

THE EDINBURGH

STAR

Issue 76 – March 2016 – Adar 5776



Musical Havdalah on 24 October 2015 at EHC

Welcome to the new electronic Star. Our announcement that the Star would go electronic for a trial period was well received. Everyone understood the financial drivers and people who are not on the internet were reassured that they will receive a shorter Star, more often, in the post. This is the first attempt. Please let us have your feedback and advice. This can be emailed to me at michelinebrannan@msn.com

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Chronicles of the Edinburgh Jewish Community

Remembrance Sunday

EHC's Remembrance Sunday commemoration on 8 November 2015 had some new features. In the synagogue, there were poetry readings in Yiddish and Ivrit. After the tea, funded by a bequest in memory of the late Violet Oppenheim, there was a presentation by Harvey Kaplan and Diane Wolfson of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre on Scottish Jewish soldiers in World War I. Finally there was a remembrance themed sing song led by our best musicians.



Standard bearers David Gonshaw and Sidney Caplan



Presenters Harvey Kaplan and Diane Wolfson



L: Musical ensemble
Lynn Cooper, Judy Gilbert, Norma Brodie, Janet Mundy
Tony Gilbert Eddy Maher



R Raymond Taylor, EHC Chair, addresses the guests at tea

Edinburgh Friends of Israel



The Marian Oppenheim Hall was the venue for a meeting of the Edinburgh Friends of Israel on Wednesday 11 November 2015. Dorothe Kaufman welcomed everyone to the event. After a bagel lunch, Nigel Goodrich, convenor of the Confederation of Friends of Israel Scotland (COFIS)

spoke about the growth of these groups over the last year. Luke Akehurst of We Believe in Israel then gave a presentation on how to present the truth about Israel to politicians, trade unionists and others, in order to combat the well-organised and vociferous anti-Israel campaign, which has until recently had things their own way.



Lesley and John Danzig attended the event



Friends of Israel enjoy their first visit to the JCC

On Thursday 25 February, in a first for the Scottish Parliament, Jackson Carlaw MSP secured a debate on a motion proposing cultural bridges, not boycotts, with Israel. Concluding the debate, Cabinet Secretary for Europe, Culture and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop MSP, stated that the Scottish Government supports cultural freedom and does not advocate a policy of boycotting Israel. FOI groups from all over Scotland attended to show their support both outside and inside the Chamber. The Scottish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign held their demonstration on the other side of the water feature in front of the Scottish Parliament building.



Friends of Israel Groups show their support.



Palenstian Solidarity, matched on this occasion by equal numbers of FOI supporters.

CHANUKAH

There is so much to report about Chanukah. On Sunday 6 December, the night of the first candle, Chabad Edinburgh held their annual public Chanukiah candle lighting in St Andrews Square, followed by a reception courtesy of Harvey Nichols.



The Chanukiah in St Andrews Square



Inside Harvey Nichols

On Monday 7 December, the Lord Provost hosted a reception at the City Chambers for the second candle.



L to R: Harriet Lyall, Sara Lurie, Vivien Anderson, Fran Wasoff
Elaine Samuel, Charlie Raab



The Lady Provost wears the Rosebery Jewels



Rabbi Rose and Rabbi Bodenheim light the candles



The Lord Provost had lit the Shammash

CHANUKAH AT THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

On Tuesday 8 December a group from the Scottish Jewish Community attended the Scottish Parliament for the annual lighting. While waiting for the ceremony to commence we were taken on a tour of the Parliament.



L to R, Your editor, Margalit Borowski, Ephraim Borowski, Director of SCoJeC, Raymond Taylor, Rabbi Rubin, Rabbi Rose, Hilary Rifkind, Stew Green, Jackie Taylor, Eamonn Gilgar

We are inside the Chamber, in the space in front of the Presiding Officer's Dais.

Rabbi Rose visited two of our members at home to light Chanukah candles on the fifth night.



With Marianne Laszlo



With Senora Judah

The Chanukah Dinner took place on the seventh night at the JCC. The attendance was boosted to over ninety by guests from the Friends of Israel. There was a reception with a wonderful Pimms punch, followed by a chicken dinner. Entertainment was provided by Naomi Paul, a stand-up comedian whose show is entitled 'Price includes biscuits' and who indeed hands out free biscuits. For more details about Naomi's act see Star 75.



Rabbi Rose lit the candles

R: guests seated for dinner

Note: There are many additional photos of the reception and a selection will soon be available to view on our website

www.edinburghstar.info



Entertainer Naomi Paul



Last but not least, on the eighth day, there was the Chanukah Service, followed by a tea and children's entertainment from Think Science. Hannah Cohn-Simmen and Lotem Gardi lit the candles in the Bet Hamidrash, following which the cheder children sang under the direction of Julian Goodman. Next there was a mass candle lighting in the JCC. It was lovely to have so many of the parents and toddlers group attend as well as the cheder families.





Mass Chanukiah lighting at EHC



Children's tea table



Parents and children's tea table



The magic of Think Science

Sukkat Shalom Chanukah



Rabbi Mark Solomon makes Havdalah before the Chanukah candles are lit.



Adam Budd organises a the children for a dreidl game and they get ready to pull open Louise Primrose's Chanukah Pinyata



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY



Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, former president of the World Union of Progressive Judaism and his wife visited Edinburgh to take part in Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) events. These included leading the prayers at the city-wide event at Firrhill and also addressing the HMD event at Queen Margaret University, where he talked about the education work that he and his wife undertake in German schools. Rabbi and Mrs Fuchs were Guests of Professor Joe Goldblatt and they are seen here on a visit to the Edinburgh Jewish Archives at Garnethill Synagogue.

