

THE EDINBURGH

# STAR

October 2016 – Tishrei 5777 – Succot supplement

Why are we having a Succot supplement so soon after Edinburgh Star 80 came out? One reason is to correct errors that have been pointed out to me in the issue. Sadly, we garbled the captions for the photographs accompanying the obituary of the late Ian Shein. These historical pictures are reprinted with the proper captions. Another is to add the tributes both to Ian and to the late Robin Spark that had to be omitted from the printed Star, and to print an obituary of the late Asher Zelig Kaufman. I also must apologise to the golfers that the report of last year's Tournament has only found its way into print in this issue.

In this introduction, the Star would like to pay tribute to the late Shimon Peres, truly a father of his country and a giant in the history of Israel and the Jewish people. For many years we have experienced an increase in hatred of Israel and demands for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions. On 9 October, terrorism again confronted the streets of Jerusalem in the form of a gunman who killed two and wounded five. Neither tactic will bring peace one day nearer or gain one square metre of land for the Palestinians. Those who hold out that vain hope are deluding their people and prolonging a conflict which is corrosive and damaging for Israelis and Palestinians alike. Peres showed us that there is a time for armed conflict and a time for peace-making. He won the Nobel Peace Prize along with Yitzchak Rabin and Yasser Arafat for achieving the Oslo Accords. The San Diego Tribune recorded him as saying, in 1997, "Peace is very much like love. It is a romantic process—you have to be living it, you have to invest in it, you have to trust it. As you cannot impose love, so you cannot impose peace." The growth of Friends of Israel Groups all over Scotland has encouraged us to hope that BDS will be defeated at least in this country. The Glasgow FOI slogan, 'Pro-Israel, Pro-Palestine, Pro-Peace' is one I particularly admire because it recognises that parties have to work together and negotiate. I am looking forward personally to helping at the stall for Peace in the Middle East at the SNP conference; and I am horrified that certain media have dubbed it an 'Anti-Palestine' stall.

I wish everyone a Chag Sameach and a Gmar Chatimah Tovah.

Micheline Brannan



Shimon Peres  
Credit David Shankbone  
Wikipedia



Micheline Brannan and  
Dorothe Kaufman sign the  
Book of Condolence at  
Giffnock Shul

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## SUCCOT MESSAGE

Yom Kippur is the most spiritual day of the Jewish year, a day devoted to fasting and prayer. It is followed four days later by the most physical festival of Judaism: Succot. On Succot we are meant to get our hands dirty, building a Succah and taking in our hands the raw products of nature in the form of Four Species. This calendrical proximity is not accidental. A day of great spiritual resolution must be followed by days of action. It is not enough to have great ideas but one must also put them into practice. Indeed, symbolising this, many have the custom of starting to build the Succah immediately following the post-fast meal. This call to action also serves an important psychological function. Looking at goals we have set ourselves we often feel that they may be unattainable and become disheartened. By placing Succot after Yom Kippur the Torah gives us the antidote. Don't be discouraged; get building! Taking practical action serves to dispel our doubts and set us on the path of beginning to achieve our goal. Over the last few years there has been much talk about the future. The time has come to start to put some of those ideas into practice. In doing this we will both boost our confidence and begin concretely to work towards the future. We've had Yom Kippur; it's time to get on with Succot.

הג שמח

Hag Sameach

Rabbi David Rose

## RABBI'S BLOG

The last months have been busy with the Civic Service, Open Day and festival activities. As normal we entertained many visitors over the Shabbatot, including one week when they all appeared to be accountants. Indeed, I think that this last Shabbat was the first Shabbat since the beginning of June that I haven't entertained visitors or had meals in shul. For a small community we do a wonderful job of providing for the many visitors to our city. As well, in September, I had the privilege of marching for peace with hundreds of primary school pupils on the International Day of Peace as well as attending an Interfaith Service at Annandale St Mosque, where I blew the Shofar. Probably the first time they had heard one. I also attended a diplomatic reception held by the Slovaks in honour of them holding the Presidency of the EU. Interestingly a prominent part of their exhibition on Slovakia was a panel on the Hatam Sofer memorial in Bratislava, which attracts many Jewish visitors to commemorate this famous and influential Rabbi. Of course, we are in the midst of the Festivals and on Rosh Hashanah we had a very enjoyable community meal on the first night as well as a well-attended meal to break the fast after Yom Kippur. On Rosh Hashanah, I also walked to the Chaplaincy to blow the shofar for a small group of students. Next, is Simchat Torah and after that normality, as much as a Jewish life is normal.

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## IAN SHEIN REMEMBERED

Here are the pictures from Star 80 with the correct captions. The pictures were kindly supplied by Joyce Sperber from the Dorfman family album and should have been credited as such. Sincere apologies to Norman, Joyce, Betsy and Jonny for our failure to do so.



Norman Dorfman (L) with Ian

Ian was not only Norman Dorfman's close friend from childhood but also a much loved cousin of Lilian Dorfman, Joyce Sperber and Betsy Dorfman's late mother.



