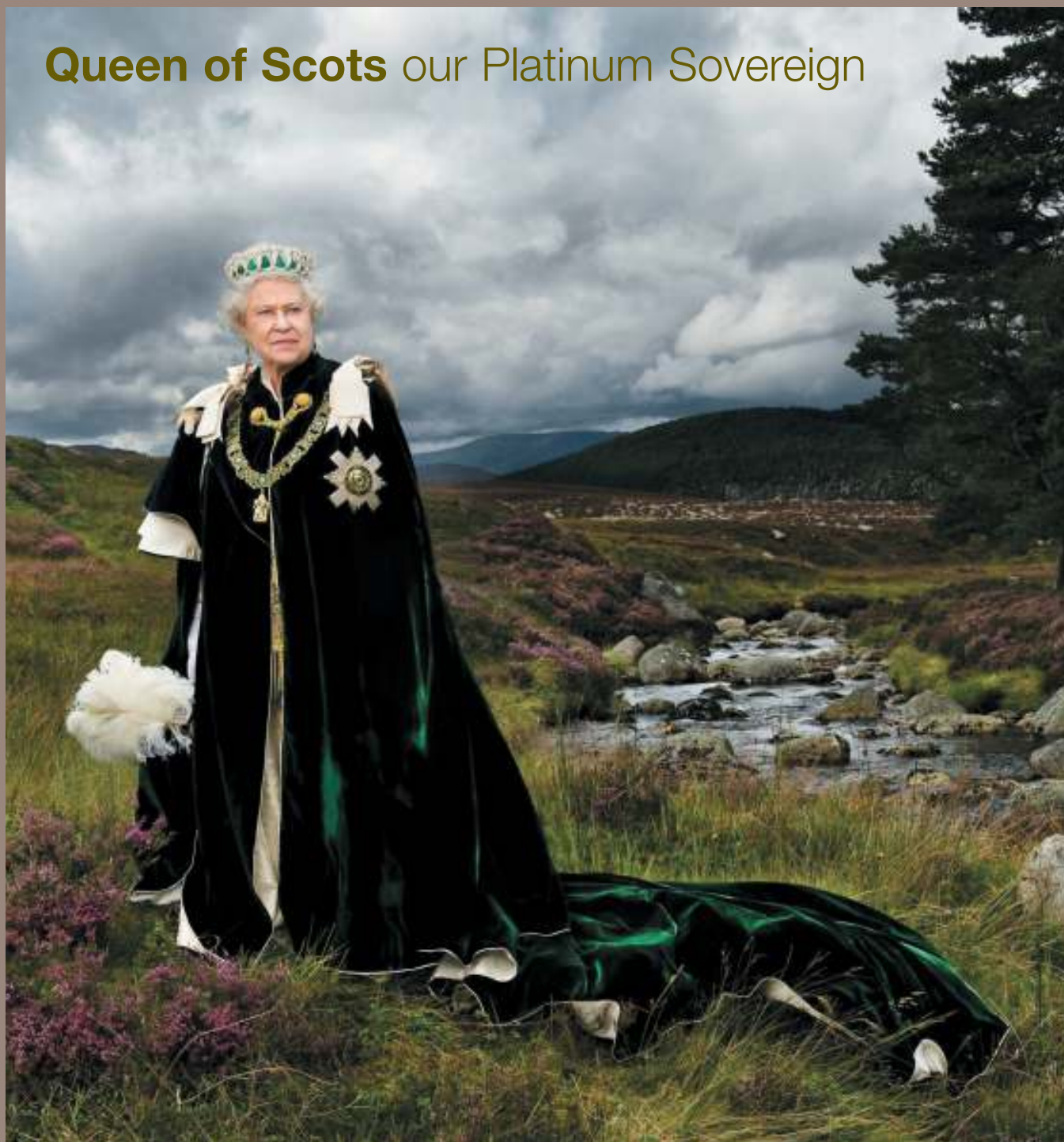


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THE MAGAZINE FOR THE EDINBURGH JEWISH COMMUNITY

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Thank you

The Edinburgh Star would like to express its appreciation to all those who support the magazine with their continued subscriptions, and all those who make donations over and above this.

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Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister of Scotland



Scottish Government
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Mr Edward Green
Edinburgh Star



9 August 2022

Dear Edward

I send my warmest wishes to our Jewish communities here in Scotland and around the world, as you begin this special season of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

I imagine that in the wake of the pandemic, many of you are finding that you approach the old traditions with a new excitement and anticipation. The experiences of the last two years have certainly taught us to treasure each and every gathering as a precious opportunity. I know you will cherish the presence of family and friends, and the chance to share the rituals and celebrations of your heritage together.

As this festival is a time to reflect on the past and look to the future, I want to reiterate that the Scottish Government places a great value on our long relationship with Scotland's Jewish communities, who contribute so much to our nation.

Together, we will continue to work towards a vision of strong, connected and resilient communities, and to resist divisive, hateful narratives which threaten that unity. Scotland will always be a home for people of all faiths to follow their ways of life freely.

I hope the goodness and sweetness of Rosh Hashanah remain with you for the year ahead.

Shanah Tovah.

With my best wishes
Nicola

NICOLA STURGEON

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See www.lobbying.scot

• EDINBURGH •
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

The Rt Hon Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh

22nd August 2022

Dear Edward

It was a real privilege for me to join Chair Rifkind, Rabbi Rose, you and so many members of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation at the Civic Service at the synagogue to mark the Edinburgh Festivals. I was especially impressed to hear first hand about the excellent work carried out during the Covid restrictions, as well as your exciting plans for the future in assisting people in need.

The genuine care and commitment of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation shone through, and it was a pleasure to be able to meet and talk in person once again after two years of restrictions.

It is my goal as Lord Provost to work towards Edinburgh being a more welcoming, generous and equal city, respecting and encouraging our city's great diversity. It is something which needs continuing vigilance and hard work by people across the city to achieve.

I know that with the determination and continuing commitment of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation and our city's Jewish community it makes that goal a real prospect.

On behalf of the City of Edinburgh, and more personally from the Lord Provost's Consort and myself, thank you for your significant contribution to Edinburgh.

Our very best wishes to Edinburgh's highly respected Jewish community for the New Year. I hope the New Year of 5783 will bring you even more success, good health and happiness.

Yours sincerely



ROBERT ALDRIDGE
LORD PROVOST



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Office of The CHIEF RABBI

The Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message 5783

In his book entitled 'Messy', the economist Tim Harford tells a remarkable story about the pianist Keith Jarrett.

In January 1975, arriving at the Cologne Opera House to play a Jazz concert for 1400 people, Jarrett was horrified not to find the grand piano he had been expecting. The piano was far too small to achieve any quality of sound, the keys were sticking, the pedals didn't work and the felt was worn away in the upper register. Jarrett explained that the event would have to be cancelled, but the inexperienced concert promoter begged him to reconsider. After much pleading, Jarrett took pity on the young promoter and agreed to perform on the unplayable piano.

A moment of musical history followed. Forced to adapt and improvise, Jarrett energetically achieved the necessary volume from the defective piano. He avoided the tinny high notes and focused instead on the middle register. Remarkably, Jarrett brought the house down and the recording of this concert became the best-selling solo Jazz album and the best-selling piano album of all time.

In some respects, our post-pandemic experience feels like being asked to perform on an unplayable piano. During an exceptionally challenging period, we longed for a time when we could step back out onto the stage of our lives, free of restrictions. Baruch Hashem, this has indeed transpired, but the world we have returned to is not the one we expected. The enduring impact of the pandemic and the devastating invasion of Ukraine have been compounded by political instability both at home and abroad. Many people are struggling financially. Significant aspects of our national infrastructure, from healthcare to travel, seem to be in turmoil. Many societies are polarised and fractious. We are far from where we want to be.

Rabbi Joseph B Soloveitchik differentiated between the concepts of 'Goral' (fate) and 'Yiud' (destiny). Our fate is the hand of cards that we are dealt; our destiny is the way we choose to play it. Responding positively to the external forces beyond our control, we have the capacity to carve out a glorious destiny by adapting, learning from our challenges and becoming stronger because of them.

In Parashat Noach, Hashem declares, "When I cause clouds to cloud over the Earth, then the rainbow will be seen amongst the clouds." The most spectacular rainbows, bathing the heavens in an arc of beautiful colour, are not created despite the clouds, but precisely because of them.

Like a rainbow of spectacular beauty breaking through the darkest of storm clouds, you have responded to the pandemic with an unprecedented outpouring of lovingkindness, fundraising and volunteering. However, as we consider our shared purpose over these High Holydays, many serious challenges remain. This is a time to focus on our spirituality and the real purpose of our existence, to redouble our commitment to our families, as well as to our communities and to society, and to do more for the most vulnerable. In this spirit, we will succeed in not only playing the unplayable piano, but also in creating something of immeasurable and lasting value.

Valerie and I extend our heartfelt wishes to you all for a happy, peaceful and fulfilling New Year.



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis



Rosh Hashanah Message

Rosh Hashanah is a day when in the words of the Musaf service: 'about the nations it is decided which for the sword and which for peace, which for famine and which for plenty'.



These words have a special resonance for us this year. As we look at what is happening to the people of Ukraine and contemplate our own economic woes, we can experience for ourselves the force of this statement. Many who were only last year living peacefully and safely in their homes have been driven from them and many of those who thought themselves without financial worries are this year wondering how they will survive the winter. All of this serves to emphasise the central message of Rosh Hashanah, which is that we are not in charge of our destiny and that, in the end, it is G-d that runs the world and will decide our fate.

Yet Rosh Hashanah is not a fatalistic day. The service goes on to proclaim that our own actions have an affect on the ultimate outcome. This time of year is ultimately not only about G-d's decisions concerning our fate but our own ability to change and thus influence our destiny. We individually and collectively can decide how we respond to the events we are faced with. We can stand up to aggression or capitulate, welcome refugees or reject them and choose to help those less fortunate or ignore their plight. These decisions are in our hands and, furthermore, we believe that what we decide influences how G-d regards us and His ultimate judgment concerning our own fate.

So as we face the coming year, possibly with anxiety and trepidation let us not despair or succumb to fatalism. Rather, let us realise that we have an important role to play in determining the ultimate outcome and together work towards a better future.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

A Happy New Year
Rabbi David Rose

Editorial

We are beginning to see some 'regulars' on our pages and I am most grateful to Elizabeth Rosenbloom for her article this year with regard to a most valuable resource in Scotland, the Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre. David Grant, has made an important contribution to the EHC by sorting out the Cosgrove Library, housed in the Succah, and detailed here his endeavours.



A past Editor, Judy Gilbert, has written a fascinating and touching article about her grandparents' bed - who would have thought we would have seen an article about a piece of furniture on our pages but of course it covers so much more! I also would like to thank Mike Chandler who has written movingly about Jack White VC, born Jacob Weiss in 1896.

I am most grateful for the wonderful variety of book reviews, and the recipes again cooked and photographed by Harriet Lyall. Our thanks go to Alan Meerkin for another most entertaining 'Letter from Israel' complete with photographs of the Rabbi and members of the community in situ. And thank you to Jo Čapek for this year's amusing article that is so 'on the button'!

Although we hope we are very much through the worst of the pandemic, the last year has brought its challenges. The complexities of our political and economic situation worldwide with the growth of an alarming nationalism has brought to us as Jews an ever-growing threat. And that is why I, as the Editor together with our Board, continue to see The Star as an all-important conduit, crystallising our strength, and helping to ensure that we are as one to all around us.

Sadly, the past twelve months have seen the passing of some stalwarts of our community, and we mourn the loss of each and every one. Our past Rabbi, Shalom Shapira, was a remarkable man who steered the community in so many ways. He was the instigator for The Star with Eitan Abraham and even for that alone, we should be forever grateful to him.

We also mourn Ian Leifer, a most diligent past president. David Mendelssohn who 'ruled' our choir with an iron rod for decades ensured the most emotive and beautiful rendition of our liturgy. Recently, we lost Eve Oppenheim, a major personality in the synagogue and widow of a past President. Sadly, the list goes on but each life noted here made enormous contribution to all of our wellbeing during their lifetimes in Edinburgh.

Maryla and our son, Freddie, join me in sending all our readers, whether in Edinburgh or further afield, our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and good new year.

Edward Green

New Year

Message from the President

For the past two years this message has focused on a pandemic which took our loved ones from us, destroyed incomes and tore families apart. Mercifully, the worst appears to have passed but, despite this, life for many of us has not been easy this year.



The cost of living has spiralled out of control, with energy prices and household bills at a higher level than any of us can remember. Like the Covid epidemic which preceded it, there is not a huge amount any of us can do to change the situation as individuals. However, as a community, what we saw during Covid was a wonderful willingness to help our friends and neighbours, the elderly and the less able among us. This spirit is just what we need now when so many people are experiencing so much hardship. I hope and trust that we are all doing everything we can to help those in need.

Of course, we don't need to be reminded that there are millions suffering in Ukraine, as Russia continues its senseless aggression there. We continue to both be inspired by the resolve of the Ukrainian people, and to pray for peace. I urge all those who are able to donate towards the charities collecting on behalf of the victims of this terrible conflict.

On a happier note, this summer we celebrate the second anniversary of the Abraham Accords which brought together Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco in a landmark agreement which has sparked new hope in the Middle East and the prospect of a peaceful future to the region. Sadly, not all parties have bought into the spirit of reconciliation which is why we campaigned hard for the UK Government to ban Hamas in its entirety and were delighted with the legislation which means that the organisation is no longer able to lobby for support in this country.

Over the past 12 months, we have advocated for the small but vibrant Belfast community which found itself struggling for its very existence after the Northern Ireland Protocol cut off its supply of kosher food.

When local, regional and Devolved Assembly Elections took place, we ensured that every candidate had access to a copy of our Jewish Manifestos, which outlined all of the key areas of interest and concern for Jewish communities across the country. And online, thanks to Board of Deputies campaigning, the Government wrote to social media companies asking for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism so that racists will no longer be able to harass Jewish users with impunity.

Recent weather events have highlighted the importance of action against climate change. We have been working with our partner organisation EcoSynagogue to make a difference within our community and were out in force at the COP26 summit last November.

We are also working to facilitate the implementation of the ground-breaking Commission on Racial Inclusivity in the Jewish Community, which considered 17 areas of Jewish communal life and made 119 recommendations. We provide official inspection of religious education in Jewish schools through the Pikuach organisation and our team monitors and protects our religious freedoms.

The Board of Deputies is here to help and support Jews across the UK, whatever their interests and concerns. I wish everyone a Shana Tovah and a happy year ahead.

Marie van der Zyl

Marie van der Zyl



**BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF
BRITISH JEWS**
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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Looking back at the past year I feel that in many ways those of us involved in the management of EHC and organisation of activities for our community have undergone more stress than in the two previous years.

We have restarted our activities, at all times giving attention to ensure we still adhere to the ongoing Covid guidance and look after the wellbeing of our community. This has usually involved a certain amount of reformatting of seating and of table arrangements, which interestingly has resulted in events becoming much more sociable and enjoyable, particularly our weekly Thursday Lunch Club, and the sit-down kiddush each Shabbat.

Recent months have seen many tourists contacting EHC through our updated and modernised website, asking to attend services, for Shabbat hospitality, provision of kosher ready meals or for tours of the synagogue. We receive many compliments on the warmth of our community and appreciation for all that is done for visitors. Most sincere thanks go to Rabbi Rose and his helpers who are involved in organising Shabbat hospitality and ordering kosher meals for visitors, to those who prepare the weekly Shabbat lunch, those who have updated and monitor the website and to those who give tours of the Synagogue, which visitors find fascinating. Tourists and visitors are such an important aspect of our communal life.

I express gratitude to the Honorary Officers, to the members of the Board of Management, to those involved in Welfare attending to the needs of the more vulnerable in our community, and to all members of the various committees and working groups who contribute to the rich tapestry of our communal life.



We are now approaching a New Year which brings an exciting new development for our community. We take great pleasure in welcoming Rabbi Eliran and Ayalah Shabo, together with their children Avigail and Nadav, who are now living in Edinburgh, having been appointed to the new post as Student Chaplains for the East of Scotland. We look forward with anticipation to this added dimension to the life of our community.

May I take this opportunity to wish all readers of the Edinburgh Star a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

Hilary Rifkind, Chair
Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation

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**The Board would also like to thank
Mr & Mrs Harold Mendelssohn for
kindly defraying the cost of sending
The Edinburgh Star overseas.**

The Cosgrove Memorial Library

David Grant



The Succah at Salisbury Road is home to something of a hidden treasure. The Cosgrove Library is a collection of over a thousand books which originally formed part of the comprehensive library of Judaica of the late Rev. Dr. I. Kenneth Cosgrove, minister of Garnethill Synagogue, Glasgow and Senior Jewish Chaplain to the Armed Forces in Scotland during the Second World War.



He died in 1973 and his library was maintained and added to by his widow Dorothy Cosgrove MBE until her death in 1983, when it was presented to EHC by their sons Malcolm and John with the hope that additional books of Jewish interest would be added. This is indeed the case; whilst over the course of time some of the collection has been lost, particularly the section on comparative religion, many new additions have been acquired. For example, some bear an inscription in the hand of Rabbi Daiches himself and some were from the library of Dr. Sam Lipetz, donated by his widow and notably including many works on Spinoza.

