

THE EDINBURGH

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THE MAGAZINE FOR THE EDINBURGH JEWISH COMMUNITY

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The Praying Jew is in The Art Institute of Chicago
by Marc Chagall 1887 – 1985.

Chagall explained this picture in his autobiography My Life, "the model for The Praying Jew was an old beggar whom I invited to sit for the painting, wearing his father's prayer clothes."

THE EDINBURGH
STAR

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First Minister of Scotland



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Edward Green
Editor, The Edinburgh Star

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20 August 2019

Dear Edward

I am writing to wish you and your readers best wishes for the Jewish New Year in September, as you mark the high holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Every New Year is a fresh start, a time to reflect on the previous months and work toward new beginnings.

Scotland's Jewish communities make a significant contribution to our society and we appreciate everything you do to promote peace and understanding. Celebrating the cultural and religious identity of our faith communities is more important now than ever as we work to tackle the hatred and prejudice that unfortunately still exists within society. I look forward to continuing to work together as we build more inclusive, resilient communities across Scotland.

I hope for the year ahead to bring joy and happiness to you all – Shanah Tovah!

*With best wishes
Nicola Sturgeon*

NICOLA STURGEON

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• EDINBURGH •

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Frank Ross
The Rt Hon Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh

3rd September 2019

Last month, I was delighted to attend the yearly Civic Service at the Synagogue and I would like to thank you for the warmth of your reception and for once again hosting the service.

During the year, I have been pleased to meet many members of the community at various functions throughout the city. As ever, the Jewish Community holds a most important part in the fabric of Edinburgh.

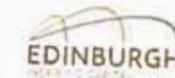
May I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy New Year, a year full of happiness and success.



Yours sincerely

Frank Ross

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The Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message 5780

On 23rd June 2019, something extraordinary happened in Turkey; something which provides an insight into how each of us might successfully navigate a society which feels more divided and despondent than it has for many years.

Increasingly, when faced with a major problem, public figures discover that they find acclaim by apportioning blame. Immediate, oversimplified solutions are promised and their impassioned rhetoric alone can be enough to generate widespread public support. Over time, those holding an opposing view feel compelled to resort to many of the same tactics in order to be heard and society becomes polarised. Those who might be cast as an obstacle to the success of one side or another are scapegoated. Before long, people become defined by their perceived 'allegiances' and a destructive culture of demonisation of 'the other' sets in. Today, we call this populism. Its impact is felt across the globe, from here in the UK, right across Europe, the United States and even in Israel. These are times of disharmony, which many of us never believed we would see.

Citizens in every country are prompted to make a choice: Will we do the easy thing? Will we sit back and allow ourselves to be swept up by the dangerous currents of hostility to 'the other'? Or, can we find a port somewhere in the storm where we can remain considered and temperate; where we can be discerning about truth and justice within our fragile world?

The signs thus far have been less than encouraging, but earlier this year a Turkish man, Ates Bassoy, provided a flicker of light in the darkness.

Mr Bassoy had observed how actor, Robert De Niro had publicly insulted President Trump at a high profile awards ceremony the previous year. His expletive-ridden remarks were greeted by a standing ovation, but they also served to motivate and embolden the President's supporters. Not surprisingly, anger generated yet more anger. Mr Bassoy concluded that a more effective strategy would be one of what he called 'radical love' - to meet aggression with peace, insults with praise and hatred with love. To most, it sounded like a naïve - if honourable - approach, but he was provided with an opportunity to prove it could work when he became the campaign manager for a virtually unknown district mayor, Ekrem Imamoglu. Mr Imamoglu was to stand for Mayor of Istanbul against the might of President Erdogan's powerful party regime. Bassoy described his campaign strategy as having two simple rules: Ignore Erdogan and love those who love Erdogan.

Few people believed that his candidate stood any chance. After all, Istanbul had long been a stronghold of the ruling AKP party and President Erdogan had a large base of support in the Turkish capital. Astonishingly, on 23rd June this year, against all the odds, Ekrem Imamoglu was elected mayor of Istanbul, striking a blow for civility, selflessness and decency.

The lesson of this most unlikely political earthquake is that the port in the storm is not in fact beyond our reach, nor is it something that we must wait for others to provide. On the contrary, the answer is and has always been right under our noses.

Our societies can take a lesson from our Torah tradition: **דרכיה דרכי נעם וכל נתיבותיה שלום**
"The Torah's ways are pleasant and all its paths are peace." (Proverbs 3:17)
It is within our power to break free from the cycle of polarisation. It begins by modelling what Rav Kook, the first Chief Rabbi of the Holy Land, referred to as 'Ahavat Chinam' - causeless love: making time to give of ourselves to others with no expectation of reward or reciprocity.

Our Sages taught: We become truly wise by learning from every person. We become truly mighty by conquering our own negative inclinations. We become truly honourable by honouring others and we become truly heroic by turning enemies into friends.

A highlight of our Yom Kippur services is the repetitive chanting of the 13 attributes of Hashem's mercy. The Talmud explains that we do so in order to inspire us to emulate the ways of the Almighty: just as He is merciful, so too should we be merciful; just as He is kind, so too should we be kind. (Shabbat 133b).

Over the High Holy Day period, when we lower our heads for viduy (confession), we will admit to the sins of sneering, impertinence and obduracy; of disrespect, hard-heartedness and insincerity; of deception, tale-bearing and baseless hatred. Are these not among the most transgressed sins of the social media generation? In these times, when decency is no longer the norm and humility is mistaken for weakness, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur inspire us to buck the trend and to change ourselves so deeply that those around us cannot fail to be influenced by it. This is how the seeds for real global change are sown.

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

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis
September 2019 • Tishrei 5780



Rosh Hashanah Message

The scriptural readings and quotations for the High Holidays are designated to bring out many of the themes of this period and impart lessons for the year ahead. On Rosh Hashanah we encounter two different characters that both faced crises but responded to them in very different ways.



In the Musaf service we reference the story of Noah. Noah was someone that was told that G-d was going to destroy the world and did nothing. He built an ark to save himself and his family but made no effort to save anyone else. He neither prayed for them or even, according to the text, sought to warn them. He simply stood by while G-d destroyed the world and then had to face the aftermath.

A very different attitude was shown by Rachel, who is also referenced in the Musaf service and in the Haftorah for the

second day. Facing the rivalry of her sister who had married the love of her life and was furthermore bearing him children while she was barren, Rachel doesn't remain passive. She confronts her husband, gives him her maidservant as a substitute, and bargains with her sister for her fertility drug. She doesn't give up and tries various stratagems until she finally gives birth to Joseph. The contrast to Noah couldn't be more striking.

At the beginning of the year we are given these two examples to ponder. If we are dissatisfied with our lives, our community or the world we live in, we have two choices. We can simply do nothing and hope for the best, which probably means nothing will change or even get worse. Or we can choose to act to make things better. If one route seems closed to us we can try another until we succeed. That is the choice we all face on Rosh Hashanah. Noah or Rachel, doing nothing or working for change. Which will we choose?

לשנה טובה תכתבו

A Happy New Year

Rabbi David Rose

Editorial

Like the United Kingdom, the EHC is going through its own deliberations as to its future. We are fortunate to have a strong core of members who are striving to find the solution for our way forward as a vibrant and lively congregation adapting not only to its present needs but planning for the years ahead.



Leading religious communities can be a thankless and bruising task. Our Chairman, Board and Honorary Officers deserve our support for the enormous work they undertake on our behalf. Like governments, they may get it wrong at times but we must remember that they work hard and diligently with the very best intentions at heart to ensure we all have the synagogue and community we should, giving many hours without recompense or reward. I am pleased to salute and indeed thank them here.

This year's bumper edition travels all over the world and features an interesting interview with the charming Giraldo family from Venice, who have been in our midst for the past year, before travelling to the exotics with fascinating articles on the Jews of Morocco from Janet Mundy, and Edinburgh born Sonia Cohen's reminiscences and most entertaining report from Israel. On a more serious note, we join the First Minister on her ground-breaking trip to Poland and in that vein reproduce in its entirety Mike Adler's moving and inspiring address at the Peace Park

on Yom Ha'Shoah. We are also pleased to feature Elizabeth Rosenbloom's latest investigatory article and to follow the Daiches family trail with Harriet Lyall and Joyce Capek.

Sadly this year we have lost a number of very active members of the community; people who made a real difference in their time. We hope the obituaries printed here will do them justice, for each and every one represents a life well lived, showing enormous care and support to those around them.

Once again, I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work in helping to produce this issue. On behalf of Maryla and our son, Freddie, may I take this opportunity to wish the readers of the Edinburgh Star our very best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

Edward Green

New Year

Message from the President



Last year, my Rosh Hashanah message told of the way the Jewish community came together to proclaim in a loud and firm voice, “Enough is Enough” on antisemitism in the Labour Party.

Since then, the antisemitism crisis has not gone away. However, our campaign against those who pursue this most ancient form of racism has had great successes, notably the suspension of serial offenders including Chris Williamson and Peter Willsman and the expulsion of Jackie Walker.

There is understandable anxiety in our community about the way racists within Labour have been emboldened to express their disgraceful views by the indifference, and at times the collusion, of the party’s leadership. However, as I have been saying since I assumed the presidency of this great organisation in 2018, there is another story to be told.

This is the story of a longstanding community that has lived peacefully in the UK for centuries; a community which, since we were allowed back into this country by Oliver Cromwell, has had the freedom to practise our religion and live a truly Jewish life within a respectful society.

In return, our community has contributed great things, in the arts, in society, in business and in politics and science. We have produced major figures from Abba Eban to Amy Winehouse, from Isaiah Berlin to Mark Ronson. With the prevailing conditions of freedom and respect our community has flourished over the past centuries, and despite worries over the revival of mainstream antisemitism, most of us lead happy Jewish lives.

However, there is a reason that the Board of Deputies has existed since 1760; that is to protect those hard-won freedoms and to ensure that the Jewish community in all its forms and denominations, continues to flourish.

At the Board of Deputies, we are in constant campaign mode, challenging Labour antisemitism through advocacy in the media, and to those in Labour and outside who support us and can make a difference.

Of course, Labour’s antisemitism problem is not the only problem with which we are grappling. Brexit is an issue of enormous national significance, and it will impact on British Jews. We have been working with the Government to ensure that Jewish interests are safeguarded in all circumstances.

The Board of Deputies played a prominent role in campaigning for the terrorist group Hizballah to be banned in its entirety. The Government listened and responded last autumn by ending the artificial distinction between Hizballah’s political and military wings.

We continue to confront and challenge divisive and unhelpful boycotts of Israel. Through our Invest in Peace projects, where we bring Israelis and Palestinians to speak to interfaith audiences, we show that there are better ways to address and resolve differences over the conflict.

We made a significant intervention into the Government’s legislation on organ donation. As we moved from an opt-in to an opt-out system, we acted to ensure that Jews of all denominations were protected. We also obtained compromises from the Department for Education on relationships and sex education that will allow all parts of our community to teach according to their ethos.

We work to educate non-Jewish children and adults throughout the UK on the Jewish way of life. One way we do this is through our mobile exhibition, the Jewish Living Experience which is visited by thousands of children and adults.

We ensure high standard of religious education in schools through our Pikuach inspection service – ‘the Jewish Ofsted’ which is accredited by the Department for Education.

Our honorary officers and staff reach out to local councillors at Local Councillors Seminars across the UK, to ensure that they understand and are sympathetic to Jewish concerns.

Through Milah UK, for which the Board of Deputies provides the secretariat, we campaign for the right of every Jewish boy to be circumcised according to Jewish law.

Our contribution to UK Jewish life is crucial. We will continue to represent you in the coming year to ensure we continue to live freely and safely as Jews as we have done here for centuries.

May this Rosh Hashanah bring you, your families and all of Am Yisrael health, strength and peace.

Marie van der Zyl

Marie van der Zyl
President

CHAIRMEN'S MESSAGES

Let History Radiate from the Future

John Danzig, Chair
Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation

Many have likened the book of Devarim, which immediately precedes the High Holy days, as nothing short of a Change Management Manual.

It restates the central tenets of Jewish history principally as a protective barrier to filter the massive changes to come once we have crossed the River Jordan.

The biblical account is very much around the balance between centralised authority and the need as individuals to adapt and evolve as circumstances change.

This characterisation can be transposed onto the challenges and opportunities currently facing Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation (‘EHC’). We need to call upon the personal journeys that drive us as individuals. But at the same time, we must recognise that such strength becomes meaningless without the support and vigour of communal efforts and identity. The whole is always greater than the sum of the parts!

Indeed, as we approach Rosh Hashanah, it is a welcome opportunity to reflect on the lives we lead. The Tekiah sound, that long blast of the Shofar, symbolizes the drive and ambition to achieve and accomplish our personal goals and dreams. But the blast is punctured by the Teruah that sounds like broken crying, representing the need for great sensitivity to others.

It is crucial for us to consider whether we have struck the right balance in our lives....between focusing on self-achievement,

and stopping along that path of personal ambition to support others. This is the ultimate form of enlightened self interest.

Over the last few years there has been so much that has been achieved in the growth of our community, from the extensive provision of Shabbat hospitality, to the Choir Group, regular table tennis practice, modern hebrew tuition and much, much more. Now, we must also address the exciting challenge of a new cultural centre, whatever form it ultimately takes, so long as Kashrut is fully protected.

To achieve this, we must address one further issue. The word ‘Shema’ occurs some 92 times in the book of Devarim but nobody quite knows how to translate it into English. It means many things – to hear, to listen, to pay attention, to understand, to internalise, to empathise and to respond. This is curious, because in English, virtually all our words for understanding or intellect are governed by the metaphor of sight – insight, foresight and vision to name but a few. In Western culture, understanding is a form of seeing. But In Judaism, it is a form of listening. Listening is the greatest gift one can give to another human being. And it is this quality that will ensure we generate the form of inspired cultural centre that will consolidate Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation’s vibrant future.

May I wish the readers of this wonderful publication, the Star, a true renewal for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.



Happy New Year

Nick Silk, Chair, Sukkat Shalom
Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

We continue to live in interesting times, and I don’t know about you but sometimes it can feel as if events overtake us and it’s difficult to know what we can or should do.

There are many sayings from Jewish scholars which say words to the effect that while it feels things may seem tough, and it feels as if there is little we can do, it is important that we do what we can. Indeed, it is often said that it is the little acts that help to pave the way for rectifying the bigger ills of the world. I recently read a quote from Gandhi saying much the same thing; while the acts we take are small and insignificant compared to what is happening in the world, it is vitally important that we take such acts.

May we all commit over the forthcoming High Holydays to taking such small and seemingly insignificant acts, to help our families,

our communities and ultimately the world, to become a better place.

Talking about quotes, one of my favourites is that of Menachem de Lonzano, a 16th century poet who said “He whose voice is bad and unpleasant, and who cannot perform hymns and songs according to their tunes and who cannot remember melodies, even to a man like him it is allotted to raise his voice.” Those of you who know my singing ability know that it leaves something to be desired. But, in the spirit of contributing to my community – whether it helps is arguably a different question - I will indeed raise my voice on Simchat Torah if not the other High Holyday services.

I wish you all a sweet, happy and prosperous New Year and well over the fast.



The Giraldo Family



Edward Green

The Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation have been blessed with the presence of the Giraldo family from Venice. And truly a blessing it has been, as the entire family are such a joy to be with. Parents, Eleonora and Luigi, have brought their 'famiglia' of Lorenzo (17), Elisa (14) and Isacco (12) to Edinburgh initially for a year but we now know for more.

It all started when Eleonora and Luigi came to Edinburgh for a weekend over three years ago and fell in love with the city, the hills around and the sea and spectacular views at every turn. They brought their children back for a week's stay and soon it was decided that as Luigi had been retained by Israeli diamond merchants to undertake some work in Scotland, that the whole family would come to live in Edinburgh for a year ostensibly to polish up their English. Luigi would need to come back and forth as he still had responsibility for the family jewellery business in Treviso close to Venice. The entire family made the decision to come to Edinburgh after that fateful trip when the sun shone, and they saw Edinburgh in all its splendour including riding their bicycles around Duddingston Loch and its environs. They dreamed of a house with a garden and trees, sadly not possible in Venice, and found a home in Prestonfield, equi-distant but also within walking distance of the Synagogue in Salisbury Road and Holyrood School, a school they had identified would suit their children well as over 25 languages are spoken reflecting the 'melting pot' of many nationalities. As committed, and I am sure very valued, members of the synagogue in Venice, they were anxious that their religious life here in Scotland would echo their religious life in Venice and in many ways it does.

Venice enjoys a larger Jewish population than we do here with over 450 members of the synagogue. But it is still not as large as communities found in main towns and they have found that our community does indeed follow much of what they are used to at home with a small, warm and inviting community. What was fascinating to hear was that there are five synagogues within the Ghetto in Venice, they live close by, and the community alternates between the use of all five, using differing synagogues for differing festivals and Shabbats. Apparently, Venice has the highest concentration of synagogues in one small area than anywhere in the world, with 'secret' passages linking the synagogues and chambers.

But as a city, Edinburgh also won 'hands down' as the place to come to as it is not an industrial city nor too busy; it is comfortable yet commercial and of course deeply historical like their own home. Luigi particularly loves the quality of the air here and relishes this as soon as the aeroplane door opens at Turnhouse. He also loves the different culture, the differing climate and the change in their style of living.

What all the children were in agreement with, is that they love the school, having to wear a uniform and the way lessons are taught. They like that they are taught not so much by rote or by repeated examination, but they are shown the whole picture in a subject, and minute details whilst important are only part of the final result. Interestingly enough, Lorenzo said that the school uniform allowed them to be smart every day and not just for Shabbat. He was also very taken that he was able to choose his own subjects and that there was less homework to do at home, something that not surprisingly excited all the siblings!

Elisa also enjoys that school starts later in the day and that they move around school during the day from class to class allowing them interaction with their fellow pupils between lessons. This last point was repeated by Lorenzo and Isacco. Isacco, who

has just completed Primary, loved that there was one teacher that stayed with him during the day, who was very kind and less strict than his teachers at home. He says the lessons are much more relaxed, sometimes they even had music in class, and that he has made good friends with whom he enjoys outings to the cinema and birthday parties.

Eleonora says that she has enjoyed being a parent here and meeting other mothers at the school which is truly international. They recently had a dinner for the parents to which her contribution was not surprisingly pizza! A Jewish mother's pizza she hastened to add! Eleonora confessed that she misses the open markets for fruit and vegetables and such like that are to be found in Venice. As tourists we enjoy the market near the Rialto, but Eleonora told me of other markets, like the Fondamenta, that she frequents that are perhaps more local. I think we can all appreciate that a trip around Sainsbury in Cameron Toll might not be the same! Eleonora misses her parents as they must do the family; Luigi has more chance to see his as he is home more frequently. His father, who is 85, has only just in the last few years retired, but is still very active. Eleonora says that there is an extra bonus living here. Her mother and mother-in-law both feel that they must keep her and Elisa up with the current Italian fashions and are always sending 'dress parcels' over. Perhaps they have seen too many pictures



Speech given by Lorenzo Giraldo at the Kiddush held for prospective new members on Shabbat Tazria /Hachodesh – 6th April 2019, with the permission of Rabbi David Rose and the Chairman John Danzig,

I'm delighted to represent my family at this special Kiddush as my parents are busy working in Italy.

So, I'm just here as an ambassador, it's all my family talking.

Firstly, I would like to mention the reason why about ten months ago we all came to Edinburgh: my father was offered a little work task in this beautiful capital city, but before accepting the job he wished to take all the family to visit it.

Since we all fell in love with this amazing city which offers breathtaking landscapes such as the sea, the hills and the historical monuments and especially has a Hebrew Congregation, we decided to move to Edinburgh for one year.

We have lived here for ten months so far and, although the first period wasn't a walk in the park, we decided to stay here for another year, and one of the reasons why we did it, is because here in the Congregation we have found a second family, that has welcomed us warmly since the first times we came here.

of men in kilts and women in tartan and feel that they don't want their girls to go 'native'!

But what came through when we discussed things is that the entire Giraldo family are enjoying the different style of life that Edinburgh and Scotland offer. They feel that they are more open-minded now to experience new things in life and a change in culture and that their time in Scotland, to which they have now confirmed will be for another year, had proved to be a wonderful experience for all the family and one which they have all enjoyed. English fluency whilst important has proved to be of secondary importance to the enjoyment of their time here and living the Scottish life.

