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THE MAGAZINE FOR THE EDINBURGH JEWISH COMMUNITY

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FRONT COVER:  
Self Portrait 1911  
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Please refer to page 61

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## Thank you

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Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP  
First Minister of Scotland



Scottish Government  
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Mr Edward Green  
Edinburgh Star

30 July 2020

Dear Edward



I am writing to send my warmest greetings to our Jewish communities here in Scotland, who will be celebrating Rosh Hashanah and marking the holy day of Yom Kippur.

These past few months have been difficult for everyone – but they've presented particular challenges for our faith communities. Our Jewish communities were unable to share the Seder with loved ones and celebrate as they usually would have during Passover. Unfortunately, some of these restrictions around coming together will remain as you observe Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur but I hope you will still find ways to come together to celebrate – either in smaller groups, or virtually.

I understand that these sacrifices are difficult – however these restrictions have helped us to make major progress in eliminating Covid-19 and have allowed us to ease many of the lockdown restrictions. That includes the reopening of places of worship, and as a result many of you will be able to gather at synagogues to celebrate. However, I recognise that not everyone will be able to do so as attendance at places of worship remains limited with physical distancing measures in place.

These restrictions are vital to ensure we can all stay safe, protect others and save lives and I thank you for your continued understanding.

As well as sending my best wishes for this holy festival, I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of you, for all you have done to support communities across Scotland during this crisis. The support of our faith communities, including our Jewish communities, has been invaluable.

I hope you and your loved ones continue to stay safe and that the year ahead brings joy and happiness to you all - Shanah Tovah

With my best wishes  
Nicola

NICOLA STURGEON

# • EDINBURGH •

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

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

1st September 2020

Dear Edward

This year has shown the value of a strong community in overcoming many of the hurdles that the Pandemic has thrown us individually and for those around us.

I commend the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation for the way in which they have responded in this most challenging of times. I think I speak for us all when I say we look forward to the time when the city can once again come together in the way we all value, enjoy and indeed love.

The Lady Provost joins me in sending our very best wishes to you and all the members of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation for the Jewish New Year and for a successful and happy year ahead.

Yours sincerely



**FRANK ROSS**  
**LORD PROVOST**



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# The Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message 5781

As I reflect on an extraordinary year, my first thoughts are with those whose lives were tragically cut short by the Coronavirus. May their memories be for a blessing and may their families find comfort in their sad loss.

My heart goes out to the many whose health, whether physical or mental, has been affected and to those who are facing severe financial hardship or crises in their personal relationships. The restrictions on social interaction, abrupt changes to our routine and the grip of deep uncertainty have dramatically impacted the fabric of all of our lives in ways that we could never have imagined.

In the years to come, while many will admirably recall our resilience and forbearance during these most trying of times, ultimately the success of our response to this Pandemic will be judged not by how we felt, but by how we acted.

The Torah portion of Nitzavim, which is always read immediately prior to Rosh Hashanah, commences with these words: "You are all standing this day before the Lord your God; your heads, your tribes (shivtechem), your elders and your officers".

In this list of national leaders, 'tribes' appears to be out of place. Mindful of the fact that 'shevet' also means 'staff' or 'sceptre', our commentators explain that the leaders of our people are being referred to according to the item that they carried that symbolised their role. A person who leads is known by the instrument of that leadership.

The message that emerges is extremely powerful. You are defined by what you do. The essence of a person is measured according to what they have achieved.

For this reason, we call community leaders 'machers' (makers). 'Macher' is a role that conveys respect, because the people who change the world are not the dreamers and thinkers; the people who change the world are the 'doers'.

On Yom Kippur, we read the book of Jonah, in which the prophet informs the inhabitants of Nineveh of their impending doom.

In response, they fast and repent for their evil ways. The text captures that epic event in just a few words: "God saw their deeds". Their words of apology and their fasting were merely steps towards a life-changing moment. What concerned God was not their protestations, but their actions.

This year, without any preparation whatsoever, every one of our communities was plunged into a crisis of unprecedented proportions.

Your response has been simply magnificent. With our Shuls closed, our communities redoubled their creativity and their altruism. We have never known such an outpouring of compassion, such acts of selfless care for the vulnerable and such generosity in charitable giving.

I have no doubt that such action will remain at the heart of our Covid-19 response for as long as it takes us to overcome the dangers it presents to all of humankind.

As we commence 5781, may Hashem inscribe and seal each and every one of us in the Book of Life, good health, peace and fulfilment.



