

THE EDINBURGH STAR

Issue 78 – June 2016 – Sivan 5776



“Think big, dream big, and at least think there are possibilities not bounded by current realities!” This was Clive Lawton’s message to the Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue Group assembled on Tuesday 17 May to hear about his report. Read on, as the Star disambiguates what is going on in Jewish Edinburgh.

As we look forward to *Shavuot*, the Star wishes *Chag Sameach* to all our readers. Thank you all for your support for the new-style Star.

Micheline Brannan

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Shavuot Message

Shavuot is the one festival of the Jewish year that, in principle, doesn't have a fixed date. The official date of *Shavuot* is fifty days after the first day of *Pesach* and it is so designated in the traditional literature. While in our fixed calendar this always falls on the sixth of Sivan, in ancient times it could fall between the fifth and seventh of Sivan. This intimate connection between *Pesach* and *Shavuot* is seen as signifying that *Shavuot* is in fact the culmination of *Pesach*, in the way *Shemini Atzeret* is the culmination of *Succot*. Indeed the normal Talmudic name for *Shavuot* is 'Atzeret'. In philosophical terms this creates a link between the liberation of *Pesach* and the receiving of the *Torah* on *Shavuot* or between material and spiritual freedom. The Giving of the *Torah* is thus both the ultimate purpose and the natural parallel of the Exodus from Egypt. For Judaism material well-being is always connected to spiritual health. Without Jewish spirituality you cannot really have a meaningful Jewish culture. That is why I consider it important that the religious communities be part of any Jewish Cultural Centre. In order to project to others you have to have a strong light within. In order to be Jewishly vital you need Jewish spirituality. You can't have *Pesach* without *Shavuot* but the two together are an unbeatable combination.

Hag Sameach

Rabbi David Rose

Letter to Editor following issue 77

Thank you for my copy of the 'Edinburgh Star'. As the years go by I know fewer and fewer members of the Community, but this edition had two obituaries of friends I have known for years. Sylvia Glass was the wife of my cousin Gerald, and I have been fortunate enough to see her recently, before she died. David Hyams and I were friends as young people, and in later years I was able to introduce him to my husband David, and we found him as friendly and funny as in our youth. I am now within days of my 86th birthday and rather frail, but on the whole I am able to be independent and have a very supportive family. I enclose a gift towards the production of the Edinburgh Star, and trust it will continue to be a window into the Community for many years yet.

With kind regards, Shalom, Zena Eunson

The above letter is printed to show the terrific support that we have had for the new-style Star from many readers, and particularly our new patron. We are very grateful to Zena Eunson for her generosity. The Star reaches members of the Community who are can't attend formal occasions but who still want to know what is going on. There are many forms a Community can take. At one time when travel was difficult people relied on written media and messengers to keep in touch. Yet society functioned and it was even possible to rule great empires. Now with the prevalence of all sorts of methods of instant communication, we are able to feel like a community even when we do not physically meet very often. I hope that the Edinburgh Jewish Community, in the search for the perfect building, will not neglect the brilliant opportunities offered by the vibrant community of interest that already exists. MHB

WIZO LUNCH

Kate Goodwin

Our WIZO lunch at the home of Kate and Ronnie Goodwin took place on 6 April – a whole month late to mark International Women’s Day – but well-attended with 30 supporters.

Our guest speaker Carolyn Scott entertained with stories of her experience working on a film with women from Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Bulgaria, who have all married Scottish husbands and settled in Fife. She told how they have formed a strong friendship and become a powerful support for each other.

This seemed to relate well to how WIZO women bond to create a huge world-wide network to improve the lives of women and children in Israel, with projects now totalling 800.

We raised £340 and hope to repeat this event next year.



Kate Goodwin prepares to serve a magnificent lunch.



Davida Simpson, Sheva Lurie and Ann Lurie enjoy a drink



Eve Oppenheim speaks with Carolyn Cuthbert of the International Women's Club



Kate serves up. Looks delicious! Irene Hyams, (far right) assists.



Clarice Osborne and Joyce Cram

YOM HASHOAH 5776 – 5 MAY 2016

Micheline Brannan



This was the 22nd ceremony in the Peace Park in Princes Street Gardens. Raymond Taylor, Chair of EHC's Board of Management, introduced the ceremony with a speech about the horrors of the Holocaust. Lord Provost Donald Wilson reflected on why we observe *Yom Hashoah* annually. Having visited Auschwitz with a party of school pupils, he was distressed to see how upset the visit made them, but he concluded that the reason is to ensure that the Holocaust is not repeated. Following the speeches, there was a minute's silence. Next, Clare Levy lit the memorial lamp. Rabbi Rose led the singing of psalms CXXI (I will lift up my eyes) and XXIII (The Lord's my shepherd). This was followed by *Yizkor*, memorial prayers for the dead. Lord Julian Goodman completed the service by singing *El Malei Rachamim*, the prayer for the souls of those who perished in the Holocaust, and the Mourners' *Kaddish*. The weather was exceptionally good and the beautiful surroundings made this a memorable and moving ceremony.