As a family, they have enjoyed travelling around Scotland, mostly by train. They have found the Scottish people, and not just the Edinburgh Jewish community, warm and welcoming. They have loved the towns and the countryside they have seen enormously and plan to take in a great deal more. But for the summer, they returned to Venice, to enjoy the sun and the sea, and their wonderful families. We have loved having the Giraldo family in our midst, Luigi, Eleonora, Lorenzo, Elisa and Isacco, and we very much hope that when they finally choose to return to Venice, they will remain constant visitors and a part of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation.

Yes, it is thanks to your constant availability to us and to the liveliness of the frequent religious and cultural events that the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation constantly organizes, that we have chosen to stay here for another year.

And to think that before coming here we were a little bit afraid because some people told us that Scottish people were cold and closed to foreigners. And yet, we have found the opposite as we couldn't have been welcomed in a better way.

Starting with Rabbi Rose who, although is extremely serious and culturally prepared on all occasions, he always has a funny joke and is always friendly and warm.

And I must mention the Chairman John Danzig who just after we had come from Venice organized a Kiddush to let us meet the Italian consul.

And I should list one by one all the people of this congregation to thank you on behalf of all my family, but I avoid doing it in order to not detain you further.

Thank you very much to all of you for everything that you have done for us on behalf of my father Luigi, my mother Eleonora and my siblings Elisa and Isacco, but especially thank you for having convinced us to continue our extraordinary Scottish experience for another year.



First Minister of Scotland joins students on Holocaust Educational Trust visit to Auschwitz

Holocaust Educational Trust Chief Executive, Karen Pollock MBE, reflects on last year's Scottish Lessons from Auschwitz Visit with Scottish First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon MSP

Karen Pollock MBE

We were proud and honoured to welcome the Scottish First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon MSP on our Lessons from Auschwitz Project visit from Glasgow. This visit could not have been more timely; coming only a few days after the tragic mass-shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

We were proud and honoured to welcome the Scottish First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon MSP on our Lessons from Auschwitz Project visit from Glasgow. This visit could not have been more timely, coming only a few days after the tragic mass-shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

We are sadly seeing a rise of antisemitism, Holocaust denial and distortion across the world, both online and in our communities. We know that education is key to tackling hatred and intolerance, which is why we were so pleased the First Minister could join us, alongside over 200 students and teachers at the site where hatred and antisemitism can lead, if left unchecked.

Our aim at the Trust is to educate young people from every background about the Holocaust and the important lessons to be learned for today. We work in schools, colleges, and higher education institutions, providing teacher training workshops and lectures, as well as teaching aids and resource materials, and

our Lessons from Auschwitz Project is an important part of our work because of its direct educational engagement with young people.

So far, thanks to support from the Scottish Government, we have taken more than 4,000 Scottish students to the former Nazi concentration camp, which was the largest killing site of the Holocaust, where over one million Jewish men, women and children were murdered. Following their visit, these young people will become the torchbearers of truth, upholding the legacy of the Holocaust.

Schools and colleges from across Scotland have participated in this project and to have the First Minister accompany us on this visit to Auschwitz reflected her strong personal commitment to the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Prior to the visit, attendees heard from Holocaust survivor Eva Clarke, at an Orientation Seminar and were able to discuss their reasons for taking part in the Project, their expectations, preconceptions and the potential impact that the visit may have on them. This is an important opportunity to understand the purpose of this visit and prepare participants.

Eva was born in Mauthausen concentration camp, Austria, on 29th April 1945. She and her mother are the only survivors of their family, 15 members of whom were killed in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Throughout the visit, participants were reminded to think of the personal stories behind each of the victims, like Eva's.

On the visit itself, the First Minister first visited Oświęcim, the town where the Nazi concentration and death camp was located and where, before the war, 58% of the population was Jewish. She and the students then visited Auschwitz I to see the former camp's barracks and crematoria and witnessed the piles of belongings that were seized by the Nazis.



These were personal belongings – luggage, shoes and everyday household items – that those arriving had brought with them, not knowing the fate awaiting them at the end of their long journeys.

These objects reminded us of the humanity of the people brought to be murdered in this place and participants were visibly moved by seeing them. For some, it was seeing the names of victims, including very young children, on their suitcases. For others, it was the pairs of glasses or the prosthetic limbs or the pairs of shoes, all of them evidence of lives brutally cut short. I know that the First Minister was particularly struck by the heart-breaking sight of children's clothes and by the house keys never to be used by their owners again.

Finally, we spent time at the main killing centre of Birkenau where the day concluded with candle lighting and a period of reflection to remember the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust and the other victims of Nazi persecution.

This ceremony was an opportunity to reflect on the day, hearing readings from fellow students and a Rabbi. On this occasion, we were joined by Rabbi Daniel Epstein, who told his own personal story of his grandmother who escaped Nazi Germany to the safety of Scotland.

Rabbi Epstein's grandmother, Lotte Sara Maylice, was a 24-year-old living in Berlin in 1939 when she tried to escape the increasing persecution of Jewish people like herself by attempting to send an advert to newspapers, including the Daily Record in Scotland, offering to be an au pair overseas. Luckily for Lotte, Presbyterian minister Reverend White answered her advert, sent her authorisation to come to England and to work as a family maid in Perth.

Rabbi Epstein's story, along with others we heard throughout the day, showed how a single act of kindness can save lives and inspire us all to stand up to hatred. It is important now, more than ever, to ensure that young people from every background, across Scotland, can see for themselves where racism, prejudice and antisemitism can ultimately lead.

This Project leaves a lasting impact on participants. Standing beneath the Arbeit Macht Frei sign, walking down the iconic train tracks, and seeing the ruins of the gas chambers, is something that these young people and others, including the First Minister, will never forget.

Nor do they forget the important lessons for today raised by this experience. Like many of the participants, the First Minister was particularly struck by the question of responsibility. As she explained, the Holocaust was not just perpetrated by Hitler or the Nazis; it was made possible by the choices of hundreds of thousands of ordinary people. To hear her stress that this shows why we should not be a bystander in our everyday lives – and not turn a blind eye – to prejudice, discrimination, bigotry and racism, sent a strong message to others.

We know that continuing our work is vital and last year the Holocaust Educational Trust marked its 30th Anniversary. Just before this trip we ran our 200th Lessons from Auschwitz visit and so far, more than 38,000 students from across the UK have participated in the programme – all great educational achievements. Every year some of our fantastic Ambassadors speak at the National Holocaust Memorial Day, Time for Reflection in the Scottish Parliament. This is a great opportunity for them to share what they have learned from the visit and commit to standing up and speaking out against hatred whenever and wherever it is found.

We now have thousands of Ambassadors, sharing their experiences and educating others about the Holocaust. We are grateful to them, the First Minister, and all those who support us in our vitally important work.



Lodge Solomon

The Editor writes:

I was honoured and privileged to attend the dinner following the installation of Lawrence Taylor as the new Master of Lodge Solomon. I did not witness the actual installation as this was restricted to Lodge members but was delighted to hear his speech in response to the toast (produced in its entirety here) made to the Lodge and him. Lawrence has taken on an exciting and exacting position as he leads the now multi-denominational Lodge into their impressive hundredth year and it was wonderful to witness the enormous respect that the Lodge is held in by all who attended the evening, members from many different Lodges from across Scotland.

The toast to Lodge Solomon and its new master was made by Brother Jeff White, the Right Worshipful Master of the The Roman Eagle Lodge and his address is included here.

Sidney Caplan, a board member of the Star and a member and Past Master of Lodge Solomon, provides a most interesting insight into the progression of Lawrence to Master and the workings of Lodges, for which I, and I am sure many, will be most grateful. I was also interested to look down the list of recent past masters and to see the names of Stewart Caplan, Philip Mason, Tom Wood, Norman MacLeod, and of course that of Alec Rubenstein mentioned in the Toast, in addition to a list of many members of the synagogue now passed on.

I am sure that all the readers of the Star will join The Editor and Board of The Edinburgh Star in wishing Lawrence every success in his leadership of Lodge 1209 and to the Lodge itself for its momentous anniversary.



Speech given by Brother Jeff V White, Grand Master of The Roman Eagle Lodge No C.L.X:

Right Worshipful Master, (provincial rep), Installing Masters, Reigning Masters, past masters, worshipful wardens, brethren all.

RWM Thank you so much for giving me the honour of proposing this toast tonight. Shalom Brethren! ("Alechem Shalom/ response / upon you be peace) in response, thank you brethren.

The Lodge as you all know Brethren is a place for Gentlemen of Belief, Lodge Solomon in my opinion is a very important lodge in Edinburgh as it is a lodge which meets here in the Edinburgh Hebrew Centre a place where people of belief worship God.

For Jews, enlightened Edinburgh can be traced to 1691, the year in which the minutes of Edinburgh Town Council recorded the application of David Brown, a professing Jew, to reside and trade in the city. Whilst it appears that there was an organised Jewish Community by 1780, the Edinburgh Jewish community in 1816 consisted of 20 families. In 1825, the community acquired a tenement in Richmond Court and converted and equipped it for use as a Synagogue with 67 seats. This served the needs of the Community for 43 years. By the turn of the century, the community numbered 500 and had acquired a chapel in Graham Street for conversion into a Synagogue. In 1909, the Edinburgh University Jewish Society was founded, and is the oldest in Scotland, and possibly in Britain. In 1919, Dr Salis Daiches became minister of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation. Dr Daiches was to be Lodge Solomon's first candidate, but more of that later. During the course of his ministry, which lasted 27 years until his death, he had a profound effect on the Jewish community. He united the community into a single cohesive unit and at the same time acted as spokesman for the Jews in Scotland during the troubled inter-war years. The magnificent Synagogue here in Salisbury Road, built in 1932 to accommodate 2000 people, and is a tribute to his leadership and vision.

Rabbi Shalom Shapira, of Jerusalem, and a Sabra, was appointed in 1988. His pastoral and spiritual care for members of the Community, ably assisted by his wife Rachel, has enabled Judaism to thrive in Edinburgh in the 90s. and to the future. Rabbi Shapira had the inspiration to found the 'Edinburgh Star', which continues to make pleasurable reading and to give information to the EHC members, to the wider community and to those who have moved to other countries. I was very fortunate to be present at Brother Rabbi Shapira's third degree, which was expertly performed by a degree team from lodge Fisherrow. It was a special evening! Rabbi David Rose provides hospitality for both Community members and visitors alike; no one is ever turned away. Lodge Solomon No.1209 started their official masonic life in the 1920s.

Lodge Solomon received their charter from the Grand lodge of Scotland on the 5th of February 1920 and the lodge was consecrated on the 15th of April that year. The lodge started off with 61 founder members but no sooner had you been consecrated then boom you granted honorary membership to 7 members from Grand Lodge and Metropolitan district. So, these 68 members laid the foundation stone for what we now see today. Your sponsors were the Roman Eagle lodge CLX and the Rifle Lodge No 405. It is very pleasing to see these two lodges represented at the top table tonight by myself and Bro. John Dadds. How refreshing it is to see that after a total of 98 years we still sit down together in peace and harmony.

Lodge Solomon had only eyes for one person to be their first entered apprentice and he was a larger than life character Rabbi Dr Salis Daiches. The rabbi was no doubt part instrumental in setting up the lodge. Because of the many lodges that were being formed after the first world war no one really provided the needs for the large Jewish population of Edinburgh at the time. On the 6th of May 1920 and armed with £10 and ten shillings the rabbi joined the lodge and for the remainder of his life he worked hard to improve relations between Jews and

the various communities in Scotland and beyond. He became a prominent Freemason and 15 years after taking his first-degree he became Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Solomon in the years 1935 and again in 1936. When the Grand Lodge of Israel was being formed, he was instrumental in its setting up, such was his standing among the brethren of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Lodge Solomon then provides a home for the Edinburgh Masonic community within the Jewish community here in Edinburgh and as such is a place dear to all our hearts. I have been visiting Lodge Solomon for many years. My Mother Lodge was Dramatic and Arts 757 and we enjoyed a close relationship with 1209, we are no longer meeting, having been declared dormant, but the relationship endures in Brother John Brash a Past Master of 757.

It is nice to see Brethren here from Lodge Montefiore as they formed the 1888 club along with 757 and Lodge Loch Fyne when they invited us to the boxer brother, Gary Jacobs', 3rd degree twenty-two years ago. We enjoyed each other's company for many years thereafter.

One of my most memorable nights in the craft was in Lodge Montefiore when two brethren were presented with Distinguished membership certificates; one an ex big band leader who came to Glasgow from Italy and the other a brother who had been in both Auschwitz and Belsen, lost his first wife in the camp and in a Glasgow cafe many years later recognised a fellow prisoner from Belsen who he was later to marry. I was honoured to meet both these very distinguished brethren who in their acceptance speeches said that they had suffered NO discrimination since their arrival in Glasgow many years before, One remarked "we are both Jewish, it is just that the Glaswegians have not yet worked out whether we are Roman Catholic or Protestant Jews!"

Lodge Solomon's is number 1209 on the roll of The Grand Lodge of Scotland. There are eighteen hundred and fifty lodges giving fealty to Scotland's Grand Lodge.

During pre- and medieval times, itinerant lodges of stonemasons travelled through Europe helping to build cathedrals, churches, castles and stately homes. As it usually took many years to build such buildings, so many different Masonic Lodges were involved and on every building is the Master Mason's mark. Gradually as things progressed, Masonic Lodges put down roots throughout Europe. The oldest Lodge in Scotland is Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel) No. 1 whose records go back to 1515. Lodges started to change about that time and became Freemason Lodges dedicated to charity. Freemasonry in the United Kingdom is second only to the Lottery in giving monies to charities. Surprisingly in 1796, Lodge Journeyman's Mason No 8 sent six members who were working stonemasons to Washington to help build The White House.

Many famous people have been or are Freemasons including King George 1V, The Duke of Kent, Earl of Huntly, George Washington and many more.

To join a Lodge after your proposer and seconder have given disclosure, only one question is asked of the applicant. "Do you believe in God?" Your religion is never mentioned. In fact, it is prohibited to discuss religion or politics during a Lodge meeting.

Freemasonry is not a secret society but a society with secrets!

Sidney Caplan, Past Master 1209 writes:

Lawrence Taylor became a freemason after he turned twenty one having joined Lodge Solomon No.1209 on 21st May 2011. He worked hard for the Lodge and managed to complete all the requirements that would enable him to progress to become an office bearer. This meant he started as an Apprentice, then a Craftsman, and finally a Master Mason. The three degrees tell the story of the building of King Solomon's Temple and how the King asked his friend Hiram, King of Tyre, to send his chief architect, Hiram Abif, to oversee the building and what happened to him (Kings 1 verses 8 to 13). This took place between 964 and 956 B.C.E.

At the end of the Apprentice Degree, the candidate takes off his shoe and gives it to the Master to seal the bargain. (Book of Ruth Verse 7, Chapter 18)

Lawrence having progressed to become an Office-Bearer for all the positions became the sixty third Master of the Lodge on the 21st of January 2019. As Master, he sits in the east of the Lodge room or Temple. He chairs all the business of his Lodge and is vested with considerable powers without reference to the members, but these are very rarely used. He also presides over all the rituals and ceremonies. The office of Right Worshipful Master is the highest honour to which a Lodge may appoint any of its members.

Continued from page 15

In these times when there is so much to divide us, we are once again seeing the ugly spectre of racism raising its head in football, which perhaps provides a public platform for the divisions which exist in our society, it is most heartening that in freemasonry, Brethren, we provide a brotherhood where gentlemen of belief can mix together in peace, love and harmony.

To-night we have witnessed what must be the oldest office bearer in Scotland and beyond being invested with that high office of treasurer. Alec, you are a credit to yourself and the craft. You can write a book on Bro Alec Rubenstein, but he will probably tell me some of the information is wrong even if it was right! Alec, you are a character and Grand lodge and Provincial love you. May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy birthday on February 18th, you will be 102 then and it must be great remembering the good old days in freemasonry.

Lawrence has been installed this year as Right Worshipful Master; I wish him all the best for his year in the chair and hope that he has as much fun and enjoyment as Master of this fine lodge as I have had from being master of mine. I trust that God will give him the strength and wisdom to lead you into your one hundred years anniversary in 2020. Also, I must say it's refreshing to see Mr Jim Brierty here, hopefully lodge Solomon's next entered apprentice. Jim and I worked together for many years and I can confirm that your lodge has a very fine candidate indeed. Then let us pray that come it may, (As come it will for a' that,) That Sense and Worth, o'er a' the earth, Shall bear the gree, an' a' that. For a' that, an' a' that, It's coming yet for a' that, That Man to Man, the world o'er, Shall brothers be for a that!

Brethren I hope that you are all enjoying another memorable evening here in Lodge Solomon and so that can continue, I will stop talking and instead ask you all to charge your glasses, be upstanding and join me in a toast to Lodge Solomon.



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United Jewish Israel Appeal

Micheline Brannan

Nearly 2 years ago I became the Regional Fundraiser for UJIA in Scotland.

UJIA is THE Israel organization in the UK. We provide programmes in the UK that encourage young people to develop a confident Jewish identity in which Israel plays a key part. The benefits of this are felt in Edinburgh when our Cheder helpers start to prepare to Israel Tour. While Israel travel is supported by EHC's educational funds, it is also a fact that UJIA provides subsidies to any eligible young person to ensure that no-one is prevented from this life-changing experience by lack of means. After Israel tour at age 16, many young people develop a deeper involvement in the Jewish community which they carry forward to gap years, student activities, volunteering and community involvement as young adults. This is the kind of leadership that UJIA seeks to encourage and support. These young leaders are essential to give our community a secure future and deserve everything we can do to help.



In Israel itself, we support projects that promote social inclusion, education, training and entrepreneurship. We concentrate on the deprived northern communities, and we have many partner organisations on the ground. I am particularly inspired by the Equaliser project which brings young Israeli Jews and Arabs together through football, and Kemach, which supports the Charedi community to train for work that they can combine with learning. These are unusual projects but much of our work is more mainstream, such as the Carmiel Children's Village, the Darca Danziger School in Kiryal Shemoneh, and the provision of dormitories in the Western Galilee College. In our recent work we are placing more emphasis on Social Impact Evaluation, rather than just giving out grants, and this will be a growing area for the future.

To find out more about UJIA please look at our website www.ujia.org

On behalf of UJIA in Scotland I wish all readers of the Edinburgh Star a very happy and healthy New Year 5780.

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Cover Picture

The Praying Jew,
The Art Institute of Chicago
Marc Chagall 1887 – 1985

Marc Zakharovich Chagall was a Russian-French artist of Belarusian Jewish origin. Maybe the most famous of the early modernists, he was associated with several major artistic styles and created works in virtually every artistic format, including painting, book illustrations, stained glass, stage sets, ceramic, tapestries and fine art prints.



A Letter from Israel

Sonia Cohen

I have lived in Israel for nearly sixty years. I speak Hebrew, read the Hebrew newspapers and make my shopping lists in Hebrew. I am an Israeli, but I was not born here. My roots lie far away, in Scotland, in the very beautiful city of Edinburgh.

It is not often that I stop to ponder how I got here, and why I left home, family, and a comfortable life in Scotland for the harsher realities of life in Israel. I am truly grateful to Edward Green for asking me to write this letter from Israel. It made me think back.

I have enjoyed a wonderful wander down memory lane revisiting the scenes of my childhood - schooldays at Watsons, the annual community outing when the Rabbi wore a peaked hat and played football, going to the Jewish shops. There were wonderful things at Curzon's grocery like schmaltz herring in a barrel and there were great bakeries. I have yet to taste challahs like Kleinberg's or black-bread and beigels as good as Bialeck's. I could go on for ever.

There are other memories too, the kind that influenced my life though I didn't realize it at the time. It is only as I write these lines and put my thoughts in order that I understand how much the first two decades of my life led me, almost inevitably, to where I am today.



Sonia and Aaron Cohen

In a way, it started before I was born. My mother's parents, Bobby and Zeide Nathan, dreamed of going to live in Palestine but sadly it didn't work out for them. When I talked about going to Israel, most of my relatives thought I was mad, but not Bobby and Zeide. They were unfailingly supportive. I like to think I am fulfilling their dream.

The Edinburgh Jewish community was very pro-Israel and members contributed generously to the newborn State. At the same time, only a few encouraged their children to go and live there. Fortunately for me, these included my parents, Fanny and Simmy Levinson. All three of their children settled in Israel with their full approval. They finally made Aliyah themselves in their old age and are buried in Natanya.