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis  
September 2020 • Ellul 5780





# Rosh Hashanah Message

As we approach a Rosh Hashanah like no other, the themes and messages of this time of year are more pertinent than ever. Firstly, a motif that runs throughout these days, the realisation that our lives are not in our hands.



'Who will live and who will die, who will be rich and you will be poor'. These words out this year with especial force. We, who have had our lives turned upside down, understand in a very real way the import of this message.

Secondly, the themes of introspection and accountability that are central to this period teach us the importance of individual responsibility. Each of us is responsible for our actions and has to accept their consequences. Yet this is coupled with the idea of communal responsibility. Famously, the confession on Yom Kippur is in the plural and is said both silently by the individual and communally by the congregation. We are all responsible for

each other. In the last few months the importance of both our individual actions and our need to look after each other has been of paramount importance, as maybe never before in our lifetime.

Finally, there is maybe the most important idea contained in these days, one especially emphasised on the festival of Succot. On that holiday we leave the security of our homes and live in a flimsy hut, trusting in G-d to protect us. As we have been thrust out of our comfort zone and forced to live with daily uncertainty, this message of hope is more relevant than ever.

So, as we approach these Days of Awe, may we continue to act responsibly and to care for each other while putting our trust in G-d for a better future.

May we be blessed with a healthy and secure year to come for us and the whole world.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

A Happy New Year

Rabbi David Rose

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## Editorial

There have been many soundbites bandied about in recent months such as the world never being the same again, we will never return to normal or whatever. It has been a harrowing time for many and it looks like it will stay that way for some time too. However, the virus has emphasised one enormous plus to all of us, and that we are fortunate within the EHC to look upon each other as members of an extended family.

Not just any extended family, but one that shows care and concern for each other in a real and positive sense. I think each and every one of us would have been much the poorer were it not for the umbrella that is the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation. And the Star has shown time and time again that it is a vital link in that cog.

For me as your editor, I see the magazine not as an avenue for intellectual argument or treatise that we might read in a newspaper or journal but as the conduit for us to know more of each other and appreciate same. We have some wonderful articles in this year's edition that tell of people, both alive and some sadly now departed and how their lives and company have impacted on us. Once again, we hear from Israel and life there, and we hear from those who have left Edinburgh and their life away in the diaspora. Eve Oppenheim who has worked for many decades in support of Jewish Child's Day is highlighted with the charity, and we celebrate with members of Lodge Solomon their significant centenary.



Momentously, the Star has invested for the future with a new website that comes with a search facility. We hope that this will prove of use not just here in Edinburgh but throughout the world for us now and generations to come in locating details from past editions of those members of the EHC who are present or who may have been from different times.

Once again, I extend my sincere thanks to the members of the Board of the Star for their enormous efforts towards the production of this magazine.

Maryla and our son Freddie, join me in sending our very best wishes for the New Year.

Edward Green

# New Year

## Message from the President



**This has been a year like no other. The global pandemic has affected life more in a short space of time than any other event in peace time.**

Of course, the effects have been experienced worldwide with hundreds of thousands dead and millions more badly affected by this virulent virus. We are a small community but we have been hit heavily. Sadly, our death rate has been more than double that of the general community and we have lost some wonderful people since March, taken from us way before their time.

It has been a time to mourn but also a time to act. The Board of Deputies lobbied hard to ensure that local councils could not cremate bodies without first consulting with the families of the deceased. This was a fine example of collaboration between Jews and Muslims who shared the same concerns. We collaborated closely with other community organisations to ensure that UK Jews are received all the help and information possible in the emergency, using all of our resources for the benefit of those affected. We collated a document bringing together all of the special guidelines for Passover this year and devised a card for members of the community to print off, fill out and post through the letter box to neighbours, letting members of the local community

know that people are available to do a food shop or even just to speak to someone on the phone who is self-isolating. No less importantly, our team has had the sad but necessary duty of collating the deaths we have endured so that we have an accurate record.

Last year, we were in the midst of Labour's antisemitism crisis. Twelve months on and Labour are, in the words of new leader Sir Keir Starmer, "under new management". We set out our Ten Pledges on anti-Jewish racism in January and they were enthusiastically adopted by the new leadership team. The progress we have seen is very encouraging. The scourge of antisemitism has not disappeared from the Labour Party but the determination to address it and take action where it is needed, as in the case of the sacking of Rebecca Long-Bailey, gives all of us reason to be optimistic after a dark few years.

