pesach
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	12.00	Seder Light for our Senior Members
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>		7th Day Pesach
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup>		8th Day Pesach





The Mosaic office  
opening hours are:

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

**1a Halsbury Close**

**Stanmore Hill**

**Stanmore HA7 3DY**

**Office:** 020 8864 0133

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

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

**Chairman:** David Leibling

[chair@choosemosaic.org](mailto:chair@choosemosaic.org)

**Community Care Co-ordinator:**

Angela Peters [angela@choosemosaic.org](mailto:angela@choosemosaic.org)

**HaMakom (Religion School):**

Toria Bacon and Viki Kenton

[headteacher@hamakomschool.org.uk](mailto:headteacher@hamakomschool.org.uk)

**Bereavement Support:**

Bobbi Riesel 020 8428 7977

**Development Rabbi – Rabbi Anna Wolfson**

[rabbianna@choosemosaic.org](mailto:rabbianna@choosemosaic.org)



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[choosemosaic](https://www.facebook.com/choosemosaic)



**Chairman:** Adrian Cohen

020-8420 7498

**Rabbi:** Rabbi Rachel Benjamin

[rabbirachel@mosaicliberal.org.uk](mailto:rabbirachel@mosaicliberal.org.uk)

**Rites and Practices:** Kevin

Ziants 07841 375458

**Liberal Judaism:**

020 7580 1663

**Undertakers:** Kings Funeral

Directors

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**Joint Chairmen:**

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