Mum and Dad were staunch active members of the Edinburgh Jewish community, but they were also committed Zionists. Mum was president of WIZO and Dad of the Joint Palestine Appeal. About a year after the State of Israel was established, Dad found an Israeli student studying in Edinburgh and persuaded him to teach my sister Rose and myself modern Hebrew. I am eternally grateful to Dad for his initiative.

Somewhere along the way, I developed a love of the Hebrew language and related studies. While most kids left cheder around barmitzva age, I continued studying till I was 16. I had no idea at the time how useful this would prove to be.

Although I often played with non Jewish kids, my closest friends were Jewish. There were five of us, whom we call "the crowd". We met often at cheder several times a week, on Shabbat in shul or when we went for long walks in the Queen's Park in the afternoon, and at Habonim on Sundays. We went for outings,

hiking in the hills near Balerno and Peebles, cycling down the coast to Gullane, going by ferry or train to Fife. We became very close friends and still are. Two of the boys were frum, the rest of us came from traditional homes. In our early teens we made a collective decision to be frum and all five of us have remained so, together with our spouses. In those days, we also spoke earnestly of settling in Israel. Four of us are here, the fifth is a frequent visitor.

I was only ten when the State of Israel was established. It took me a few years to grasp the significance of it, but by the time I was fifteen I understood that the existence of Israel was a miracle. There is no other way to explain how it survived the War of Independence in the face of impossible odds. I felt enormously privileged to have been born in the era of Jewish history when a Jewish state came into being. It was something Jews

had longed for and prayed for, for thousands of years. I knew with absolute certainty that I could never live anywhere else.

With others in "the crowd", I joined Bnei Akiva, a religious Zionist youth movement. It had a hachshara (training center) on a large farm in Thaxted, Essex. Young people trained there for a future life on a religious kibbutz in Israel. I took all my highers in the fifth form in school and managed to get in a year of hachshara at Thaxted before I started my studies at Edinburgh University.

The excellent education I got at George Watson's Ladies' College and Edinburgh University provided a solid basis for my two careers. I taught high school English for more than 30 years, then I became a writer. I worked for a publishing company writing textbooks for teaching English as a second language. I worked for them for years, then free lanced for them till I was over 80.

When I was at university I dutifully went to Jewish student and community socials and dances, but I never really felt I belonged there. I never dated a boy who didn't share my dream of living in Israel. I spent all my university holidays at Bnei Akiva camps or at Thaxted where I felt at home. On one of those occasions I met Aaron Cohen from Belfast. He was a Bnei Akiva organizer, and when he came to work in Glasgow, we started going out together.

In my second year at uni I had a most amazing piece of good fortune. A wealthy Edinburgh Jew wanted to encourage greater interest in Hebrew. He offered a free trip to Israel to whoever took O level Hebrew and got the highest mark. On the strength of my earlier Hebrew studies, I took the exam and won the prize. I should add I was the only contestant!

I signed up for the Bnei Akiva summer camp in Israel and to my delight, Aaron was asked to lead the group. I had an incredible month in Israel, land of my dreams, together with Aaron, the love of my life. How's that for romance? The outcome is not hard to guess! Aaron proposed to me in Jerusalem, and I accepted. In a quirk of fate, we are now living within walking distance of the spot where that happened.

In 1959, we married and set off for Israel - by boat. Our first three years were spent on a kibbutz. During that time Aaron was in the army, in Nachal. When he completed his army service, we decided kibbutz life was not for us after all, and we left with our two little daughters. In retrospect, I see that the kibbutz was a great way to start life here. We got used to the climate and the food, we became fluent in Hebrew and we had no worries about making a living. I also got my first teaching experience when I taught English to a group of adult kibbutzniks.

After moving around a bit, in 1965 we settled in a moshav, near Hadera and lived there for an eventful forty-four years. We had a third daughter and then a son. Aaron spent almost all of his working life in their Ministry of Agriculture. I taught and looked after our four lively kids, and later started writing.

In those days, the moshav was only a few kilometers from the Jordanian border, a very scary place to be before the Six Day War. Aaron taught me to use his revolver just before he was called up. Fortunately, I never had to use it. A few years later, the horrors of the Yom Kippur War left their mark on all of us. Even when Israel is not at war, defending the country is an ongoing task. Our young folks spend three precious years of their lives in the army, often risking their lives to keep us safe. Parents of soldiers have many sleepless nights. I speak from experience.

We try to live as normally as possible, and for the most part, we succeed. But Israel is a tiny country! Whenever a soldier is killed, or civilians are murdered by terrorists or a bus is blown up, the chances are you will know someone who is involved. You give a silent prayer of thanks that your own family are unharmed but feel guilty for thinking that way.

We are now both in our eighties and still active though not as spry as we once were. Our children are all married and leading busy lives. We have a wonderful, ever increasing tribe of grandchildren and great grandchildren who fill our lives with joy. They are the answer to those who seek to destroy Israel.

Nine years ago, we moved to Jerusalem to an unusual sheltered housing complex. It is run by an elected committee of the residents. I am chairperson of the committee and Aaron is head of security, so life is never dull. We have had some very tough times in our lives, but rarely a dull moment. Life has been rich in the things that really matter, full and meaningful. Never for a single moment have I regretted choosing to live here.

Before I sign off, I would like to share with readers an experience I had more than fifty years ago. I think you could call it an epiphany. It is as clear to me today in every detail as if it happened yesterday.

The month of May 1967 was a very tense time. We knew war was imminent and war is always terrible even if you "win." We were in the midst of digging trenches and filling sandbags when Mum and Dad arrived for a visit. That same night, Aaron was called up. True to our British roots, we all hid our fears as we said goodbye.

Mum and Dad would have stayed had there been anything useful they could do, but finally agreed to go home. Before they left, I took them to visit various relatives. We were standing in Petach Tikva bus station when I was struck, almost physically, by an overwhelmingly powerful emotion. I stood still and heard a loud voice inside my head say the words; "I know why I am here. This is where I belong."

This "epiphany" as I call it was an incredible experience. When I thought about it later, I understood that it was triggered by my parents' presence here. Their visit was highly unusual. In those tense days, no tourists were coming to Israel. On the plane, Mum and Dad were the only tourists among a planeload of Israelis coming home to join their army units. My parents' presence sent a clear message; "We identify with your fight, we care, we want to offer our support".

As I travelled around the country with them, I realized as never before just how much of my love of Israel came from my parents. This realization made my sense of identity with Israel stronger than ever. From deep down within me that tremendous feeling of identity travelled to my brain and formed the words that I had heard so clearly, "I know why I am here. This is where I belong."

I love this amazing, gutsy little country, but I am not blind to its faults. They are many. How could it be otherwise when a country so young has so much to contend with? Hostile neighbours constantly seek new ways to destroy us. Millions of immigrants from widely different cultures have been absorbed into Israeli society. There are serious social, economic and educational issues to deal with, a huge defence budget to be funded; all has to be covered by our taxes.

Yet in spite of it all, this tiny country is a flourishing democracy with amazing achievements. We have fine universities, hospitals and hi-tec industries. Our army and intelligence services are famous. We even make our mark in sport and the arts.

I am so humbly grateful to be part of it all, so tremendously proud to call myself Israeli.

I know why I am here. This is where I belong.

The Importance of our Hearing

Katie and Martin are a husband and wife team who have over 35 years' experience between them. Having 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 and Gullane.

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

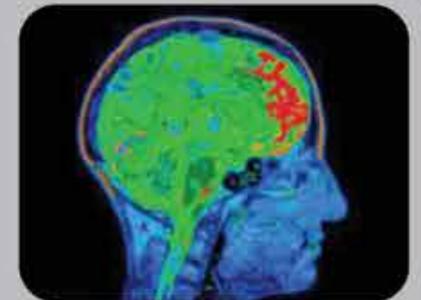
"Building a "cognitive reserve" or strengthening the brains networks means it can continue to function in later life despite damage."

"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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Sukkat Shalom

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

Cheder & Chevruta report 2019

Clare Levy

On Sunday mornings, throughout the EHC community centre, the sounds of children learning to read Hebrew, exploring biblical stories and learning about the festivals and their heritage can be heard.

This year, we started a new reading scheme provided by the United Synagogue called "Aleph Champ". Through this scheme the children build up their reading and understanding of Hebrew through a series of levels using reading and workbooks.

At the end of each level, the children were able to have a siyyum, a celebration for completing a book, where they were awarded a band to show their progression. The teachers and helpers were all delighted to see the progression of all of the children, from those starting at the very beginning to our more advanced older children. This year we were also able to start a Hebrew speakers class for the children who had a background in speaking Ivrit. This class, taught in Ivrit pushed the group further and helped the whole class grow in confidence.

In the second hour, the two middle classes followed a newly devised syllabus which covers a range of topics about Jewish life including basic Judaism, Tankah, Kashrut, and Israel. The youngest class began their Jewish education with a focus on Shabbat and Tanakh, creating their own Shabbat kits with everything they need for a Friday night dinner and Havdalah. The oldest Bnei Mitzvah class covered a range of topics in more depth culminating in their personal projects which were presented at Prize Giving. Their projects included a talk on his families Kibbutz by Aiddie, a presentation on her family history by Nixie and a detailed retelling of the story of Anne Frank by Racheli.



The Rabbi enjoying the wonderful tones of the Cheder Choir

This year Prize giving was held on the 22nd June, Parsha Behaalotecha. Each class acted out a part of the Parsha during the service, highlighting the key parts of the story. After the service, the prizes were presented to each participant. This year the cup was awarded to Nixie for her hard work throughout the year, especially in the run up to her Bat Mitzvah, celebrated a few weeks after prize giving. After the cheder prize giving, the teenagers presented examples of the work that they had done over the year with Jane, highlighting the methods they had been using to understand complex situations. The teenagers have all demonstrated their maturity this year by participating in teaching the children, providing an enriching experience for everyone involved. This year we sadly said goodbye to the Hadromi family and we look forward to welcoming the Gardi family back from their stay in Geneva.

The Chevruta group that started three years ago and continues to be a success. Open to children aged 4 up till Bat/Bar Mitzvah age from the Cheder as well as the wider Edinburgh Jewish community, these sessions follow the Sunday morning Cheder lessons. Children learn about Jewish festivals and values through the medium of arts and crafts, cooking, music and play. The toddler group have also joined the older children for Chanukah and Purim celebrations.

Running parallel to the Chevruta sessions teenagers met with their peers at the EHC youth group Sababa to explore a wide range of themes from politics in the Middle East to Chessed. The teenagers also worked on developing sessions for the younger children including running the Tu b'shvat and Pesach sederim.

We are looking forward to starting the next year of cheder where we hope the children and teenagers will continue to strive to improve their Jewish knowledge and continue to take on an active role in our community.

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Poetry Corner

Generations

by Hannah Cohn-Simmen

Birth and death coincide,
With a glimpse outside,
Sleek black metallic and blooming white,
Carry a departed soul,
Whose journey is halted,
For a moment,
By a red glow.

Bathed in the light,
a mother whispers to her child,
"I can't wait to show you my dear
all that this world can be"

Crimson turns to ember now,
Shimmering through my glass,
I gaze at those in this room,
Through windows to those who've passed.

A wrinkled hand reaches out,
to touch the fading gold,
which dapples and dances upon her glasses
Before touched by the winter cold.

Outside the soul is now in transit,
Taken by an emerald glow

Generations of life stand before me,
Each on a journey.

Hannah Cohn-Simmen is the daughter of Shari Cohn-Simmen and Martin Simmen who wrote this poem in memory of her maternal grandmother, Elinor Froehlich. It was recited by Hannah at a Kiddush given by her mother on her grandmother's Yahzeit.



Barmitzvah Guest

by Jean Rowe

It was good to be invited, very kind
a real surprise
Not of their number
Nobody minds
It's an honour

Shul was overflowing, standing at the back
Male heads bobbing
gold, blue, white and black
They stayed on - the caps

Quaint accents from afar prompt thoughts
of tales they might impart or battles fought
For now, excited and united
By the precious script

Transatlantic ones came by sea
They still grow their beards
Kvell of Russian grandfather
Draping tallit round the boy

The boy becomes a man today
Accepted - of account
Thirteen, possessed of quiet dignity
As they feel excitement mount

Accepts the obligation, reads with skill
Small slips, the Rabbi reassures
He points the way - All are still
He, grateful, nods adoring smiles.

His tallit slips, the fringe askew
His practised hands replace it
Rite of passage recognised
Fun can surely start

Symbolic sweets are thrown
Ah! the sweetness, the togetherness
Ah! - the wholeness
Of their hearts.

Jean Rowe is a historical fiction writer and piano teacher who lives in Costorphine. She is author of 'Duty' and 'Living with Shadows', published by Troubador Books. These books are inspired by an inheritance of a World War One diary of a Royal Navy writer who enlisted in 1912 together with her great-uncle. Her great-uncle was sadly lost at Gallipoli.

Festival Open Day

David Neville

The Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation's Festival Open Day took place on Sunday 18th August. The Open Day has become a regular event in the Shul's calendar.

Performers and theatre companies who are presenting works with a Jewish cultural element or theme in the Festivals come and talk about their shows and perform extracts. At the interval refreshments of bagels, cake, coffee and tea are served and the audience and performers get a chance to meet. Around one hundred and fifty people attended this year's event including a bus party of fifty from Glasgow.

Over the years the Edinburgh Synagogue has played host to artistes from all over the world and this year was no exception.

First on stage was the Canadian jazz pianist **Ron Davis**. Ron is a classically trained jazz pianist and composer based in Toronto. Davis is known for his wide-ranging musical interests, and has released nine recordings. His show, Ron Davis' Symphronica fuses jazz and classical compositions performed by Ron on piano and with an 'orchestra' of seven other musicians. In this year's Fringe show Ron was joined by Kevin Barrett his musical director and guitarist, drummer Davide L Rinaldi and a host of some of the finest string players in Scotland, Emma Smith, Clea Friend, Aisling O Dea and Seonaid Aitken.

Compere for the event, David Ian Neville, then introduced the audience to a rather grand addition to the line-up in the form of Her Majesty! Well on closer inspection it turned out to be comedian Carole Shaw who was performing her new show, **Amazing Adventures of Her Majesty at 90+**, an affectionate comedy on the world's longest-serving monarch.

The Edinburgh Fringe is the place to see new plays and new theatre companies. **Pink House** - a new play by New York writer Madison Pollack and produced by Paradigm Lab is a women's take on belonging. Inspired by the playwright's family history and migration to America, the play tells the story of a fractured household touched by loss and anti-Semitism.

It introduces us to Peri who is only fifteen when her adopted mother suddenly dies. Her world changes as her adoptive grandmother Shira moves in as her guardian. They share a tiny cluttered house, meals and Jewish holidays. Apart from having to take care of the unruly teenager, Shira is forced to confront the memories of her childhood. In this messy house the spirit of her family seems to have woken up. Madison Pollack studied in Edinburgh but is now based in New York. The play's producer, Eilidh Northridge, cast member Rowan Miller and stage manager Rachel Chung gave the audience an insight into the challenges of putting on the production.

Returning to Edinburgh this year stand-up comedian **Daniel Lobell** joined David on stage to talk about his new show, **Tipping The Scales**. Daniel has been fat his whole life. Now 35 and morbidly obese, he is determined to conquer his food addiction and get healthy. While his show is rich with humour it also explores the more serious theme of what we eat too much of and why.

Daniel Lobell is a Los Angeles based comedian, comic book creator, podcast host, visual artist, and storyteller. He is also the host of the Modern Day Philosophers podcast, which features comedians like Bill Burr, Brian Regan, Maria Bamford, Aisha Tyler, and Fred Armisen talking philosophy. Daniel's mother and grandmother who are from Glasgow were in the audience to cheer him on!

Naomi Paul has been a guest at the Open Day on many occasions and it was great to welcome her back again this year. Naomi premiered her debut solo show, Reshape While Damp, at the Edinburgh Fringe several years ago. This year she was back with her popular show, **Despite Everything, Price Still Includes Biscuits**. The show is made up of stories and original songs - poignant, surreal and funny - sometimes all at once.

Also back in Edinburgh this year was comedian and actress **Rachel Creeger** with her new show, **Hinayni!** Seeing herself in someone else's reflection highlights honest thoughts that Rachel only admits to herself in the middle of the night. Or on stage. Is she ever truly present in the moment? Sometimes it takes a little darkness to shine a light on the truth. Rachel talked about this autobiographical show and performed an extract for the audience.

In the second half of the Open Day music was rich on the list. Last year London based singer and satirist **Melinda Hughes** shared extracts from her show, Margo: Half Woman, Half Beast. This year Melinda performed songs from her new show, **Off The Scale** - a sophisticated romp through social and political satire, packed with provocative original songs on internet trolling, cougars, hipsters, as well as an appearance by 'Melania Trump'! Melinda is a trained opera singer and actress and now also a cabaret performer, described by NewYorkSocialDiary.com as, 'A brilliant cabaret goddess, a satirist of high order'

Providing musical accompaniment for Melinda was pianist and composer **Michael Roulston**. Michael is in great demand as a musician and musical director and can often be seen playing in several different shows during the Fringe. Therefore it was no surprise that he was on hand for the next guest on the Open Day bill, **Jess Robinson**. Jess performed extracts from her new show, **The Jess Robinson Experience!** Michael multi tasks on that show as musical director, pianist and...Kate Bush impersonator!

Jess Robinson is a performer at the top of her game - a hugely skilled singer, comedian and impressionist but above all someone who knows how to entertain and move an audience. Her voice is as beautiful and powerful as the singers she impersonates. Backed by one of the tightest band of musicians you'll see on the Fringe - Michael Roulston, Rob Lamont and Jonathan Kitching - Jess really does create a wonderfully entertaining experience! The Open Day audience were treated to her version of A Star Is Born with Jess playing Barbra Streisand, Judy Garland and Lady Gaga.

Next it was back to comedy and Jerusalem based comedian **David Kilimnick** talked about his show, **Honest Rabbi Preaching Funny**. On his publicity he describes his show as a, 'Rabbinically Approved Comedy Special about Religious Community Life'.

The subject of anti-Semitism was the theme for another show returning to the Fringe. **Conspiracy Theory: A Lizard's Tale** is performed by actor **Marlon Solomon**. Marlon explained how he became compelled to create this factually based show as a reaction to the rise of anti-Semitism in Britain in recent years. Despite the serious subject, Marlon has created a humorous entertaining and very informative show.

It has become a tradition to end the Open Day with singer/songwriter, **Daniel Cainer**. His mixture of moving, reflective storytelling songs has become popular with audiences Jewish and non-Jewish throughout the UK and in the United States. This year Daniel as usual got the audience laughing and singing along as he performed his songs including, Bad Rabbi. His new show, **Signs & Wonders**, continues his journey exploring his family history through fine songs and stories.

Catering for the Open Day was led by Susie Kelpie and a wonderful team of volunteers from the Shul.



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Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

2018-19 Report

Sue Lieberman (President of EJLS, 2016 – 19)

2018-19 was another lively and active year for the Lit, with speakers coming from both near and far, featuring subjects as diverse as: Antisemitism and Islamophobia; Jews in photography; how Zionism grappled with issues of conversion and the question of who is a Jew; and the stories of two cantors born in Vitebsk who both moved to Glasgow.

Over the course of the year, attendances over our nine sessions have averaged a healthy thirty-five, with Alf (Lord) Dubs' session on "The Refugee Crisis and the Human Rights Response" and David Rosenberg's on "London's Radical Jewish East End" each attracting more than fifty people. We can continue to be confident in our ability to field speakers of interest and relevance to a growing audience, and to offer our audiences the opportunity to be in a congenial social and educational environment. In recent years we've seen a widening attendance from both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences.

Overall, we've been amply rewarded by the decision we took in 2016 to expand our programme to between nine and ten sessions per year, and to extend the programme season to May. With the energy, commitment and confidence of Lit Committee members, not to mention the enthusiasm expressed by many speakers at being invited to speak at a Lit meeting, it's turned out to have been a fruitful development in the Lit's life. We've experienced a growing presence in the wider field, and are now working in partnership with other local organisations where appropriate (our December session with Alf Dubs was supported by Amnesty International). During the year we were invited into membership with the Literary Alliance of Scotland; if you look at their website, you'll see our new logo proudly displayed in the list of Network Associates.

We look forward to an equally exciting and diverse programme in 2019-20 under our new President, Howard Wollman.

Finally, we remember the sad loss of Stanley Raffel, the quiet and unassuming welcomer at the door of our meetings, who died in 2018.