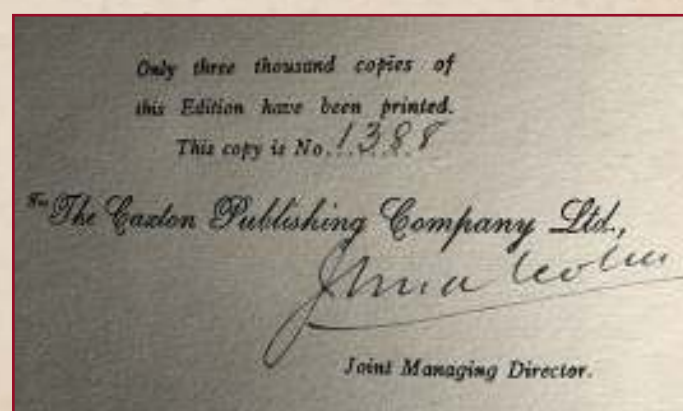
The first catalogue of the Library was compiled by Debbie Sinclair (and subsequently maintained by the late Ian Shein), on a manual typewriter before the days of home computers, word processing and spreadsheets. What a labour of love that must

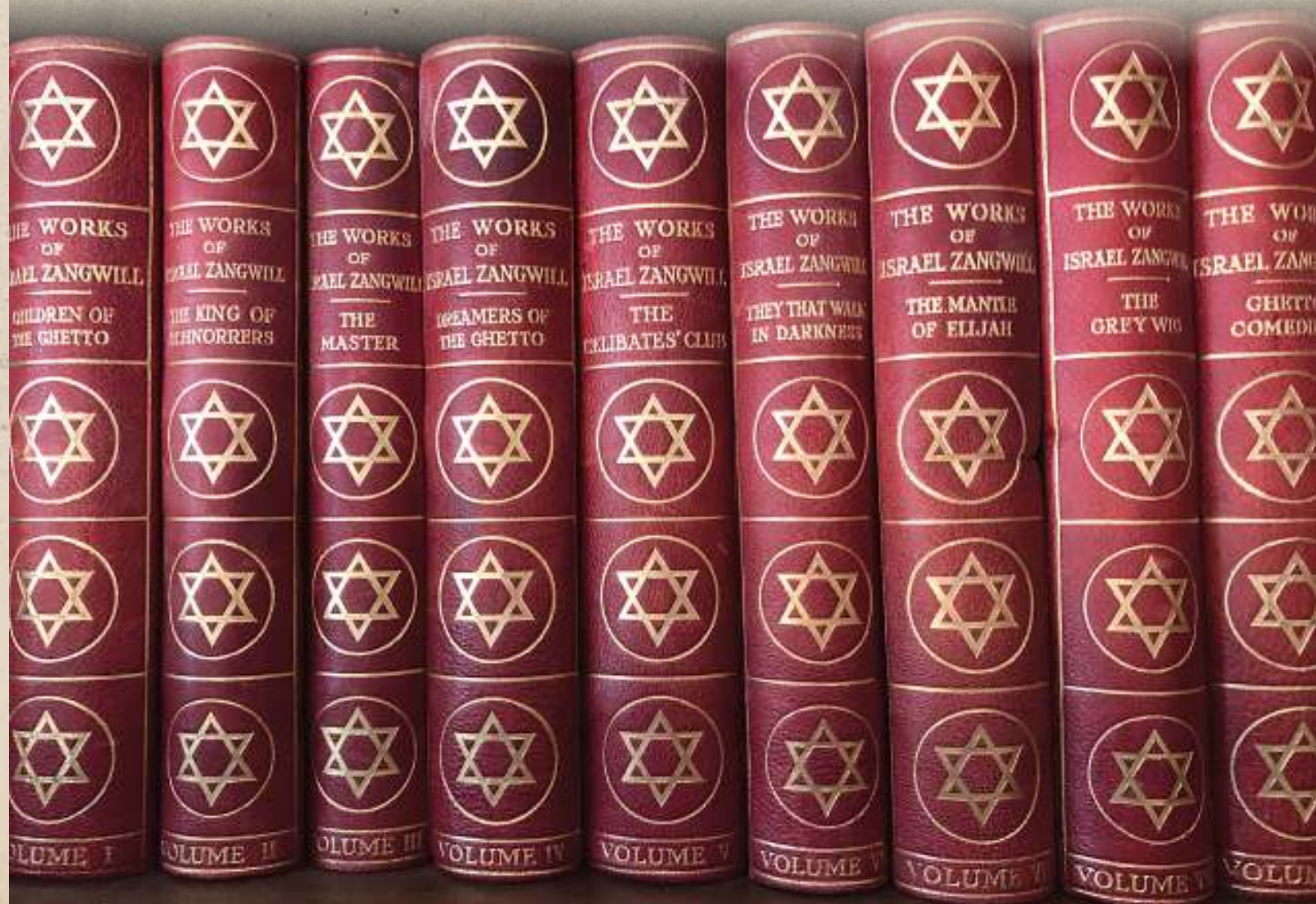
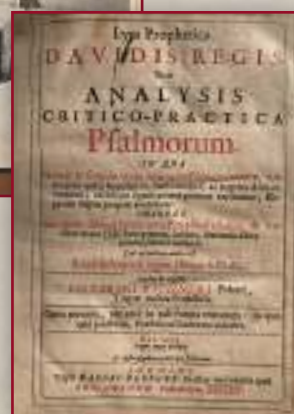
have been! Over the years, partly as a consequence of building projects on the site, the collection fell into some disarray. I have always had a love of books and after the High Holy Days last year took on the task of rehabilitating the Library. This involved clearing and cleaning the shelves, checking each volume against the old catalogue and noting a publication date, condemning some books in poor condition, simplifying the category structure and recategorizing some items, adding the new acquisitions to the catalogue, writing the updated catalogue onto Excel spreadsheets, creating a master index of the whole collection, reshelfing the books in order and relabelling the shelves.

As well as books on Judaism itself there are sections on Jewish history, British Jewry, biographies, literature, Israel and Zionism, antisemitism and the Holocaust, Jewish philosophy and thought, art and much more besides. The oldest book I uncovered is a commentary on the Psalms by Victorinus Bythner, a Polish – born Hebraist and professor of Hebrew at Cambridge University, published in 1664. Its provenance is unknown. The youngest is probably Mark Gilfillan's "Jewish Edinburgh, A History 1880 -1950" published in 2019. We have two beautiful leather – bound signed limited edition sets of the complete works of Israel Zangwill, though one set has water damage. The fiction section also has many of the published works of another somewhat neglected author, Sholem Asch. The most poignant volume? Perhaps the "British Jewry Book of Honour" one of three thousand numbered copies published in 1922 and listing the names of all those Jewish soldiers of the Commonwealth who fell in the First World War. My favourite book? A pictorial record with photographs and architectural drawings of the wooden synagogues of Europe, published in Warsaw in 1959 with an introduction in both Polish and English.

To access the Library please contact honsecehc@gmail.com and your email will be forwarded to me. When visiting you will see the new catalogue in a red folder. I am human, there will be errors! Please do feel welcome to contact me about anything to do with the Library – particularly if you can't find what you are looking for or if you want to borrow a book; my email address is also in the red folder.

My hope is that some forty years on from its donation, the Library will have a new lease of life and be a resource for the entire community of Edinburgh, both Jewish and secular.





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Jack White VC's Scottish Connection

Mike Chandler



Jack White, born Jacob Weiss in Leeds in 1896, became well-known for being one of only three British Jews earning the Victoria Cross in World War 1. Perhaps less well-known is his link to Edinburgh.

According to online biographies*, Jacob Weiss was born in Leeds (23.12.1896) to Isaac and Olga Weiss, born in Austria and Poland/Russia respectively. He joined the family business in Salford which made waterproof clothing. After WW1 broke out in 1914, Jacob, now Jack White, enlisted in the Army, earning the Victoria Cross for "most conspicuous bravery and resource" on the Dialah River, Mesopotamia (now Iraq) in 1917. This exploit was celebrated in "Victor" comic in 1987.

Jack returned to Salford and trained in a clothing factory, rising to General Manager and owner. He married May Ginsburg (1895 - 1969) in 1935. Due to failing health he retired, and died in 1949. The business subsequently changed ownership several times, but White's great-grandson has returned it to the family in recent years, rebranding it as "Private White V.C. Quality Clothing". In none of White's biographies is there mention of White's early life, save his Leeds birth, and subsequent move to Salford. The following may offer a clue.

There was a new and flourishing Jewish community centred around Dalry Road (in Edinburgh, then on the western edge of the city centre), many of whom were waterproof garment makers, refugees from pogroms in Eastern Europe. According to the recently-published "Jewish Edinburgh: A History, 1880-1950" (MD Gilfillan, 2019, McFarland), 35 Jewish families resettled from Manchester to Dalry, specifically to supply workers for the nearby Caledonian Rubber Company which started in 1879.

The city's pre-existing "middle-class" Jewish community was settled mainly in the Edinburgh's "Southside", around 1½ miles to the east. This distance, and differences in culture, language and perceived social status, grew demand for a new Synagogue, which was built in 1879 at Caledonian Crescent, backing onto the Caledonian Railway, now replaced by the Western Approach Road. It was named "blecheneh Shul" for its "tin roof", and was enlarged in 1890. On a contemporary map it is annotated "seats for 100", with an area of about 65 square metres (a portion of Goad's 1892 map is shown below, courtesy of NLS Maps). As demand increased, another Synagogue was built on nearby Dalry Road in 1892.

A 15-year old waterproof garment maker named Jacob Weiss appears in the 1911 census, at 13 St. James Road, Broughton (Salford), with his parents Isaac (also a waterproof garment maker) and Olga, born in Austria and Russia respectively. Jacob was born in Leeds, but older brother Nathan and younger siblings Eva, Lewis and Maurice were all born in Edinburgh, with youngest siblings Ettie, Pearl and Joseph born later in Salford. Had I not accidentally found this Edinburgh connection, while searching for a different Isaac Weiss in Manchester, this article would not exist.

Ten years earlier, the 1901 Scottish Census shows a Jacob Weiss, a scholar age five (born England), living at 6 Caledonian Crescent, off Dalry Road. His parents were listed as Isaac and Olga Weiss, born in Austria and Germany respectively, older brothers Samuel and Nathan, and younger siblings Eva and Lewis, all born in Edinburgh. Going back a further ten years, a single Isaac Weiss, aged 33, a waterproof coat maker born in Austria was a boarder in the household of Joseph Cornfeld, a (commercial) traveller born in Poland. The address was 11 Orwell Place, not far from Caledonian Crescent, where he lived ten years later, nor indeed from 18 Caledonian Place, home of Solomon, a jeweller, and Dora, Braverman, both born in Russia.

Also present in the 1891 census was their daughter Olga, age 16; seven weeks later, now age 18, she married Isaac Weiss, age 30. Isaac's father was listed as Moses Weiss, a draper; his mother, Eva (nee Weiss), and Olga's parents, as Solomon Braverman and Dora (nee) Edelstein. (Very!) shortly after the wedding, Olga gave birth to Samuel at 21 Caledonian Place, followed by Nathan in 1894, born at 4 Grays Court, off Nicolson Street in the Southside. This was the home of David Braverman, probably a cousin of Solomon's.



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So there seems to have been links, and mobility, between the “New” and “Old” communities; in the 1901 census the Bravermann family were to be found at 260 Causewayside, where Solomon’s occupation was listed as “tobacconist”. Also present were wife Dora, and daughters Beatrice and Annie, both tobacconists, and grandson Samuel Weiss, 9 (also listed at his parents’ home at Caledonian Crescent). The Synagogues amalgamated in 1932 at their current location in Salisbury Place.



A portion of Goad map (1892), with Synagogue (lower right) between Caledonian Crescent and railway lines

Jacob White was born in Leeds in 1895, but siblings Eva and Bernard Lewis was born both in Edinburgh, at 6 Caledonian Crescent in 1897 and 1899 respectively, then Maurice was born in 1902 at 46 Causewayside. Samuel was admitted to Manchester Jewish School on 4.11.1903; his residence was stated as 38 Florence Street, and his previous school, as Sciennes (Edinburgh). So by late 1903 the Weiss family were in Salford, where Ettie, Pearl, Joseph and Annie were born in 1904, 1906, 1909 and 1912 respectively. Their father Isaac died in Manchester in 1915, and Olga in 1935.

There are no subsequent links to Edinburgh, but according to an online biography, war hero Jack White VC was inducted into a Glasgow Freemasons chapter. His brother Samuel married Lena Markson in 1914 in Glasgow, and died in Giffnock in 1950, age 58, listed on his death certificate as “Samuel Abraham White (formerly Weiss), Clothing Manufacturers Agent”. He died at 121 Hill Street, but his usual residence was listed as 50 Merrylee Park Avenue, Giffnock. One witness was listed as J White, brother, of 15 Merrybower Road, Salford. As Jack had died the previous year, this must have been youngest brother Joseph.

**A number of internet sources were used in preparation of this article, not least the hugely informative EHC website. A search for “jack white vc” provides additional information about the man, and the company named after him. “ScotlandsPeople” and “Ancestry” were used extensively to search statutory registers.*

Jack Chandler is a retired science and maths teacher, having taught in Fife, Edinburgh and Botswana, and now lives in the Scottish Borders. He enjoys researching genealogy, and currently is the Editor of the Borders Family History Society Magazine.



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Recipes

Harriet Lyall



Flag Welsh Rarebit

Ingredients

Wholemeal bread
Butter
Cream cheese or other white cheese
Red pepper, fried
Red cabbage leaves, peeled off in sheets, and boiled or steamed

Method

Toast a slice of wholemeal bread one side only, and trim the edges to make a neat square or oblong.

On the untoasted side, spread a scraping of butter, topped with cream cheese or other white cheese.

Using thin strips of fried red pepper and the boiled or steamed leaves of a red cabbage, create the flag design, as shown, atop the cheese.

Place this under the grill for about 5 minutes, until it's cooked through and the areas of cheese turn golden brown.

Red cabbage leaves turn dark purplish blue when cooked, and they can be cut into the little right-angled triangular shapes which make up the flag design.



Vegetable Treasure Chest



Adapted from a recipe by Frances Bissel, in the "Times" Magazine Food and Drink Section, 1996

Ingredients

400g block of puff pastry
Cherry tomatoes
Broccoli
Carrot, cut in thin sticks
Red cabbage, cut in strips

Method

Cook the vegetables by steaming, as this method keeps the colours bright.

Roll out the puff pastry on a floured board to make a square, 1cm thick.

Using the tip of a sharp knife, mark a square inside, with a 2cm border all round. Glaze the pastry and sprinkle with coarse sea salt. Bake in the top half of a preheated oven at 180° C / 350°F, Gas Mark 4, for 30 minutes. When cooked and the pastry is golden brown, transfer to a wire rack. When cool enough to handle, carefully remove the top of the inner square, which will be the lid. Discard most of the pastry inside the "chest", taking care not to damage the base or edges. The pastry case is now ready to be filled.

Dip the cooked vegetables in olive oil and lemon juice and heap into the chest.

The discarded pastry can be cooked again separately and the resulting thin, crisp pieces of pastry are very nice with cream cheese, houmous and salad.

Boiled potatoes turn into beautiful purple "amethysts" when in contact with the juice of cooked red cabbage.

Cran-lova

Decisions, decisions...Cranachan or Pavlova? This dessert combines the two!

I first encountered Pavlova in the early 1970s, at a teenage birthday party. Back then, it was the last word in suburban culinary luxury. It isn't often seen on the dessert menu although it's easy enough to make.

Crisp, sugary meringues with their wholesome aroma of egg are the perfect complement to fluffy whipped cream and juicy fruit.

Meringue

Ingredients

Whites of 2 eggs

2 oz castor sugar + 2 oz icing sugar, sieved

Method

Place the egg whites in a clean dry bowl and whisk them until very stiff. Beat in a dessert spoonful of sugar and continue, a spoonful at a time, until half the quantity of sugar is fully incorporated; then gently fold in the remaining sugar.

Brush a baking tray with melted butter and then, using two dessert spoons, arrange spoonfuls of meringue on the tray in a circle, to create a "nest".

Place the tray with meringue nest in the centre of a very cool oven at 110° and cook for 2 - 3 hours until the meringue surface is hard and crisp but not browned.

Cranachan

Ingredients

300 ml double cream

Two dessertspoons Scottish heather honey

One dessertspoon whisky

Few drops vanilla essence

150 g raspberries

150 g blueberries

A handful of oatmeal or rolled oats

Method

Beat the cream until stiff.

Blend the whisky, the honey and the vanilla essence and fold into the whipped cream

Fold the blueberries through the whipped cream mixture: plump and fruity, they make a pleasing contrast to the cream in texture and flavour.

Heap the Cranachan mixture into the meringue nest.

Toast the oatmeal under the grill until crisp, and sprinkle over the Cranachan.

As a final touch, decorate with raspberries.



