

Mosaic in Motion

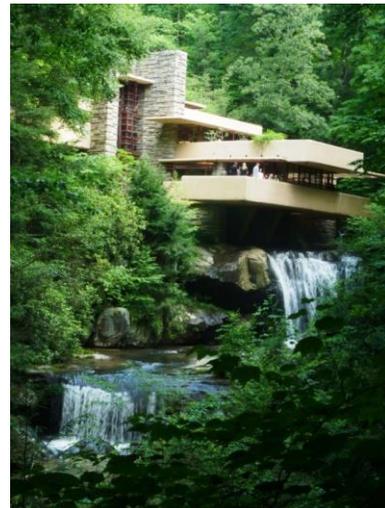
News from Mosaic Outdoor Clubs of America

Mosaic Announces Jewish Outdoor Escape 2018

Mosaic Outdoor Clubs of America is proud to announce the next location of the 28th annual international Jewish Outdoor Escape. For 2018, this Labor Day weekend event will be held in the mountains of West Virginia.

Entitled “Appalachian Sensation,” the event will run from Aug. 30 to Sept. 3 in Morgantown, WV. It will include a pre-trip to Pittsburgh, PA on Aug. 28 to Aug. 30.

This area is so appealing it’s a Mosaic rerun. For the first time in Mosaic’s 27 years of offering this event we are repeating a camp – Emma Kaufman Camp, which we attended in 2001. And why not? There’s so much to offer – white-water rafting for all abilities, including class V runs (as hard as it gets), waterfalls and botanical gardens. The camp has plenty of singles, doubles and couples upgrades, and there’s a winery and ice-cream shop with 50 flavors just down the road.



Here’s a few of the activities we’ve picked out already:

- White-water rafting, Class II-IV and Class II-V (includes the “miracle mile,” with four class V rapids)
- Biking options include riding downhill along Decker’s Creek while biking past waterfalls and a mountain stream; the Allegheny Passage along the Youghiogheny River in Ohiopyle State Park, and the Mon River and Caperton Trails in the Morgantown area.
- Many hikes of varying abilities, including Ohiopyle’s Cucumber Falls to Meadow Run Loop, an easy walk around the Fernciff Natural Area, and Swallow Falls State Park.
- Other activities include caving at Laurel Caverns, rock Climbing at Coopers Rock State Park, a day at Wisp Resorts enjoying a canopy tour, water sports, mountain coaster, a Segway tour, rafting and more.
- You can also walk around West Virginia’s Botanical Gardens and visit Frank Lloyd Wright’s Falling Waters and Kentuk Knob.

Of course, there's also loads of activities taking place at the camp itself, ranging from high ropes and Saturday Torah study to evening activities like singing at the campfires, member-led workshops and dancing to a live band on Saturday night.

The Emma Kaufman's water options will be especially appreciated on this late summer weekend. There's a private cove on Cheat Lake, three heated swimming pools that include two diving boards, water slides and a fountain. The lakefront includes a water trampoline and other fun toys, plus canoes and kayaks.



The pre-trip to Pittsburgh will give a much smaller group of attendees a chance to visit this city, located at the confluence of two rivers. There's several museums, unique restaurants (try the french fry sandwiches at Primanti Bros.) and the famous Andy Warhol Museum (he was born here).

Stay tuned for registration info over the next few months. We'll look forward to seeing you soon, y'all.

Mosaic's First Event in Arizona a Success



Speaking of the end of summer, more than 115 Mosaic members and friends attended 2017's Jewish Outdoor Escape event in Prescott, Ariz. In September. Book-ended by pre- and post-trips to Sedona and the Grand Canyon, the event was a rousing success in this high desert mountain town.

For many, it was their first experience in the Southwest, and many took advantage of the location to experience the Grand Canyon and the red cliffs of Sedona. There were plenty of other activities closer to home, ranging from mountain-bike trips on the endless trails outside of town to a visit to Jerome, a unique hilltop arts community that was a ghost town only a few years ago.

At the event, members took part in a Future of Mosaic conversation – helping to set the tone for the continuation of this four-decade organization. And members elected a new Board of Directors. The members for the 2017-18 year include:

Marlisse Marcus, president
Mindy Tumarkin, vice president
Francine Dick, secretary
Hillary Brown, treasurer

Members at large:

Norine Goodman
Raymond Ockrant
Jill Franklin
Ed Schaeffer



Wandering Jew: Two Toronto Members Join the Tourist Cartel in Colombia

Wandering Jew is a travel column that runs regularly in Mosaic in Motion. This edition is written by Patricia Patchet-Golubev and photographed by Barbara Cohen, both members of the Mosaic Ontario Chapter. The two traveled to Colombia last year and are considering a return trip. Readers are welcome to submit stories on their own travels. Contact editor [Alan Wechsler](#) for more details.