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Out & About

Royal British Legion Edinburgh Jewish Branch Henry Vinestock Memorial Trophy

In February this year, I had an interesting phone call from Jackie Taylor, our synagogue secretary. Apparently a gentleman called David Copland had got in touch, with an enquiry about a Henry Vinestock.



This David Copland was a retired antique dealer but still was interested in items of silver. One of his purchases was a silver goblet engraved with a dedication to Henry Vinestock from the Royal British Legion, Edinburgh Jewish Branch.

He "googled" the name and found a reference and article in the Edinburgh Star, No.65, September 2010, regarding those who had fought in the 1914-1918 war. I had written about my father's war time experience as had several others.

Through this he got in touch with Jackie, who was able to tell him that his daughter Joyce had just celebrated her 90th birthday and would be delighted to speak to him, which duly occurred.

After some discussion he sold it to me for the price he had paid as he wished to make no profit from such a unique find. He was also pleased to give it back to the family.

I now have it in my possession and I am delighted to have it to pass on to my family as a wonderful inheritance.

I do remember my father was Chairman of the Legion for many years, and attending the Jewish Ex Serviceman's Parade in London, which occurred the Sunday following the official parade at the Cenotaph to remember Armistice Day.

I do not remember the Trophy when it was presented, but I will certainly cherish it with love and pride.

Joyce Cram

Congratulations to Joyce Cram on her milestone 90th Birthday

Joyce who was looking radiant celebrated her birthday in true style; with a kiddush on the Shabbat on her birthday weekend at the beginning of May and a luncheon for her family and friends the next day in the Community Centre.

May I take this opportunity to express in your edition, my sincere thanks to my many friends who joined me and my family to celebrate the weekend of my 90th birthday.



The kiddush on the 4th and the luncheon on the 5th of May gave me happy events to enjoy and remember fondly for the days to come.

I am delighted to say £1350 was raised by your kind generosity for Alyn's Children Hospital in Israel. They telephoned me to express thanks, and after some conversations and suggestions, I have decided this should be donated to research being undertaken on a project on skin damage, allowing for the repair and restoration of new skin caused by burns and wounds. I think you would agree a very worthy cause.

Once again, my sincere thanks.

Joyce Cram

WIZOTea Sunday 8th September 2019

Over twenty guests attended a tea sponsored by WIZO at the home of Maryla and Edward Green on Sunday 8th September.

The guests speakers were due to be Vicci (nee Dykes) and Sammy Stein who are the founders of the Glasgow Friends of Israel. Sadly due to a family bereavement the day before they were unable to attend.

Now affiliated to the Scottish WIZO Council, Kate Goodwin, the chair of WIZO Edinburgh explained the Edinburgh Group is currently active in raising funds for the Maoz Zion Project upgrading and providing a safe children's playground.



Irene Hyams in conversation with Judith Lawson and Christel Law, guests from the International Women's Club Edinburgh, with Barbara and Leslie Bennie in background with John Donne.



Lynn Cooper and Kate Goodwin, with Eve Oppenheim and Lesley Danzig in background.

Chanukah Dinner

Saturday 8th December 2018

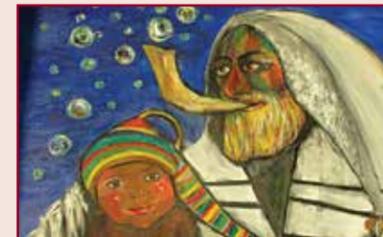


Congratulations



Professor Jonathan Seckl with his wife, Molly, and children Benjamin and Joanna after having received his OBE at Buckingham Palace earlier this year.

Congratulations



to Elaine Pomernansky for being awarded the First Prize for her painting in the Creative Arts Competition during Scottish Interfaith Week last November.

Burns Supper

Sunday 27th January 2019



Middle Eastern Burns Night 27 Jan



EHC joined forces with some 60 Syrian Kurds to celebrate a Middle Eastern-style Burns Supper. They shared Scottish, Jewish, and Kurdish music, dancing, poetry, and an extraordinary variety of food. The Kurds were understandably bewildered but delighted as the vegetarian haggis was baggiped in. A huge amount of goodwill was generated by this event.

Congratulations



Susan and Steven Hyams were delighted to host their lovely and effervescent daughter Amanda's wedding to Jonathan Stimmler on the 5th July here in the Synagogue, the first wedding for many a year. A hearty mazeltov to the happy couple as to Amanda's grandmother, Irene Hyams, and the whole family.

Shul Quiz Winners

Sunday 3rd February 2019



Standing left to right at the back: Elaine Levy, Dorothy Sherratt, Ruth Adler, Clare Levy, Sarah Levy, Eddie Maher, Martin Simmen, Pam Wiener. Kneeling: Jane Rickman & Shari Cohn-Simmen.

Pre-Shavuot Coffee Morning

Sunday 2nd June 2019



Book Stand and Plant Sale at Pre-Shavuot Coffee Morning.

Congratulations to Irene Gatoff on her 100th Birthday

in January. Irene is mother to our esteemed and much respected former chair and Honorary Treasurer Hilary Rifkind.



The Jewish Blind Society – Then and Now



Raymond Strang, Chairman, Jewish Blind Society (Scotland)

It might surprise you to learn that a Jewish Blind Society has been in existence in Britain for 200 years. It was established as a small pension society in 1819, in the reign of George the Third, by a group of London businessmen in order to help their blind co-religionists.

They named it "The Institution for the Relief of the Indigent Blind of the Jewish Persuasion", and its purpose was to try to stop blind Jews begging on the streets or having to go into a workhouse. Financial help was given, at first by means of monetary grants of five shillings a week, gradually increasing through the formation of a pension fund. At that time there was little or no help from other sources, so these afflicted people depended on the Institution for their very survival.

The Society flourished thanks to the generosity and concern of many philanthropists, the Phillips family being the most prominent. Among the past Presidents of the Society were two Lord Mayors, Sir Benjamin Samuel Phillips and Sir George Faudel-Phillips. In July 1887 the Annual General Court (AGM) of the charity was held in the splendour of the Mansion House. In 1842 the 23rd Anniversary Ball raised just over £283 (a very large amount in those days) and in his appeal for funds Mr Sampson Samuel emphasised that much remained to be done to improve living conditions. Significant improvements along the way included arrangements for pensioners to learn Braille (1893) and the setting up of a committee to provide financial help to learn a trade (1909). In 1914 the partially-sighted people became eligible for assistance and in 1919 the name of the institution was changed to the Jewish Blind Society. The turn of the century brought waves of immigrants fleeing the pogroms, and again when refugees from Nazi Germany flooded into the country in the late 1930s there was much work for the Society to do. For many of them poverty, exhaustion and malnutrition resulted in diseases which cause blindness. The JBS joined up with other national organisations for the blind to provide accommodation, education, training, rehabilitation and employment for the newcomers.

In the 1950s branches of the Society were established in Manchester, Leeds Birmingham and Merseyside. Then in 1962, a Glasgow branch was founded with an initial grant of £100 from the London office by Sir Myer Galpern, Albert Green J.P., his wife Pet Morrison and Ellis Wolfe. The title "Jewish Blind Society (Scottish Branch)" was adopted and an Executive and Committee duly formed, comprising both founders and visually-impaired members. These were: Sir Maurice Bloch, Hon. President, Sir Myer Galpern, Vice-President, Treasurer, Mrs Maureen Dykes, Joint Hon. Secretaries Miss Edna Maitles

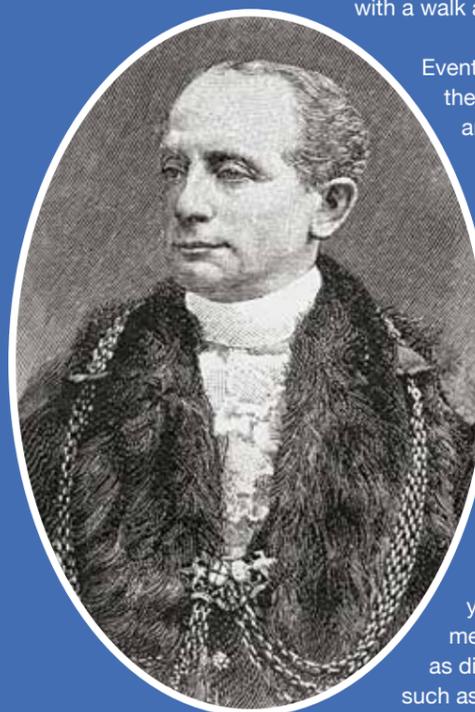
and Mrs Fe Wolfe. Mr Sammy Joseph and Mr Leslie Pinder represented the club members and participated in activities with them. The first meeting took place on 20 September with just a few members, but gradually in the first year of operation that figure rose to over 40 blind and partially-sighted people. One of the first to take advantage of our services was Edna Maitles, who was referred by her brother Stanley. Edna was a fine pianist who often entertained her fellow members after the Sunday Club was established and the first meeting of which was held in her home. Stanley became a committee member, eventually rising to Vice-Chairman, a post he occupied for some years. He was valued for his immense fund-raising efforts and loved by all for his warmth and sense of humour. Walter Wolfe, as Honorary Life President, carried on the good work of his late father and Maureen Dykes that of her late parents as a Vice President and member of the Executive.

Our first meetings were held at the Board of Education Rooms in Thistle Street, where members met on Sundays for Tea and a chat (at a cost of 6d. per head); but thanks to the generosity of the Edith Morrison Trust a move was made in 1967 to our first permanent home at no. 16 Newark Drive, which became known as the Edith Morrison Day Centre. The first Welfare Officer to be appointed, Mary Barclay, attended to the needs of members and within a short time became invaluable to the society. She visited people in their homes, supplied items to make life more comfortable and gave advice on welfare benefits. She also initiated the transport rota, a corps of voluntary drivers who offered to uplift passengers from their homes and take them to the Sunday Club. This became increasingly difficult to maintain, due to drivers having other commitments at weekends. However, shortly after this a minibus was generously donated by Mrs Albert (Pet) Green and this enabled members to be transported to the Day Centre during the week and taken home again. A cook, Rosie Shulman, was



engaged who rapidly became a good friend to many members. Twice a week, members enjoyed lunch, learned handicrafts or played cards or bingo. The Meals-on-Wheels service began soon after, with meals being delivered twice a week to the housebound, not only to those visually impaired but also to those in the community identified by the Welfare Board as requiring this service. The community was much more scattered than it is now so the task took several hours as our only bus travelled all over Glasgow, the driver being accompanied on each run by two ladies from a growing band of volunteers.

The members benefit in many ways; the professional services of a hairdresser, a chiropodist and a trained Occupational Therapy instructor all became available and were much appreciated. Holiday grants enabled members to spend a week in the Blind Society homes in Southport and Bournemouth. Two summer outings took place each year in various venues on the Ayrshire coast allowing everyone who wished to enjoy the bracing sea air with a walk along the promenade.



Eventually the upkeep of the Day Centre became an economic burden. However, the numbers attending having increased greatly larger premises were still required. Another move then to premises adjacent to those of the Glasgow Jewish Welfare Board (now Jewish Care Scotland) in Coplaw Street, where we remained for many years. During that time membership burgeoned, as did the facilities on offer, such as a Lunch Club and a shop for those unable to make their purchases unaided. By now our

remit had widened to include people described as non-ambulant and for this purpose one of the first buses designed with a tail-lift to accommodate wheelchairs was purchased.

Sadly the Society, together with the Welfare Board was eventually forced to abandon this building, which was leaking badly. We sought temporary refuge in the Maccabi Building in Giffnock. By this time, however, plans to erect a purpose-built community centre under the auspices of the Community Trust were well advanced. These crystallized as the Walton Community Care Centre which was opened with great jubilation in March 1998.

During the time in Coplaw Street membership had begun to decline for many reasons, among them advances in medical science, which can either cure or alleviate many eye conditions. Many of those who began with the society in the sixties had

either passed away or moved into residential care. As the cost of care had risen greatly over the years and higher standards were being demanded by local authorities for its provision it made good economic sense for the Blind Society (now known as Jewish Blind Society (Scotland)) to become involved in the Walton multi-use centre. We had always worked closely with the Welfare Board and indeed in many cases the initial referral had come from that body. Therefore, the Society made a contribution to financing the Centre and now maintains an office within the building. We now work even more closely with Jewish Care, our members benefiting from the services provided jointly by Jewish Care and East Renfrewshire social workers. This allows our members to attend the Aviv or Thistle Clubs as appropriate and take part in a wide range of activities.

In addition, one of the special buses in general use was purchased with JBS funds. Home visits are also available for those who require them. The Sunday Club, having been reconstituted, is as popular as ever and is attended regularly by members of both organisations. There is still the annual visit to Troon, but is now organised by Jewish Care, as is the annual Chanukah Dinner. Both events are well attended and eagerly anticipated by all concerned.

On the occasion of the AGM in 2006 it was unanimously agreed to widen our remit to include those with impaired hearing and/or physical disabilities, under the umbrella of "special needs". We take referrals from Jewish Care and if, for instance, someone were to require special equipment to improve their mobility, such as a wheelchair, we would consider the case. We now contribute considerably to the Jewish Convalescent Holiday Fund with an annual grant of £10,000. Nowadays, the Jewish Blind Society (Scotland) purchase the services of Jewish Care Scotland's staff to look after the much fewer blind and partially sighted clients and contribute to Jewish Care Scotland to the tune of £100,000 per annum. Due to the advancement in eye surgery and eye care, the Society have only half a dozen clients in Glasgow and Edinburgh whereas in the past the numbers have been ten times that.

With the excess capital, the society now totally supports Chai Cancer Care in Scotland. The small group of present-day trustees, whom I chair, manage the charity and its assets, which thanks to legacies are substantial. The previous recently retired Chair was Larry Sellyn, and before him my father, David Strang, who took over from Walter Wolfe. Upon Walter's death, the Trustees of the Society were pleased to honour my father, their long-serving Chair, as Honorary Life President.

Although our facilities are mostly taken up in Glasgow, we are always happy to be of assistance in Edinburgh and indeed all over Scotland, and through Jewish Care Scotland signpost the services that are provided by local authorities and other agencies throughout Scotland to assist visually impaired people, dispense grants and to provide them with specialist equipment.

Further details can be found through Jewish Blind Society (Scotland) or please call directly on 0141 620 3339.

Yom Ha'shoah –

Holocaust Remembrance Day

2nd May 2019 | Peace Park – Princes Street Gardens

Michael Adler

Good evening. My name is Michael Adler and I am one of the two Vice Chairs of EHC, the older of the two Jewish Congregations in the City. I shall be introducing the service this evening because our Chair, John Danzig, is away on holiday and cannot be here. On behalf of Rabbi David Rose, Members of EHC and Members of Sukkat Shalom, I would like to extend a special welcome to Baillie Lezley Cameron from the City of Edinburgh Council, as well as to Councilors Ricky Henderson and Cameron Rose.

Today is Yom Ha'Shoah, the day on which Jews all over the world remember the Holocaust.

The national, Holocaust Memorial Day, which is dedicated to the remembrance of everyone who suffered under Nazi Persecution – Roma and Sinti people, mentally and physically disabled persons, socialists and other political opponents of the Nazis, homosexuals as well as Jews, took place on 27th January. On that occasion, we also remembered those who died in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Dafur.

Today, on Yom Ha'Shoah, we commemorate the lives and heroism of Jews who died in the Nazi Holocaust between 1933 and 1945. Entire Jewish worlds were destroyed: the Yiddish speaking Jews of Eastern Europe; the Jewish intellectuals of Vienna; the cultured and assimilated Jews of Germany; philosophers, poets, artists, musicians, parents and children; rich and poor; young and old; their names replaced by numbers, herded together like cattle, displaced and then disposed of. Among the six million Jews whose lives were snuffed out were one and a half million children who died, not because of their religion, or their parents' religion but, at the end of the day, because one of their grandparents happened to be a Jew. This evening, I would like to tell the story of two of my grandparents.

I was born during the Second World War. Both my parents had come to the UK as refugees from Nazi Germany in the 1930s. They met in London and married in 1939. Of my four grandparents, my father's father died after an asthma attack in 1929 and my father's mother emigrated from Germany to South Africa with my father's older brother before the war. My mother's parents were not so lucky. I have never spoken publicly about them before but I would like to do so today.

Records show that both my grandparents' families had lived in Mönchengladbach, a medium-sized city in the Rheinland in North-West Germany for at least 300 years. Latterly, most of them were either kosher butchers or livestock dealers and this was my grandfather's occupation. As teenagers, my parents took

me and my sister to visit the house in which my grandparents had lived and my mother was brought up. It was a rather plain, flat-fronted, 19th century terraced house.

My grandparents married in 1913 and my mother, the eldest of their four children, was born in 1914. Her three siblings were born at intervals of two years: in 1916, 1918 and 1920.

When my mother was born, her father had been called up and was away at the front and her siblings must have been conceived during periods of home leave. After the war, the family experienced considerable hardship and my mother recalled that they were all undernourished and received food from the Red Cross at school. My mother went to the Jewish elementary school and then to a secular high school. The family kept kosher but were not really observant. They went to the synagogue on the high holidays and can best be described as 'traditional' rather than 'orthodox' Jews. In many respects, like many German Jews, they were assimilated - Jewish by religion but German in most other ways.

My mother was keen on school but her father was a chauvinist and, since there was no question of her staying on, she left at the age of 16. After working for a few years, she realised that there was no future for a Jewish girl in Nazi Germany and went to Holland but she wasn't happy there. At this point she heard from her mother that a Jewish doctor, who came from Mönchengladbach and was now living in South London, was looking for an au pair - my mother applied and was taken on to look after his two children and to help out in his GP practice. She came to London in 1936 and immediately set about obtaining sponsorship for one of her brothers, her sister and a cousin. My grandmother came to London to visit her in 1938 and, although my mother wanted her to stay, she felt she couldn't because she had to look after my grandfather who was seriously ill with diabetes. My mother saw my grandmother once more, in Amsterdam, in early 1939.

According to the Jewish historian Martin Gilbert, the first deportations from Western Europe to German-occupied Poland took place in March 1942 and, in the coming months, increasing numbers of deportations took place. Those Jews who had not managed to leave Germany and other occupied countries were sent to be 'resettled' in the East so that the German Reich could become 'Judenfrei', free of Jews.

In spite of the extensive restrictions on normal life imposed on German Jews, my grandparents managed to remain in their own home until the authorities forced them to move into a run-down 'house of multiple occupation' (HMO), together with half a dozen other Jewish families, in February 1942. Then, in June 1942, they received a letter informing them that they had been 'selected' for deportation to the East. With the help of the Wiener Library in London, we now know that they were instructed to report to the railway station and that, on 15th June, they boarded a specially requisitioned train bound for Izbica, a transit camp in occupied Poland. They were lucky – the train comprised old passenger coaches rather than cattle trucks – but they must have been traumatised by the whole experience. As it turned out, the train was 'diverted' in Lublin and proceeded instead to the extermination camp at Sobibór. This camp had been opened in March 1942 and between April 1942 and October 1943,

approximately half a million Jews were murdered there. Sobibór was a relatively small, purpose-built extermination camp. A barbed-wire fence, which had been woven with tree branches to hide what was inside, surrounded the site. It was divided into three sections: an administration area, a reception area and the extermination area, which housed the gas chambers, burial trenches and accommodation for the Jewish prisoners who had been selected to work in the camp. The gas chambers were designed to look like shower rooms, so that the victims would not know their fate.

My grandparents' journey came to an end in a siding alongside the camp where everyone would have been ordered to get out. Jews were transported to Sobibór from many countries, including Austria, Czechoslovakia, the Netherlands and Poland as well as Germany. On arrival, they would have been taken directly to the reception area and informed that they had reached a transit camp. They would then have been told that they would continue their journey the following day, but that they would have to take a shower and have their clothes disinfected first.

My grandparents would then have been separated – men on one side, women on the other. They would have been ordered to remove their clothing and hand over their valuables. At this point, they would have been marched to the gas chambers, possibly being brutally assaulted on the way by the Ukrainian guards. About 450 to 550 Jews entered the so-called shower rooms, the gas was turned on and, when they were all dead, the corpses will have been removed and buried in the trenches. That will have been how my grandparents' lives were extinguished.

The whole experience, from start to finish, is really too awful to contemplate. My grandparents will have spent no more than a couple of hours at Sobibór. The procedure was extremely efficient. Then the train would have left and another train containing a thousand more Jews would have arrived at the camp. At the end of 1942, after an escape attempt and in order to hide evidence of the killings, the Germans gave an order that the camp should be destroyed and the bodies were dug up and cremated.