YOM HAZIKARON and YOM HA'ATZMAUT AT EHC

Micheline Brannan

The annual EHC commemoration of *Yom Hazikaron*, the memorial day for Israel's fallen soldiers, took place on the evening of Wednesday 11 May in the *Beit HaMidrash*. As soon as this moving service was concluded the participants moved straight into *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* (Israel Independence Day) celebrations, with a festive meal in the Marion Oppenheim Hall.



L to R: Howard Kahn, Gershon Mendick, Harriet Lyall, Joe Aronson



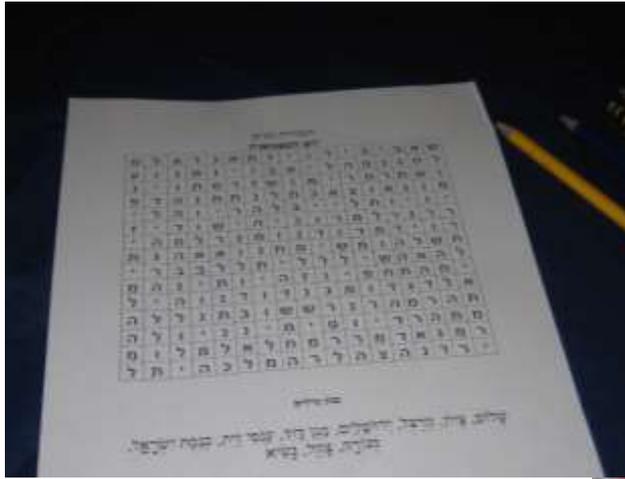
Above: L to R: Carol Levstein, Lynn Cooper, Francoise Robertson
Left: L to R: Lord Julian Goodman, Jackie Taylor, Lawrence Taylor, Rabbi Rose, David Gonshaw, Isaak Janas, Michael Elam, Philip Goldberg, Jonathan Kish, Elaine Samuel

The next day at 5.30pm families assembled with their children for activities organised by our lovely Israeli members and teachers.



Sigal Finlay – a guiding light for the occasion.





A Hebrew word search



Jonathan Adler assists the children – yes those are real hammers!



At 6.30pm people formed up into teams for a game of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' compered by the teenagers. The answers were all facts about Israel so everyone finished this activity feeling a little better informed.

L: Merav Kisilewitz-Gardi supervises as Dorothy, Reuben and Sam run the quiz.

Below: The teams ponder their answers: should they phone a friend or ask the audience? Lol, they are the audience!



An Israeli buffet followed, catered by the Synagogue Events Committee.



Rabbi Rose's Blog.



The period of the *Omer* is always a busy one with many special days and events.

On the 4th May I attended the Religious Leaders Forum in Samye Ling, a Buddhist monastery and temple, literally in the middle of nowhere, with Micheline Brannan. After dodging sheep on narrow country roads we arrived at what is quite a stunning site. At the conference itself, I

was requested to explain the difference between criticism of Israel and anti-Semitism, which I did, partly by asking how Muslims would feel if people questioned the legitimacy of Pakistan.

I also travelled to Bathgate to visit a Cub group. It reminded me a bit of *B'nei Akiva*, complete with *Mizdah*. The kids answered interesting questions and loved the matzah I brought along. The group leader said it was the longest time they had stayed still he could remember. Maybe I should give longer sermons?

Talking of Israel, we had a very successful *Erev Yom Ha'Atzmaut* service and party, where a lot more people turned up than expected, creating a slight Jewish disaster: not enough food!

The 'Taste of Talmud' series is going well with the weekly *seudah* and discussion going from strength to strength. Last week we discussed women's role within Orthodoxy and the potential for change.

Shavuot is fast approaching and I am entertaining a guest speaker, Eli Gaventa, an accomplished young Jewish educator who I hope will give us a lot to ponder. The timetable for the 3 days is below.