Colombia? Sounds *meshugas*? Land of the Medellin cartel and Pablo Escobar, the FARC guerillas, right-wing paramilitary groups and *la violencia*? All these images were playing havoc with my brain as fellow Mosaic member and avid coffee-drinker Barbara Cohen and I boarded the plane from Toronto to Medellin last March to begin our hiking adventure. Oh yes, and the weather forecast was solid rain for two weeks. What were we thinking?



While Colombia is definitely below the radar of most travelers, now is a great time to visit. FARC and the government have signed a peace treaty, and any drug issues are largely below the radar of any *gringa* traveler. Gringo travelers are still relatively rare and travel can be slow and tedious. But prices are cheap, and even our relative lack of Spanish and vegetarian diets were not a hindrance during our 12-day trip.



Our independent travels took us traversing through lush rainforests and vibrant coffee plantations, sandwiched between visits to Colombia's major cities. We began our journey in Medellin and ended it (on erev Purim ... more on this later) in Bogota. In between were countless zig-zagging, mountainous rides on local buses through both the Zona Cafetera, south of Medellin, and then the Santander and Boyoca regions, to the north.

What we found was unexpected and amazing -- a land of undeniable natural beauty, friendly and warm people, and, numerous instances of *hashgacha pratis* (divine providence). For those acquainted with author Gabriel Garcia Marques, the land and its inhabitants evoked the mystery of magical realism.

Medellin (pop. 3 million) welcomed us with its gritty streets, curious inhabitants (or "*bisas*," as we learned to call them) and clean, ultra-efficient public transportation system. We signed up for the "Real City Tour," where guide Carolina, full of confidence and pride, introduced us to the tortured, complex history of Medellin and the Antioquian people, who are stereotyped as "greedy" and "talkative." Apparently, some of this stigma is related to the fact that the region of Antioquia (of which Medellin is the capital) was colonized by Basques and Jews!

One of the many beacons of hope we encountered in Medellin was the Comuna 13. This area has been transformed from one of the most dangerous, violent neighbourhoods of Medellin into a beautiful and safe area, through the installation of 13 modern escalators and brilliant graffiti and street art.



We journeyed southward from Medellin through luminous, green mountains and magnificent vistas in buses that precariously hugged the hillsides. We even watched, stunned, as crazy Colombian kids travelled for free by hanging on to the underside of the buses (by their hands!) as they rollicked along the highways.

Just outside of Manizales, we visited the Recinto del Pensamiento nature reserve, viewing hummingbirds and orchids and sampling local coffees. But the truly astonishing spot was the village of Salento. Staying in the cheerful and fun Tralala hostel, we completed a spectacular hike through the Reserva Natural Acaime, passing through gorgeous and dense cloud forest and exiting through the valley of wax palms. Another highlight was our visit to Kasa Guadua, a private nature reserve that safeguards picturesque Andean cloud forest.



Traveling east, the lush rainforests give way to dramatic gorges and glacial peaks. We loved the town of Barichara, with its quiet cobblestone streets and whitewashed houses, and hiked along the historic El Camino Real, an ancient road built by the indigenous Guane people.

We left this amazing beauty for the crowded city of Bogota (pop. 7.4 million), aiming to arrive at the city's main (perhaps only) shul just in time for the Megillah reading. We hurried from the bus station to our AirBnB

apartment, worried how we would find this tiny, hidden synagogue in this enormous city. By luck (or perhaps *hasgacha pratis*) we had chosen the Jewish neighborhood, and the shul was just around the corner (most of Bogota's Jews left when the violence started in the 1980s). Alas, no Purim costumes for us; we went disguised as gringo Jews.

That was not the only example of *hasgacha pratis* on our trip. Repeatedly, we were saved from difficult situations caused by linguistic or other travel difficulties by the kindness of strangers. For instance, at the airport in Armenia, when our flight to Bucharamanga had been postponed indefinitely, a stranger named Ingria and her young daughter rescued us by shepherding us through the chaos so we could make two other, unscheduled flights. In general, we found all the Colombians we met to be open, warm, and curious. Their common refrain was: "So, is Colombia a safe and beautiful place? Please tell all your

friends about the beauty you found here and ask them to visit.” So that’s what we’re doing.



Consider Donating to Mosaic

Please consider making a donation to Mosaic Outdoor Clubs of America (MOCA). Your contribution can be used to help people attend this event and for leadership development for Mosaic clubs. If you would like to make a donation, you can do so as part of your registration. If you do not plan to attend the event, and still would like to make a donation, email scholarship@mosaicoutdoor.org.

Our members are always asking about leadership development. Your donation could help us provide support for local club leaders and make our Mosaic clubs stronger. This process can take many routes, from supporting attendance at the international event, to local workshops, to Mosaic-wide retreats. Donors who wish to donate a large amount for a specific purpose are also welcome.

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