Ian as the 'beautiful' bride and her groom (Philip Brown) in a Mock Wedding organised by the Community Centre Committee



Ian with his sister Cissy, mother Hetty and grandmother



Ian with Tom Levey

Tom was Joyce and Betsy's mother's brother and of course Ian's cousin

**In memory of Ian: 'A true gentleman who travelled from Edinburgh to Manchester by way of Dundee'**

Judy Gilbert

Ian was a gentleman in every respect of the word; softly spoken but direct and not in any way devoid of a strong character. He was a good listener. His empathy and sensitivity, in my humble opinion, must have beautifully fulfilled the requirements of sitting on a children's panel for many years. Ian was a man of many parts, from his time in the army to his leisure activities which encompassed an eclectic taste in music and theatre.

His family and friends could not let his passing go without reflecting on their fond memories of an exceptionally gentle man.

Below you will be able to appreciate how much he will be missed by people of all ages.

### **Jazz on a Summer's Day**

Tom Lowrie

"The Newport Jazz Festival 1959" I saw at the Filmhouse recently after a gap of 50 years; but my enjoyment and thoughts were harmonised with those other "Jazz on a Summer's Day" at the Ross Bandstand in Princes Street Gardens when Vicky and I would arrive to find Ian, Pearl, the late Suzy and Bill Sinclair, and Ian's life-time friend and fellow jazz aficionado, Norman Dorfman, waving us to 'reserve' seats. It was impossible to arrive too early: they were already there, with smoked salmon rolls, various sweetmeats, fruit, drinks, parasols (or umbrellas, depending on the weather). When the day was over we had reached agreement on the events we would attend at the Edinburgh Jazz Festival. Ian knew his jazz and it was an education to listen to him on the subject. As a coda, I wish I could say, "One more time, and up the tempo!" (*Jazz on a Summer's Day*)

### **'Ian Shein: an appreciation'**

Tony Gilbert

Ian was one of life's true gentlemen, I can no longer recall exactly when we first met; it may have been fairly soon after our first arrival in Edinburgh when we applied to join EHC. At the time, with a young family and on a junior lecturer's salary, our finances were distinctly tight. Ian, then EHC Honorary Treasurer, understood our problems without a murmur and graciously allowed us a concessionary rate till our finances improved. With the passage of time and our move to Newington allowing regular Shabbat attendance, I would often see Ian in shul. We would sit together accompanied, of course, by his life-long friend, Norman Dorfman...the three lads in the front row of the rear block of seats; I sit there still. Chatting to Ian revealed a reserved, thoughtful, gently-spoken man, and though I never really knew in detail about his working life, I suspect that he must have executed his office in Social Work with great compassion.

Other aspects of Ian that we encountered were as the inveterate reporter of all that was happening in Jewish Edinburgh in the pages of the Star, as the surely never to be forgotten bride at the shul society wedding of the year a decade or so ago, and as the assiduous host attending to our every want on those occasions when we were invited to Pearl and Ian's flat.

So Ian was a man of parts, but in all the facets of his personality, one thing shone through consistently: he was one of life's true gentlemen.

### **'Tribute to Ian Shein'**

Mark Gilbert

I knew Ian since I was a young boy. He was always friendly and forthcoming and wanted to know what I was doing with myself. Later on in my life, I started to work with vulnerable young people and this provided Ian and me with a rich topic of conversation. Ian worked in a voluntary capacity on the Children's Panel. I enjoyed chatting about our experiences and found Ian to demonstrate a calm, caring and very level headed approach to this sensitive and delicate type of work. I think these traits were really part of who Ian was as a person; he always struck me a considerate and thoughtful man always prepared to give his time to listen patiently to others and offer pearls of wisdom from time-to-time. Ian to me was the epitome of a true gentleman and I am sure will be missed by many, the community as a whole and of course most of all by his dear wife Pearl who I know he was so devoted to.

## 'Remembering Ian'

Daniel Gilbert

“As a boy, I was never over-enthusiastic about attending synagogue on a Saturday morning but something that I would always look forward to was sitting behind Ian Shein in my allotted synagogue seat. I remember he would always turn round and in his lovely gentle way, ask how we were and what we'd been up to. It was so comfortable talking to him and he embodied all that is meant by community spirit. I hadn't seen Ian for a long time but I'll certainly miss him as I know that if I'd had another chance for a chat, we could have continued where we'd left off all those years ago.”

### ROBIN SPARK

#### What price Robin's priceless art?

Tom Lowrie

From my point of view, selfishly, with a mixture of approval and regret, it seems that Robin's work was beginning to command the prices his talent had long merited, for, had the market reflected its real value, I could never have had the pleasure of viewing every day my 'collection' of Robin's work, which reflects his approach and development over his painting career.

I attended his last two exhibitions, and bought a work at his penultimate, but was delighted to see that at last the prices were beginning to reflect the real value of his work – if, of course, price can ever reflect value in art – although this put the works that I wanted well out of my reach.