Even Coronavirus could not completely overshadow the worldwide movement which developed rapidly in response to the racist murder of George Floyd. We in the Jewish community felt we needed to formulate our own initiative. The result is the Board of Deputies' Commission on Racial Inclusivity in the Jewish Community which is being chaired by distinguished journalist Stephen Bush. We need to make sure that we are accepting of people of all backgrounds and I look forward to making progress on this most important of issues.

Those who know the Board of Deputies will understand we work on a diverse set of issues – indeed so much that it is impossible to list everything in a short message.

We exist to ensure that the UK's Jewish community can live freely, happily and continue to practise our traditions. We are passionate about protecting our religious freedoms, whether the right to circumcise our baby boys in accordance with our tradition or to ensure that

employees are able to take time off for Jewish festivals and follow their Jewish traditions within the law.

Our interfaith activities have certainly made the news – for example our support for the Chinese Uyghur Muslims currently suffering oppression in China, has raised awareness of the problems

Through Pikuach, we supervise religious education in Jewish schools, and, pandemic permitting, we travel the country with the Jewish Living Experience exhibition, educating non-Jewish children and adults about our way of life.

We engage with Government ministers, MPs, local councillors, diplomats, faith leaders and with a huge variety of public bodies on behalf of the community we represent.

We can only do this work with the help of communities across the UK, so I thank you for all the support that you all give. Let's hope the New Year truly does bring health and happiness to all of us.

Shana Tovah.

*Marie van der Zyl*

Marie van der Zyl  
President



## INCOMING CHAIR'S MESSAGE

# Community is the Silver Lining

The approach of the High Holy Days heralds a time of introspection, when we, as individuals, examine our actions to see how we can improve them.

This particular year, during which we have all lived through a traumatic period of great uncertainty, I feel we can also reflect on the positive achievements in which we have been involved.

In June, Dame Helen Mirren hosted The Israel Philharmonic Global Gala, and in her introduction said "I believe Community is the silver lining in this dark cloud of Covid-19 we are all experiencing" – an opinion with which I wholeheartedly concur.

During the past months, as a community, we have striven to come together in unity, extending warmth, caring and support to each and every member. We have explored new initiatives and have enjoyed the wealth of talent that abounds amongst us. There have also been many acts of kindness privately performed by individuals, without any public recognition, which are equally valued and have formed a vital component of the web of caring within our community. All such acts of Chesed are integral to the fulfilment of a good Jewish way of life.

At this time of renewal let us go forward into what will undoubtedly be a further period of uncertainty, feeling uplifted by the warmth and cohesion of our very special community. The one certainty in this period of so many uncertainties is the wonderful spirit felt amongst our members.

Let us renew our energies and our creativity, and let us strive to continue the many caring acts and communal initiatives that have meant so much to many amongst us.

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

**Hilary Rifkind, Chair**



## FROM RETIRING CHAIR

The single most important feature underlying the honour I have felt of being EHC Chair these last three years, has been the glimpse it has given me into the future. This glimpse is of the immense potential available to our community and indeed to Jewish Edinburgh generally. Our membership is warm and very welcoming; we have a Rabbi who I feel has great ideas, the rare capacity to think outside the box and is supportive to both members and their partners. We have a beautiful Shul which tourists flock to visit; and are located near the centre of one of the most attractive cities in Europe, perhaps the greenest in the UK, with superb housing and an excellent education system.

But this potential represents opportunities, not 'givens'. We need to press on with improvements to our technology and communications (including the social media); our expanded events management should be professionalised; we need to utilise more comprehensively our impressive buildings and gardens, from coffee shop to cultural activity, from providing high quality tourist accommodation in our grounds to establishing a nursery. We must avoid hiding our considerable resources under a bushel but rather shout about them and ourselves from the

rooftops. Our only enemies are silence and lack of vision.

I am keen to express my deep gratitude to the wonderful work and commitment undertaken by honorary officers Hilary Rifkind and Jackie Taylor. I am comforted that Hilary is taking over from me as Chair. There are a number of distinguished committees which I wish to highlight, notably the hard working Welfare and Covid Advisory Groups. Together with other committees such as the Community Centre Committee, the Welcoming Committee, the Education Committee, and the Carbon Footprint Group they do vital work. Then there is this wonderful and impressive publication!