Events take place at EHC, 4a Salisbury Road – all welcome to attend

Saturday 11/06: 10.00-12.00: Service

Sermon: 'The Importance of Integrity in Education'. ('Taste of Talmud', Week 6)

20.00- midnight: *Tikun Leil Shavuot*

*** Ruth: A Redemptive Narrative in the Context of Two Biblical stories**

*** Male or Female: The Challenge of Describing G-d.**

Sunday 12/06: 10.00-12.00 Service: Hear the Ten Commandments

*** *Cheder*: *Shavuot* and Ruth**

*** Teenage Program: Education in Africa: a Right or a Privilege?**

12.00-14.30 Communal Lunch

*** Presentation by Teenagers: Jewish Ethics**

*** Talk: Empowering Young People: Yoni Jesner and the Importance of Not Giving Up**

*** Monday 13/06: 10.00-12.00 Service: *Yizkor***

12.30-13.00 Discussion: Ruth: A Subversive Sequel to the Book of Judges

Sukkat Shalom



Three faiths, Scriptural Reasoning

On Shabbat afternoon, 28th May, Sukkat Shalom hosted a scriptural reasoning afternoon, co-organised by Iain Stewart of Edinburgh Interfaith Association, the Alwaleed Centre (University of Edinburgh) and Sukkat Shalom. The topic of our discussion was "Breaking Barriers: The Haves and the Have Nots". Each of the three faith leaders, Rabbi Mark Solomon, Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community, The Revd Scott McKenna, Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church and Yahya Barry, Imam of Edinburgh Central Mosque, had prepared a text from their tradition on this theme. The afternoon began with each one introducing their text while the rest of us studied them individually.



This was followed by discussions over the texts at tables made up of individuals from different traditions, fuelled by tea and refreshments, while our three leaders circulated and provided learned commentary. When Imam Barry joined our table we engaged in an interesting discussion of the similarities and differences between *Tzedakah* and the Muslim concept of *Zakah*, as well as the importance in both traditions of providing for the needy by giving them the means to sustain themselves.

Gillian Raab



Sukkat Shalom Cheder Crafts

The *cheder* teachers continue to come up with imaginative ideas to make the students' time entertaining and to bring the pupils' study to life. Recently some of the classes have been counting the *Omer*, on *Omer* calendars with a jelly bean for each day, and these *yadim* were made by the members of *kittah Bet* and *Gimel*.



Sukkat Shalom events: For all events and services at Sukkat Shalom, including for Shavuot and a service being held in the Scottish Borders in July, please visit the diary page of our web site <http://www.eljc.org/index.php/diary>. Everyone is welcome.

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES (AJR)



The Edinburgh Continental Friends of the AJR met on Sunday 8 May at the home of Francoise Robertson. Each member had come ready to talk about their favourite famous Jewish person past or present, and the subjects included the courageous South African politician Helen Suzman, artist Marc Chagall, and jurist Dame Rose Heilbron, amongst others. There followed a magnificent tea provided by the hostess. The AJR meets approximately monthly in Edinburgh. There are also regular meetings, outings and a book group in Glasgow.

Every year there is a regional get-together including Scotland and Newcastle and this year it is due to be held at 4a Salisbury Road in the Marion Oppenheim Hall on Wednesday 8 June. The keynote speaker will be Olivia Marks Woldman, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and a documentary will be shown by young film-maker, Micha Cooper, called 'My dearest.....'. There will be lunch and discussion groups - cost £15.

The AJR is a membership organisation open to anyone who is former refugee of Nazi persecution, and their descendants. For more information contact the regional co-ordinator Agnes Isaacs on 07908156361.

Greetings cards of illustrations by the artist Hilda Goldwag (1912- 2008) are now available from the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre. Pack of 8 (2 each of Housework, Fun Fair, Children Playing, Knitting) for £8.00.



Hilda reached Scotland in spring 1939, a refugee from Vienna, where she had recently graduated from Art School. Minister Caird in West Linton took in Hilda as domestic help. During the War Hilda worked as a turner in Govan in Glasgow. After the War Hilda worked using her artistic skills, designing textiles and illustrations. She continued painting all her life.



Her last solo exhibition,, **Hilda Goldwag's Glasgow** was held in 2005 in the Collins Gallery.

The Hilda Goldwag collection is among a number of significant collections relating to the Holocaust era in the Archives Centre. For more information email: info@sjac.org.uk or Tel: 0141 332 4911..

Acknowledgement is made to the Gordon Fraser charitable Trust who grant aided the production of the cards.