Goodwins



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A visit to The Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre

Garnethill Synagogue, Glasgow. June 2022

The art and practice of SHORASHIM – modern Hebrew for ROOTS

Elizabeth Rosenbloom

For Harvey Kaplan, the genial Director of The Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, 1987 seems a long way back. It was then that the Archives Centre was opened in Glasgow by Professor David Daiches as a national heritage, information and research centre, dedicated to preserving Scotland's Jewish heritage.



However, early ideas for the Centre had been mooted and discussed by a committee as far back as the mid-1950s after an exhibition during the Gorbals Fair, and with the endorsement of the Jewish Representative Council. The work meant amassing much historic material relating to the experience of Jewish people in Scotland over the past 200 years, with little money and even less space. That was quite some undertaking given the spread and influence of the Jewish immigrant population throughout Scotland in those two hundred years, with the attendant amount of material which early on became apparent, and still arrives in quantity today.

He now directs the Archives along with Kerry Patterson the Centre's manager, in the new magnificently refurbished Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre at Garnethill Synagogue, which has been recently launched to great acclaim. Garnethill synagogue, a building of much distinction in its own right with its own Preservation Trust, now consists of a tremendous team of distinguished professionals, fundraisers, volunteers and well-wishers. It is a total joy to see and experience.

My introduction to the Centre was a quick taxi ride from the station to the wonderful Garnethill Synagogue in which the Heritage Centre is based, behind a beautifully designed metal door opening directly from Hill Street.

Deborah Haase, the delivery phase project director, describes its cumulation as we see it today, as a long journey from 2014, with hold ups and additional funds required as more extensive work was discovered to be necessary. All the trials of any major project of this magnitude! It has taken more than half a million pounds to refurbish and set up the present Centre, and £300,000 which is to cover for the next five years, all running costs to included the manager's salary and marketing. But what a result! The Donors Board at the entrance to the Centre is an impressive list of dozens of Trusts, Foundations and generous families and individuals who joined together with monies from the Heritage Lottery Fund at an early stage of the plans, for a

refurbished and expanded Centre. Improved public access to many underused spaces in the Synagogue building are now put to excellent use with beautifully designed information boards, display cabinets and exhibition and research spaces. The archive and library itself has its own professional archivist to maintain the integrity of the collection.

The history of the Scottish community of Jewish immigrants is a long one. The ports of the East coast of Scotland were within easy reach of Baltic shipping, and many Scottish towns and growing cities were a convenient escape for the troubled Jewish populations of the Pale of Settlement in Lithuania, Poland, Russia and even Germany. Regular ships travelling between these ports made an obvious and comparatively short passage for those unfortunate and unhappy travellers, often forced from their shtetls by cruel pogroms or desertion from army conscription. The blinding poverty and discrimination of their homelands made any place but there, an attractive alternative to often death and starvation.





Scotland became one such refuge, and a beautiful new exhibition in the refurbished Centre 'A New Life in Scotland' tells the stories of how Jewish immigrants came here seeking tolerance and freedom, and the chance to make a better life for themselves and their families. The display in the Succah, 'Scotland, a Sanctuary' opens previously unseen archives of how Scotland helped those people in very real peril before, during and after the Second World War.

Garnethill is one of the top historic synagogues in the UK. Opened in 1879 it is classed as a Grade 1 historic building. It sits in a beautiful garden setting, and is a unique example of high Victorian Glasgow architecture with a very Oriental slant, with its original furnishings and decorations all still intact, and lovingly cared for by a small team of enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers. My two guides on this occasion rounded up our booked tour group of 8 visitors from the reception room with well-designed and informative boards, to walk around the Shul.

It was more than obvious how much they loved and cared for the building and what it has stood for both as a religious space and now an important centre for the retention of Jewish memory.

Nothing had quite prepared me for the sight of the interior - an impressive and richly decorated space aglow with colour, jewel-like stained glass windows and gleaming silver candelabras. We were given plenty of time to look around and take this all in. Even the Ark was opened, and we were given sight of the magnificent Torah scrolls in their velvet and silver decorated covers. All this so beautifully maintained and shining brightly. For the non-Jewish visitors on this group, it was a real source of wonder. It made me realise from their admiring comments how quietly and almost secretly, our Jewish heritage and treasures have been kept from the general public. For far too long.....! Our one American visitor was astonished to be told, in answer to an enquiry as to how many staff the Centre employed, that the maintenance and most of the staffing of the building, was all done by fully trained volunteers.

The Centre is making big strides in outreach to other groups too. Schools are welcomed into well-appointed work and study rooms with computer access for research from the Archive. Interactive learning kits enhance the children's visits. The Holocaust-era collections follow the refugee experience in detail of both children and adults fleeing Nazi Germany and Europe, and an informative and interesting booklet explaining the new Garnethill Refugee Trail, a self-guide walking tour of places in the area connected with the Jewish refugees before, during and after the second World War is available. More information and material is in the Scottish Holocaust-era study Centre, also based at Garnethill.

Harvey Kaplan kindly took me to the study and research rooms, and on one of the computers showed me how much material the Centre has on Edinburgh subjects! It's impressive, thanks to the many organisations and individuals who have entrusted their documents to the Centre. But please don't be thinking this enterprise is a Glasgow only collection! It is truly from all across Scotland, and has helped maintain the memory of many of the tiny, now forgotten, early communities over our Scottish map. A quite astonishing amount of material is now safely stored and accessible by appointment, some of it waiting to be professionally conserved for posterity. The new website www.sjhc.org.uk gives extensive information on the huge range of material, printed and hand-written documents, newspapers, photographs, objects and so much more which is available, and all the many activities, lectures, talks and tours of the Centre, much of which is available online.



The published Newsletter will keep you up to date with all the goings-on. A good range of cards, books and souvenir items is available from the Centre shop.

But the best way to experience this is to pay a visit to the Centre to fully appreciate the cumulation of this truly massive enterprise and its new arrangement in the refurbished synagogue site. The Director Harvey Kaplan and his staff will be only too delighted to answer questions and guide you around. You won't find a warmer welcome to trace your past history or find out more about Scottish Jewish families. The Centre is a registered Scottish Charity and would welcome your financial support no matter how small. It is a wonderful enterprise which we should all contribute to, and a magnificent memorial to our distinguished past, and to future contributions to Scottish life. Famous artists and writers find their place here too, and remind us of the important but sometimes overlooked place of the Jewish community in Scottish society.



Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre
129 Hill Street
Glasgow G3 6UB
0141 332 4151
www.sjhc.org.uk
Scottish Charity no SC051205



Welcome to the Shabos

Edward Green

We are delighted to welcome the charming Rabbi Eliran Shabo and his wife Ayalah (Shapira) together with their two children Avigail Bella (5) and Nadav Meir (2) who have taken on the Chaplaincy role in Edinburgh and the East Coast of Scotland.

They have been appointed to look after the Jewish students starting this autumn term.

Rabbi Eliran and Ayalah were both born in Israel and have lived in varying places but will now be resident in Edinburgh. Their last posting was in Athens, Greece, for two years, where the Rabbi served as the Junior Rabbi of the Jewish Community and led the Jewish Studies programme for high-school students. Ayalah's responsibilities were primarily in promoting the collaboration between the local and Israeli communities, but also taught within the high-school programme at teen level.



On speaking with the Shabos, it is very clear that they are very pleased to be now resident in Edinburgh becoming the chaplaincy couple and they look to offer support and guidance to Jewish students. Their further aim is to further connect the students to the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation.

I am sure I speak for us all in wishing them every success in their new position.

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Reasons to be Cheerful

Jo Čapek

Few would argue that 2020 was an atrocious year and 2021 was no better. As for 2022, at the time of writing, it has all the hallmarks of being as bad as any year since a chunk of rock with a severe attitude problem took out the dinosaurs.



In other words, as the most popular media sources would have it, civilisation is now racing down the 12-lane freeway to hell in a consumerist handcart. The evidence for this intro is more than damning.

Should you be so robust as to follow the news on television, you could be forgiven for believing that the only honest persons in Downing Street are the tourists taking selfies before a famous black door. The printed page brings no more solace or joy. All attempts by Fleet Street to present a modicum of objectivity disappeared with the results of the Brexit vote: or was it the Independence Referendum? Unless the publication is so blue, its hue burns retinas, British readers could be forgiven for thinking that we are now governed by the spawn of Genghis Khan and Attila the Hun with a few genes from Baron Munchausen somewhere in the lineage. Meanwhile foreigners reading the British press are gulled into believing the last genuinely honest individual to enter parliament was Guy Fawkes.

After years of this unrelenting woe-mongering, is it any wonder that the population of most of the developed world is now drifting zombie-like with faces like a wet Wednesday in Warrington. Depending upon their target audience the self-appointed influencers will place the blame on capitalism, social media, a planet unable to support its population or the greed of any group they do not approve of. However, my thesis is that there is plenty to be truly cheerful about and much of it, no matter what Hezbollah, El Fatah and Al Qaida may claim, comes from a small state on the eastern banks of the Mediterranean.

A handful of scientists hailing from a nation with a population far smaller than many cities has achieved an influence and produced benefits out of all proportion to their numbers. Few care to acknowledge Israel has generated more start-up companies (30) with a turnover of over 1 Billion US Dollars than the whole of Europe. If you want to smile, please feel free to ponder upon the following. Picture if you will all those opinionated but ignorant demagogues who wish to ban anything Israeli. Imagine them without their cell phones, tablets, computers and banking facilities – all of which are crucially dependent upon Israeli patents, algorithms, software and manufacturing. Do they even realise this is tantamount to their strenuously advocating a return to the Dark Ages? And no, I am not being overly critical of the Boycott, Divest and Sanction movement. How can I be? Longer ago than I care to dwell on, I was vehemently anti-apartheid. My views did not change but my buying habits most certainly did when a white South African don informed me that the only persons being adversely affected by the millions like me boycotting his country were the poorest blacks.

If the previous example does not convince you, then try these illustrations for size. In a world that is suffering increasing water shortages, and not only in the developing world, Israel sits at the cutting edge of desalination technology and harvesting the most meagre of aquifers in a sustainable manner.

For those who never feel thirsty, try this for size. Society's new paradigm has become "The carbon footprint of a nation is directly proportional to the approach of its next election multiplied by its *per capita* income." Few countries are doing as well as Israel in bucking this trend. Its use of renewable resources is bettered by very few and yet the population enjoys a way of life bettered by even fewer. And this is not a recent trend fostered by ecological pressure groups in the last few years. Sixty years ago, almost every Israeli house had a solar water heater on its roof.

I am most certainly not blind to my birthplace's manifest failings and acknowledge that Israel does more for its enemies' public relations than anyone. Sadly, this has necessitated military breakthroughs that can defeat the hardware of any country attacked by its neighbours. The super-powers may be spending trillions on blocking incoming ordinance, but despite investing little by comparison it is Israel's defensive capabilities that lead this field.

We all know about Israel's health achievements during the pandemic, but a host of other medical breakthroughs have come from this tiny country: ranging from the 'pillcam', a tiny camera that can be swallowed in order to photograph the digestive tract, through the ubiquitous pressure bandage to artificial skin for burns victims.

Whilst all the above may be practical applications of Israeli innovation, its researchers are equally active in the theoretical fields. The anti-Zionists have still not explained how such a small nation gained so many Nobel Laureates (13 at the last count), though I grant several were earned abroad.

For all these and many more reasons, I am not ashamed of Israel. Far from it! I could fill 'The Star' with examples of why we should all be extremely proud of the country and sing its praises, but I shall limit myself to just one more, and to my thinking the most valuable gift to humanity of all in this current climate. Oh, that more states shared this quality: the ability to laugh at itself. Whereas increasingly the Western World's wit is becoming bleak and acid while many other nations have huge no-go areas as far as humour is concerned, Israel shows no such intolerance and wears its problems lightly. How many of its neighbours, or states further afield would tolerate a similar quip to the following?

What is the difference between Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jews? At an Orthodox wedding, the mother of the bride is pregnant, at a Conservative wedding the bride is pregnant and at a Reform wedding the rabbi is pregnant.

Festival Open Day 2022

Adrian Harris



It is 2005 and David Neville has come up with a great idea: let's invite Jewish performers and performers with shows of Jewish interest coming to the Edinburgh Festival to showcase their work in the community centre at EHC.

Audience members could sample a diverse range of shows in an afternoon and performers could market their shows to potential ticket buyers. Throw in a bagel lunch included in the ticket price and what's not to like?

And so the Festival Open Day was born and quickly established itself as a cornerstone of the August calendar. Fast forward to 2022 and everyone was looking forward to the return of the event after almost three years of the pandemic. The only problem was that David and Michele were planning to move to London and David would not be available to carry out the preparatory contacting and scheduling of artists or act as master of ceremonies on the day.

Determined not to let such a popular event wither away, Rabbi Rose and John Danzig approached me, as Chair of the Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre, to see whether EJCC would be interested in working in partnership with EHC to make the Open Day happen. It took us all of two minutes discussion to come back with a resounding and enthusiastic 'yes'.

I agreed to take on what had been David's role, enthusiastically supported by volunteer teams from both EJCC and EHC. David, now in London, was at the end of a phone and on email with advice and guidance as the programme began to take shape with its mix of comedy, music and drama.

In 2022 there were approximately 3,500 shows on the Fringe. How do we plough our way through the programme and identify shows that meet our criteria? Fortunately, due to the success of the Open Day over many years, performers make themselves known to us and in the run-up to the start of the Festival emails start arriving asking whether the Open Day will be on this year and can they take part. Other than that, it is a matter of working through the programme or putting keywords into the Fringe website search engine to find acts that will fit the Open Day bill.

Then begins a complex series of discussions about times, dates and availability and making sure that performers who are new to the Open Day understand that they will not be performing in a fully-equipped theatre! Some of the regulars are more concerned about what time the bagels will be served and whether they can get to Salisbury Road before they run out. Gradually a programme emerges that is subject to change until the very last moment and includes a mix of Open Day regulars and first-timers.



The Open Day arrives and at 12.15 we fling open the doors to the public and hope that our artists turn up as promised.

Our programme starts with an extract from Erin Hunter's one-woman show, *Surfing the Holyland*. Erin ran the risk of being upstaged by her loveable daughter Lola who gave her Mum the best introduction ever!



The Frechot Ensemble

The Frechot Ensemble from Israel shared their powerful and sobering story *Maternity*, which tells of the experience of Yemeni women airlifted into Israel in the late Forties and early Fifties.



Carole Shaw



Prudence Wright Holmes



Rachel Creeger



Phillip Simon



Steve Spiro

Carole Shaw, (or was it Queen Elizabeth?) shared some royal secrets in her *Amazing Adventures of Her Majesty Platinum Jubilee Edition*.

From the United States, Prudence Wright Holmes performed some powerful, emotional moments from her show *Hiding Anne Frank* which told the story of Miep Gies and the role she played in hiding the Frank family from the Nazis.

Rachel Creeger, an Open Day regular, shared her brilliant comedy insights about Jewish family life and Phillip Simon, who, along with Rachel is part of the ever-changing Jewish comedy review *Jew-O-Rama*, shared some great gags from both his adult and children's shows.

Steve Spiro performed a beautifully observed dialogue with his 'Bubbe' from his show *UK Underdog*.



Phil Alexander with the University Klezmer Band

Phil Alexander, a musical maestro of the Edinburgh Jewish community, brought on stage members of the University klezmer band who had the audience clapping and hollering and stamping their feet.



Melaine Gall

Melaine Gall, who was performing two different shows on the Fringe led the audience in the communal singing of *Somewhere Over The Rainbow*. There wasn't a dry eye in the room...



Jeremy Sassoon

Jeremy Sassoon played some great medleys from his Jewish songbook show, *Jeremy Sassoon's MOJO* and once again, had the audience singing along.



Daniel Cainer

Our final drama of the afternoon was presented by Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club in an extract from their award-winning play, *Life Before The Line*, a heartfelt coming of age story following four Jewish teenagers growing up in politically charged times.

The Open Day closing slot traditionally goes to Daniel Cainer and this year was no different. Daniel has supported the event almost since its inception and the audience knows his songs so well and loves them so much that they called out requests.

I like to think we did David proud in his absence this year. We had over 120 in the audience including a party from Glasgow and members of the general public who had found the event on Facebook. The lunch was superb and Susie Kelpie and her team in the kitchen did a great job. Hilary had been a rock throughout the planning.

More than anything, all of us – performers, audience, organisers – enjoyed coming together, face-to-face after a long, difficult period and sharing in some communal enjoyment and happiness. Working in partnership, EHC and EJCC, was a great experience, here's to next year!



The Importance of our Hearing

The Edinburgh Hearing Practice is a family owned and run business. The team have previously worked in the NHS and for some of the world's leading hearing aid manufacturers – they know a lot about ears!

The Edinburgh Hearing Practice provide the latest hearing test techniques, independent expert advice on the best hearing aid technologies, and a professional ear wax removal service at state-of-the-art practices in Corstorphine, Gullane and Auchterarder.

I'll wait until it gets worse...

Hearing loss is often very gradual and in fact, on average it takes someone with a hearing loss around 10 years to do something about it. And let's face it – nobody particularly wants to wear a hearing aid. But do you want to wait 10 years and miss out on all of those great moments in life?