*Unetaneh Tokef* speaks of the fragility of our existence. And yet an amazing truth of Rosh Hashanah is that we are so much more than the result of genetically-encoded impulses. We are truly responsible for our actions. It would be lovely to think that this Rosh Hashanah represents the beginning of a new phase in the development of these exciting plans for Salisbury Road.

So may I wish all the Star readers a happy and healthy New Year, wholly free from the debilitating constraints of Covid 19. May you always seek renewal and never stop growing.

**John Danzig**



# Lesley and John Danzig

Edward Green

In November 1976, Queen's Park Synagogue in Glasgow saw the union of John Danzig and Lesley Banks.

Lesley, who had grown up in the Pollokshields area of Glasgow, had met the young North West London boy John at Hillel House in London at an Israeli Dancing evening. The love of dancing, was just one of the things that brought them together but it was to be a year after meeting before they started going out, and then well within twelve months after that they were married.

Lesley and John set up their first home in West Hampstead moving on to Friern Barnet where they were for two years. During their time there, they bought a dilapidated Dormobile and spent a year refurbishing it in their spare time. Their intention was to rent their home and travel overland to Israel via Iran and the Kyber Pass. A most ambitious and enviable plan, but even with the best laid plans comes change as they were soon to see! During this time, Lesley had been working as a primary teacher, her chosen career since graduating university in Glasgow and subsequently Moray House, and John had qualified as a Chartered Accountant following his degree in London.

They had rented out their house, given up their jobs and begun their trip; their first stop in September 1978 Holland finding a flat in the Hague and starting temporary work there. John took a position in Coopers & Lybrand, later PWC, in Rotterdam, a short commute from where they were living. They loved their life in The Hague but the wanderlust remained! The toppling of the Shah in Iran and the war in Afghanistan when the Russians invaded at the start of 1979 scuppered those plans and they decided to drive to Italy only and not to drive all the way east to Israel as they had hoped. They would keep their plans to travel extensively but go west, although first visit Israel for a six week stay. They caught the 'Appolonia', the ferry from Ancona to Israel, where they visited, amongst other places, the kibbutz where Lesley at age 14 together with her parents, had spent a year.

Her father was a big band musician and her parents had decided that the family would make Aliyah to Israel. But within the year it became clear that there was not enough work for a talented big band musician at that time and the family returned to living in Glasgow. In many ways, Lesley recognises that her father was before his time, as Israel has so changed. Lesley and John, to this day love visiting Israel and take enormous pride in seeing the development of the country, what it has become, and the change since their first trip. Lesley had also spent an extended time there when she was 22 with the World Union of Jewish Students. Their son, Samuel, is making his life there but more about him later.



After their drive to Israel in the summer of '79, they returned to their life in Holland and in May of the following year boarded the Polish Ocean Lines ship, The Stefan Batory, (it was to sink a few years later) to sail with their dormobile to Montreal. They proceeded for five months to travel in a giant loop from Montreal down to Florida and over to the west coast and up returning to Montreal visiting friends and family members along the way. That trip was a holiday they will never forget, the memories of which they treasure. They made good friends en-route and a particular Jewish French couple they met on the ship have remained friends to this day. Both John and Lesley were very organised and had the dormobile well equipped; John says the time then was idyllic and he loved the freedom of having his home 'on his back'.

Whilst travelling on the West Coast, John and Lesley pondered their future. They had international choices but decided to return to living in the UK although did not wish to return to London. They had considered buying a campsite as a business, having had such experience on their travels but voted against it. They decided on Edinburgh and settled in Joppa as it was near enough Lesley's family in Glasgow but not on top of them. John returned to his old company, Coopers and Lybrand, and Lesley returned to work as a learning support teacher in various schools after initially working with the Citizens Advice Bureau and then a job in the publication department at John Lewis. Both John and Lesley had become involved with the Portobello Reporter, the local newspaper, so had experience of the publishing world.

Through the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society "The Lit." and Irene and Philip Mason, they visited Salisbury Road but did not join the Synagogue until after their first son, Samuel, was born in 1985. Danny Sinclair was then the religious leader and they were bowled over by the enormous support the community offered by coming in their numbers for the bris which was held in their home in Joppa.



The birth of Benjamin in 1987 was followed by Jonathan a year later. Eighteen months later, Lesley went back to her work as a Learning Support Teacher at Royal Mile School. She moved ten years later to St George's to do the same work. And when Samuel was four, she took on teaching at the Cheder too where there were ten children in the pre-school class at that time. They laugh that the whole family were there on Sunday mornings with Lesley teaching and John having joined the board with the position of Honorary Secretary of the EHC. Lesley was to go on to be Head Teacher during the time we had no rabbi, after Rabbi Sedley left and before Rabbi Rose arrived.