My grandparents were killed when I was three weeks old and I never met them. My mother had no idea what had happened to them although, as time went on, she feared the worst. After the war, their status as 'missing persons' was confirmed by the Red Cross. Until the end of her life, she felt guilty about the fact that she had not been able to persuade them, in particular her mother, to whom she was particularly attached, to leave Germany before the war. She never really got over what had happened to her parents. It was a taboo subject in our family and my sister and I learned not to ask her about it.

Although, my grandparents' experiences were no different from those of countless other Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust, talking about them and recalling their fate has been a cathartic experience for me. Efforts must, of course, be made to ensure that what happened to them must never happen again. However, the world's track record in this regard is hardly an impressive one. In the four years after the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975, between 1.7 and 2 million Cambodians died in what became known as the 'Killing Fields'. Approximately 800,000 from the Tutsi minority were slaughtered by the Hutu majority in Rwanda over a period of 100 days in 1994. The war

in Bosnia claimed the lives of an estimated 100,000 people – in July 1995, 8,000 Bosnians were killed in what became known as the Srebrenica genocide, the largest massacre in Europe since the Nazi Holocaust. More recently, the Government of Sudan murdered 300,000 of its own citizens in Darfur. Tragically, the list goes on – lessons do not seem to have been learned and minorities continue to be vilified, excluded and, in extreme cases, exterminated.

But what can we – and I am referring to everyone who is here today – do about this? Mindful of what happened to my own grandparents, I do not think we can look away and simply ignore what is going on in the world around us. We must always speak out against inhumanity and injustice, not only if and when the situation is comparable with the unspeakable evil that was perpetrated in the Nazi Holocaust but wherever and whenever we encounter them.

No words can adequately describe the bestiality, the evil and the wickedness of those responsible for the Nazi Holocaust or encapsulate the deep and continuous sense of pain and grief we recall when we think of these events, and no words can do adequate justice to the memory of the victims. It is almost impossible to take in the fact that over 6 million Jews were slaughtered; equivalent to every man, woman and child living in Scotland.

On Yom Ha'Shoah we remember those who perished in the gas chambers and those who died of starvation, exhaustion or sickness in the many camps established throughout Nazi-occupied Europe. We remember those who died in transit; those who were shot; those who were hung; those who were tortured to death; those who were simply buried or burnt alive. We remember those whose bodies were tossed into pits or thrown into the water, those whose bodies were burnt to ash and those for whom there is no marked grave or resting place.

We remember, too, the bravery of those who resisted, those who fought against impossible odds to weaken the enemy and buy time so that others might survive. We cherish the memory of all of them.

An Appreciation for the Service

We have been holding the Yom Ha'Shoah service here in the Peace Garden for the past 22 years, ever since the late President of EHC, Dr. Nate Oppenheim, and Councilor Paul Williamson established a memorial here in Princes Street Gardens. The memorial stone as many of you will be aware, commemorates the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp by the British Army in April 1945.

On behalf of everyone who is here this evening, I should like to thank Baillie Lezley Cameron for taking part in our service this evening and for her remarks. Our thanks also go to Councilors Rose and Henderson for being with us. As a small community within the city, the Jewish Community very much appreciated your presence and the close links we have with the City of Edinburgh Council. I should also like to thank Rabbi Rose; my granddaughter Ruth who lit the candles; Norman Crane, Judy Gilbert, Ari Deller and Ilana Pearce, who read for us; and Julian Goodman, who recited the prayer for the dead at the end of our service this evening.

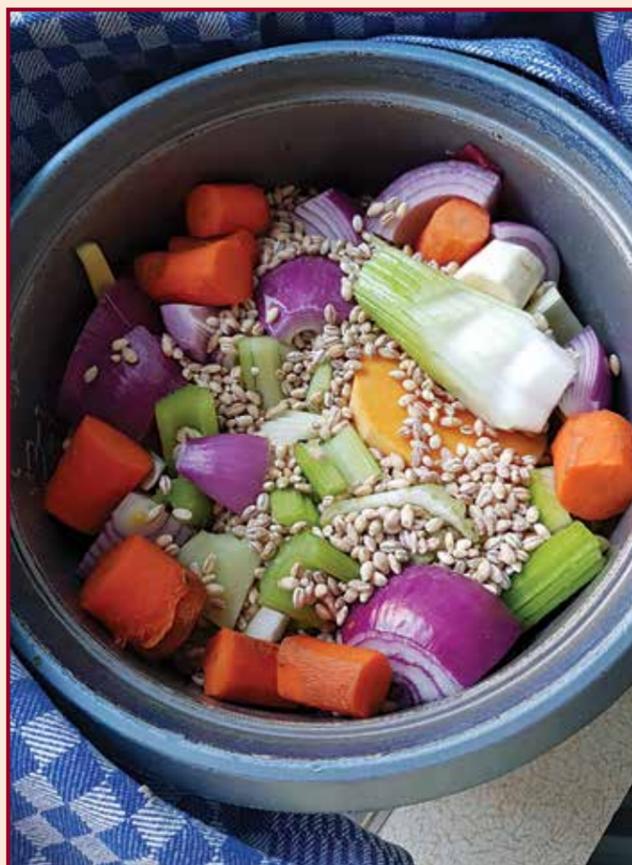
Recipes for you to try



I got the idea for an all-vegetable cholent at this year's Shabbat UK, where a vegetarian cholent was served, to great acclaim. The recipe included chickpeas and spices such as paprika, the end result being quite delicious. Butternut squash, which I've included, serves to thicken the mixture and bulk it up. Because cholent is cooked so slowly, the flavours thoroughly mingle, and intensify, so that the finished product, something between a soup and a stew, is very rich and satisfying. Certain cholent recipes include eggs slow-cooked in their shells, and there are any number of possible variations on the basic theme.

I used a slow cooker to make my cholent, but it can of course be cooked in the oven at very low temperature.

Vegetable Cholent



The following is taken from the recipe for "Chalent" in the booklet "Some Traditional Jewish Recipes" published 1965, by Radiation New World Ltd., London:

As no cooking is permitted on the Sabbath, cold foods are often served. The exception is food which is one-third cooked before the Sabbath commences and left to complete cooking on a very low setting... until served. The Chalent given below may be served with cold sliced chicken or meat.

This is a mixture of foods cooked all night in a tightly covered casserole and which is served hot for Sabbath lunch. As it must be one-third cooked before Sabbath begins it should be cooked for 1 hour on a high setting and the Regulo then turned to the lowest setting for the rest of the cooking period.

Ingredients

- 1 Carrot
- 1 Red Onion
- 1 Parsnip
- Bunch of Spring Onions
- 1/2 a Butternut Squash
- 1 head of Celery, i.e. about 6 stalks
- 4 oz Barley
- (Optional) Soaked Haricot Beans, Rice, Potatoes
- (Optional for non-vegetarians) Pieces of fatty Meat, eg top rib brisket, Stuffed Neck or Dumpling

Method:

1. Peel and chop the vegetables and put into a large casserole.
2. Add the barley and the optional ingredients, if using.
3. Add enough water to cover, adding 1 teaspoonful salt to each 1 pint.
4. Bring to the boil and simmer for 20 minutes.
5. Cover the casserole with a tightly fitting lid or a double thickness of foil and cook at the lowest heat setting in the oven or in a slow cooker, for about 18 hours. Don't forget to top up with water from time to time to prevent your cholent from drying out or burning!
6. Serve hot on its own or as an accompaniment to meat or chicken.

For the past two years, the EHC ladies have made their own Cheesecakes to be served at the Shavuot Kiddush. We each bring our own recipe, mine being my attempt to recreate the wonderful Lemon Cheesecakes we used to get when I was a teenager. It's a plain and simple recipe and has the advantage it can be prepared well in advance, the main component parts simply being assembled a day before it is due to be consumed.

My Favourite Cheesecake

Step 1. Make your own Lemon Curd, as follows:

(This is a hybrid recipe, in that the proportions of the ingredients are from Good Housekeeping Cookery Book, while the methodology is by Marguerite Patten.)

2 lemons, juice and zest

2 oz butter

3 medium eggs

1/2 lb butter

Mix the ingredients in a "Bain Marie", which is a bowl placed in a pan of boiling water so that the ingredients don't come into direct contact with the source of heat, and are gently and evenly cooked.

Grate the rind of the lemons and squeeze the juice. Put lemon zest and juice in a bowl with the butter and the sugar. Place this bowl in a pan of hot water and stir until the sugar is dissolved and the butter is melted. Add the well-beaten eggs, and continue cooking until the mixture coats the back of a wooden spoon.

Allow the Lemon Curd to cool and solidify. It will keep a couple of weeks in the 'fridge.

Step 2. Mix the Lemon Curd with 3/4 lb of Cream Cheese. For best results, use best quality Cream Cheese from the Delicatessen, which is much thicker and denser in consistency than the supermarket variety. When the Lemon Curd is fully incorporated with the Cream Cheese, add in a further two beaten eggs, to help the mixture to set, and also to give a milder flavour.

Step 3. Create a base for the Cheesecake by putting a quantity of "Petit Beurre" biscuits, or whatever biscuits you prefer, through the blender, to turn them into crumbs. (You can also use breadcrumbs or fine Matzoh Meal, mixed with brown sugar, or a thin layer of sponge.) Melt 2 oz butter in a pan and pour the crumbs onto the butter. Mix the biscuit crumbs into the melted butter until they are fully coated. Remove the buttered biscuit crumbs and spread them in an even layer on the bottom of a 7" cake tin.

Step 4. Pour the Lemon Curd and Cream Cheese mixture onto the biscuit base.

Step 5. Cook the Cheesecake at 200° C for one hour. Then, turn off the oven and leave the Cheesecake to continue to cook for a couple of hours. It can even be left overnight in an unheated oven.

Step 6. When you feel that the Cheesecake has sufficiently cooked, remove it from the oven, allow to cool and then put it in the 'fridge for several hours before serving.

Cheesecakes are generally served plain, however you can decorate the top with grated lemon zest, should you wish.

Other possible variations include substituting lime instead of lemon, adding some coconut flavouring, mixing in a few sultanas, or putting ground ginger into the crumb base.

Note: The cooler the Cheesecake is, the firmer it will be. Once in the heat, it will soften and begin to melt.

If you decrease the amount of Cream Cheese, and use a pastry case instead of a crumb base, the end result will be Tarte au Citron, which is basically the same as Cheesecake except that it is served in a pastry case and the ingredients are in different proportions.

The only truly dead are those who are forgotten

Jewish proverb



Elizabeth Rosenbloom

One lovely sunny day in February last year I was taken by a friend to see the work of the gardening volunteers in Newington cemetery.

They annually hold an open day to admire their hard work in clearing this Victorian cemetery of rampant ivy, weeds and often the odd beer and coke can, and thin out beautiful spring bulbs which now scatter along the grass between the rows and rows of handsome carved monuments to the dead of Edinburgh's south side.

My friend spotted a small stone open book with Hebrew writing on it. "How do you think this got here outside the old Jewish section at the front gates?" We both wondered but no one could answer our question. It hadn't even been noticed. On my return home I searched on the Scottish Jewish Cemeteries site and there was little Judith Priteca's burial record, safely interred in the Jewish section, section A, row R01, not some several hundred yards away in the main section where her little headstone lay among the snowdrops. I was intrigued, and as a retired librarian, it set me off on the mystery of how this little six year old child who died in 1907 had supposedly two burial places. How had this happened? Who was she? And could I find out something about her life and her family in the city at the beginning of the last century?

Little did I realise then that it would lead me to a search from Pinsk in Belarus to Glasgow, Edinburgh and Seattle in Washington state USA, by way of George Watsons Boys college and an Edinburgh architect's office. The happy ending would be the discovery that her half brother became a famous Jewish architect in west coast America – B. Marcus Priteca, regarded as one of the giants of Art Deco theatre design in the US. A forest of mis-spellings and name changes seemed to bar my way, but perseverance won – and here is their story. Typical of most Jewish 19th century immigrant families, they faced some very sad and challenging times. But the American Dream certainly came true for the Pritecas in Seattle.

Dina Levitsky, little Julia Priteca's mother, was born sometime in 1877 in the shtetl of Pingovitz near Pinsk in what was Western Russia, now Belarus. Her parents died when she was 12 leaving her to look after her baby sister Martha who was only 4 years of age. Dina chose to marry Joseph Dombrovizky her senior by about 12 years, at the young age of 15, no doubt to ensure her economic survival. Her little sister continued to live with her and her husband until she herself married in Glasgow. Joseph and his childhood friend Charles Priteca, were both court clerks in local government service. But both lost their jobs when an anti-Semitic Imperial Russian edict forbade Jews to hold government office

in the Empire. Without a source of income, and life becoming more and more difficult for the Jewish population, both the men decided to come to Glasgow where their friends who had already emigrated enthused about the suitability of the city with a growing Jewish community and plenty of work. The men travelled in April 1885, and Dina and Martha followed in June of that year once suitable accommodation was found in Rose Street near Garnethill. The family moved about considerably on account of Joseph Dombrowizky's erratic temper and varying success in the picture and drapery hawking business, but they eventually settled in Rutherglen Road.

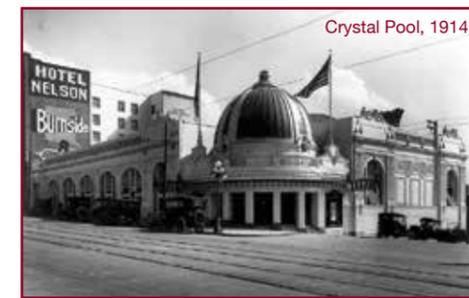
After leaving to set up his own successful business in drapery hawking from Kilsyth, Charles would often stay for a few nights while doing business in Glasgow and Edinburgh, so

Dina and her family of now two children Fanny and Benny and her sister Martha, would see him quite often in the evenings. Her marriage however deteriorated to rock bottom as her testimony as Pursuer in her divorce case of 1894 bears witness in harrowing detail. She states that her husband was given to 'ill treat her often, from the day of her marriage in Russia', and that 'she and her sister would often sit outside the flat on the stairs at night to escape his violence.' He used a bread knife or his cutthroat razor to threaten her, and this became almost intolerable for her and her children and sister Martha. After her baby daughter Hindi died of bronchitis in 1887 at 18 days of age, Dina struggled on, dealing herself in drapery and trinkets, supporting the family while Joseph often disappeared for days, gambling or using prostitutes who she, on several occasions, found in her flat on return from work. This led to an almighty row one evening, and a serious assault which the children Fanny and Benny and their friend Charles, all witnessed. Martha her sister had been sleeping beside her bed on chairs for fear of Dombrowizky's temper on returning home that night. Dina now insisted on a divorce, an unusual step, but she was in fear of her family's lives. Joseph Dombrowizky agreed to go to Hamburg in Germany to obtain a Jewish divorce from the Rabbi who held a court there. He took a friend and Dina's money to pay for the trip and the divorce, but returned emptyhanded to find Dina and the children gone to Edinburgh.



Charles Priteca must have had a great deal of feeling and sympathy for Dina whom he helped set up in business in a drapery shop in the city in St Mary's Street, where her family lived above the shop. Charles stayed while on business in Edinburgh fairly close by, with Wolff Berman and his family, who took in many Jewish travelling men as boarders at 11 East Richmond Street. This was the area in Southside Edinburgh where most of the new poorer immigrants stayed. Dina and Charles both seemed to be very successful business people, and after her divorce from Dombrowizky in January 1895, they were married by special licence at the Edinburgh Sheriff courthouse in the August, Dina bringing with her Sarah Fanny and Barnet Marcus, her surviving children by Dombrowizky - now aged 9 and 6. Shortly after, baby Esther and Julia arrived to complete their family. They lived at 14 Roxburgh Place in a 3 bedroomed Georgian flat still in existence today. Charles had a shop by now in Nicholson Street, where he carried on successfully as a draper until the family departure for America. Dina's children now all used the Priteca name, and Charles decided in 1900 to invest in his stepson Barnet's (Benny) education by enrolling him at age 11 in the private school George Watsons Boys College in Archibald Place, fees about 8 guineas annually! Benny stayed until the age of 14, leaving with a score of 94% in maths. His noted talent as a draughtsman earned him an apprenticeship to Edinburgh architect Robert MacFarlane Cameron in the New Town. He demonstrated his talents working on two beautiful public houses still standing in the town – The Orchard Bar in Inverleith, and the Haymarket Bar at the West End.

Joseph Dombrowizky now divorced, was very ill with tuberculosis, and had been admitted to the Infirmary several times for treatment. He was unfit to work, and was receiving help from the Edinburgh Board of Guardians. Unable to pay costs and any of the upkeep which the court had awarded Dina for the children, he requested admittance into the Edinburgh Poorhouse at Craiglockhart where he died in 1906 of TB and heart failure at 50 years of age. He too is buried in the Jewish section of Newington but without any visible headstone.



Sadly little Julia died in 1907, and this, combined with Charles worsening health, seems to have made him take the decision to emigrate later that year to join his married sister

Rachel Caplan and her husband and large family who lived in Seattle Washington State, a vibrant city with a growing Jewish population. Dina his wife, and Fanny and Esther soon followed on, and when Benny finished his apprenticeship with plenty of architectural experience under his belt, he was able to join them by 1909. This would prove to be the ideal environment for Benny's talent to thrive. The city was humming with excitement of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. They all appear living together in the 1910 Seattle census. Charles's health finally gave way, and he died in Seattle a year later, before witnessing his step-son's success in America. Benny's mother Dina lived a long life as a widow, one sister married, and the other became

his lifelong secretary. Benny himself never married. Dina's long suffering sister Martha was married and divorced from her Glasgow days, but remarried a Mr Wineshanker and eventually her family emigrated to New York.

But B.Marcus Priteca as he was to be known, was the star of the family, his talent as a designer quickly noticed by the Vaudeville magnate Alex Pantages.

Benny's interest in theatre acoustics became pivotal in his success. He designed 22 theatres for Pantages, another 128 for other theatre owners in Seattle,



Washington, Los Angeles, San Diego and his last for Pantages in Hollywood which opened in 1930 with a red carpet collection of big stars. All of them in the most wonderful fully blown Art Deco style as the photograph shows. 'Any damn fool,' Pantages was quoted as saying, 'Can make a place look like a million dollars by spending a million, but it's not everybody who can do the same for half a million.' He also designed synagogues – one in 1914 for the new Seattle Congregation Bikur Cholim which was his place of worship, and much later in 1964, the Temple De Hirsch Sinai also in Seattle for a large Shepardic congregation, and many other buildings for the Jewish community – and a racecourse at Longacres in Renton Washington.

Benny Priteca became a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1951 and posthumously membership of the Theatre Historical society of America. He continued working well into his 80s as consultant on the design of the Seattle Opera House in 1962. A colleague who worked with him said, 'to Priteca, contentment was a cigar (actually 20 a day!), friends and talk'. He died in 1971, remembered fondly for not only his professional accomplishments but for his warmth as a friend, and encouragement of his many students.

Some of his theatres were for performing arts, some as cinemas. Nearly half of them are still in operation today, some after major restoration, including the Hollywood Pantages theatre. The production playing over April and May this year is 'Fiddler on the Roof'.

What a suitable end to my story of the lad Glasgow born, Edinburgh educated, to parents from the shtetl near Pinsk who overcame such an inauspicious beginning, to become one of the greats of American theatre palace architecture. Maybe the discovery of his little half-sister's headstone out of place in a large Edinburgh cemetery will lead to Benny's rediscovered appreciation in his own country of Scotland and his city of Edinburgh.

But the mystery of little Judith Priteca's headstone misplacement still requires to be solved!

Two Worlds

Harriet Lyall and Joyce Capek take a walk in the footsteps of David Daiches.

David Daiches' *Two Worlds, an Edinburgh Jewish Childhood* is a delightful memoir of the author's early years, growing up as the son of distinguished Rabbi Salis Daiches, the first Rabbi of the Salisbury Road Synagogue.



The book encapsulates the distinctive smells, sounds and vistas of Edinburgh in the inter-war years, in which milieu the Daiches family, intellectual, witty and warm, but hard-working and plain living, conducted their domestic and religious life. Daiches reminisces vividly about the rigours of the Scottish education system, the charm of Old Edinburgh, and the family's somewhat cautious enjoyment of their seaside holidays in Fife. *Two Worlds* is not only

a unique document of a bygone era, but is also an outstanding example of its genre, and is rightly considered a classic in the great canon of Edinburgh literature.