'People tend to forget about getting their hearing checked, it's a poor third behind eyes and teeth! Hearing loss happens in our ears, but affects many different aspects of our lives. We often hear people saying that they don't want to wear hearing aids as they will make them look old, but hearing aids can be extremely discreet and hearing better keeps people young, socially active and employed for longer as statistics show that people with a hearing loss tend to retire earlier. There is also a lot of discussion around new evidence which shows that untreated hearing loss increases a person's likelihood to develop dementia as they withdraw from social interactions.' Martin Smith, Director and Hearing Aid Audiologist.

What to expect from a hearing assessment at the Edinburgh Hearing Practice

Most hearing centres will measure the quietest sounds that you can hear and based on this will make a recommendation. Although this type of hearing test provides useful information, by no means does it provide a full picture, we hear with our ears but it is our brain that understands speech! With this in mind, we have designed our test protocol to ensure that we measure your exact individual issues.

First and foremost, we will listen to you. Hearing loss is personal and we take the time to listen to your experience.

We recommend that you bring someone with you as they can often provide useful information and support. Our hearing assessments usually take about 90 minutes.

We will ask some medical related questions so that we have a good understanding of your general health and history. Next we will examine your ears. We have the latest technology and can show you images of your ears on a screen if you are interested in seeing exactly what we are looking at. We thoroughly check your ears using state of the art video equipment and keep the images on your records so we can keep track of your ear health.

If your ears are blocked with wax your hearing test will not be accurate. You're in safe hands at the Edinburgh Hearing Practice as we can perform professional ear wax removal.

We take you through a thorough hearing evaluation using the very latest audiometric equipment to record the quietest sounds that you can hear, but also importantly, the way that your brain is able to understand the signal from your ears. This involves testing your speech recognition in both quiet and in the presence of the dreaded background noise.

Where appropriate, we perform tympanometry to check how the middle ear is working (this is a really simple comfortable test, and is nothing to be nervous about).

At each stage we will explain the results really thoroughly to you and make sure that everything is completely clear. Occasionally we may feel that onward referral is required – this is unusual, but you can trust us to always do the right thing. If hearing aids would help, we will discuss all the different solutions that are available to you based on your hearing loss, lifestyle, cosmetic preference and ease of use.

Our care plans are bespoke and suited around your individual needs and preferences. All our hearing aids are available to trial for 30 days at no cost. We believe that the proof is in the pudding!

Maybe it's just wax!

We are experienced in ear care and can provide a professional wax removal service using Microsuction. This is our preferred method of wax removal as it uses a small suction tip to remove wax from the ear without introducing any water. There is also no need to use drops or oil for weeks on end to soften the wax prior to removal. In fact, using olive oil for one or two nights is ample preparation.

Research Update

Hearing loss officially the TOP modifiable dementia risk

Dementia is the greatest global challenge for health and social care in the 21st century: around 50 million people worldwide have dementia and this number is predicted to triple by 2050.

There is a growing body of evidence that links hearing loss to cognitive decline as it denies people a cognitively rich environment and can lead to social isolation and depression.

A study conducted by 24 international experts, was recently published in The Lancet and presented at The Alzheimer's Association International Conference in London which highlighted 9 key risk factors which are potentially modifiable and appear to reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease in later life. According to the international study, one in three cases of dementia could be prevented if more people looked after their brain health throughout life.

The most significant modifiable risk factor was hearing loss in middle age.

This particular report has showed the importance of addressing hearing loss at an earlier age – between 45 and 65.

"Although dementia is diagnosed later in life, the brain changes usually begin to develop years before" lead author Professor Gill Livingston, University College London

"Building a "cognitive reserve" or strengthening the brains networks means it can continue to function in later life despite damage."

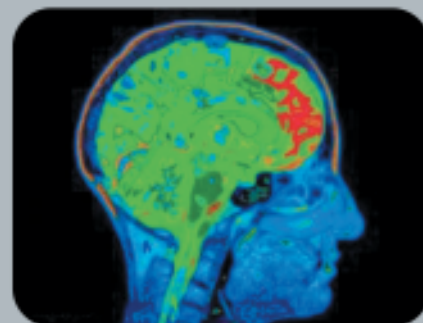
"Acting now will vastly improve life for people with dementia and their families and, in doing so, will transform the future of society."

Nine factors that contribute to the risk of dementia

- Mid-life hearing loss - responsible for 9% of the risk
- Failing to complete secondary education - 8%
- Smoking - 5%
- Failing to seek early treatment for depression - 4%
- Physical inactivity - 3%
- Social isolation - 2%
- High blood pressure - 2%
- Obesity - 1%
- Type 2 diabetes - 1%

These risk factors - which are described as potentially modifiable - add up to 35%.

The other 65% of dementia risk is thought to be potentially non-modifiable.



A recent study by **Which?** revealed a huge variation in customer satisfaction amongst large private hearing aid companies. However independent providers scored best for service, pricing, facilities and overall experience.

At the Edinburgh Hearing Practice, we often see people who have put off doing something about their hearing for a long time. The longer a hearing loss is left the more difficult it is for us to help. Our advice is to get your hearing checked on a regular basis – at least once a year.

**So the moral of the story... don't wait
10 years to get your ears checked!**



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Auchterarder 01764 219000

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A Letter from Israel

July 2022

Alan Meerkin

Rabbi Rose exited the Haifa train station, beaming. We tumbled into my little Hyundai and headed for the Golan.



With two hours to catch up, we only fell silent as the car wound its way up the dramatic cliff road by the Syrian border. Soon we arrived at Ein Hakshatot, the reconstructed ruins of a sixth century synagogue, where Carol Levstein and husband Tom awaited us, together with her brother Lenny and sister-in-law Joanne.

It was a wonderful reunion, which continued through the nearby Aniam artists' village and ended with a sunset dinner at Lenny and Joanne's lovely home at Kibbutz Mevo Hama, overlooking Lake Kinneret. Other trips took place over the next ten days, taking



The author with the Rabbi

in Jerusalem synagogues, an ancient crusader fortress on the road from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea, and a desert hike along a gushing river oasis to an early monastery built into the walls of a gorge.

Before various members of my Scottish 'family' flew home, I was proud to guide them through the Community Gardens where I have volunteered for the last two years. The place is a little corner of serenity that belies the tumult beyond its walls. But it is only a respite before the evening news is broadcast.



Following four inconclusive elections, during which Israel was unable to pass a budget, a broad coalition of opposites comprising eight parties was cobbled together. Yair Lapid, leader of the left-wing New Hope party, managed to woo Naftali Bennet, from the right Yamina party, with the offer of a rotating prime ministership. Together, they ousted Israel's longtime political strongman, Bibi Netanyahu, mired in criminal prosecutions. I watched these developments with significant scepticism.



The author with Carol Levstein

The coalition was shaky from the start. Like committed partners in a bad marriage, its main strength was the fortitude of its members to compromise some principles in exchange for gains otherwise out of reach. Incredibly, it was the first Israeli government to include an Arab party, Raam. Seizing this amazing opportunity, Raam leader Mansour Abbas expressly recognised Israel as a Jewish state.

I am not alone in believing that this coalition of opposites was a successful experiment and a breath of fresh air in extremist Israeli politics. But despite the coalition's remarkable gains, its tenuous majority proved to be its Achilles' heel. One year on, the government was in crisis. The final straw was its inability to pass routine legislation extending civilian rule over Jews in the territories. Although this legislation was high on its agenda, the opposition Likud voted against it to stymie the coalition, and it worked. To preempt a no confidence vote by Bibi, which could have seen him installed as caretaker prime minister, the coalition dissolved itself, successfully placing Lapid at the helm pending new elections. By contrast, Bennet announced his retirement from politics. The lesson is to expect the unexpected. By the time you read this, the world will be a different place.





Foreign relations flourished. *The enemy of my enemy is my friend* goes the old adage. Israel's vocal opposition to the Iranian nuclear programme encouraged a number of Gulf states to forge alliances with the Jewish state, leading to full relations including commerce and tourism. Last winter, Dubai was flooded with Israelis. Winter covid, and now summer heat, have thus far dissuaded me from joining them. President Erdogan of Turkey, who spouted anti Zionist vitriol since the Marmara incident in 2010, unexpectedly changed his tune and reinstated warm relations. US President Biden made a noisy but emotional visit accompanied by thousands of security staff, journalists, military helicopters and vehicles. Many streets of Jerusalem were shut down to casual traffic, and were it not for the incessant drone of helicopters overhead, one would have thought it was a religious festival. Mere days later, Saudi Arabia agreed to over-flights by Israeli carriers. Only a couple of years ago, many of these developments would have been difficult to imagine.

Iranian subterfuge, and Israel's efforts to hamper the former's arms shipments and nuclear advances, came into the public eye when an Israeli-owned oil tanker was attacked. Since then, a cyber-hacking war has been taking place in both countries, and Persian nuclear experts have met unsavoury ends, much to the embarrassment of Iran's security services. Iranian agents have been attempting to kidnap Israeli tourists in Istanbul, presumably to regain prestige. Turkey has worked tirelessly with Israeli agents to thwart these efforts. This has only increased the ratings for 'Teheran', a fictional Israeli TV series about Mossad agents in Iran.

And who could ignore Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine? Many Israelis have Ukrainian roots. While the world condemned Russia, Israel was in a bind. The IDF has significant latitude

flying over Russian controlled Syrian airspace to act against Iranian forces and proxies. Criticising Russia's 'special operation' might have compromised this crucial arrangement. At first, PM Bennet made anaemic comments without naming Russia. Foreign Minister Lapid, by contrast, did not mince his words. To capitalise on Israel's good relations with both adversaries, and possibly to justify Israel's muted condemnation, Bennet – an observant Jew – flew to Moscow on Shabbat to act as a neutral mediator. I was particularly proud of this demonstration of Judaism's ability to prioritise life over religious law. We held our breath, hoping the trip wouldn't make Israel appear to be a Russian lackey. Ultimately, considering Russia's end-goal, the attempt was doomed to fail. Still treading a fine line, and heeding Russian threats not to provide the Ukrainians with military support, Israel set up field hospitals and began sending huge quantities of 'defensive' equipment instead.



While Ukraine's President Zelensky understandably appealed to all countries for assistance, Israel was not spared. Kiev civilians told reporters that Israel had an obligation to provide them the Iron Dome defence system. To garner Israeli sympathy, the Ukrainian ambassador recalled how his countrymen saved Jews during the Holocaust. History records events differently, and with some distaste the issue was raised in the media and the Knesset itself.

Nonetheless Ukraine, Zelensky and their cause became the darlings of the world media. Israeli civilians travelled to the war zone on their own volition to fight. We set up support centres within Ukraine and on the Polish border to expedite the evacuation of Jews and Israelis. At first only Jewish refugees were airlifted from Europe to Israel. Some argued we had humanitarian responsibilities. Others countered that an influx of non-Jews

would import a long term problem. After much public criticism, the intake was expanded.

Israel is not immune to the challenges facing the world on the heels of two years of lockdowns – supply chains strained by increased demand, production drops as workers were forced to stay home, blocked shipping in the Suez Canal, the inability to export food staples from a besieged Ukraine, and sanctions on fuel exports from Russia, to name a few. Lower supply has led to rapid inflation. Here, too, we wince on seeing the inflated prices of our petrol and groceries.



Back at Jerusalem's Community Gardens, a petrol blue sunbird flitted among the almond blossoms as I clicked the shutter on my camera. Each week my photos have been posted on the Gardens' website. Management curated a well received public exhibit of my efforts, leading to invitations to exhibit elsewhere. Being a *Shmitta* year our gardening activities were curtailed. Instead, I ran photography workshops for members, and have since expanded into film-making, focusing on nature, outdoor performances, and ancient attractions in the Jerusalem hills. Having followed my posts on social media, the Jerusalem Bird Observatory unexpectedly invited me to speak at a conference to discuss local birds and bird photography.

Before Covid, I was just a guy with a camera who knew there were birds in the trees. Expect the unexpected. What does next year have in store?





Eco Synagogue Silver Award for EHC

Lesley Danzig (on behalf of EHC Green Team)

On June 12th 2022 Eco Synagogue presented Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation with a Silver Award Certificate for achieving the silver standard requirements of the Eco Synagogue Audit.

The ceremony took place in Cambridge Cottage, Kew Botanic Gardens and Lesley Danzig, EHC Green Team leader, together with the rest of the Danzig family, gathered with other participants in the Gardens for the day's event. In the morning, speakers from DEFRA, UK Environmental Policy and Friends of the Earth focussed audience minds on Climate Change challenges and possible solutions.

Coffee breaks and lunch gave participants the opportunity to chat and network with other award winners and members of Eco Synagogue.

A tour around the Gardens in the afternoon sunshine provided some insight to the planting map of the Botanic's 'Broadway', a wide path with spectacular planted borders on either side.



At 5.30 around 60 people were seated and ready for the 16 presentations. Each of the Rabbinic Team spoke about the importance of Caring for the Environment and each in turn presented certificates.

Rabbi David Mason, a founder member of Eco Synagogue, was born and brought up in Edinburgh. As an alumnus of Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation Cheder, he was delighted to present EHC with a Silver Award for completing the Eco Synagogue Environmental Audit to the required standard.

Cover Picture

Queen of Scots, Sovereign of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle and Chief of the Chiefs

For our celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen, we have taken this iconic portrait evoking the Queen's Scottishness! In this portrait, the Queen is presented as Sovereign of The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of The Thistle, a chivalric order that dates from the seventeenth century. Her Majesty wears the robes of the Order and insignia bearing the emblem of the thistle (the national flower of Scotland) and the cross of Saint Andrew (the patron saint of both the nation and the Order). Evoking the great paintings by Sir Henry Raeburn, the photographer Julian Calder born in 1945, presents the viewer with a formal portrait set against a highland backdrop. The photograph was taken by the Gelder Burn on the Balmoral estate.

This picture was photographed in 2010 and was bought for the National Galleries of Scotland with the aid of their Patrons in 2013. Following the success of this photograph, Calder was commissioned in 2012 to take sixteen official portraits of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip.



My Journeys with Chabad

Makis Tzioras

I first met Rabbi Pinny & Gitty Weinman and their wonderful family almost 9 years ago when I first moved to Edinburgh in September of 2013 to study at the University of Edinburgh. I grew up in Athens, Greece, where most Greek Jews live nowadays.



My maternal family was a mix of Sephardic and Romaniote Jews, so although Ladino was widely spoken in my grandmother's household, my grandfather's family, after whom I am named after, came from Ioannina where I also had my Bar Mitzvah in 2009. Our family was not particularly religious, as is typical for most contemporary Greek-Jewish families, and although the intention to participate in our religious duties, the execution was not always the best; for example, we would go to synagogue for the high holidays and celebrate with the whole family, but we'd also get there by car. I think this is because the sense of community in many Jews of the diaspora is far stronger than the religious aspect of Judaism, mostly they have not felt comfortable, or have been allowed to, openly express their religious beliefs. For my family this all changed when Rabbi Mendel Hendel, his wife Nehama Kalmenson/Hendel and their three children, formed the first Chabad house in Greece. They established a welcoming and accepting environment that allowed us to reconnect to our Jewish identities and helped us to embark on an exciting, and ongoing, journey.

So, when I first moved to Edinburgh at the prime old age of 17, before joining any university societies, before visiting the campus, before getting a bus pass, my family and I came over to Rabbi Pinny & Gitty's house for Kabbalat Shabbat. Pinny and Gitty welcomed us in their lovely home and we had a wonderful Shabbat dinner together, forming the beginning of a new connection, further consolidating the wonderful hospitality that Chabad provides. Even though I was frequently invited for Kabbalat Shabbat and for the holidays, I had not yet developed a strong connection to Judaism, neither on a cultural nor a religious basis, and so in the subsequent years of living in Edinburgh, I had not actively taken part in any Jewish events. When years later I finally reconnected to my Jewish identity in a religious manner, they welcomed me back as if a day had not gone by, even though it had been 7 years! In May 2021 I joined them for the first Kabbalat Shabbat services that they hosted at their new Beit Chabad. Since then, I have formed a circle of Jewish friends for the first time in my life and I have had a source of support for my Jewish learning journey. One of my highlights of Chabad has been the weekly Torah learning evenings hosted by Rabbi Pinny where myself and others have the chance to learn about the Parsha of the week and discuss how the lessons we learn can help us navigate the modern world.

Chabad of Edinburgh has also provided a home away from home when it comes to celebrating the holidays where they always host beautiful events, like the fun-filled Purim party or the Chanukkah celebration at the St. Andrew Square, which was full of light, joy, and latkes. Since becoming more religious, I have started keeping Shabbat and Chabad has helped me immensely by always inviting me over for Shabbat dinner and morning services, where I have met some truly wonderful people from all over the world. Plus, it has given me a chance to practise my Hebrew with the Israeli visitors!



All in all, I wish I had a stronger inclination for literary writing so I could effectively put down in words how appreciative I am of Chabad's efforts to enlighten, inspire and uplift the Jewish spirit of Edinburgh and its plethora of visitors. Whether these are locals, students, professionals, or people, like myself, who came here for 4 years to study in 2013 and have lived here for 9 years, you will always be welcomed by Chabad. I hope their important work is always met with appreciation and the gratitude that they deserve.

