

# Sukkot: pausing in the luxury of safety **Baron Frankal**

There were some astounding images in the newspapers recently of Zaatari in Jordan, home to some 120,000 Syrians, and now the world's second largest refugee camp. It was a timely and chilling reminder that whilst we have some family fun making a home under the stars and then walking back into our homes when it starts raining, around 10 million people are forced to live in such temporary structures rather further away from their normal residence. Most never go home.

The reason we are supposed to move into sukkahs for a week is not unconnected. Part of the idea is to make us appreciate the luxuries we have and so reflect on how far we have come since we were forced into such flimsy transition, back when we took a right turn out of Egypt. We may no longer be the wandering Jews, but we mustn't forget we once were, when circumstances over which we had no control made us flee in an instant. As the old joke goes, "Why do so many Jews play the violin? Ever tried running with a piano on your back!".

Others today, of which several million Syrians are only the latest wave, remain in that awful position. Sukkot gives us the opportunity to recognise what was our own plight in those of others' today. Deuteronomy reminds us "you shall love the stranger, for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt". Some of those Zaatari Syrians may soon be with us.

And there are things we can do for the rest of the ten million. Like support the UNHCR – UN Refugee Agency, or better still, work to avoid such mass movements happening in the first place. History shows that refugees rarely return. Rather they travel around, settle and start communities in foreign lands, as of course we did ourselves after we left Canaan. The world is a richer place for that, and so it is for many peoples following in our footsteps through to today, although it probably doesn't look like that from a tent without running water, light or electricity. Seeds cast in the wind though do settle, and in many cases thrive; not all who wander are lost. Something to think about perhaps as we look up at the stars.

## Musical Tuesdays

A two-hour exploration of music is a wonderful way to start the week. Quite a few Menorah members travelled to Bollington on Spring Monday mornings to join Diana Rosenthal's enthusiastic crowd of music lovers - easy for local members Ken and Yvonne Singer, who help organise the sessions, and other Menorah devotees who live in the Macclesfield shtetls.

Now, Diana is bringing her inspirational course to Menorah on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12noon for eight sessions from September.

With musical illustrations, Diana will take a journey, studying form and style in classical music, from early music to the present day. Her lectures are accessible to all music lovers, whether cognoscenti or just those who want to enhance their music appreciation.

For further information and to enrol, contact Diana on **0161 491 2068** [di.rosenthal@btinternet.com](mailto:di.rosenthal@btinternet.com)

## Play a part in our services?

On 2 June 2013 the Ritual and Practices Committee met for the first time under new chair Ivor Nathan. We decided that our services would be much more inclusive if there was greater participation by members of the community. Several ideas were discussed. These included:

Leyning – reading or chanting of Torah, beyond the relatively short fourth aliyah, by lay readers.

Lay readers leading part of the service with the length being dependent on their confidence and knowledge.

The committee would encourage members who may be interested in taking part of the service or leying to contact Ivor Nathan or Debbie Freeman. Committee members are happy to offer assistance and training to any congregant interested in participating and would encourage as many members as possible to volunteer.

If anyone has any other ideas for ways in which members might be encouraged to participate please contact Ivor. The committee would be delighted to receive any suggestions.

## Jewish Singles Network

**30-55**

*"French with a Caribbean Twist"*

Sunday 1 September @  
7.30pm

Francs Restaurant, 2  
Goose Green, Altrincham

£21.00 per head (drinks +  
service not included)

For more info and to book

**Lisa: 0161 795 1051**

[pulsezone@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pulsezone@tiscali.co.uk)

Lisa is building a 50s plus  
singles network.

Call her to find out more.