THE STAR WISHES MAZAL TOV TO TWO NONAGENARIANS

Left: Her Majesty The Queen

Right: Rosa Massie



Rosa on her 90th birthday at Homecairn House

And Mazal Tov to the Rifkind family on the Bat Mitzvah of Avigayil. Hilary and Arnold visited the USA for this occasion which they celebrated with Michael & Sharon, Eli, Natan, Avigayil and Maytal, all pictured below.



OBITUARY – BETTY CAPLAN



The Star mourns the loss of Betty Caplan, a real lady who graced EHC for the whole time I as editor have been in Edinburgh and for many years before. I well remember her cheery husband, Willie Caplan, as Shammias, so friendly and welcoming at EHC.

Her son Stuart writes::

Born Dinah Betty Caplan but always used Betty as her first name. She was born in the Gorbals district of Glasgow on the 5th August 1920, a daughter to Lazarus and Sarah Kofsky and a sister to Lillian.

The family moved through to Edinburgh where she was brought up with her older sister Lillian in the mid 1920s and it was here in Edinburgh that she met and married Willie on the 13th December 1941 during the Second World War. As Willie was only on Army Leave at the time, this was a civil ceremony but he returned back to Edinburgh much sooner than expected, and they then had a Jewish wedding with friends and family at the synagogue about 6 weeks later, in Feb 1942.

Apparently she actually wanted to be a pilot in WW2, but was too short, which annoyed her at the time.

Up until she married she worked in Edinburgh as a tailoress in Manclarks

Willie and Betty were blessed with two children, Linda in 1946 and Stuart in 1950. Unfortunately Linda died from pneumonia when she was only ten and half years old.

During the 1950's Betty was one of the first women in the UK to undergo major heart surgery to replace a heart valve.

After caring for her children Betty decided it was time to go back to work and in the early 1960s she opened up her own tailoress business in Leith called the Kapital Alteration Service until she had one of her many heart attacks when doctors advised her to give up work.

Betty and Willie were fully involved and well liked within the Jewish Community in Edinburgh and in their later years helped run the Friendship Club and the Lunch Club and she looked forward to going to the Lunch Club on a regular basis.

Even after Willie's death, she continued to be treasurer for the lunch club well into her eighties, a responsibility she took very seriously and was loathe to give up, even when it became too much for her, and she always thought of others before herself.

One of the things that frustrated her the most about getting old was being unable to thread a needle.

As Betty got older and more frail, Stuart felt that she would be better looked after if she came and stayed with him through in Falkirk. He was in the process of extending his house so that Betty could have her own rooms, but sadly this was not to be.

It's hard to imagine all of the developments and changes that she must have witnessed over the course of 95 years.

Although she wasn't keen to use modern technology, when she was shown the uses of a mobile phone, how it sent/received messages and how it was also a camera, she would always exclaim that 'it was a miracle!' What really is a miracle is how her body repeatedly fought back from 60+ years of heart problems and strokes, along with very little complaining or self-pity. This has to be put down to her strong determination, willpower and resilience.... Something we can all admire.

Betty will be sadly missed by her son Stuart, her two granddaughters Yvonne and Stacey, her great granddaughter Julia, Stuart's wife Mary, and Yvonne and Stacey's husbands, Steve and Tim.

Rabbi Rose adds

Betty was a gentle woman. I never saw her get angry and rarely heard her complain. She never asked for anything from others and was always grateful for what she received. We will remember her sitting quietly at the table, enjoying her lunch and laughing at the banter around her. Her place is now empty and she will be sorely missed.

THE STAR DISAMBIGUATES

Micheline Brannan

Readers might be forgiven for feeling a little confused about all the reviews that are taking place regarding the Edinburgh Jewish Community. The following definitions may help.