OUT & ABOUT

THURSDAY LUNCHEON CLUB



Edinburgh Synagogue Ladies' Guild Luncheon Club, to give it its full title, resumed under the watchful eye of our convenor Avril Berger on Thursday 2nd December 2021, after nearly two years of Lockdown.

18 people sat down to lunch at round tables, somehow more convivial than the former refectory-style layout, and there was an almost festive atmosphere as we tucked in to the wholesome fare for which the Lunch Club is renowned.

Since then, a total of 595 meals have been served to date, including regular weekly home deliveries to our oldest member, who is 105.

The payment system has been updated so it's now possible to pay online as well as by cash, cheque or vouchers.

The Club comprises 33 members, including some very welcome newcomers, and can cater to vegetarians, pescatarians and vegans by request. Our team boasts superlative cooks who have served up mouth-watering cuisine on recent occasions, so, if you enjoy tasty food at a very reasonable price, excellent company and great banter, or if you're itchin' to get into the kitchen, come on down, we'd love to have you on board.

Harriet Lyall, Treasurer
Edinburgh Synagogue Luncheon Club

CONGRATULATIONS

on becoming Bar Mitzvah, to **Jack Dismore** on 23rd October 2021, **Mackenzie Hartnell** on 14th March and **Zak Brodie** on 14th May.

TENOR SCHOLARSHIP



Joe Aronson, 1939 – 2020

In memory of her late husband, who sang in the Synagogue Choir for many years, Margaret Aronson has endowed the Joe Aronson Singing Scholarship for Post Graduates at the Glasgow Conservatoire.



For nearly 60 years there has been an annual Nearly New Sale held in Glasgow in November.

For 32 of those years, donations of clothing have been collected by the co-chair of Edinburgh WIZO and 'schlepped' through by car load.

This was a huge fundraiser and at one time the Sale extended over three days in the Central Hotel. In recent years, it moved to Pollokshields Burgh Halls and in a packed two days raised in average over £20,000.

But times and the Pandemic have brought this to an end. Changes in shopping now more on-line and fewer volunteers have also contributed. All clothing which had been stored have by arrangement been transferred to WIZO shops in the London area.

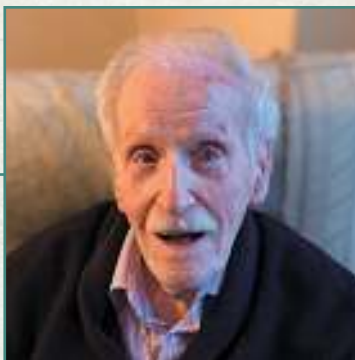
We very much appreciate all the support for the Sale from members of the EHC and friends and hope you will continue to fund WIZO projects in Israel as members, still at just £15 a year.

Sylvia Donne

CONGRATULATIONS on these milestone birthdays

105

Alec Rubenstein
February 2022



80



Louis Mendelssohn
April 2022



Peter Bennett
June 2022



Norma Brodie
October 2022



Malcolm Cowan
December 2022



Sylvia Donne
January 2023



Arnold Rifkind
February 2023



Sandra Caplan
May 2023



Carole Cowen
August 2023

70



Jackie Taylor
June 2022



Jane Rickman
June 2022



Raymond Taylor
August 2022



Edward Green
August 2022



Gershon Mendick
October 2022



SHANA TOVA

Wishing you all a happy, peaceful and safe new year from CST

CST works to give British Jewry the ability to lead confident and safe lives, and we have never been better prepared to support Britain's vibrant Jewish community.

As we move into a fresh new year, we reflect on the work we have done over the last twelve months:

Since last Rosh Hashanah, CST has protected over 600 communal buildings and over 1,000 events, from the large AJEX Annual Remembrance Parade and public Chanukah candle lightings to small community events.

CST has managed a Home Office grant of £13.4 million, subsidising commercial security guards for over 400 schools, synagogues and Jewish communal buildings across the UK. We are pleased to have secured another year of funding for our work.

CST's Security Enhancement Project has funded security equipment, such as CCTV systems, fencing and alarms at hundreds of Jewish buildings across the country. This project has committed and spent over £12 million to strengthen our community's buildings against attack.

Since Rosh Hashanah last year, CST has monitored more than 4,400 cameras at over 280 synagogues, communal buildings and schools across the UK, ensuring immediate

responses to antisemitic attacks or suspicious behaviour.

CST's monitoring and analysis of antisemitism across the UK has been as vital as ever since last Rosh Hashanah, and we have strengthened Jewish communal bonds with the Police, government bodies, as well as other organisations such as Facebook, The FA and interfaith organisations, all of which impacts upon our lives and society.

Since last Rosh Hashanah, CST has committed hundreds of hours in developing its volunteers. CST volunteers are fitter, better informed and more skilled than ever before.

As we celebrate a new year, bringing both further challenges and a thriving community, we ask you to join us in helping to keep British Jewry safe and confident.

Please volunteer; CST needs volunteers to protect our Jewish community. **Please report** antisemitism or suspicious behaviour; if you experience antisemitism, such as verbal abuse, threats, graffiti or antisemitism on social media, please report it to CST. **Please consider giving a donation** to CST; all of our projects rely on communal fundraising.

CST wishes you a *Good Yom Tov* and a happy, peaceful and safe year ahead.

 www.cst.org.uk

 **Community Security Trust**  **@CST_UK**  **CSTmedia**

 **National Emergency Number (24-hour) 0800 032 3263**

London (Head Office) 020 8457 9999

Manchester (Northern Regional Office) 0161 792 6666



The Association of Jewish Refugees for Edinburgh Jewish Community

Michael Newman – AJR Chief Executive

It seems incredible that the AJR is now in its ninth decade, but rather than sitting back and taking it easy at this time of our life, we are busier than ever!

The social care of our first generation members – the refugees who fled Nazi persecution and the survivors who came to the UK after the Holocaust – remains our primary focus. We make sure our members can access care at this time of their lives when they need it most. Despite continuing to welcome new first generation members, the number of refugee and survivor AJR members is inevitably diminishing.



Today, the majority of our members are of the next generations; children and grandchildren who join to honour the memory of their parents and grandparents, to celebrate the heritage and culture of their ancestors and to connect with others from similar backgrounds. AJR's two-day conference in October 2021 brought people together to explore themes such as the next generations telling their family stories, ways to bridge the generation gap in survivor families, dealing with intergenerational trauma, and the legacy of objects. On-going events include social meetings with groups meeting regularly in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and a new group planned for Dundee. AJR Scotland Outreach Coordinator, Agnes Isaacs said, "All the groups are very friendly and welcoming. We all share a common bond and look forward to meeting up with friends old and new." Other events include heritage and cultural trips, talks and workshops, and much more. For some these subjects may have always played a big part in their lives, while others are only now thinking about what their heritage means to them.

But our work doesn't stop there. Did you know that the AJR is the UK's largest dedicated funder of programmes and projects which promote teaching and learning about the Holocaust? As well as supporting this important work, we have produced several resources of our own which help create the legacy of the Jewish refugees and survivors, shedding light on how they rebuilt their lives and their remarkable contribution to Britain.

One example of our work is the ground-breaking audio-visual testimony archive, Refugee Voices, which contains over 260 filmed testimonies of first generation and has now started to interview members of the Next Generations. Also to note is our blue plaque scheme which includes a tribute to Sir Rudolf Bing at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh.

Becoming an octogenarian is something to celebrate and the AJR has done just that with our '80 Trees for 80 Years' project, planting 80 native oak trees in locations significant in some way to Jewish refugees: for example a town or city that once housed a hostel or whose residents took in refugees, or where several refugees eventually settled. A number of trees were planted in Scotland in areas such as Castle Douglas, Rouken Glen Park and Kelvingrove Park in Glasgow, and Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh. As well as helping to mark the heritage of many of our members, the planting of these trees enables us to give back to and create a living legacy within the country that became our home. Each tree acts as a platform for telling the story of Britain's Jewish refugees. The majority the trees were planted on Holocaust Memorial Day, along with a time capsule containing key facts about our refugee community and sharing the life story of one or more AJR members, and it's been incredibly special to involve local communities with the project.



Another project launched in our 80th anniversary year is the UK Holocaust Map, developed in partnership with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). This digital resource (www.ukholocaustmap.org.uk) marks sites of memory across the UK which relate to the victims, survivors, rescuers and aid-givers and helps tell the story of the Holocaust and British responses to Nazism. Archives and institutions across the country are encouraged to contribute content to the map, as are students, teachers and individuals. With more than 400 locations already marked on the map, we are helping communities to learn about their local connections to the biggest genocide in modern history.

If you have a connection to the refugee story we would love to hear from you.

www.ajr.org.uk  **The Association of Jewish Refugees**

The story of the 'Great Bed of Ware'

Judy Gilbert – *in memory of my maternal grandparents*

"At Ware was a bed of dimensions so wide,
Four Couples might
cosily lie side by side,
and thus without touching
each other abide."

15th July 1596, Ludwig of Anholt-Kohten



I watched as the buyers drove off into the sunset with the 'Great Bed of Ware' (as my mother-in-law always referred to it with a chuckle) safely tucked away inside the van. I stood in the now almost empty room, the bulk of which had been taken up by the continental bed, beautifully crafted nearly 70 years ago. The sadly neglected room where I was standing, was further emphasised by the patchwork of old carpets, unseen beneath but now exposed by its absence, the bed that once belonged to my grandparents.

One fine day the buyer and her friend, the young man with the van, arrived to complete the exchange. Fascinated by the story of its original owners of so many years ago, they had to admit the provenance lent a personal dimension, with added value, to the purchase.

As I returned to the nearly empty room, now bereft of its piece of history, I mused on the genuine interest the buyer had shown in the background to a bed that could comfortably sleep all five of us. I couldn't help but reflect on the fact that I really knew too little about my own origin.

I had always found it difficult to squeeze information out of my parents, my father in particular. I also have a limited ability to analyse more challenging documents and many of the personal letters which I now find myself in possession of, because they are largely written in German script. These factors have contributed to the ignorance I hitherto had of my family history. During lockdown I have improved my German and together with kind help from Elena Breitmöser, letters and journals written by my family are now open to me. I have unearthed many fascinating details of my father's chilling experiences which took him, aged 15, from Vienna to England on the Kindertransport, then a year later to Australia, but that is different story.

The following account, however, required only the help of Google. It is the story behind the first proud owners of the bed and their daughters; Inge and her younger sister Ruth, my mother.

When Hitler first invaded Poland, he annexed the Polish Corridor including the city of Danzig together with East Prussia. Post war, Danzig became part of Poland and was renamed Gdansk.

Shortly before WW2 broke out my grandparents, Hedwig & Josef Salomon, were still living in Danzig with their daughters Inge, 17, and her sister Ruth, 13, in an apartment block that housed a fair number of people. Inge managed to make her way to England where her maternal grandparents were waiting to take her in. Ruth was too young for that journey and had to stay.



Hedwig & Josef- wedding

Persecution of the Jews was noticeably escalating, and measures to save young children, at least, had to be found.

Between November 1938 and September 1939, an innovation was set up that would provide an escape route to take children, the majority of whom were Jewish, to the relative safety of Britain. On April 31st, 1939, my mother, aged 13 ½, was on the last Kindertransport that brought her to Britain. This organisation rescued nearly 10,000 children.

Both girls had now left their parents and homeland for ever, and my grandparents were left behind.

As soon as occupation took place in Danzig, September 1939, the Nazis began rounding up Jews and herding them to various holding places. The authorities knew that a couple with the name of Salomon were living in an apartment in the Breitgasse. No-one was safe from Nazi intelligence. There was a knock on the door of people who were living on the ground floor. Standing on their doorstep, the Gestapo made enquiries about the Salomon family. It so happened that another couple with the same name were also living in the block and fate intervened.

The neighbours directed the officers to the apartment of my grandparents' namesakes and my grandparents incredibly escaped detection, but who could tell for how much longer. The family whose name they shared were not so fortunate.

With awful foreboding, Jewish communities came together to find a means of escape and between them they hired a ship that would take them to Palestine. Among the 1,684 passengers, my grandparents were allocated places on the 'Atlantic' sailing to Palestine. In early October 1940 they began the tentative journey to freedom. The first leg of the journey was from Danzig to Marienburg, in East Prussia, from where a train would take them to Constanza on the Black Sea. The 'Atlantic' landed in Haifa on Nov 20. 1940.

The British were beginning to limit the number of refugees landing in Palestine, which was still under their protection. 1800 passengers, who had already arrived from liners Milos & Pacific, were immediately transferred to the Patria, to be taken to Mauritius, together with 100 more from the Atlantic but my grandparents were not among that particular cohort of people to board, and would be on the next.

On November 25th from the shore of Haifa, my grandparents watched the Patria begin to leave the harbour, knowing that soon they would make the same journey. To their horror they saw the Patria suddenly explode, and witnessed the vessel beginning to sink. I knew enough German to understand 'Wir hätten auf diesem Schiff sein können' (we could have been on that ship).



Sinking of the Patria (1940)

The tragic event was caused by leaders of Haganah, whose plan it was to prevent further rejection of an already persecuted people. They had planted a very small mine in the side of the ship, that they thought would cause just enough damage to disable and force it to return, but never intending to destroy it.

The 250 survivors of the Patria were eventually allowed to stay in Palestine as a good will gesture by the British, but my grandparents were among 1,584 from the 'Atlantic' who were sadly taken to Beau Bassin central prison (euphemistically described as a detainee camp) in Mauritius spending most of their hours behind bars for nearly five years. Men and women were parted, and it was here that my grandparents spent the war producing bed covers. Conditions were poor, food was scarce, and passes were issued to regulate occasions for husbands and wives to meet. The irony of my grandparents becoming British prisoners of war, in contrast to German ones, isn't lost on me.



Opa the opera singer

The war ended and internees were finally allowed to return to Palestine. My grandparents settled in Nahariya, which was predominantly inhabited by other German speaking people.

Opa, whose true profession had been jeweller and watch maker, sold fruit and vegetables, touting them round on a donkey. My grandfather, incidentally, had been trained as an opera singer before



Josef Salomon - Israel 1945

he met Oma, but knowing the insecurity of such a profession, she insisted on his forgoing that ambition. Having finally made Aliyah, they remained in Nahariya long enough for Israel independence to have been declared but decided to return to Germany where, despite everything, they felt most comfortable. In Frankfurt they found a flat big enough to hold a large bed which is where the story of the 'Great bed of Ware' began.

When Opa died in 1970, he was buried in Frankfurt and Oma was brought to live in England with my parents. The bed arrived in Kingsbury, London, where it had to be stored in the attic. Oma soon bought a house near her two daughters, where she lived until she died aged 99.

Our own series of moves took us from the South of England to our Northern home via Cambridge and Essex. In Edinburgh, two moves later, our houses were still too small for the bed. The third attempt, with large Victorian bedrooms, was at last big enough to accommodate this large piece of furniture; the springboard, via the new owner, for the next episode in the life of the 'Great Bed of Ware'.