We should be grateful that the survivor of that wonderful mutual support team of Robin and Anthea Spark kept him working right to the end. We, and art, owe Anthea a great deal. I will most certainly now find the world to be rather more monotypographic.



Robin Spark at 2011 Exhibition



We had no room in Star 80 to do justice to this amazing photograph of the late Fred Lowrie in his Freemason's finery.

The Star gives a hearty thank you to our patrons.

**Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation  
Sukkat Shalom**

**Mr and Mrs Peter Bennett**

**Mr and Mrs Sidney Caplan**

**Mr John & Lady Hazel Cosgrove**

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## **GOLF REPORT**

Syd Zoltie - Chairman of the Edinburgh Hebrew Golf Society

A friendly weather front provided us with blue skies and decorative nimbus clouds for the annual Shul Tournament at the Braid Hills Golf Course.

The Reuben Zack Trophy was won by Steven Hyams with a net score of 35 and the Maccabi Cup for the team event was won by our Japanese friend Yosh Oyama and Ian Wilson. The longest drives were won by Spencer Kennedy and David Dalglish and the nearest to the hole competition was won by Syd Zoltie. A special prize for the most improved player of the year was awarded to Eli Atad-Etgedgui. The Orange Bowl Trophy was won by Yosh.

The prize giving was held at the Braid Hills Golf Centre, where we enjoyed the coffee and shortbread and all departed with a gift and a smile on our faces, until next year's event.

I wish to thank Eli for assisting me in the organisation of the Tournament. He did a great job!



Syd Zoltie presents the Reuben Zack Trophy to Steven.



Steven meets up with a plethora of visitors to our Tournament.



Eli receiving the gift for the most improved player of the year.

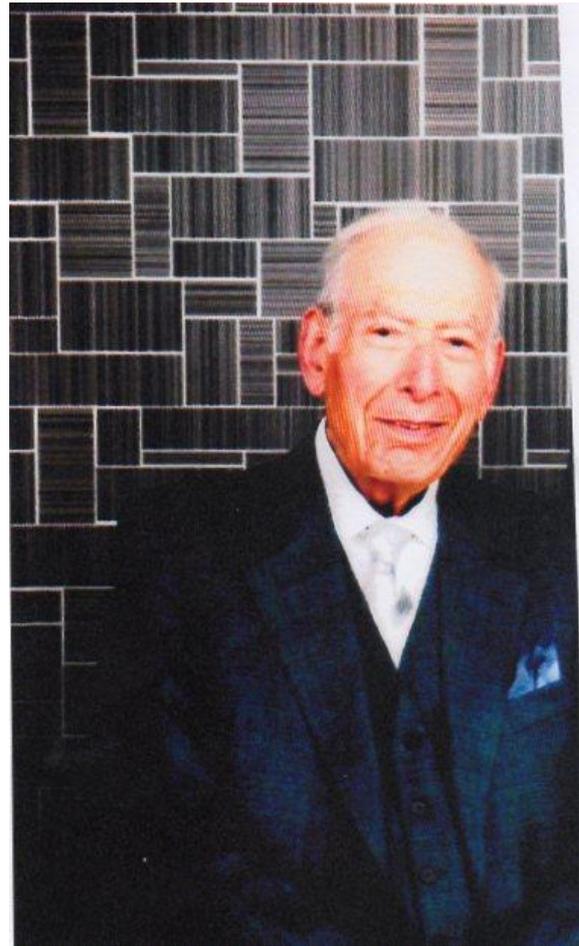
## IN MEMORY OF ASHER ZELIG KAUFMAN

Dr Leon Kaufman

Asher Zelig Kaufman was born in Edinburgh in 1925. He was educated at George Heriot's School where he won the Science prize by demonstrating the use of the Wilson Cloud Chamber. At the University, he won the Crum Brown medal for Chemistry in the Honours Science course. He was seconded to Aldermaston for work on developing gun sights for the Far East where the sun is particularly strong. On release he returned to the University to complete the Honours course but two of the examinations were on Shavuot and he refused to attend. His other papers were nevertheless of such a high standard that he was awarded a 2.1 Honours degree.

While studying for his PhD in Edinburgh, Asher worked for Ferranti but was also very active in the Jewish community, with youth groups, and he became President of the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society.

Next he moved to Harwell, where he was involved in the study of plasma and Nuclear Physics. In 1959 he emigrated to Israel where he became Professor of Physics at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and had communications accepted by the magazine 'Nature'. He was not only deeply religious, but was a fine Hebrew scholar.



In retirement he studied the site of the Temple on Har HaBayit, concluding from the biblical measurements that the present site was incorrect, and pointing to the correct position. He wrote extensively and lectured in the UK and the USA. He was renowned for his intellectual integrity and for being a perfectionist.

He died in April 2015 and is survived by Jospa his wife of 64 years, by his son Shmuel, an expert on optics, and by 3 grandchildren.

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Young Mendel Weinman, eldest son of Rabbi Pinny and Gitty Weinman, on his way to the USA for summer camp. He is helping the pilot.

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