2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Rabbi Salis Daiches and his family to Edinburgh. What better way to mark this centenary than to take a stroll round David Daiches' Edinburgh, as described by him in *Two Worlds* and in the tribute to his father, *Promised Lands*?

First stop, 18 Lonsdale Terrace, where a first floor flat overlooking the Meadows was to be the Daiches' home for their first few months in the city.

"Judaism had for centuries been studied in walled-in ghettos by sedentary scholars who had never had the opportunity to see a farm. And now there was the Meadows... A fine green open space, symbol of the new liberated world into which he (the Rabbi) was to bring his Jewish traditions and his Jewish faith."



Millerfield Place

Later in 1919 the family moved to 6 Millerfield Place, which was to be their home for the next fifteen years.

"I am six and a half years old. I am swinging on the heavy iron gate of our home in Millerfield Place, an exercise which gives me peculiar pleasure."

The Daiches children enjoyed the sights and sounds of the streets around Millerfield Place. Sciennes School, where Edinburgh



Cameron's, now Victor Hugo Delicatessen

City Council allowed the Cheder classes to take place, was just up the road, and David would often be sent on errands for his mother to Cameron the Grocer, now the rather more upmarket Victor Hugo Delicatessen.

The Meadows were not just the Daiches boys' playground, but also their route to George Watson's School and the Shul in Graham Street. David recalls how his 'two worlds' occasionally clashed when, dressed in his 'Yom Tov' clothes on his way to Shul, he had to walk past his schoolmates playing on the Meadows. *"Walking through a group of boisterously playing classmates when I was dressed up in my festival clothes I found uncomfortable, particularly since my mother insisted that Lionel and I wore suits consisting of black jackets and waistcoats and long striped trousers."*



The Vennel

The Graham Street Synagogue at the end of the Vennel is no longer standing.

Nor is there any trace of George Watson's Boys' School in Archibald Place, to the west of the old Royal Infirmary. The school moved to its present site in Colinton in 1932.

The Daiches children rarely ventured beyond Marchmont and the Old Town, unless on walks to Arthur's Seat or the Blackfords.

"...nor can I see lilac or laburnum without remembering those quiet Edinburgh streets between Marchmont and Blackford Hill where the heavy blossomed trees leaned over the stone garden walls."



Whilst our meanderings give us a glimpse of where David Daiches and his siblings spent their formative years, the picture would not be complete without a trip over the Forth to Crail, where the family regularly spent their summer holidays in a rented house near Castle Walk. So, a trip over the Forth to the East Neuk of Fife was de rigueur, with a copy of *Two Worlds* in hand to read up on the Daiches' favourite haunts. It is not clear which of the cottages round the corner from Castle Walk was their holiday home, but the benches are still there and the views over the harbour and out to sea have probably changed little over the years. It is easy to see why this coastal village gave the family such pleasure. Here Rabbi Daiches could relax with his wife and children and indulge in normal holiday activities, playing golf, swimming and eating ice cream, yet never abandoning orthodox practices. In Crail their two worlds could be enjoyed to the full equally.

"Hebrew prayers chanted quietly on the Castle Walk testified to the fact that both elements of the Scottish-Jewish synthesis were very much present."



Joyce Capek reading her copy of *Two Worlds*

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Scotland's Jewish Gathering

Friday 26th to Sunday 28th October 2018

A weekend was organised by a committee made up of representatives from Edinburgh and Glasgow and hosted by our Chair, John Danzig, to welcome young and old from Jewish communities, students and individuals from all over Scotland.

Held in Salisbury Road, over 180 guests from Arran to Edinburgh, from Newton Stewart to Inverness and beyond, were invited to share their experiences and challenges during an exciting and entertaining couple of days in late October. There was much music and singing, and opportunities to see old friends and meet new ones.

The Gathering Committee were fortunate to have had secured a host of distinguished speakers to complement their fascinating workshops and very well received meals prepared by Gary Duncan, the kosher chef from Jewish Care in Glasgow. Presenters included the Justice Secretary, Humza Yousaf, Board of Deputies Vice President Edwin Shuker, Marion Carlton recent former Head Teacher of Calderwood Lodge Jewish Primary in Glasgow, Professor Joe Goldblatt, Jewish Educator Lindsay Simmonds and others. Pianist Phil Alexander of Moshe's Bagel and Salsa Celtica, organised a jam session for all those who enjoy making music.

The well patronised workshops included talks and discussions on such diverse topics as Social Action, Woman's Aid, Fundraising and Tikun Olam and Mental Health themes. There was also a workshop on how we can make synagogue services more interesting, and interestingly one on how communal leaders saw the future. This included a Question & Answer session with a panel of community chairs who were not only diverse in their interests but represented the different regions of Scotland.



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

לשנה טובה תכתבו ותהתמו

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25 Moss Close
Pinner, Middlesex

Susie, Jonathan,
Sam and Ruth Adler

Michael Adler and Sue Fyvel

Lesley, John, Samuel, Benjamin
& Jonathan Danzig, East Wing,
Comiston House, 62 Camus Ave

Sylvia and John Donne

Betsy Dorfman

Ena Amitai
8b Nitza Boulevard
Netanya, Israel

Joe and Margaret Aronson

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

Dov (Bertie) and Elizabeth Dorfman
19/32 Shlomo Hamelech
Netanya, Israel

Max Dorfman & Rodney Dorfman
72 Pentland View
Edinburgh

Sara & Maurice Dorfman
Israel

Clarice Been
80 Willifield Way
London

Shirley and Peter Bennett

Barbara and Leslie Bennie

David Ellison
1/10 East Parkside
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Eli, Tiina, Boaz, Hannah and Leo

Zena Eunson (nee Glass)

Marcia and Leonard Berger
and Yvonne

Avril and Norman Berger
3 Kirk Park
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450 Hounslow Avenue
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Finlay Family
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EH42 1GW

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24 Rechov Shachrai
Jerusalem, Israel

Doreen and Laurence Bowman

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

Douglas and Rosalind Brodie
25 Park Crescent
Elstree, Herts

Ruth and David Fluss
49 Parkside Drive
Edgware

Martin, Tammy, Jude, Karen and
Jonathan Fransman
41 Morningside Park, Edinburgh

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Norma Brodie and family
Flat 3, 4c Mayfield Gardens
Edinburgh

Angela and James Brydon

Christine and Dave Burns

Adam and Marla Gamoran
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and family

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Joyce and Jo Capek
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Helen Capitanchik
Flat A 46 Norway Gardens
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June Glass

Professor Joe Goldblatt
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Thelma Henderson

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Susan and Steven Hyams,
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Best Wishes for a Happy New Year and well over the Fast

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Rabbi David Rose

Phyllis Rosenberg (nee Stoller)
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21 Massada Street
Ramat Gan, Israel

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Edinburgh

Brenda Rubin
Netanya
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Carol, Tom, Maurice
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Ra'anana, Israel

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Stanmore, Middlesex

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Shenley Hill, Radlett

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בס"ד

PROTECTING JEWISH LIFE IN THE UK

Our goal at CST is to protect you. We want to ensure that you, your family, friends and community can lead the Jewish life of your choice.

We know that these are difficult times, with the terrorist threat and the overall political situation causing deep concern to British Jews. CST's volunteers and staff are absolutely committed to protecting our Jewish communities throughout the country.

CST exists to facilitate Jewish life. Yes, antisemitism is a serious problem, but there is also the very positive reality of normal, daily Jewish life. That day to day positive experience may not make the news, but we should keep it in mind when we look at how things now stand.

We have, unfortunately, seen terrible terrorist attacks against places of worship, including synagogues in the USA. After these tragedies, it has been truly humbling to be repeatedly thanked for keeping the UK Jewish community as safe as possible, but really it shows exactly why CST does its work, and why we need the total partnership of our whole community. We thank you for supporting our security work and ask that you report any suspicious or offensive behaviour to our security teams.

Finally, our warmest wishes for a happy Rosh Hashanah. Please consider volunteering for CST or donating to us. We are a charity and we cannot do our work without your help. For more information, visit www.cst.org.uk In an emergency, call the Police and then call our 24-hour National Emergency Number 0800 032 3263.

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Book Reviews

The True Joy of Life – A memoir by Joe Jeff Goldblatt

I was intrigued to read Joe Goldblatt's memoirs when they were launched here in Edinburgh in May. Being one of Edinburgh's larger than life's characters I felt it would be a good read, and it proved to be all that and more.

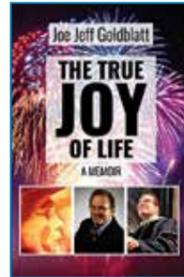
Joe traces his 'journey' from his beginnings in Texas where his parents owned a hardware store. Sitting at his parent's kitchen table and writing his first stories about his life at the tender age of nine, he clearly showed the makings of the talented and forward-thinking professor he was to become. More memoirs like this should be written as they trace our heritage in such an illuminating way. Joe tracks his progression through his college days, his status as a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War and his parents reaction to that, his first work as a performer and producer of theatre, then the natural progression to event management, where he was to build a large and successful business. Joe was to represent the Events Management Industry at Federal level and even had the privilege and honour to produce the entertainment for President Reagan's final picnic on the White House Lawn where he and his entire family were presented to the Regans. Joe lists a line of luminaries throughout the book that his business was to assist.

In what must have been a most unexpected turn of all, Joe tells most interestingly of his life-changing and successful decision to move to Edinburgh in 1990 and how that came about later becoming Professor of Event Management at Queen Margaret University. As an author of over 37 books targeted at his and other students pertaining to his craft, he is used to writing, and this memoir detailing his fascinating life is all the more welcome.

But perhaps the detail readers, both young and old, will find most interesting in his book and I certainly did, is Joe's tips for successful life detailed at the end of each chapter. I found them most welcome. I would have liked to have the space to have listed them all but I quote one to show the tenor:

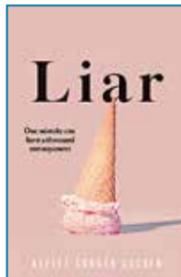
*Throughout your future life, associate yourself with people of good will who wish to work together for the common good so that you leave the world in a much better condition for future generations to come. Remember the eleventh commandment, **thou shalt work together.***

Edward Green



Review of Ayelet Gundar-Goshen at the Edinburgh International Book Festival 15 August 2019

Ayelet Gundar-Goshen is an award-winning author, journalist and screenwriter, as well as a clinical psychologist and lecturer. Her first two novels, *One Night Markovitz* and *Waking Lions*, have won numerous awards and been translated from Hebrew into 14 languages, and her third, *Liar*, has recently been published in the UK. She appeared at the Edinburgh International Book Festival on 15th August to discuss *Liar* and her other work, interviewed by Jenny Niven. *Liar* explores the repercussions of Nofar, a young girl working as an ice cream seller, lying that she has been sexually assaulted by an insolent customer who had verbally humiliated her.



Ayelet explained that *Liar* was inspired by real events, leading to her questioning "why would a woman lie about a sexual assault?". As a psychologist, she has discovered that individuals lie to themselves about their reasons for lying, justifying dishonesty by stating that they "didn't have a choice". She talked about the term "caught up in a lie" ("trapped in a lie" is closer to the translation from Hebrew). She carried out an exercise where she asked people whether they could remember their first lie, and discovered it was always a moment of deep terror. Asked about her first lie, she revealed that she invented a story about her grandmother being a heroic partisan who had killed Nazis. When her grandmother discovered her lie, she bought Ayelet a notebook and encouraged her to write down her stories

rather than present them as truth. Another character in *Liar* is Raymonde, an elderly Mizrahi Jew who passes herself off as her recently-deceased friend who was a Holocaust survivor, in order to participate in a study tour of Poland. In fact, most of the characters in the novel have either lied to others or to themselves and the author explained how this gave her the opportunity to explore their reasons, whether because of individual powerlessness (Nofar as a low status, unattractive, girl against a wealthy man, her "boyfriend" Lavi lying to impress his military hero father) or communal prejudice (Raymonde's story reflecting the discrimination against the suffering of Mizrahi Jews when they first arrived in Israel, which was covered up for many years).

Jenny Niven pointed out that Ayelet Gundar-Goshen's novels include a recurring theme about refugees, and this is something she often reflects on in her journalism and interviews. Ayelet responded that Israel is a nation of refugees and should be more generous to later generations of people escaping conflict, currently mainly from Eritrea and Sudan (an Eritrean refugee was the subject of *Waking Lions*). She also spoke about her responsibilities as a novelist, as she is often asked why her novels are not more overtly political. Her response is that she (like any author!) writes about what she's most interested in, and that she can use her journalism to make political statements. She has also been challenged by male journalists as to why she wrote about a girl lying about sexual assault in the era of #metoo, to which she responds that an author is not an ambassador or representative but should write about things as they are. She sees her role as a novelist as similar to that as a psychologist – not to judge, but to understand.

In response to an audience question, she reflected on aspects of translation, particularly the significance of characters' names, which have particular meanings in Hebrew. Her French and Italian translators wanted to translate characters' names but she rejected the idea despite losing the irony of Nofar representing a beautiful flower and Lavi a lioncub.

Ayelet Gundar-Goshen is an important voice in Israeli society, both as an author and political commentator. She is an engaging interviewee, never strident or preaching, who brings her experience as a psychologist to relate to a literary audience in a similar way to her individual clients, challenging us to explore our own attitudes and assumptions.

Janet Mundy

SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES (SCOJEC)

Representing, Connecting and Supporting Jewish People in Scotland

Micheline Brannan

On behalf of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, I wish all readers of the Edinburgh Star a peaceful, sweet and productive Jewish New Year, 5780.



SCoJeC's role is representing, connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland. We do this in several ways. At the grassroots, we provide a virtual Jewish community for people identifying as Jewish, or with Jewish roots, no matter where they live. We have recently held events in places as far apart as Arran and Shetland, and we are regularly surprised at how many people attend our events, including some who were not aware of each other's existence. By making connections, both amongst people living in the same locale, and between far-flung families and communities and the major centres, we make isolated Jewish people feel supported and less lonely.

We also represent the interests of the Jewish community to the outside world at all levels. We frequently meet officials of the Scottish Government as well as politicians. We have discussed antisemitism with the relevant Ministers and the leaders and spokesmen of other parties. We have also met the Church of Scotland regularly to discuss matters of mutual concern. In the political arena, SCoJeC does not function alone. We work closely with the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council on Glasgow and West of Scotland matters and, similarly, with the leaders of other communities.

We move our meetings round the country, having, for example, had our last AGM in Aberdeen, following which we travelled to Dundee to support the community there in closing their synagogue prior to moving the centre of the historic Tayside community to St Andrews. The Edinburgh Community are key players in SCoJeC and we were proud to partner with them in arranging the Scottish Jewish Gathering in October 2018.

It is becoming a cliché to say that we live in turbulent times but one thing that is clear from recent political upheavals is that the need for SCoJeC has never been greater. The Jewish Community in Scotland may be small in numbers but we punch above our weight and people listen to us. I hope that this will continue for many years to come. For more information please see our website www.scojec.org. This contains a horde of information about Jewish facilities in Scotland and about our activities, as well as contacts. It also informs you how you can support SCoJeC and how you can get involved should you so wish.

A visit to Jewish Morocco

Janet Mundy

A few years ago, on a relaxing family holiday to Marrakesh, I was fascinated to discover evidence of a rich Jewish history in Morocco, including Jewish Berber tribes, a functioning synagogue within the walls of the old city and an enormous range of Jewish artefacts for sale throughout the souk.

So I could not resist the opportunity provided by cultural magazine Jewish Renaissance to participate in a one-week tour of Morocco, led by Raphael David Elmaleh (universally known as Rafi), himself a Moroccan Jew, based on his researches into the 2,000-year history of Jews in the country. My main aim, apart from having an enjoyable holiday, was to learn more about the fascinating history of Jews in Morocco from the Jewish Berber tribes, the influx from and to Spain and whether it was push or pull that led so many Jews to leave the country in the second half of the 20th century.

We were a small group of 18 subscribers to the magazine, mainly from the UK, but also the United States and Israel, plus Rafi and Jewish Renaissance's Executive Director, David Benmayer. As we had all travelled separately, we first met up at the airport in Fes, where we were introduced to the minibus where we would spend many hours throughout the week, and transported to the first of the luxury hotels at four separate cities.

We visited all four of the imperial cities of Morocco (Fes, Meknes, Rabat and Marrakesh), this being no coincidence, as the Jewish quarter (or "mellah") of each city was typically built close to the royal palace in order to provide protection to the Jews. The word mellah derives from the Arab word for salt, as trading in salt was one of the Jews' main occupations.

Jews first came to Morocco with Phoenician traders over 2,000 years ago, settling in the south of the country and there were many Jewish Berber tribes in the Atlas Mountains, known as "settler Jews" or Toshavim. Their numbers were augmented by Sephardi Jews following their expulsion from Spain in 1492, and to this day, the two groups have their own separate identity and traditions. At its height, the Jewish population of Morocco was around 300,000, but decreased rapidly following the foundation of the State of Israel, although there is much dispute as to whether the mass emigration was caused by the desire to be in the Jewish homeland or to escape from oppression and anti-Semitism in Morocco. The truth is probably complex and differs between the Toshavim and Sephardi populations. Today there are only around 2,500 Jews left in Morocco, the vast majority in Casablanca, while there are around 1 million Jews of Moroccan descent around the world, mainly in Israel, France and Canada (and 1 in Edinburgh as you will see!).

While Jews have undoubtedly been subject to prejudice and violence throughout their history in the country, they also often lived very harmoniously with their Arab neighbours, and the remaining Jewish population reveres King Mohammed V, who ruled during World War II and did what he could to protect the Jews under the Vichy French protectorate. His grandson, and current King, Mohammed VI, has supported projects to restore abandoned synagogues, rebuild the mellah in Marrakesh and open the only Jewish Museum in the Arab world in Casablanca. Around 40,000 Jews visit Morocco every year and are a vital aspect of the tourist industry, so there are excellent economic reasons to make us all feel at home!

There was much to enjoy during a fabulous week, where our charismatic leader Rafi provided so many details based on his research, his own work in restoring synagogues and his personal experiences. We learned not only about Jewish traditions in the country, but also more widely about the history of Morocco. There is far too much to cover in a short article, but hopefully the captions to these photographs will give a flavour of this fascinating trip.



Rafi at the Jewish cemetery in Fes, which houses the tombs of many tzaddiks, traditionally much revered by Toshavim. Perhaps the tomb that attracts the most attention is that of Lalla Solica, a young girl who refused to convert to Islam when the Sultan's son wished to marry her. She was condemned to death in 1834, aged 17.



Maimonides, originally from Córdoba, lived for many years in Fes. This plaque is all the evidence left of his home, which is now a Chinese restaurant.

In Rabat, we had the pleasure of meeting three young (non-Jewish) Moroccans, representing Association Mimouna, who are dedicated to the cause of educating their generation about the history of Jewish Morocco and the excellent relationship that used to exist with the rest of the community. Mimouna celebrates the tradition of inviting Muslim neighbours to a feast to celebrate the end of Pesach and the return to eating chametz.



The fabulous restored Roman city of Volubilis, near Meknes, includes evidence of Jewish habitation, demonstrating the long history of Jews in Morocco.

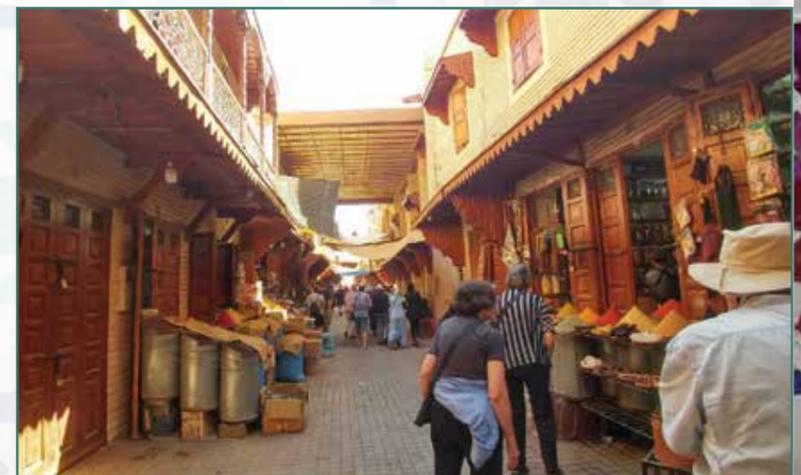


Casablanca now has the only substantial Jewish community in Morocco including 28 synagogues, 18 kosher butchers and 3 bakeries. Rafi took us down a street which houses 7 active synagogues, including beautiful Beth-El, pictured here from the women's gallery. The traditional layout is to have seats in the men's section facing each other, with women to be able to look over the bimah. There is no Ner Tamid in a Sephardi synagogue – instead there are hanging glass memorial lamps, each engraved with a dedication to an individual.