Best Wishes for a Happy New Year and well over the Fast



Jackie Abramson
Pinner, Middlesex

**Susie, Jonathan,
Sam and Ruth Adler**

Michael Adler and Sue Fyvel

Ena Amitai
Netanya, Israel

Margaret Aronson

James and Sally Barker
(nee Cowen), Samuel and Sadie
London

Claudia Bathgate-Starr

Clarice Been
London

Shirley and Peter Bennett

Barbara and Leslie Bennie

**Marcia and Leonard Berger and
Yvonne**

**Stella and Norman Bierman-
MacLeod**

**Micheline, David, Duncan,
Shrutee, Ananya and Ayan
Brannan**

Douglas and Rosalind Brodie
Elstree, Herts

Norma Brodie and family
Edinburgh

Christine and Dave Burns

Louise and Brian Caine
Edinburgh

Joyce and Jo Čapek and family

Helen Capitanchik
Dunfermline

**Andrew and Kathy Caplan,
Benjamin, James and Zoe**

**Ian and Rachel Caplan, Olivia
and Daniel**

Sandra and Sidney Caplan

Lady (Joyce) Caplan

**Shari, Martin and Hannah
Cohn-Simmen**

Kenneth and Irene Collins
Glasgow and Israel

John and Hazel Cosgrove

**Nick & Caroline Cosgrove,
Juliette, James and Charlotte**

לשנה טובה תכתבו ותחתמו

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and Family**

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Joyce Cram

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Betsy Dorfman

Max Dorfman & Rodney Dorfman
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Jerusalem, Israel

Eli, Tiina, Boaz, Hannah and Leo

Zena Eunson (nee Glass)

The Field family

Finlay Family
Edinburgh

Caroline and Lennie Freedman

**Einan and Merav Gardi, Omri,
Ilana and Shlomit**

**Judy and Anthony Gilbert and
family**

**May the New Year bring you and
yours Good Health! Professor Joe
Goldblatt, Nancy Lynner and family**

Kate and Ronnie Goodwin
Edinburgh

Gerald Gordon

David, Alex and Michael Grant

**Maryla and Edward Green
and Freddie**

**Dr Rebekah Gronowski
and family**

Mrs Elizabeth Grubb
South Queensferry

Stephen Gruneberg
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**Gidona and Robert Henderson,
Kerr and Oren**

Rosalyn and Bernard Jackson
Liverpool

**Howard, Valerie
and Jacqueline Kahn**
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**Liselotte Kastner (nee Adler)
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Jack Karro**
Melbourne, Australia

Lilian Kessly (nee Dorfman)
Mervona, Western Australia

Isobel King
Melrose

Sherma and Jonny Kisilevitz
Ein Kerem, Jerusalem

**Abby, Joel, Deborah,
Saul, Joshua and Eliora Korn**

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year and well over the Fast

Anita Levinson and family
Edinburgh

**Carol, Tom, Maurice
and Benjamin**

**Brian and Esther Levy
(nee Weisman)**
Stanmore, Middlesex

**David, Elaine, Daniel
and Michael Litman,**
Shenley Hill, Radlett

Tom Lowrie
Edinburgh

Sara Lurie and Matthew Shaps

**Sharon and Mike Lurie
Kate and Debra**
Plymouth

Ann Lurie
Edinburgh

Harriet Lyall

**Irene and Philip Mason
and family**

Avery Meiksin and family

Harold and Esther Mendelssohn

Louis Mendelssohn

**Roy, Archie and Owen
Mendelssohn**
Melbourne, Australia

Gershon Mendick

**Shana Tova from Janet, Martin,
Rowan, Grant and Willow**

**Michele, David, Sarah-Beth and
Katie Neville**

**The family of the late
Eve Oppenheim**

Philip and Rosie Oppenheim
Edinburgh

Irene Paterson (Saltman)
Edinburgh

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and family**

**Elaine, Aaron, Joel, Elsa, Louis
and Maya Raffel**
Edinburgh

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and family**

Malcolm Rifkind and family

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Phyllis Rosenberg (nee Stoller)
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**Rabbi Professor Danny and Debbie
Sinclair, Noam, Yonatan and Orit
and the Bermans, Jerusalem, Israel**

Judy Sischy and family

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Cheam, Surrey

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Harold Sterne
Netanya, Israel

Jackie, Raymond, Lawrence
and Michael Taylor

Carole Weinberg
Cheadle, Manchester

Rabbi & Mrs Pinny Weinman
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Pam, Jonathan and Dorothy

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Book Reviews

Memories that Won't Go Away – A Tribute to the Children of the Kindertransport

by Michele M Gold, with artwork by Gabriella Y. Karin

This book tells the individual stories of hundreds of members of the **Kindertransport**, which was the evacuation of some 10,000 children, between December 1938 and the outbreak of WWII in September 1939, from Germany, Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia - to Great Britain.



Michele Gold's book has been described by Czech filmmaker Matej Mináč as "A powerful testimony of great love and great sacrifice, and of the enormous risk that was taken to save these children. These stories will resonate in our hearts forever."

Michele M. Gold is a volunteer educator at the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust.

On 27 February this year, she gave a Zoom presentation, to members of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre network, on the work of the Museum.

Following this, I purchased two copies of her book, one of which I gifted to Fran Woodward, curator at the John Gray Centre and Public Library in Haddington, East Lothian (see pictures). The Centre houses a significant archive of documents and photographs relating to the Kindertransportees at Whittingehame House, birthplace and country seat of Lord Arthur Balfour, himself author of the Balfour Declaration initiating the formal recognition of the State of Israel.



Fran Woodward (left) Curator of the Kindertransport Archive at Haddington Public Library John Gray Centre, being presented with a copy of Michele Gold's book.

Readers may be interested in visiting the superb website "East Lothian At War" which contains a substantial section on the Kindertransportees of Whittingehame House.

<https://eastlothianatwar.co.uk/Whittingehame%20Farm%20School.html>

(Whittingehame is pronounced "Whittin-JAM" with a soft "g"!))

Harriet Lyall

Never Tell Anyone You're Jewish: My Family, the Holocaust and the Aftermath

by Maria Chamberlain

How do the experiences of our parents shape us? What impact do massive historical events and traumas have on the lives of those who experienced them and on the lives of those who were born after? Can we explain who we are and how we see ourselves and our place in the world by exploring our family's past? These are questions driving Maria Chamberlain's memoir – a personal quest to understand her survivor parents, and to lay historical ghosts to rest.



Detailed research leads to sensitive and compassionate portraits of immediate family members. Hailing from Kraków, her family experienced the Holocaust in ghettos, camps, prisons, and in hiding. There are links with well-known events, such as the Katyń massacre from which her maternal grandfather escaped, and the harrowing forced labour of the Kraków ghetto's *Judenrat* of which her paternal grandfather was the first president. We come across familiar names such as Oskar Schindler who rescued her great uncle, and hear about her mother's miraculous escape from a train to the death camp at Belzec.

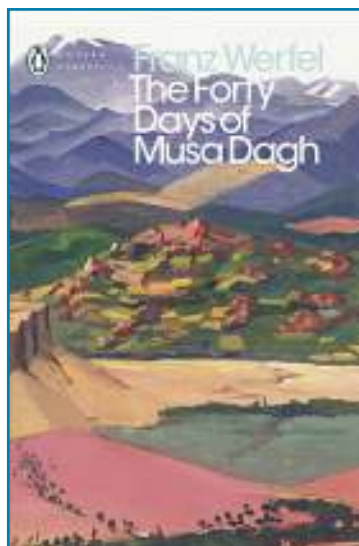
Like other recent memoirs of families disrupted by the cataclysmic events of the Holocaust, Chamberlain extends the view beyond the immediate post-war years and continues the narrative into the present. She is not only interested in the continuation of her parents' lives in Edinburgh; she also parses the historical events for their meanings and cares deeply about the ways in which subsequent generations may engage with this past. Care and compassion are two attributes that bind the chapters together: parents Artur and Jadwiga and other family members, as far as can be gleaned from available documents, are seen as whole persons with considerable strengths as well as flaws. Chamberlain takes care to explore and explain their worldviews even when her own perspective diverges. She acknowledges their pain and her own without blame, and focuses lessons learned on compassion and understanding of oneself and of those who are different from us.

Chamberlain wears her considerable knowledge and insights lightly. The narrative style is clear and direct, easily keeping the reader engaged across longer sections of historical explanation. She always brings the story back to her family and the wider questions about humanity embedded in this personal quest.

Hannah Holtschneider

The Forty Days of Musa Dagh

by Franz Werfel



There are now multiple thousands of books on the Shoah, but relatively few about the Armenian genocide of 1915-1920. Yet reading *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh* you quickly become aware of how many parallels there were between the two.

The Forty Days of Musa Dagh was written by a Prague-born Jewish writer and journalist, Franz Werfel. Visiting Damascus in 1929, he came across “maimed and famished-looking refugee children” (Armenian children orphaned as a result of the genocide), which prompted him to rescue the story of this infamous event. The result is this mammoth novel – over 800 pages – which has been called one of the finest books on the Armenian genocide. Published in German early in 1933, the book was promptly banned by the Nazis.

It covers a real event which took place early on in the genocide. Musa Dagh (“Moses’ Mountain”) is a mountain on the western coast of modern-day Syria around which, in 1915, seven largely Armenian villages were scattered. As the Turkish government issued its “resettlement orders” to Armenians throughout the Ottoman Empire – an order which effectively condemned most to death – villagers from the seven villages chose to flee to the mountain and resist. Their astonishing action lasted forty days.

Long the novel may be, but it is an absolute page-turner. From a Jewish perspective, the parallels with the Shoah are uncanny. As in Germany, the context was the rise of an ultra-nationalist/militarist regime, plus the outbreak of a world war. Despite the technological differences, the pattern of resettlement orders with false promises leading to mass death was the same: and Nazis took inspiration from the Turks. As Hitler is quoted saying: “Who remembers the Armenians?” This book is a must-read for anyone who wants to remember and to pay tribute to those similarly murdered 25 years earlier.

Sue Lieberman

Med

by Claudia Roden



“Food opens doors,” says Claudia Roden in her latest book. If you question the veracity of this statement, I urge you to read *‘Med’*. Jewish cooks and foodies will be familiar with this remarkable lady’s work, in particular her *‘Book of Jewish Food’*, which is not only a brilliant recipe book but also a detailed history of Ashkenazi and Sephardi cuisine, recounted with warmth, humour and honesty.

‘Med’, which was published in 2021, some 25 years after *‘The Book of Jewish Food’*, is somewhat wider in its subject matter but an equally informative read. In it Roden barely gives a nod to her Sephardi upbringing in Egypt, apart from a brief mention of her grandparents’ origins and one recipe for a Passover chocolate cake. Here she writes about her travels around the Mediterranean and the food she has enjoyed in France, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Greece and North Africa. You won’t find recipes for chopped herring, gefilte fish or lokshen kugel; the majority of the recipes in *‘Med’* are based on vegetables, pulses and grains, so are especially appealing to non-meat eaters and cooks who are looking to expand their vegetarian repertoire. Pumpkin soup, Pissaladière, Tagliolini, Stuffed Peppers, Granitas, all whet the appetite. Her recipes are straightforward, using for the most part ingredients that are readily available, and the colourful photos of every dish invite readers to try each one. Her anecdotes that accompany the recipes and the charming illustrations of the places she has visited make this book an enjoyable read for all, be they keen cooks or not, though I defy anyone who reads *‘Med’* to not be inspired to get cooking!

Joyce Čapek

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A New Find, Author Leslea Newman

I am always on the hunt for new and interesting children's books. Being an honorary auntie to lots of friends' children, I am now relishing the arrival of THEIR children. So lots of little ones to find gifts for!

As a librarian, I have always taken a keen interest in children's literature both old and new, and I always read both the American and British Library Association's awards lists. Last year a new author to me was Leslea Newman from Massachusetts. She comes with an impressive list of titles both for adults and children, including poetry and short stories.

This background has meant many of her children's titles for very little ones, are often really poetry and rhyme. Reading along with children is the most valuable introduction to a love of books and reading that an adult can do, and Leslea has created in several of the titles I have been lucky to purchase, some wonderful stories and poetry with the most carefully and beautifully chosen illustrators. This artwork forms the attraction and interest these books have for both the child and their adult reader. Among the many I bought and read were 'WELCOMING ELIJAH'. It won the Sydney Taylor award from the American Library Association which is presented annually to outstanding books for children and teens which 'authentically portray the Jewish experience'. When it comes to the boy's favourite part of the Seder meal, he is surprised as he opens their front door for the entrance of Elijah to their table, that a tiny white kitten has been waiting for the moment to spring into their cosy welcoming home. As the boy asked 'Elijah?' the kitten meowed agreement. And that's how Elijah found his new home!

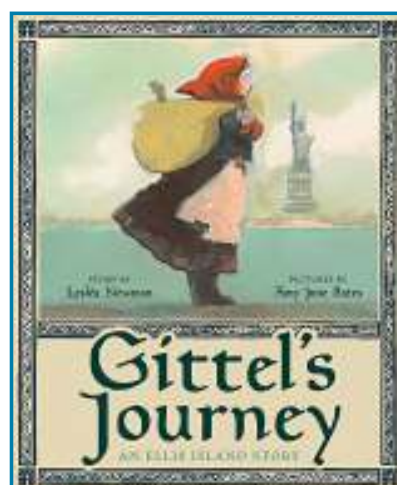
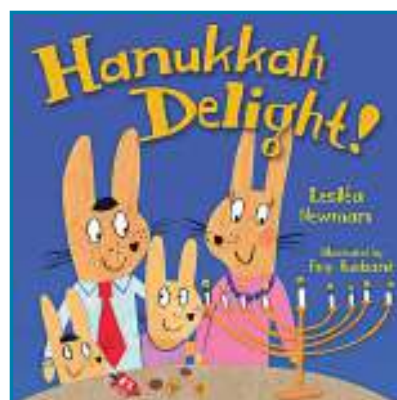
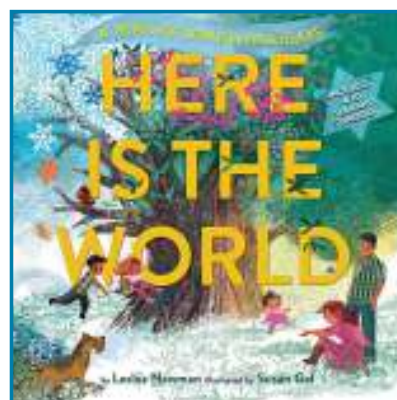
Another of her titles is 'HERE IS THE WORLD', a celebration of Jewish Holidays throughout the year. The joy and significance of each holiday beautifully comes to life, and at the back of the book, explores further the full meaning of each occasion accompanied by an appropriate craft or recipe. Again, beautiful vibrant illustrations. 'HANUKKAH DELIGHT' is her small rhyming board book, just the right size for tiny hands to hold and enjoy.

On a more serious note, 'GITTEL'S JOURNEY' is what Leslea describes as an Ellis Island story. After her mother is deemed unfit to travel to America, little Gittel must make the journey alone. Based on a true story from her own family history, this book has been described as 'Historical fiction at its picture book best'. 'A terrific book with spot on illustrations.' 'Memorable. A fine book'.

I recommend her work more highly than even these reviews.

Regrettably Edinburgh City Library has only 2 of her books which I can trace in their catalogue, but the books are easily available through Amazon. Any of them would make wonderful gifts for your little readers. A delight both to read and admire the spectacular illustrations.

Elizabeth Rosenbloom





IT'S WHERE OUR HEART IS

Israel today is resilient and prosperous; however, many Israelis sadly do not share in its prosperity. Without our intervention, the gaps in Israel's society, between those that have and those that do not, are only going to widen.

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To support the work of UJIA in Israel this Kol Nidre and be part of building a home where every child has the opportunities we would want for our own, visit ujia.org/kn22



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— THE —
JOURNEY
— HOME —

Review of Edinburgh International Book Festival Event with Jonathan Freedland on “The Escape Artist”

Janet Mundy

Jonathan Freedland will be well known to many Edinburgh Star readers as journalist, broadcaster, Guardian columnist, author and previous Lit presenter. His latest book tells the astonishing story of Rudolf Vrba, one of only four people ever successfully to escape from Auschwitz. This was one of many escapes in his life, to the extent that he was known as “the escape artist”. Freedland was interviewed by Richard Holloway about the book on the first day of this year’s Edinburgh International Book Festival.



Freedland first came across Rudolf Vrba as one of the interviewees in the “Shoah” documentary when he was 19, the same age as Vrba was when he escaped from Auschwitz. He stood out in the documentary as having great charisma, even though he only briefly mentioned his escape. In 2016, Freedland decided that, in an era of “post-truth”, it was time to investigate how Vrba fulfilled his mission to get the truth about Auschwitz out to the world. Vrba died in 2006, but Freedland tracked down Vrba’s first wife and was given a suitcase of Vrba’s letters to her.

Rudolf Vrba, born Walter Rosenberg, but taking a new name once he returned to his native Slovakia after his escape, was a precociously intelligent teenager, excelling in languages and maths at an elite gymnasium in Bratislava until the school was closed to Jews in 1938. He avoided deportation (his first escape) until eventually ending up in Auschwitz in June 1942, where he stayed for nearly 2 years. As a fit, strong youth, with good language skills and charisma, there were still many “50/50 moments” when he was lucky to survive. He ended up as a bureaucrat where vitally he had access to information. He also had extraordinary memory skills, memorising every detail of the date and statistics for each transport (to the extent that he could identify someone’s transport from the tattoo on their arm over 30 years later). He examined previously unsuccessful escape attempts and recognised that he needed someone to escape with him (Fred Wetzler, from the same town but 6 years older). His knowledge of the transports led to the insight that the people arriving had been fed lies throughout and had no idea that they were not going to start a new life. They therefore brought as many possessions with them as they could, which were all immediately confiscated and taken for

sorting – removing anything that would identify the possessions as belonging to Jews, and searching for hidden valuables (Freedland read a section including the macabre detail that the women doing the sorting squeezed toothpaste tubes looking for hidden diamonds or money).

Jonathan Freedland understandably wants people to read the book to find out how Vrba and Wetzler engineered their escape, although he did reveal the detail that it took place in April 1944 on Good Friday and the first day of Pesach, something Vrba himself only discovered 50 years later!

They escaped into Nazi-occupied Poland and eventually made it back to Slovakia where Vrba made contact with the few thousand Jews left in the country and hid in a basement while dictating his testimony, with the urgent aim for the news to reach Hungary, as the Jewish community there had not yet been affected. The resulting report was smuggled across borders where copies eventually reached Winston Churchill, President Franklin D Roosevelt and the Pope, all of whom were slow to respond, partly due to prejudice (the UK Foreign Office talked of “those wailing Jews” and the US Army said the report was “too Semitic an account”). Eventually a British journalist, recognising “the scoop of the century”, hand delivered copies to press agencies throughout Zurich, where he was working. In the 2 months since the escape, 12-15,000 Jews a day had been transported from Hungary; however, Vrba’s report eventually saved 200,000 Hungarian Jews.

The book goes into Vrba’s post-war life, including an almost equally astonishing escape from behind the Iron Curtain, to a period living in England as a scientist, before moving to Vancouver for the rest of his life. Although he was brought up as an Orthodox Jew, he became a lifelong atheist and never engaged with the Jewish community in Vancouver.