L to R Joe Goldblatt, Nancy Lynner, Deborah Haase, curator of SJAC, Mrs Fuchs, Rabbi Fuchs, Fiona Brodie, Howard Brodie

The Editor well remembers when Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) was first proposed in the year 2000. It was an idea that the then Prime Minister Tony Blair embraced for the UK, and the first national ceremonies were held on 27 January 2001. As a civil servant, having won support from the late Rt Hon Donald Dewar MSP, the First Minister of Scotland, I obtained a budget of £40K for a national ceremony which took place in Edinburgh's Usher Hall, and

which was presented by the late Russell Hunter. The late Cantor Ernest Levy spoke on this occasion and his memories were turned into a video package for all Scotland's secondary schools. To me it is almost unbelievable that HMD has taken off as a week of national and local commemorations, be it lectures, ceremonies or exhibitions. Scotland had no less than 32 events listed on the HMD Trust website in 2016. Of particular Edinburgh interest was an event at Firrhill High School on Thursday 28 January where our own Reuben Ogilvie, a pupil at the school, talked about his grandfather's experiences. Also speaking on this occasion was Rabbi Stephen Fuchs and Holocaust survivor, Zigi Shipper.



The event at Firrhill High School featured a display on stage of photos, luggage and memorabilia such as victims may have left behind.



Reuben Ogilvie speaks about his grandfather at Firrhill.



L to R Jonathan Danzig, John Danzig, Lesley Danzig and Stew Green in the audience at Firrhill.

On 27 January itself, the national ceremony was held in Falkirk Town Hall and attended by Rabbi Rose, Raymond Taylor and Hilary Rifkind, along with representatives of SCoJeC. This ceremony was organised by Interfaith Scotland with Falkirk Council. The theme for this year was 'Don't Stand By' stressing the responsibility of everyone to stand up for the victims of genocide.

Right shows candle lighting ceremony in Falkirk
Below, Hilary Rifkind, Raymond Taylor and Rabbi Rose in audience.



A TALE OF TWO SHULS

It is no secret that I recently spent two weeks in India with my family. The Indian Jewish community was founded in the 11th century. The oldest synagogue in the Commonwealth, the Pardesi synagogue, was built by the Jews of the southern Indian city of Cochin in 1567. Jews from Persia, Afghanistan and Iraq flocked to India – making Bombay home to largest Jewish community in the country by the late 18th century. Our own Sas (a”h) and Senora Judah come from that community.



I followed in the footsteps of Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis in visiting the historic Cochin synagogue. There were no Jews there to welcome us, but during our short visit hundreds of other tourists walked through the building, mainly Indians on sightseeing trips. I also had the amazing experience of a Friday night service in the synagogue in Delhi, which is run by one dedicated individual, Mr Ezekiel I Malekar, who welcomed us warmly and gave everyone a special Mesheberach. The service followed Nusach Sepharad and the davening style reminded me of Moor Lane in Manchester.

Mr Malekar holds a Friday night service every week although there is no chance of a Minyan unless visiting diplomats, business people or tourist swell the numbers. India, a country of over one billion citizens, has reportedly 5000 Jews, similar numbers to Scotland. Yet they were able to host a visit by Chief Rabbi Mirvis on which he reportedly visited 19 synagogues! If that is what such small numbers can do in India, there is every cause for hope in Scotland, with hundreds of thousands of Jews nearby, and our own many vibrant institutions.

CONDOLENCES AND TRIBUTES

LESLIE WOLFSON



Leslie Wolfson who died in Glasgow on the 21st January was a major communal leader of his generation and a great benefactor. His generosity extended to outwith his home city and he supported this publication amongst many other Jewish charities and often with no obvious link. But that's the way Leslie was; kind, generous and always willing to play his part with all things Jewish and Glasgow. His main charity was the Tel Aviv University, where he was a governor, and he worked tirelessly for them seeing himself as a 'committee of one' where once he had an idea, he would focus on it and achieve what he set himself out to do! Other charities that benefited extensively from his efforts included the Israeli Philharmonic

Orchestra, Glasgow University, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, International Human Rights amongst many others. In later years he worked closely with the Israeli charity 'Save a Child's Heart'.

One of four who were all known for their great sense of humour and wonderful wit, Leslie was a much sought after-dinner speaker and bon-vivant. Always magnificently courteous, he was known for his charm, passion and jovial and happy disposition. He will be very missed not only by his family, his wife, Alma, the well-known artist, daughters Monica, Georgia and Jessica and grandchildren but by the community as a whole both in Glasgow and out.

The Editor and Editorial Board of the Star extend our sincerest condolences to the family.

The Editor and Editorial Board of the Star also extend sincere condolences to the families of the following readers who passed away recently. May their souls rest in peace and may their mourners be comforted. We hope to include obituaries in subsequent issues.

The late Professor D D Raphael a"h

The late Mrs Sylvia Glass a"h

FOR YOUR DIARIES

Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre Film night: Sunday 13 March 2016 at 1830 at JCC, 4a Salisbury Road. "Women in Gold". Includes supper. Cost £12 adults, £8 students/children, contact Betsy Dorfman brdorfman@yahoo.com or phone Steven Hyams on 0131 445 3740
Friday night dinner on 18 March at EHC, contact Jackie Taylor (details below) for more information.
Communal Seder, Friday 22 April at EHC, contact Jackie Taylor.

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www.ehcong.com

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J-Events
for advertising Jewish social and
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Yiddish Classes
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