Casablanca also houses the only Jewish Museum in the Arab world, full of fascinating artefacts. One room was dedicated to photographs of synagogues that have been restored around Morocco, including these which caught my attention as they are of Synagogue Eteddgui. I checked with our very own Eli, who confirmed that this is named after his grandfather!

We arrived in Marrakesh on Friday, and were able to wander around the newly restored mellah, which is still owned by the Jewish community, although no Jews live there now. We were able to visit the Slat Lazama synagogue nearby which dates from 1492. We returned there for the Friday night service (thus providing them with their first minyan of the year) before partaking of a splendid Shabbat feast at the home of chazzan Moshe and his wife Titi.

Unlike the Casablanca community, which is Sephardi, Marrakesh Jews were traditionally Toshavim from the nearby Atlas Mountains. On our last day, Rafi took us to the mountain village where he had carried out research into Jewish Berber villages for his book "Jews under Moroccan Skies: Two Thousand Years of Jewish Life". He stayed for several months in the very basic cellar of a non-Jewish family who have become his friends and hosted our visit, providing delicious home-made flat breads with honey from their bees, and demonstrated how to make Moroccan mint tea, a wonderful ending to an inspirational trip.





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An Evening of Opera Classics II

Sunday 31 March 2019

Once again the hallowed walls of the synagogue rang out to the sound of an exciting evening of opera arias by Rossini, Lehar, Offenbach, Gershwin and Beethoven. There was a sell-out audience of over 250 people who all enjoyed a most special experience; the joy of exceptionally talented singers in the spiritually uplifting domain of the synagogue.



Our Chairman with the members of the ensemble.

Golf Report

Syd Zoltie, Chairman of the Edinburgh Hebrew Golf Society.

Inclement weather did not dampen the spirits of the golfers who arrived at the course at the Braid Hills on the 4th August for the annual Shul outing. The Reuben Zack Trophy was won by Maurice Griffin with a magnificent net score of 34 and the Maccabi Cup for the Team event was won by Dennis Seatter, Tom Griffin and Noel McKernan with a net score of 120.

The longest drives at the 1st and the 8th holes were both won by Tom Griffin and the nearest to the holes at the 6th and 9th holes won by Noel and Ian Wilson respectively.



The Lemon Bowl Trophy was awarded to Jonathan Danzig.

I am sure everyone enjoyed the prize giving and no one left without receiving a gift and a biscuit!

Many thanks to Eli Atad for his efficient organizing of the event and to the Braid Hills coffee shop for allowing us to use their premises.

Maurice Griffin receiving his well-earned trophy from Eli Atad

Civic Service: Shabbat 18th August 2019

Shul was very pleasantly busy this year, when we were once again honoured to have the Lord and Lady Provost with us for the Civic Service. They were joined by Bailie Lezley Cameron, past Lord Provost Councillor Donald Wilson, and Councillors Cameron Rose, Alison Dickie, Alasdair Rankin and Scott Arthur. We were also pleased to see former Lord Provost and recently retired from the council Eric Milligan with his wife Janis. The Lord Provost's party was once again escorted by the High Constables of Edinburgh under their first lady Moderator Jacqueline Easson, and Richard Dunbar, Norman Fiddes, Fergus Gillies, Willie Maceachen (a past Moderator) and Don Young. They all made a splendid entrance into the synagogue, to the sound of MaTovu sung by the Synagogue choir under the direction of David Mendelsohn.

Consular representatives from France, Ireland, Italy, Poland and the USA were in attendance as were representatives from Police Scotland.

After the service, there was a kiddush in the Marian Oppenheim Hall following a very welcoming speech from our Chairman and once again very warm words in response from the Lord Provost.

The Lord Provost had asked that he might be seated with a view of the entire proceedings in shul. To that end, the honoured guests were sat at the rear of the synagogue, with the Lord Provost saying in his speech how much he had enjoyed seeing all that was going on on the bimah and elsewhere.

Numbers have continued to grow for this service over past years - all who attend know how important it is for cementing good relations within the city. The service normally takes place midway through the Festival; this year we were also delighted to enjoy the company of Rachel Creeger and Carole Shaw who were both appearing in shows in the Fringe.

May Events

Edward Green

On **Tuesday the 14th May**, there was an AwayDay kindly sponsored by Edinbough Jewish Board of Guardians and Jewish Care Scotland to Scone Palace. There were 40 people in total travelling by coach to Scone Palace where there was a packed lunch from Mark's Deli waiting in the Murray Room. We were greeted by the Earl and Countess of Mansfield, the owners of Scone Palace, and a private tour was arranged to show some of the wonderful treasures of the house. Sadly, there was not enough time to see all that this wonderful estate has to offer, but we were incredibly well looked after and made to feel very welcomed. What we did manage to see was very much enjoyed.

As was a fascinating talk given by the Countess, (previously Viscountess (Sophy) Stormont, the courtesy title given to the heir to the Earldom), together with amusing and most witty interjections from the Earl. The Countess is halachally Jewish, having a maternal Jewish grandmother and she prepared for us a most illuminating background to her own family, which she has most kindly allowed to be reproduced in the Star.

My great great grandfather was called Philip Victor Haldinstein of Norwich, on line it appears he came from Germany, but my mother always said Switzerland. He must have been clever as he went on to Balliol college Oxford becoming a Lawyer. He married Rachel and they had the following children.

1. Rosetta Haldinstein who married Mr Samuel - she had a son called Arthur Michael Samuel who was the same age as his Uncle Henry Hyman called H Haldinstein my great grandfather. Arthur Michael became first Lord Mancroft, his son Stormont (strange but true - we don't know why they chose Stormont as a first name) had three children; two girls and a boy. The boy Benji (Benjamin) was at school with my husband Mungo and now sits in the House of Lords with two interests Drugs and Hunting - I think he's Anglican now. One of his sisters married Nicholas Von Preussen.

2. Alfred Issac. (Married twice). He had a daughter called Constance Emma who married a Dutchman called Salomon Elias born 1870, they were both killed at Sobibor concentration camp. They had two children Charlotte Elias born 5th Feb 1911 who married Max Henri Pollak and emigrated to America. Max died in 1942 in USA but their son Alfred Joseph Henry died at Aushwitz aged 35 on the 28th January 1944

3. Wolf Haldinstein
4. Henry - shipping man who was knighted
5. Alice D Carrow
6. Caroline Samuel
7. Eliza
8. H., my great grandfather whose real name was Henry Hyman Haldinstein married Mabel Julia Leon in 1897.

Mabel Julia's grandfather was George Issacs Leon (died 6th Feb 1885) who married Julia Samuel. Her father was Herbert Leon and her mother was Esther Julia Beddington (whose real name was Moses). Esther died aged 22 year old after giving birth to my great great uncle Georgie of puerperal fever a few days later. Their father married again and had two more children Reggie and Auntie Maggie.

Sir Herbert Leon helped build the London North Eastern Railway and bought Bletchley Park of WW1 fame. As one of the director's of a Railway company you could influence the railway line to stop near your home, so it was convenient to get on and off, that is why there is a large railway junction at Bletchley. It was his son, my great grandmother's brother Georgie who sold Bletchley to the Government in 1937 because he said it was ugly. He then bought a really nice Queen Anne house outside Bracknell and my mother Veronica remembers about eight Canaletto paintings in the dining room. My mother remembers Bletchley as a young child (she was born in 1929) and also remembers a Pineapple house.

When Herbert Leon died his widow and second wife, the step mother to my great grandmother left the money divided so:

One quarter to my great grandmother Mabel Julia Haldin nee Leon her stepdaughter

One quarter to her own son Reggie Leon

Half to her husband's eldest son, Georgie, her step son and he of course got Bletchley as well

And one shilling only to her own daughter Maggie as "she was much too rich already having married Cecil Raphael and too pleased with herself!"

Mabel Julia, my great grandmother, had been engaged to Sir Charles Mendel but her brother Georgie took against him when he travelled up the Nile with him saying he had epilepsy, so she wasn't allowed to marry him. She was 23 -24, quite old those days before she married Henry Hyman Haldinstein. The Haldinsteins were makers and merchants of shoes. Alfred

Haldinstein, Henry Hyman Haldinstein and Arthur Michael Samuel were in partnership and manufactured in Norwich, Leicester and London; the partnership was dissolved in 1901

Henry Hyman Haldinstein and Arthur Michael Samuel 1st Lord Mancroft his nephew but same age lived across the square from one other in Montagu Square, London and were in an out of each other's houses all the time.

Henry Haldinstein (H) born 1863 died 1931 at only 68 yrs old, was in business and an authority on the stock exchange as well as being a lawyer. During WW1 he was made head of the conscientious objectors board and his job was to decide who was a genuine conscientious objector and who was not. He hated this job as he had no son at the front, and only daughters. He was asked by the Government to change his name during WW1 and was given the great honour of having this done by Royal License with three other families on the same day. Those families were the Saxe Coburg family, the then King's (and our Queen's) family now known as Windsor, the Teck family (Queen Mary's family) who became the Earls of Athlone with the family name of Cambridge, and the Battenberg family who became Mountbatten, a direct translation). The Haldinsteins became Haldin. My mother has the certificate showing this.

Mabel Julia's brother was Georgie (Sir George Leon 1st Bt..) and their son married the actress Kay Standing and their son is the actor John Standing, my mother's 2nd cousin. His real name is of course Sir John Leon 3rd Bt.. His second wife is the daughter of Brian Forbes and Nanette Newman and they have 3 children. John always said that his father (Uncle Georgie owner of Bletchley) had sent money to Switzerland during WWII and when he died nobody knew where it was.

My great grandparents Mabel Julia Leon and Henry Hyman Haldin had three daughters:

Barbara Royal - Married Sir Lancelot Royal who ran in the 1924 Olympics (Chariots of Fire fame). His eldest son was Tony Royal

was MP for Richmond in the 1970's and was created Lord Fanshawe. Their next son was Timothy and there was also a daughter. They lived in Primrose Hill and bred Chow dogs. The second daughter, Audrey, married Eric Sebag Montefiore and their son Stephen was a famous doctors/psychiatrist who never let on he was a psychiatrist and we only found out in his obituary that one of his most famous clients was Peter Cook of Dudley Moore fame. His children are the prolific writers Hugh (Dunkirk) and Simon (Stalin, Potemkin, Romanoffs etc fame). There are two more brothers, Rupert the eldest was Chairman of the estate agents Savills and Adam lives in the Golan Heights and is a wine buff. Their daughter was Sonia who married a chap called Elwes who died young; they had two boys and a girl. Martin who married Sarah Worsley from Hovingham in Yorkshire, whose Aunt is the Duchess of Kent, Jonathan (JJ) who married Louisa and flies tiger moths is a financier and has four daughters and Toosie, their daughter who is married and lives in the Midlands.

Cicely, the youngest of my great grandparents' children, and my grandmother married Eudo Stourton whose family are the premier Barons of England, the head of the family going by the name of Lord Mowbray, Seagrave and Stourton. My mother Veronica is their only child and she will be 90 this year.

There is book writing on this side of the family too. James Stourton - various art books and Kenneth Clarke the art historian and Edward Stourton religious books and dangerous crossings about the routes over the Pyrenees during WWII.

Mabel Julia lived till 96 and my mother says that she only died because my grandmother Cicely took her Pekinese away. She was very involved in teaching mothers about childbirth and bringing up babies with feeding instructions and potty training and suchlike. There was a book published by her called "Bottle Feeding for Infants" by Mrs Henry Haldin and there were at least 3 editions 1926, 1927 and 1932.



In May, Harriet Lyall organised the wonderful annual picnic. She writes "The Annual Picnic Walk this year took place on Sunday 12th May, and covered 3.7 miles of coastal path from Dunbar, across Belhaven Bay, and finishing at the nearby John Muir Country Park. The walk was led by East Lothian Park Ranger Richard English.

The weather was perfect for walking, with sunny skies combined with a cool sea breeze. Wildflowers were in full bloom, and birdlife was abundant, so there was much of interest along the way.

We skirted the edge of the golf course and crossed the expanse of Belhaven Bay to a delightful woodland glade, before returning by minibus to Dunbar Harbour, where we had our picnic lunch."



Obituaries

Anita Mendelssohn

29/10/1931 – 14/11/2018

Harold Mendelssohn

My mother, Anita Mendelssohn, was born on the 29th October 1931. Her father, Michael, was a furniture maker and her mother, Lily, a devoted homemaker.



When she was born, the family lived in Salisbury Road and then they moved to 55 Macdowall Road in Newington, Edinburgh. There were at least five other Jewish families living in the same street and possibly more. The Edinburgh Jewish Community was in its heyday. I have vague memories of my grandfather Michael, but he died at the early age of 56 sometime in the late 50's.

My mother attended James Gillespie School and although I do not believe she was taught by the actual "Miss Jean Brodie", as she was a bit too young, she most certainly was one of the "creme-de-la-creme". Her childhood was happy, and she was actively involved with Habonim and Maccabi. At the age of 5 her baby brother Manual "Manny" was born. Tragically Manny passed away in 1979 at the age of 42 and this had a profound effect on my mother. They had been very close, and she felt his loss terribly.

I recall my grandmother Lily very well. She had been widowed at a relatively young age and I remember how she kept her home kosher observing all the Jewish holidays, as well as playing Kalooki with all her friends who lived close by. She was very influential on how my mother ran her home. My mother grew up in the 30's and 40's. She attended Cheder in the old communal hall and made many friends. She built up a great knowledge of all the Edinburgh Jewish families and had an amazing memory of who everyone was, how they were related and who they married, who their children were and who their "mishpachah" were.

During the war, she was briefly evacuated from Edinburgh as were most children during that time. She hated the separation from her mother, father and Manny and pleaded with my grandfather to bring her home. When my mother was determined to do something, she usually got her way and my grandfather duly agreed, picked her up and brought her home. After leaving School in 1949 she worked for Standard Life Insurance.

My mother met my father David in 1950 when she was playing tennis with Maccabi. They were soon engaged and were married in 1952. They settled in their first home at 73 Balgreen Road, Edinburgh. In 1954, I was born and in 1956 my sister Elaine arrived. One of the stories I remember hearing as a child, was that my mother regularly used to push me in my pram to visit my grandmother in Macdowall Road. The distance was around

4 miles. She had no access to a car and she hadn't learned to drive anyway. However, there was a perfectly good rail service between Ballgreen Station and Newington Station. So, I asked why didn't you take the train? Her answer was she was worried that I might catch some dreaded disease on the train! That's how my mother was; everything she did was for her children and family. When I was around 3 or 4 my mother took driving lessons. I sat in the back of the car while she was learning to drive. I even remember her driving instructor who was called Mr Love. He must have been a good instructor because my mother passed her test and shortly after she was driving us around in the new family car which was a Hillman Minx. She used to fill the fuel tank up with 4 gallons of fuel and it cost £1. Driving gave her great freedom and although we take it for granted nowadays it was a really big deal back in the late 50's.

During 1959, my parents bought a piece of land in the Braid Hills; they had decided to build their own home. I remember regular visits to the site and watching it being built with my mother and father supervising each stage of the build. Their dream home was duly completed in 1960. My mother loved that home and spent the rest of her life there. It had all 'mod cons'. Underfloor central heating, electric cooker and oven, washing machine with dryer, fridge with a freezer, fitted kitchen with built in units, 2 place garage and a driveway. It was a modern, warm and loving home.

My mother also had a great adventurous spirit for travel and wanted to see foreign lands. In the early 60's people tended not to go abroad on holidays. It was unusual to fly to Europe, but she was determined to take the family on a foreign family holiday, and we set off from the old Turnhouse airport in a Vickers Viscount aircraft and went all the way to Lido de Jesolo near Venice in Italy. This was long before "package holidays" and we thought we were in the Jet Set visiting all the wondrous sites in Venice and the surrounds. That was how my mother was and it kindled my love for flying which carried on through to my adult life. She loved family holidays, we enjoyed many foreign adventures often going on long driving holidays to Southern France and Spain. Along with my father, my mother made our childhood a joy.

She was traditional, spending her time bringing up her family and working on various committees in the Jewish Community. She worked with the Ladies Guild and then with the Communal Hall Committee eventually becoming chairman. She also worked with WIZO and was the first woman to be elected to the Synagogue Council where she served for over 20 years. More recently she devoted a lot of time to her charity - Alyn Hospital in Jerusalem.

As Elaine and I grew up learning the values of Judaism and family life we were encouraged to attend Shul and Cheder. I can't honestly say I loved that part, but it made her happy and it was a small price to pay considering everything she did for us. When I married Esther and Elaine David and her four grandchildren arrived - Cassie, Daniel, Roy and Michael,

she was overjoyed. She doted on them and when Cassie and Roy both had children of their own, she was over the moon at becoming a great grandmother. Her adventurous spirit saw her twice make the long journey to visit her grandchildren and great grandchildren in Melbourne, Australia.

Finally, I wanted to conclude by mentioning her biggest love of all and that was my father David. They were married for 66 years. She was constantly by his side and I cannot remember them ever spending a single night apart. They had a love that lasted a life time.

Sheva Lurie

15/3/1923 – 26/4/2019

Taken from the eulogy given by Michael Lurie at his mother's funeral.

Sheva was born on the 15th March 1923 in Odessa to Lazer and Riva Kris.



In 1934, our mother left Odessa with her mother and her younger sister, Rena, to visit her Aunt Clara in Bangkok. When they wished to return to Odessa, they found that the Russian Embassy had "lost" their passports and visas, and subsequently they became stateless. Their friends in Thailand helped them to obtain temporary Thai passports so they could try to get back to Odessa via Europe.

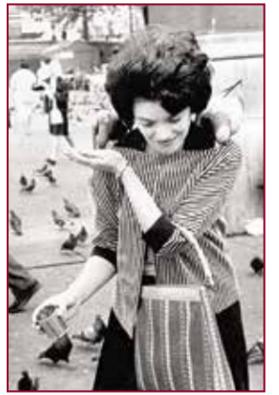
It was in 1937 that Sheva, Rena and their mother travelled to France and from there tried to find a route back to Odessa. This proved unsuccessful and, as the war with Germany became more likely, it was decided that it would be safer to return to Bangkok. Sheva returned there in 1938 and sadly would never be reunited with her father. Back in Bangkok, Sheva attended the prestigious girls' school, Mater Dei, where she learnt to speak English and Thai; her mother tongue being Russian. At Mater Dei, she forged lifelong friendships with the ladies of Thai society, many of whom who were to send their children to school in Edinburgh in the coming years.

Sheva was always courageous and supportive and when the Japanese took control of Siam and set up prisoner-of-war camps, Sheva and a friend would take the train past one of the camps and throw medicine and food over the fence. The two were eventually arrested, and only the intervention of the Siamese Royal Family and a promise to stop, saved them from being interned.



Photo taken to mark Sheva and Jos's engagement

My mother passed away on the 14th November 2018. Her death has left a terrible hole in all our lives - one that can never be filled. Anita Mendelssohn was a special lady and she will be loved and remembered by all who knew her.



After the war, Sheva met an RAF flight control officer from Edinburgh, Joshua Lurie, who had come to take control of Bangkok Airport after the Japanese left. They fell in love and married in Bangkok on the 9th April 1946. Sheva and Jos (known to many as Joe) made their home in Edinburgh, in time having a daughter Ann, a son Michael, daughter-in-law Sharon and two granddaughters, Katie and Debra. Both Sheva and Jos were immensely proud of their children and grandchildren.

Mum and Dad were at the heart of the Edinburgh Jewish Community. There was always a warm welcome at their table; many people regarded the Lurie household as a home from home for visitors, or anyone in need.

Mum treated everyone with respect; was a good listener and, when asked, was always able to offer sensible advice. She was also able to point out wrongdoings and would challenge injustice.

Family, friends and community were what Mum valued most. Mum had a warmth, wit and wisdom that were second to none. She had strength of character and integrity and took a practical approach to some of life's harder decisions, including deciding to move into Cluny Lodge last summer. Despite her ill health whilst there, Mum's amazing personality shone through. We would like to thank the staff for all their kindness and support to Mum and ourselves.