The Q&A from the audience often related to links to what is happening in the world today, including a question from Professor Joe Goldblatt about Liz Truss bringing up the “hoary old stereotype” about Jews being good in business, and the current war in Ukraine. Freedland pointed out that Germany has faced up to its guilt in a way that many other countries have not, including Eastern European countries like Ukraine and even the UK – going back as far as the 12th century and including the Nazi occupation of the Channel Islands.

“The Escape Artist: The Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to Warn the World” by Jonathan Freedland is published by John Murray, currently available in hardback and Kindle editions.

 **Edinburgh
International
Book Festival**

Obituaries

Shalom Shapira 12/8/1929 – 28/6/2022

Rabbi of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation
1988 to 1994.

Rabbi Shapira had 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. His daughters Kalia, Yael and Efrat live with their families in Israel. His son Yair lives with his family, wife Marina and son Amir, in Scotland.

Marina Shapira (Daughter-in-law) wrote:

We stand at the Bait Ha'almin in Raanana looking at the gravestone of our father, father-in-law and grandfather, Rabbi Shalom Shapira. The atmosphere is solemn, a gentle breeze caresses the faces of his children and grandchildren, standing with me. The cypress tree looms over us, its leaves whispering above our heads. Sadness and solemnity permeate the air, but I can't help thinking there is also a lightness, a beauty. Shalom chose his resting place well. The light grey marble of the gravestone is beautiful in its simplicity. No pretence, no extravagance. Written on its face: "Let your song echo in our hearts forever". Such a simple sentence, but Shalom's song has lived with us for so many years, there is nothing I can wish for more than that it stay with us even after his passing. Shalom's song was full of beauty, wisdom, kindness, a music that overflowed and filled with awe and an infectious optimism that couldn't help but be shared by anyone who met him.

I was so lucky to get to know you Shalom. And I am so sorry I won't get to spend more time with you now. It is heart-breaking to think the time together we missed because of Covid. You entered our house always full of joy, laughter, praise, and love. You were grateful for even the smallest thing we could do for you, and I hope you know we are just as grateful for everything you did for us. We enjoyed every moment of you being in our house in Edinburgh, even if we had to share you with the entire Jewish congregation who cherished and loved you so much. You weren't just a father-in-law but a very dear friend for me – how many talks we had! They meant so much to me. Your wisdom, generosity, selflessness, made us so happy.

I look at the faces of Shalom's children and grandchildren. I hear them say the Tehillim. There is so much of him here in their faces. So much of his love, his light, his music, and sadness in his absence.

When I was asked to write about Shalom for his beloved Edinburgh Star, I thought for a long time on how to approach this. But now, standing here in Bait Ha'almin I suddenly know. I should stop now, and let the voices of Shalom's children in.



How Do you Say Goodbye to a Father?

Kalia Pnina Shapira (Daughter)

I sit in the eulogy hall before my father's head and body, wrapped in its shawl, and I ask the audience around me to share in this last intimate conversation with my father:

"How do you say goodbye to your father? Is it even possible to say goodbye to someone so much a part of me? Someone a part of the very essence of my soul? A part of the way I express myself, my voice, my tone. The very source of how I emoter is all from you, Aba.

And so much of who I am in this world is thanks to you. My ability to express myself through the power of the written word is thanks to you, Aba. My very language, spoken and written, is thanks to you, Aba.

And all the solemnity, dignity, and healing that singing has given to my life is thanks to you, Aba! And now even Daniel continues in your footsteps, with her own song that penetrates thousands of hearts. The warmth and power of her voice is all inspired by you, Aba.

And who, if not you, Aba, taught me what freedom was? Freedom of choice, that goes beyond the price it charges, because it brings out an uncompromising truth, one which your loud voice carried up to the heavens: "A thousand firefighters won't be able to put me out!"

The spirit of singing and joy that led you! Every so often you looked at a new destination on the globe and exclaimed – "After me!" and then you swept us all with you! Who could have resisted you!

And from whom if not from you Aba, would I get the courage, the audacity, the boldness to come back and question at 20? A revolution that shook the ground at home. Where you were the only one who stayed calm.

And who, if not you, inspired me to get up and leave everything behind that was sure and permanent in my life, when mother died, and go on a year's journey to the East?

And deciding to become a mother 15 years ago and to bring up this enormous new soul in this world? I could do this only thanks to the independence and freedom of choice that you instilled in me, Aba.

Please light my path so that I can keep helping people through the work of the heart, like you did, only in my own way.

And just before we part from your body forever, may everyone join me in this last song that we use to sing with Aba: "...I praise you, O Lord, you have blessed me... my God, I have come to you, and I prayed to you, and you heal me."

Because the ability to light the darkest moments of my life with a song is from you Aba.

You can't be stopped!

Efrat Shapira (Daughter)

Do you hear mum? Rachel? Grandma Rachel? It took him a long time, he had so much to get done, so he was delayed. Don't get cross, accept him with open arms! It was stronger than him, this thirst of life and desire for it all, and more. And more. A taste for both this and that. To try this country club, and also to go to the gym for the elderly, and some yoga too, and water gymnastics. Only after he was sweating properly would he get into the shower and then step outside for the taxi waiting to take him home. And he had to sign up for the choir and to be the soloist, he had to be in a cantorial show, and he had to take all the grandchildren on a cruise, and also to fly with a group to Africa, and alone to London, and together to Georgia, and together to Croatia... And, of course, to come to us for Shabbat, and then also to go to Zvika at Chol Hamoed... and from there to skip to Leah to spend a final Chag with her.

He had to accept every invitation to a graduation ceremony, opening ceremony, siddur, bar-mitzvah, and too many more to count. He had to take photos, and photos, and photos, to record and document everything! Once, he used an ancient tape recorder. Then he switched to mobile phones. And how many mobile phones, mom, how many laptops he bought for himself, and mastered them all with a firm hand after only a few private lessons. He was on Google, on WhatsApp, on Facebook, he scrolled on his screen proudly, scrolled, and scrolled, and scrolled! Heard everything on YouTube, lectures, cantorial music, and... belly dancing... Do you understand mom? It is not that he didn't miss you, it's just that he was so busy! His brain was so full of tasks, and he had so many to carry out... This is how he lived his life – the world for him was a huge toy store and he wanted it all!

After you left us, I went with him to Scotland. The Jewish congregation in Edinburgh organized an evening in your memory, and father and I, with 3-month-old Uri in my arms, flew there together. And again, he stood at the exit from the Schule, again wearing his black robe, shaking hands with everyone who came out. He knew all of their names exactly and what they were doing, he related to everyone in such a personal way. My father, who established congregations around him, was blessed with unusual interpersonal skills. He sang happily and loudly, and the congregation happily joined the Kiddush and hugged and kissed and danced with Rabbi Shalom.

Twenty years late, he has created another congregation around him. This time in the Yavne community, and they together celebrated his 90th birthday in Raanana. And again, he goes on stage to pray, wearing a printed t-shirt that Kalia made for all of us. A 90-year-old groom, passing between people, shaking hands, kissing, grabbing a salted fish, humming, hugging, tasting the kugel, and once again he is on top of the world!

Aah mom, it's so different. Twenty years ago, we buried you, I was a young mother and now I am a woman, and I think I know a thing or two about life, yet I don't want to let him go.

He was here so much for me, with everything that challenged my life, he was my rock... my father, who was constantly captivated by life, was always pleasantly surprised, every simple thing became an amazing event for him, from a salad that I made for him at dinner on Chol Hamoed to Shabbat to Yotam's Bar Mitzvah... and he goes and sings, goes down the stairs and hums, comes back from prayer and continues to sing, in Yiddish, Yemenite, cantorial of Herstik, and also Yishai Rivo, and especially Margalit Tsanani.

So mum, welcome him, walk with him again hand in hand, and go back to setting limits for him. Because we never could...

My dear father! How lucky I was to be able to tell you that I love you! How lucky I was to have managed to thank you for everything! You were an extraordinary father and human being. I don't know if I can manage without you to continue with that same optimistic outlook, because I really don't have it. But I promise to try and to be grateful to everyone around me.

I am grateful to you! I ask your forgiveness that I have not always been patient, that I did not always agree to do all that you asked for... how hard it is for me stop writing about you, I don't want to let you go, though I know you already wanted to... and yet it's so hard for me. So, I will finish with your words that you repeated as a mantra at every opportunity: Thank you for everything you did for me. And it seems to me that you will continue to be present in my life always, because you can't actually be stopped. You are unstoppable!

Land

Yair Shapira (Son)

*when the land was flat
people used to live on it
in their homes
they had their fire burning
to warm up
and
to keep warm
they hugged each other
they even kissed each other
man kissed a woman
woman kissed a man
man kissed his wife
and she kissed him back
and the fire was burning
when the land was flat
today
the land isn't flat any more*

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Dr Ian Leifer 9/8/1938 – 13/1/2022

Dina Leifer (Daughter)



Our father, Ian Leifer, was a kind, generous, highly intelligent man who cared deeply about Judaism and education and was an asset to every Jewish community he joined. He was a much loved husband, father and grandfather and was liked and respected by everyone who knew him. He also had a great sense of humour and an endless supply of jokes.

Our father was born in Hackney, London, in 1938, the second of Rose and Nathan Leifer's three sons. The family were prominent members of Lea Bridge Road Synagogue. He shared a love of classical music with his elder brother Michael which stayed with him throughout his life. He had a beautiful tenor voice, and sang with choirs in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The boys received a thorough Jewish education. From his teenage years onwards, our father took children's services and taught cheder. Throughout his life, he used his Jewish knowledge to contribute to the various shuls and communities he belonged to. He never stopped learning and studying, remaining an active member of the Glasgow chavruta study group until the end of this life.

Ian was academically gifted and earned a place at Hackney Downs Grammar School. Later in life he reconnected with old school friends through the old boys' association. The school was mostly Jewish, which may explain why he could walk into any shul and find someone he went to school with! He went on to study Physics at Imperial College, completing his PhD in 1967.

Our father met our mother, Joan Freedman, at the Clapton Jewish Youth Club in the late 1950s. They started going out together onboard the ship Artza, on the Clapton Club tour to Israel in August 1958. They married in 1961 and had two children: Andrew in 1963, and me in 1966. They moved to Dundee in 1963 where Ian taught at the university. Our parents hosted the Jewish society at their home there and invited the Jewish students to their seder.

The family moved to Birmingham in 1966, where our father taught at Aston University. They then made aliyah in 1972 but returned to the UK in 1974. Our father took up a lecturing post at Napier College, later Napier University, Edinburgh, where he worked until his retirement in 2001. He specialised in optics, working with lasers and holograms. He formed long-lasting friendships with his colleagues there and met up with them regularly until the end of his life.

Our father was a stalwart of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, playing a huge number of roles at different times, including: President of the Literary Society; Shul Council Member; Shul President; member of the Council of Christians and Jews; running shul visits; organising services when the community was between rabbis; cheder teacher and head teacher, and much more besides. He also taught bar mitzvahs.

When our parents moved to Glasgow in 2002, our father became a highly active and much loved member of the Giffnock shul community, where he also contributed in many ways, including taking services and showing school groups around the shul.

Our parents enjoyed caravan trips to France and around the UK, particularly after my mother retired in 2008. But sadly their activities became more limited after Joan was diagnosed with cancer in 2015. Our father cared for and supported our mother tirelessly throughout the difficult years of her illness. He was left heartbroken when she died in 2018. He kept himself busy by staying involved in shul activities. He also loved spending time with his children and grandchildren and visiting his brother David and all his family in Israel, where he was a favourite with his great nephews and nieces.

Ian was a wonderful father and grandfather: patient, kind, funny, supportive and willing to do anything to help. He was adored by Andrew and Dina and by his grandchildren Adi and Dalia, who have many cherished memories of him, including: his "awful" jokes, his tasting notes on different types of chayne, his love of marmalade, his insistence that he was the only one who could stack a dishwasher properly, and his stories of his relatives during the war, who helped build the Mosquito aircraft.

Our father died suddenly in January 2022. The many tributes to him often included the words: "he was a lovely man," "a mensch," and "a gentleman." We miss him terribly, but take comfort in the wonderful memories that we, and so many people, have of him.

CST wishes our community a peaceful, healthy & safe New Year

This Rosh Hashanah, we look forward to being able to join together and celebrate as fully as we have been able to for some time. Throughout the pandemic, CST has been here, working to continue to protect our community, navigating the many challenges that the last two-and-a-half years have provided.

Reports of anti-Jewish hate in the UK reached an all-time high in 2021 when Israel was at war; events in Buffalo, New York and Colleyville, Texas have shown that extremists from across the ideological spectrum often hold antisemitic beliefs at the core of their worldview, and are prepared to carry out terrorism at any time, anywhere. We know from bitter experience that hatred festers in times of economic uncertainty and that, unfortunately, the Jewish community suffers the sharp edge of society's need to find a scapegoat. We must be alive to the dangers that confront us.

In light of these realities, and as the world returns to something approaching what we knew before, CST's commitment to guaranteeing the safety of our community to the best of our ability is unwavering. This is a duty we always approach with a great sense of responsibility, humility and pride. After a period when all activity has been somewhat limited, we

emerge strong, focused and ready to play our part in facilitating the thriving of Jewish life in the New Year.

To fulfil this purpose, we rely on the work and dedication of our fantastic volunteers. They are the people without whom our entire mission would fall apart.

Our volunteers receive the most up to date training in modern-day security tactics. On our training courses you will be given the knowledge and skills needed to not only protect yourself, but the friends, family and community you are perhaps sitting among today. Our dynamic sessions, delivered by expert instructors, will not only educate you on the various threats to the Jewish community, but also how to combat them. Physical training in self defence, problem solving under pressure, teamwork, camaraderie and fun are all components of the course. All CST's training courses are free of charge.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a CST volunteer security officer, or any other training offered by CST please contact us at recruitment@cst.org.uk.

From everyone at CST, we wish you a safe, Happy New Year and meaningful fast.



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Eve Renee Oppenheim

3/8/1926 – 22/6/2022

Gillian Smith (Daughter)
Audrey Lister (Daughter)
Jeremy Oppenheim (Son)

It is just a few months since the loss of our mother, Eve Renee Oppenheim at the age of 95. Although her health was a growing concern, she was still able, in January 2022, to dance at the wedding of one of her eight grandchildren and celebrate shortly afterwards the birth of her fifth great-grandchild.



Eve was born in Middlesbrough, the daughter of Albert and Gertrude Halson, only three months before the barmitzvah of her brother, Harold. She grew up in a warm and loving family, including a whole cast of bachelor uncles who took her horse-racing at Rippon and to the football. During the war, Mum was evacuated to boarding school at Windermere in the Lake District, where she thrived academically, made lifelong friends and discovered a passion for tennis.

Eve went to university in Durham, where she trained to be a doctor, doing her clinical years in Newcastle. Medicine required more than school curriculum botany and Eve joked about her disastrous grades at the end of the first term, but academic success soon followed. Nor did study prevent an active social life (there were many boyfriends, but none who matched up to her standards).

On qualifying as a doctor, Eve returned to Middlesbrough to stay close to her mother, who had long suffered from angina, and joined a GP practice. It was there, when interviewing candidates for a temporary position, that she met and fell in love with our father, Dr Nathan Oppenheim – better and more affectionately known as Nate. After a whirlwind courtship and engagement, Eve and Nate married in February 1952. Sadly, wedding celebrations were blighted by the death of George VI, causing dancing to be forbidden. Eve and Nate compensated by escaping on honeymoon to Paris, where they lived it up and embraced their new life together.

In 1952, the need for financial stability and an expectation that women stop working on marriage, drove both our parents to step aside from their medical careers. In Nate's case, this meant joining the family furniture business. These must have been exceptionally hard decisions as both Mum and Dad were always passionate about the practice of medicine.

Children followed soon. Gillian in 1953; Audrey in 1959; and Jeremy in 1962. The far too early death of both parents and then her beloved brother Harold meant Eve was wholly committed to building her own family and creating a community of friends around her. Home became No 10 Ravelston Dykes in 1958 and remained so for the rest of her life.

Eve returned to medicine just after Jeremy's barmitzvah, initially helping Philip Harris in his neuro-surgery practice, working in school medicine, then being central to the setting up of the first breast cancer clinic in Edinburgh and, finally, becoming medical adviser to Scottish Adoption.

The 1980s and 1990s brought much happiness but also heartaches. There were weddings, grand-children, trips all over the world (a highlight being a visit to Singapore where Nate had served as a medical officer), and time to be together. Our parents were a very devoted couple ... in many ways, inseparable. But sadly, in August 1999, our father died suddenly. Eve never fully recovered from losing Nate, but she was a strong, independent, incredibly resilient woman and she resurfaced, becoming amongst other things a regular cook for the Luncheon Club (albeit older than many of its clientele) and a keen supporter of the Lit.

She was proud of her decades of work for Jewish Child's Day as their Edinburgh representative, on whose behalf, year after year, she wrote handwritten letters of appeal (and thanks), raising meaningful sums.

Her passion for Bridge (where her considerable intellect ensured her success in friendly competition) helped her build an extended community of new friends, including her neighbours up and down "the Dykes", the International Women's Group and multiple book clubs. Her breadth of knowledge was enhanced by a deep interest in literature, enthusiastic attendance at the Edinburgh Festival and a real curiosity about the wellbeing of all with whom she interacted.