What is it called	Who is involved	Outcome and next steps
Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue Group (EJDG)	Headed up Professor Joe Goldblatt, Jane Ansell and Janet Mundy, the EJDG started work 3 years ago, with a series of meetings open to anyone living in Edinburgh with a Jewish connection.	Following this phase, Clive Lawton OBE was appointed to carry out a consultancy and report on the feasibility of establishing a Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre. The report was launched on 17 May 2016 and copies are available from Janet Mundy (mundy.janet@gmail.com) A report of the 17 May meeting follows.
The Futures Group	This Group was set up by the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation following the AGM in 2014, under the Chairmanship of Board Member David Neville. It was open to all members of EHC.	After plenary meetings to discuss the scope of the work, the Futures Group divided into 4 sub-groups which met over the winter of 2014-15. Each submitted a report. In 2015 two meetings were held at which the findings were presented to all members of EHC who cared to attend. The findings were not published as the Futures Group had no mandate to hold discussions with external stakeholders.
The Implementation Group (IG)	This Group was set up following a Special General Meeting of EHC in October 2015, The Board of Management was asked to carry out a series of discussions with other interested parties to find out how these potential stakeholders see the future, what forms of collaboration are of interest to them and what scope there is for the collaboration that is envisaged. The Implementation Group consists of 5 members of the Board of Management of EHC and one co-opted member.	The IG took account of the work of the Futures Group and held 12 meetings with external groups, not only in Edinburgh, but also including the Office of the Chief Rabbi, the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council and Jewish Student Chaplaincy Scotland. Within Edinburgh the IG tried to involve all sectors of the community including the JSoc and Jewish people who do not affiliate with any formal group. The IG is now nearing the end of its review and will present its full report to the EHC membership at a meeting to be held on 15 June 2016. The report will be circulated to EHC members in advance of the meeting. Contacts: Micheline Brannan (michelinehbrannan@msn.com) and Michael Adler (michael.adler@ed.ac.uk)

NEW JEWISH CULTURAL CENTRE FOR EDINBURGH DIALOGUE GROUP DEBATES PROPOSALS

Micheline Brannan

Clive Lawton's report was launched on 17 May. His report was the culmination of 3 years of hard work by the Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue Group (EJDG), chaired by Professor Joe Goldblatt of Queen Margaret University. After a round of initial meetings, open to the whole Edinburgh Jewish Community, and deliberately held in secular venues, the Dialogue Group obtained a Big Lottery Fund grant to enable the appointment of a consultant. Renowned Jewish educator, Clive Lawton, had, from the start, been an inspiration to the Group, and accepted the commission. He presented his report to a packed audience representing a cross-section of Jewish Edinburgh.

Clive began by praising the Dialogue Group, including Joe Goldblatt, Janet Mundy and Jane Ansell, for their persistence in reaching this stage and particularly Janet for her personal support. He explained the basis of his report, which recommends that a Jewish Cultural Centre be established in a new city centre site, yet to be identified. While, Clive said, it was feasible to reconfigure the existing synagogue building at Salisbury Road (the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation's home since 1932), he on balance thought a new site would be better. The synagogue is not easily adaptable for alternative uses and is off the beaten track, while a city centre site would attract passing traffic; be more accessible to more people and would have the added attraction of being brand new. He recommended the purchase of an existing building for adaptation, estimating a cost of £2 million – very much a ballpark figure at this stage – and a timescale of 3-4 years until it can open for business.

The new Cultural Centre would be outward-looking, aiming to interest the general population in Judaism and Jewish culture, as well as providing a venue for a range of vibrant Jewish activities such as exhibitions, films, and artistic performances. And, since we are talking about 'Jewish', a restaurant or café would be essential. Clive talked about how 'Zest', at JW3, is a destination venue in itself, providing a high standard of eating out, which happens to be strictly kosher.

In the ensuing question and answer session, audience members explored the issues of location, fund-raising and leadership to take this ambitious vision forward. It was clear that the project has power to fire the imagination of Jewish people living in Edinburgh including those not previously active in the community.

The next steps will be for the EJDG to analyse questionnaires distributed on the night to see who is sufficiently interested and has the skills to take the project forward. Fund-raising options will also be developed. It is hoped that grant-givers and private donors will be attracted. Government funding will also be sought, on the basis that the project will contribute to ensuring that the Jewish community has a safe and secure future in Scotland.

Please contact Janet Mundy (mundy.janet@gmail.com) to be kept up to date on future progress of this project.

FOR YOUR DIARIES

Pre-Shavuot Coffee Morning: Sunday 5 June at EHC, 4a Salisbury Road, 10.30am

Shavuot: after Shabbat 11 June till Mon night 13 June.

Fast of Tammuz: dawn till nightfall Sun 24 July

The "Three Weeks" between the Fasts of Tammuz and Av are a time of mourning for the destruction of the Temples in Jerusalem by the Assyrians in 586 BCE and by the Romans in 70 CE.

Fast of Av (Tisha b'Av):dusk on Shabbat 13th August till nightfall Sunday 14th Aug

Rosh Hashanah: Monday 3rd October and Tuesday 4 October (starts Sunday 2 October in the evening)

Watch your email inboxes for more information about all these events.

The Star gives sincere thanks to Peter Phillips of Splash Bathrooms for printing the Star to send to those readers who do not receive email. Splash Bathrooms can be found at 164 Lanark Road West, tel 0131 449 9585 email splashofedinburgh@gmail.com website www.splashbathrooms.net

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