Our mother put her family first all through her life, and nothing brought her more joy than having those she loved around her.

We are extremely grateful for all the time we had with Mum, even though today it feels the time we have had was too short. Our mother will be deeply missed but, like anything great in this world, never forgotten. May her dear soul rest in peace.

The Editor writes: I heard of Sheva Lurie well before I ever came to live in Edinburgh. My brother and cousin were amongst the many fortunate students and visitors to Edinburgh who were welcomed into the Luries' warm and loving home for Friday night dinner. Her kindness and generosity is remembered by my brother to this day and I am sure he is no exception. The Lurie household was an oasis often when visitors and students were far away from their own home and travelling home (during term-time) was not as easy as it is today. She will remain in memory for her wonderful 'joie de vivre' and constant ability to see the very best in all situations and every person.

Norman Dorfman

21/12/1921 – 25/7/2018

Joyce Sperber and Betsy Dorfman

Norman was born in 1921 in Edinburgh, the youngest of four.



His father Joseph came from Odessa and his mother Rachel Levstein from Kumai in Lithuania.

He was a member of the shul choir from the age of 6 until he was 90 apart from a break during the War. At that time the choirboys wore canonicals and were paid every week with what Reverend Levinson referred to in his Yiddish/Scottish accent as 'peetcher' (cinema) money!

As a young man, Norman spent a lot of time at the home of his best friend, Tom Levey, who used to wonder why he was so keen to encourage Tom's little sister, Lilian, to come with them dancing at the Palais. It was when he was on leave from the RAF where he was a Leading Aircraftsman during WW2 that he and Lilian started to get together. Norman, never a natural rebel, even went AWOL to meet up with Lilian in London where she was stationed. We believe it was then that he fell in love with her - a love that endured until he died. In 1949, he took Lilian to see Les Ballets des Champs-Elysees (with Leslie Caron in the corps de ballet!) during the Edinburgh Festival. That evening Norman proposed and was accepted. They were married for 33 years until she died in 1983.

When Norman married Lilian, it was a given that he would become a life member of Lodge Solomon, founded by her father Barnet Levey. Norman wasn't the most enthusiastic Lodge member at that time and would horrify Lilian by pretending to spill the beans on what went on at the meetings! However, when he retired he started to attend Lodge meetings regularly and at that stage of his life thoroughly enjoyed being part of it, acting as Almoner for some years.

Norman owned his own shop selling men's clothing but spending time with family was his main love. Family holidays spent in St Abbs Head were a source of great pleasure to him and he loved being by the sea.

He came to live with Joyce, Jonny and Avigal when they came back to Edinburgh from living in Israel when Avigal was 2 years old. Avigal grew up very close to her grandfather and by the age of 3 was singing Gilbert and Sullivan and The Inkspots! Norman's lifelong love of music and in particular big band and jazz stayed with him right to the very end. There wasn't a day when he didn't have Ella, Billie, Sinatra and all the greats playing on his sound system. Norman and Betsy would go together to Gilbert & Sullivan productions and big band concerts. He loved the Edinburgh Jazz Festival. Every year he attended 'Jazz on a Summer's Day' at the Ross Bandstand in Princes Street Gardens. When Betsy returned from living in the States she joined him and they would spend the day there with their packed lunch. This love of music was of great therapeutic benefit to him in his battle with Alzheimers.

The other great love of his life, besides our late mother and his granddaughter, Avigal, was Fudge the Cavalier King Charles spaniel. Fudge was really Avigal's dog, her batmitzvah present, but Norman took over the daily walks. They were a well known sight around the neighbourhood, and to this day, complete strangers (to us) approach us to ask after them both.

Betsy and her ex-husband spent two years living and working in Zambia. At the end of their time there, they invited Norman to visit for a trip to a game park. It was not long after Lilian had died and he was reluctant to visit, but in the end did. He had a great experience, though tinged with sadness that Lilian wasn't there to share it with him.

When Betsy was living in the US Norman went to visit, twice to San Francisco and once to Rockville, Maryland. He would go out in the morning and she wouldn't see him again until evening as he'd been exploring and wandering about. He was willing to try most things including camping outside in the California desert on a car trip with Betsy.

He took to retiral like a duck to water and filled his time with hill walking, fishing and walking miles exploring Edinburgh, a city that he loved and appreciated so much. He used to sometimes take Avigal when she was small on outings to the Pentlands along with his hill walking buddy, Archie. One time they decided to hide some treasure for her to find. Archie climbed the hill the day before and buried a little box of coins. The next day, there was such excitement as Avigal 'found' the buried treasure!

He kvelled when Avigal got married to Mikael and took great delight in the visits from London and then Stockholm of his two great grandchildren, Adina and Carmela.

Norman was always involved in the Jewish community as was Lilian. When he retired he was able to attend shul regularly and that became an important part of his life. He loved the twice weekly lunch club which gave him the opportunity to indulge in his three favourite past times - socialising, eating and eating.

Every Friday he met up with some friends, also elderly retirees known as the Last of the Summer Wine who would wander around the city. Even though all in their 70s and 80s they discovered they could eat in the University student union café and became well known regulars!

Norman made friends wherever he went and left people with a strong, enduring affection for him. He was a true people person, a loyal friend, with a zest for and enjoyment of life, whatever it threw at him.

He lived with Joyce and Jonny until 5 years ago when he entered the Sir James McKay Care Home. The Home provided him with wonderful care during his last years, treating him with respect, dignity and affection.

Norman passed away peacefully and with no fuss, just how he lived his life.

We are very grateful for the most generous gift of an Automated External Heart Defibrillator to the EHC by Joyce and Jonny Sperber in memory of their parents. We hope that it will never be needed but the reassurance it is there if of immense comfort. It is sited in the Marian Oppenheim Hall; a number of our members have been trained in its use.



Enid Oppenheim

3/7/1927 – 7/5/2019

Jane Prevezer Rosemary Bello Fiona Arghebant

Our mother was born Enid Moira Cohen on March 7th 1927 in Newcastle upon Tyne, where she enjoyed an idyllic childhood with her parents, Minnie and Simmon Cohen, older brother Donald and their extensive close knit wider family.

She was educated first at the Church High School in Newcastle and then in September 1939 she went to Roedean but was in Brighton for only a month before the school was evacuated to Keswick. She then studied at Newcastle University and graduated in 1947 with a BSc in Agriculture. A few months before she took her finals her father died aged just 56 following an operation at St Mary's Hospital in London. In August 1947 she met our father Harold Oppenheim at his sister's wedding in Edinburgh. They were married on 19th January 1949 at Jesmond Synagogue in Newcastle.

Their first home in Edinburgh was near the Meadows, in Dick Place and in 1956 they moved, with their daughters Jane and Marian, to Barnton. Two more daughters, Rosemary and Fiona were born in the next few years.

We remember growing up in Edinburgh, with the same love for the city and the community that our parents had. While our father was President of the Synagogue and a Town Councillor, our mother chaired the Ladies Guild and Wizo and was chairman of the Scottish Adoption Society amongst many other activities.

In 1967 when we moved to London they bought a flat in Ravelston Dykes returning every summer to catch up with their many friends and enjoy the Edinburgh Festival. We too, and later with our families, always also enjoy coming to Edinburgh, seeing what is new and remembering what was.

Five happy years followed in London but then life was shattered when in 1972, Marian aged 19, died in a car accident. Life could never be the same again but life continued. In March 1981 after the synagogue reconstruction, we remember coming to the opening of The Marian Oppenheim Hall and we have always enjoyed coming to the synagogue on our visits and learning about the many activities taking place. One special memory amongst many was in August 2007 coming with our mother to the celebratory lunch marking the 75th anniversary of the opening and consecration of the Synagogue.



In the 1970's and 80's, our mother first became Treasurer of British WIZO and then chairman of Jewish Women's Week and she also took on other involvements including becoming a trustee of the Whitechapel Art Gallery.

Our mother was accomplished at everything she turned her hand to. She always retained her love of plants and horticulture. She grew orchids long before you could buy them everywhere and even had a stunning pink Cattleya named after her. She used to say that when she went around the country as WIZO Treasurer speaking to WIZO members, often if she happened to mention her love of plants, the meeting would immediately turn into a session of Gardeners' Question Time!

In September 1983, her mother died and only six weeks after that, our father died, aged only 65. She then took over the running of the family business with great skill, leadership and professionalism.

As her mother Minnie had enjoyed a second marriage and indeed a second silver wedding with Harold Marks, she enjoyed a second marriage of nearly twenty years with Basil Sandelson who

died in 2006.

She took enormous pleasure in her growing family. She was always up to the minute with technology, well able to hold her own with children and grandchildren in the new digital age.

In the last few years, despite her failing health, she still very much enjoyed life and retained her beauty and elegance, her sparkle and her sense of humour and loved being with family and friends, especially enjoying the weddings of six grandchildren and happy times with the three of us, her seven wonderful grandchildren, her six precious great grandchildren and other loving family and many close friends.

The Editor writes: After the successful redecoration of the synagogue, the late Anita Mendelssohn, as chair of the Community Centre wished for a similar makeover of the Community Hall. I suggested that as the Hall was named for Marian Oppenheim that we should approach Enid Oppenheim Sandelson, as she was then, to see if there was any way she would wish to be involved. When I went to visit her in her home in Kensington, I was bowled over by her immediate and most generous offer to fund a major part of the redecoration and alterations to the Hall. There wasn't the slightest hesitation, she held the Edinburgh Hebrew Community in the highest regard.

Going back fifty years, my brothers and I have very fond memories of meeting the wonderful and all very different Oppenheim sisters when they first moved to Marlow from Edinburgh. Enid, as their mother, was engaging and made us feel so very welcome, being charming and incredibly hospitable always, a true lady of distinction and one to be much remembered.

Elizabeth (Lizanne) Kornberg

22/01/1937 – 30/12/2018

Justin Kornberg



It is not customary for a husband to write his late wife's Obituary. Therefore, this essay will be more by way of a tribute to the indelible memory of my dear late wife, Lizanne.

Her family's roots in Edinburgh go back more than 150 years. Her family on both sides were resident in Edinburgh and although born in Glasgow she started school in Rothesay House where she spent happy years as she did in all the educational establishments she attended.

Lizanne's grandfathers David Oppenheim and Henry Levitt were instrumental in the reconstruction and reconsecration of the Salisbury Road Synagogue, home of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation to which Henry donated the beautiful stained-glass windows.

Lizanne was born in 1937 to Vi (Violet) and Mike (Meyer) Oppenheim and subsequently she had her two brothers Philip, still living in Edinburgh and Nick who keeps a house in the Western Isles.

Her wartime years were spent in Edinburgh largely with her mother and her grandparents whilst her father Mike was away in India serving in the RAF.

On her father's return after the War, Liz spent many happy years on a farm outside Edinburgh called Binny House, where whilst very happy she developed a lack of interest in country pursuits.

She went to boarding school at Sherborne in Dorset, that she had the pleasure of revisiting on several occasions.

Following Sherborne, she went and acquired a working knowledge of French in Paris.

By this time her parents had acquired a pied-a-terre in London, where we met.

London life was what appealed to her and she took to it as a fish to water.

Her grandmother Pearl's sister, May had married Henry's brother, Sidney, who then settled in Canada. After a period in London Liz went to visit her numerous close cousins in Montreal and Toronto and New York.

In the interim I had met Lizanne although we didn't appear to have hit it off.... yet.

We met again on her return to London and within a couple of months we were engaged and within six months we were married. Before that I met her parents, her brothers and other members of the Oppenheim and Levitt families.

In Edinburgh, the Oppenheim family lived in the White House in Barnton, now the home of JK Rowling, the author.

We had a splendid honeymoon travelling around the world visiting our relatives across the oceans as well as visiting what were then exotic spots such as Hawaii, Japan and Bangkok as well as Teheran and Tel Aviv... in those days there were direct flights.

Besides her beauty, intelligence and natural kindness, I soon realised Liz' passion for children and her love for Judaism and Zionism. All these emotions were powerfully appealing to me.

Returning to start married life in my small flat in Kensington was quite a change and challenge to Liz. A challenge she rose to cheerfully and willingly whilst expecting our first-born baby, Tania. We moved into our first house, whilst she was still heavily pregnant. This was during our first Passover and persuading our young help to keep the various dishes separate was quite a challenge.

I remember the girl's eventual comment "You Jews aren't so stupid. It all makes sense".

Liz created a wonderful home for us over the many years. In one case she even defied an attempted intrusion when she was alone in the house one evening.

The would-be intruder being chased off by our aroused neighbours.

She raised our three children Tania, Susie and David in a warm and loving home giving them all the bases for successful and PG fulfilled lives.

They in turn are wonderful loving parents to our ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren - the youngest of whom Eliana, who is named after Liz, was born a few weeks after Liz' passing.

We spent many happy summers in Angmering, West Sussex with occasional trips to see the grandparents in Scotland where we embraced the capricious pleasures of North Berwick in the summer.

Lizanne was a good tennis player and a merciless ping pong player much to the chagrin of the children.

Continued page 66

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In Angmering she lovingly tended our lovely vegetable garden providing all the vegetables we needed for the Summer.

In the 1980's we were invited to No.10 when Liz had unfortunately broken her leg and ankle.

Notwithstanding she was determined to go to the reception, where we were greeted by no less than the PM, Mrs Thatcher who said " You poor dear, I must get one of my young men to look after you so that your husband can mingle". That young man was John Major subsequently to become Prime Minister, himself.

We spent many trips visiting our children and their growing families in Israel and the United States as well as many journeys around the world on business and pleasure.

Lizanne had a very small stroke about twenty years ago, which fortunately didn't leave her debilitated. However, she had another stroke in 2015 from which blow she never really recovered. Throughout this terrible time, she was determined to win, constantly saying " We'll get over this" but it was not to be and after a valiant struggle she was taken from me and us on December 30, 2018. We were married for fifty-seven years without a hard word from her, ever.

As a speaker remarked at the Shiva "Lizanne Kornberg was a natural aristocrat"

The Editor writes: Despite living in London for all her married life, Liz Kornberg remained a trustee of the Henry Levitt Trust founded by her grandfather right up to close to her death maintaining an active interest and concern for the youth or the Edinburgh Jewish community. Her kindness and sense of fairness were always evident and the children of the Cheder were well served for many decades by her involvement and deliberations. The Edinburgh Jewish Community owes Liz Kornberg enormous gratitude for her generous efforts and time given.

Sylvia Baker

(2/2/1917 – 22/2/2019)

Taken from the eulogy given by Louis Burton (nephew)

Sylvia Baker passed away peacefully in Leeds on 22nd February 2019 three weeks after celebrating her 102nd birthday.



her 90s. Sylvia enjoyed travel and spent many holidays in Europe. An active Zionist and Wizo supporter, she visited Israel in the 1950s, long before it had become the popular holiday destination that it is today. She enjoyed making trips closer to home too, in particular to visit her sisters, nieces and nephews in Leeds, and was always ready to drive herself there to be with them for Yom Tovim and family celebrations. In her latter years, when such journeys became more difficult, she was always delighted to welcome the family to her home in Barnton, and nothing gave her greater pleasure than their visits.

Sylvia was an avid reader and was always well informed of world events. Even in her 90s she was a 'night owl' and enjoyed saying that she never went to bed the same day as she got up!

When her health began to deteriorate, Sylvia's family wanted her to move to Leeds, but she was a very independent lady who resisted, saying "You will only have to schlep me back to Edinburgh." But shortly before her 101st birthday, she was eventually persuaded to move to Donisthorpe Hall in Leeds where she was well cared for and of course enjoyed daily visits from her family.

Sylvia's passing is a great loss to her family and friends and the Edinburgh community. She is buried next to her brother Jack at Piershill and, in the words of her nephew Louis who read her eulogy, "Well, Sylvia, we took you to Leeds and now we have schlepped you back home to Edinburgh, just as you said we would. May your dear soul rest in peace."

Sylvia was the daughter of Willy and Rebecca Baker, the eldest of four children. Throughout her life she maintained the strong orthodox traditions set by her parents, always taking pride in following her mother's 'heimishe' recipes.

After spending the wartime years in Barrow-in-Furness, Sylvia returned with her parents to Edinburgh, where she helped run the family furniture business. Some years later, when the business was sold, she took up a secretarial post at the Scottish Department for Food and Agriculture, a position she held until 1987 when, at the age of 70, she retired, much to the regret of her employers and colleagues.

Sylvia was a very sociable lady who had a wide circle of friends from both within and outside the Jewish community. She was a bridge aficionado and continued playing well into

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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

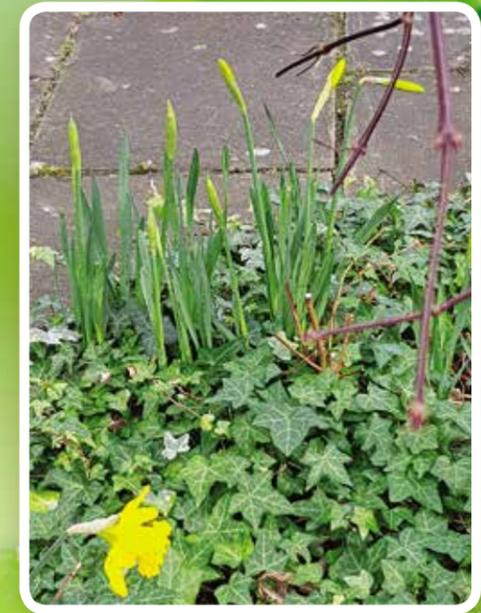
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Forthcoming Events



Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

All meetings are in the Marian Oppenheim Hall at 8pm.

Date: 28 October 2019
Name: Bart Van Es
Title: On his book

Date: 10 November 2019
Name: Geoffrey Cantor
Title: The Anglo-Jewish Press of the 1840s:
The Voice of Jacob and Two Jewish Chronicles

Date: 1 December 2019
Name: Edna Fernandes
Title: On the Jews of Kerala

Date: 2 February 2020
Name: Judy Russell
Title: Being Ernest's Daughter

Date: 8 March 2020
Name: Ian Black
Title: On Israel relations with Arab world

Date: 26 April 2020
Name: Lord (John) Dyson
Title: On his biography

Date: 10 May 2020
Name: Melissa Raphael
Title: On Judaism and visual art, religion and gender

Date: 24 May 2020
Name: Jonathan Silvertown
Title: Comedy of Errors. Why evolution made us laugh

Date: TBA
Name: Gillian Raab
Title: On Statistics of C19 Jewish marriages

Please see www.ejls.org for more information

WIZO Nearly New Sale

will be in Glasgow the weekend of 17th & 18th November. Please contact Sylvia Donne to arrange collection 0131 447 2947.

Sukkat Shalom

Services

Erev Shabbat service will be on the **SECOND** Friday (7 pm) of each calendar month. **Shabbat morning services** are on the Saturday (11am) after the **FOURTH** Friday. These services take place in: **St Mark's Unitarian Church, 7 Castle Terrace.**

Kabbalat Shabbat Services (6.00pm) will be on the **FIRST** and **THIRD** Fridays. These services take place at: **Marchmont St Giles, 2a Kilgraston Road.**

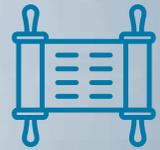
We also have a **Tea and Talmud group** – to coincide with Rabbi Mark Solomon's visits, and a Philosophy Discussion Group. These usually take place at **St Mark's.**

For details and further information go to our website and follow the link to the diary:

www.ejlc.org

2019 – 20 Festivals

Rosh Hashanah:	Monday 30th September – Tuesday 1st October 2019
Yom Kippur:	Wednesday 9th October 2019
Succot:	Monday 14th – Sunday 20th October 2019
Shemini Atzeret:	Monday 21st October 2019
Simchat Torah:	Tuesday 22nd October 2019
Chanukah:	Monday 23rd – Monday 30th December 2019
Tu B'Shvat:	Monday 10th February 2020
Purim:	Tuesday 10th March 2020
Pesach (Passover):	Thursday 9th – Thursday 16th April 2020
Yom HaAtzmaut:	Wednesday 19th May 2020
Lag B'Omer:	Tuesday 12th May 2020
Shavu'ot:	Friday 29th – Saturday 30th May 2020
Tisha B'Av:	Thursday 30th July 2020



Please save the following dates in your diary.

Saturday 14th December
Chanukah Dinner at Community Hall,
Salisbury Road

Monday 23rd December 6.30pm | 2nd candle:

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

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

CHANUKAH
SAVE THE DATE