She embraced new experiences, including multiple visits to the States, prompted by Gillian working in New York, Jeremy studying at Harvard and, a generation later, Simon studying at Wharton, in Philadelphia. With Gillian she went to South Africa and frequently to France and Italy; she stayed regularly at Audrey's flat in Spain; cheered on Edward at the Maccabiah in Jerusalem; and accompanied Jeremy on many trips, far and wide, all the time being a picture of elegance with perfectly coiffured hair.

Despite her frustrations with technology, she learnt how to use an iPad, to Zoom and even to Face Time so that she could stay in touch. We shall miss cultural adventures to the theatre in London and to the Edinburgh Fringe where, well into her 90s, Eve would try out the latest "cultural" offerings.

Eve was fiercely loyal and independent, eagle-eyed (we used to say that she had eyes in the back of her head), committed to family, intellectually curious, intensely sociable and gregarious, always up for new adventures, a great hostess and cook, judgemental but also willing to hear other points of view, stoic to a fault and never wanting to be a burden, a lover of celebrations, tradition and family events, deeply principled and proud of her heritage, her community, her friends and her family.

We, her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will miss her enormously.

David Mendelssohn

19/4/1927 – 23/4/2022

Harold Mendelssohn (Son)



Our father was born to Annie and Eddie Mendelssohn in Glasgow in 1927, the second eldest of four brothers and three younger sisters. Soon after his birth, the family moved to Edinburgh where he was to remain for the rest of his life marrying our mother Anita in 1952. They were blessed with two children Harold and Elaine, five grandchildren, the youngest of whom tragically died in infancy, and four great grandchildren who live in Australia.

David Mendelssohn was best known to the Edinburgh Jewish Community for his honorary role as Choir Master, a position he served for many decades. Our father was most talented, writing music and arranging pieces for the Sabbath and High Holidays. His attention to detail in delivering a professional choir may have kept many in the congregation awake, attentive and entertained throughout some of the longer services. This dedication to music was encouraged and nurtured by the family, in part due to their name, as it was suggested we had a link to Felix Mendelssohn the composer. A visit I made to Berlin expunged this notion when I unearthed the family history for Felix Mendelssohn. As Mendelssohn was famous, research was relatively easy and I was able to identify the members of the Felix Mendelssohn family through documentation found in the Jewish museum. We are not from that side of the family; and the Scottish connection more likely indicates that our family came to Glasgow at the end of the 19th century due to the pogroms from the Baltic States or North Eastern Europe.

As well as music, our father David was a keen sportsman playing tennis, golf and cricket; he met our mother Anita at the local tennis courts. For many years, he played cricket with Maccabi and was a member of Liberton and Duddingston golf clubs and in his prime played golf off a low handicap.

The love of music however was ingrained in his whole family where the siblings either played instruments or sung or both. Dad was a very competent musician and played the piano all his life.

In fact, whilst sifting through paperwork in his house, I was pleased to find a certificate showing he had passed his music exams with distinction. Undoubtedly, he could have followed a career as a professional musician, but as was so prevalent in those days, freedom in a choice of career was not to be. He left school at fourteen to become a tailor in the family business with his father and other brothers. In 1954, he left the tailoring trade to set up his own wholesale stationery business which he ran until he retired in 1997.

During the war, our father was evacuated to a farm near Peebles. Shortly after the war, he was conscripted and served his military service in the brigade band travelling extensively including to Egypt where he was stationed. This engendered a lifelong love of travel. Family holidays were exceptionally adventurous with one trip even necessitating putting the car on an aircraft (now no longer possible) from Le Touquet in France to Lydd in Kent. After family, driving and flying were some of his greatest pleasures in life and in later years, he travelled with our mother on two visits to Canada. He enjoyed many trips to the USA mostly to visit with his older brother Ellis and Ellis's family in Oklahoma and then more recently my parents enjoyed two trips to Australia to visit their grandchildren and their families.

Sadly and in all honesty, our father's heart was broken in November 2018 when our mother Anita passed away after sixty-six years of marriage. He felt her loss deeply and he never got over it. Although his last few years without our mother were a struggle, we have to be grateful that he had led a long life full of adventure, happiness and fulfilment.

On behalf of the family, I would like to thank all of you who took the time to call Elaine and me to express your condolences and to the many of you who wrote such kind letters. We are so very grateful.

Our father, David will be sorely missed and long remembered.

Irene Hyams 30/7/1935 – 7/9/2021

Steven & Gary Hyams (Sons)



Our fantastic mother, Irene Betty Hyams, died suddenly and unexpectedly on 7 September 2021. She is terribly missed by all her family and friends.

Mum was born in Glasgow in 1935. She went to Hutchison's Girls School where she received an excellent education. She had wanted to go to university to study law but her mother wouldn't let her as she thought it would make mum less appealing to men! Such were the thoughts of the times. It actually worked out well as she may not have met the love of her life if she had gone away to university and we wouldn't be here now.

She met our father, David, at a dance in Glasgow. She was 18 when they became engaged and 19 when they married. Steven was born in 1957 and Gary in 1959. They were married for over 60 years, celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary in 2015. It is no exaggeration to say that they doted on each other and were true soul mates. We never saw them argue or exchange an angry word. Mum joined dad in the family business and they worked very hard (usually 6 days a week). With mum's help and fashion sense the business grew to become a thriving and very successful enterprise. When Steven joined the business they were able to take things a little bit easier and started cruising which they loved. After they both retired, they travelled the world widely, the family joke being that they only came home to wash their clothes and then they were off again!

Even though mum was a newcomer to Edinburgh when she came here to live after marrying dad in 1955, she quickly became part of the community with her gregarious nature and relaxed personality. She energetically supported the community's social and charitable events helping with functions and cooking meals for the weekly lunch club. She was a very active member of WIZO and a strong supporter of Israel throughout her life.

When dad died in 2015, it's no understatement to say that mum was devastated. She was never the same person again without "her David".

Mum was an extremely fashionable person. She had a great interest in all things to do with fashion and was always dressed very glamorously. She mentioned a number of times that strangers had stopped her in the street and said how glamorous she was looking.

Mum was delighted when Steven went to a function in Manchester and met Susan. They were married in 1984. James was born in 1991 and Amanda in 1993.

Mum loved spending time with her grandchildren. Whenever they came to visit or telephoned her, her eyes would light up with pleasure. She was very family oriented and liked nothing better than to be surrounded by her family telling stories of our childhoods and her lifetime experiences (of which there were many!).

It's fair to say that mum's life was truly a life well spent. She loved to learn new things and try all sorts of different experiences from food to travel destinations. She had been to virtually every place in the world that was worth going to and she always did it in style.

When we think about mum now, we like to think of her sitting on the balcony of a cruise ship in some exotic location, with our father sitting beside her beaming with pleasure from being with her. Of course, in mum's hand is a glass of her favourite drink - Prosecco - as they cruise together for all eternity.

George Julian Geis

26/12/1933 – 14/11/2021

John Gordon



George Julian Geis – Yoseph Yehudah ben Ze'ev Feitel – was born on 26 December 1933, the elder child of Millicent and Walter Philip Geis of South Tottenham in North London. The family was largely of Litvak origin and had a strong connection with relatives in South Africa.

After wartime primary education George attended Tottenham Grammar School, leaving at the age of sixteen to take up an engineering apprenticeship with the Swan Edison Electric Light company, continuing his education through part-time release studies at Enfield Technical College for the City & Guilds Higher National Certificate and where he became prominent in student affairs and social activities. He had always had a practical bent and had long since developed a strong interest in radio and the construction of wireless sets, so that during his National Service in the Royal Air Force he became a wireless instructor. George always attributed the high success rate of his trainees to the fact that he bored them so much that they fell asleep in class, with the result that they had to do serious revision in their own time in order not to be failed.

George's subsequent life-long connection with Scotland and the Edinburgh Hebrew Community began when he met and in December 1955 married Sandra (Sadie), the elder daughter of the Bronson family of Joppa. They adopted and brought up a baby girl, Diane Martine. Moving to Corstorphine, George worked first as an electrical engineer at Ferranti's and then for Bruce Peebles & Co. in Fife where he was responsible for the design and development of a gas chromatography testing device which was patented by the company.

Despite his success as an employee, George – ever the optimist – always nurtured the ambition to set up on his own and spent the rest of his career in various consultancy and marketing roles which frequently took him all over the country, giving him the opportunities for travel which he always enjoyed. After the sudden and unexpected death of his wife Sandra in 1982, he eventually settled in Broxburn though in later years he usually spent the colder months of the year in the warmer climes of Estapona in South East Spain or touring elsewhere in Europe and visiting cousins in Israel and Vancouver, Canada.

George had a great capacity for friendship, making many friends among the general as well as the Jewish community. He had always had strong sporting interests, his childhood home being just within walking distance of the Tottenham Hotspurs football stadium. In later years he took up the game of croquet and became a valued member of the Meadows Croquet Club of Edinburgh where his mentoring and instructing of new members were very much appreciated and where, on occasion, he served on Scottish national teams in international croquet competitions. Whilst in Spain he was instrumental in setting up the Almeria Croquet Club which flourishes to this day.

In February 2020, shortly after returning to Edinburgh from the wedding of his great-nephew in Israel, George suffered a serious stroke and spent many months in St. John's Hospital, Livingston, where the expert care he received and his own determination to overcome the resulting disabilities enabled him to return to independent living in his flat in Broxburn. With daily help from care workers, friends and well-wishers, he adjusted to his diminished mobility. He reconnected to the Edinburgh Hebrew Community, taking great pleasure in keeping abreast online with its activities and becoming an assiduous follower and participant in Rabbi Rose's online *Shiurim* and *Divrei Torah*.

Sadly George passed away in St. John's Hospital, Livingston, on the evening of 14 November 2021, just six weeks short of his 88th birthday.

Frank Abramson 5/11/1938 – 25/3/2022

Michelle Hyer (Daughter)



Husband to Jackie Abramson
Father to Michelle Hyer (nee Abramson)
Grandfather to Beni, Alex and Izzy Hyer

“Everybody loved Frankie”. Kind, positive, chivalrous, intelligent, witty, gumptious. Always gave you the time of day. Always there to give candid guidance and support. Always had a smile on his face. Always looking smart; always colour-coordinated. He never got less dapper with age,

My Dad was born to Jean and Abe Abramson in Leeds on 5th November 1938. He was a war baby and didn't see his father for the first 4 years of his life as Grandpa Abe was sent to India as a Medical Officer. My Granny Jean, a wee Scottish and exceptionally kind lady with 7 brothers and 7 sisters, brought up my father in Leeds. The family had a successful clothing factory, until unfortunately, the factory was bombed in the war. They moved to Edinburgh, where my Dad spent his childhood with his countless cousins, and surrounded by entrepreneurship; a fish company, a tailor shop. It's no wonder he had such good business acumen later in life.

He excelled at academia. A first in chemistry. A PhD in Pharmacology. He matched that with sporting prowess – rugby, squash, golf, swimming and tennis. He met my Mum whilst he was studying. She was from Birmingham and came up to Edinburgh at the age of 19 to visit a cousin for the weekend – and they were set up on a blind date. She then went home, told her parents she'd met the man she was going to marry, packed her bags and moved into a rented flat in Edinburgh. They were married a year later. And they stayed together, devoted to one another, through thick and thin.

In these very challenging recent years, my mother, Jackie, has been a rock. Stoic, brave and strong. In waiting on my dad 24/7, she has shown true love, and been a true inspiration. I honestly can't praise her enough for her initiative and support. And with Covid devastating her rich cultural life of music, art, theatre and bridge, you remained resolute.

But this was never a chore, because we owed – we still owe – my Dad a great deal.

As a scientist to banker with a business brain, he invented Nightnurse. He worked at Guinness, he worked at the very top of W H Smith, Citibank, Royal Bank of Scotland, and TSB. Career highlights include writing a book on customer relations which was translated into several languages. He won several advertising awards and even created an advertising campaign with Morecambe and Wise. He would often wear outlandish ties to high-profile meetings. His colleagues have described him as innovative, catalyst for change with charm, full of new ideas. He helped so many people with their careers, – “how many sparks he has fanned in to the flame and how many good things have flowed that.” He spoke to everyone at all levels, whatever their status. Often walking the streets of the City to a chorus of “Hello Frank.”

He worked long hours, all over the country. But every time he came home, family was his priority.

Dad was an incredible cook. His gefilte fish was famous for those of you who came at Yom Tov.

My mum and I were forced to move house many times because of my Dad's work. Horsham, Ham, Harpenden, Edgbaston, Bayswater. However, as with so much in life, things come full circle. And they moved to live closer to us in Pinner. I felt like the luckiest person in the world to have both my parents, just a mile away..

After Dad's diagnosis with Guillain Barre Syndrome, everything became harder. It left him paralyzed for months, and in rehab for even longer. And that's not to mention his stroke just years prior. The past 24 months in particular have been a rollercoaster of health issues, which Mum and Dad tackled so bravely.

He would tell us not to worry about the minutia. To instead focus on the big picture. To be ambitious, yet fulfilled. Self-assured, yet modest. Industrious, yet compassionate.

He wasn't into talking about legacy. If he was, he would have secured those royalties to Nightnurse! His legacy, though, is his family. He treated Warren like a son, taking his word as gospel, for better or worse. And he did everything in his power to give his grandchildren a head-start in life. To continue his legacy, we have a duty to strive to be the best versions of ourselves. To deliver on that encouragement and reassurance he provided us.

Dad, I'll miss you. We will continue to make you proud.



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Sheila Yarrow 2/10/1931 – 8/6/2022

Stella Yarrow (Daughter)

Sheila Yarrow moved to Edinburgh with her husband Alfred and their two daughters, Louise and Stella, in 1968.



Both Sheila and Alfred were active in the Jewish community for their five years in Edinburgh. Sheila revitalised senior Maccabi and created and directed a Purim play, featuring the stories of Dreyfus and Herzl. She was at Alfred's right hand, for example, in his role as President of the Literary Society and subsequently as Treasurer of the JIA. She forged ties with Israelis who came to Edinburgh to attend the University, such as Professor Amnon Sella (an eminent international relations expert) and his wife Chaya. In addition to her contribution to the Jewish community, Sheila taught at nursery schools in Edinburgh.

Sheila and Alfred moved to London in 1973 and made Aliya to Israel in 1984, where Louise was living with her own family. After moving to Jerusalem, Sheila taught English as a foreign language and both Sheila and Alfred successfully campaigned to save the Jerusalem Forest from development. After Sheila passed away, the programme of the 1971-2 Edinburgh Literary Society, and a programme from a 'Tots and Teens Fashion Parade' (sponsored by Goldbergs) organised by the Edinburgh Jewish Communal Centre Ladies' Committee, were found amongst her personal papers - just some of the evidence of her enduring affection for her days in the Edinburgh Jewish community.

Sheila is survived by her husband, daughters, grandchildren and a great-grandson.



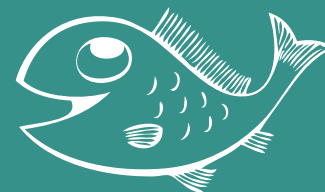
We are sorry to record the death of **Rosa Massie** on the 21st December 2021. Born on the 8th May in 1926, Rosa was a long time member of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation and a much valued and popular member of the Luncheon Club in recent years. She is survived by her daughter Clara.

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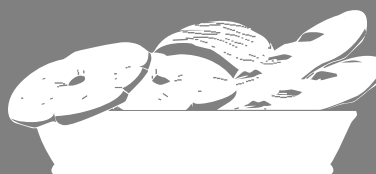
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Forthcoming Events

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society 2022-23 programme

The Lit programme is very much in the process of being arranged. The current position is as below. Talks in the Autumn will be by Zoom.

SPEAKER/EVENT	DATE	Title/Description
Horovitz, David	Nov 20	On the recent Israeli election
Romain, Jonathan	Dec 11 TBC	TBA
Chamberlain, Maria	Autumn	On her book, Never tell anyone you're Jewish
Levy, Mike	Spring	On Kindertransport to the UK

2022 – 23 Festivals

Rosh Hashanah:	Monday 26th September – Tuesday 27th September 2022
Yom Kippur:	Wednesday 5th October 2022
Succot:	Monday 10th – Sunday 16th October 2022
Shemini Atzeret:	Monday 17th October 2022
Simchat Torah:	Tuesday 18th October 2022
Chanukah:	Monday 19th December – Monday 26th December 2022
Tu B'Shvat:	Monday 6th February 2023
Purim:	Tuesday 7th March 2023
Pesach (Passover):	Thursday 6th April – Thursday 13th April 2023
Yom HaAtzmaut:	Wednesday 26th April 2023
Lag B'Omer:	Tuesday 9th May 2023
Shavu'ot:	Friday 26th – Saturday 27th May 2023
Tisha B'Av:	Thursday 27th July 2023



CHANUKAH

SAVE THE DATE

Please save the following dates in your diary.

Date to be advised

Chanukah Dinner at Community Hall,
Salisbury Road

Sunday 18th December 6.30pm | 1st candle:

Annual public Chanukah lighting ceremony
in St Andrews Square by kind invitation
of Chabad Edinburgh

*More information about these events
will be provided nearer the time.*