They made good friends within the community, amongst them Doreen and Laurence Bowman, the Masons and Moira and Peter Hart. Both John and Lesley feel that because they have no family here in Edinburgh, the EHC became their family, something that Samuel was to say to them recently, 'I was brought up by the community!'

John set up his own practice in 1991 and they both found their time then was very much consumed with family life revolving around their work and their three young sons. Lesley was and remains a keen gardener, John an avid reader of biographies and Jewish interest books. They are a musical family, understandable with Lesley's background. In the past she has learnt to play violin, piano, and flute, and enjoys craft work such as spinning wool, knitting, crocheting and painting like her mother before her. John is very interested in academic subjects and is studying for a degree in Natural Sciences at the Open University. He is keen to pursue a degree in physics and quantum mechanics. At the University of the 3rd Age, he has formed a group studying and discussing the philosophy of science.

But he finds his time very much taken up with matters concerning the EHC. John has been our most conscientious and respected recent Chairman these last few years following terms as our Secretary and Treasurer. He has introduced all sorts of interesting innovations such as the very successful Opera Night, the Shavuon (e-newsletter), the Pop-Up Diner and raised our profile throughout the country, and indeed internationally. He sees the synagogue and Salisbury Road of enormous potential still even with reduced numbers. He feels he has made progress but we are only 'scratching the surface' as to what we can achieve. His initiatives have certainly helped to create a glimpse of how we can advance. He regrets there is not more positiveness and conversation as to how we will go forward but remains invigorated to help us steer our path although he is no longer our Chair. It is a bruising task at times being the Chair of a synagogue, but John had a tenacity and a belief in our future that is much to be admired and followed.

Having retired in 2010, Lesley has retained her love of gardening and is now a volunteer with the Schools Gardening Project and also tutors school groups at the Botanics here in Edinburgh. A perfect mixture of her talents and her love of gardening.

The Danzig sons have ploughed their own path. These wonderful and all different young men were educated at George Watson's College, a school where many Jewish boys had been in the past but sadly not in their time. John and Lesley felt that the school pulled the most potential out of the boys; Samuel



enjoying his cricket and jazz, and Benjamin rugby. Samuel then spent a gap year in Israel before going on to graduate in Music and Linguistics at SOAS, London University. He is now living in Israel after completing a course at Yeshiva. Samuel is also a most talented shofar blower and we have all had the pleasure of hearing him. He has over the years been kind enough to join his father or the Rabbi in visiting sick or elderly members and blowing the shofar for them in their own home or place of residence.

Benjamin also spent time in Israel as part of his gap year before going on to volunteer in Sri Lanka. He graduated in Jazz Guitar from Leeds College of Music. Retaining his interest in music, he divides his time between playing jazz and klezmer gigs, teaching music at a school in South London where he now lives and studying Non Violent Communication. Jonathan studied Computer Art at the University of Abertay and now is in his third year of a Website Development degree at Napier University. We are most grateful to him for his most competent work on the Shavuon, the EHC website and other matters relating to the synagogue.

John and Lesley's 'retirement' sees them busier than ever. Having sold his accountancy practice in 2014 and an extended period of consultancy, John has dedicated his time to his interests and his much to be admired work for the EHC. Lesley is a perfect partner in this as she is to everything with him and does so much for the community but always in a quiet, unassuming but capable way. They represent us most ably and are to be much admired and indeed thanked for their contribution given in so many ways for the benefit of us all.



# Micheline Brannan



## Edward Green

Edinburgh's loss has certainly been Glasgow's gain! For a couple of years, Micheline Brannan, a stalwart of the EHC, has been living in Glasgow. We have certainly missed her for all sorts of reasons. For her reassuring manner, her enormous capabilities and for her endearing and caring personality to list just a few of Micheline's attributes.

We at the Star will be forever grateful for her innovative and proficient leadership and for guiding this publication for some years. Always in good humour, Micheline has the intellect and skill to direct a good more than the Star, as has been proven by her exciting and varied career.

But let's start at the beginning. Micheline was born in Glasgow to Halina and Israel Moss, her father a Glaswegian and her mother coming from Otwock in central Poland. Educated first at Giffnock Primary, she moved on to Hutcheson's Girls Grammar school and then read Latin, Greek and Philosophy at St Hilda's, Oxford. After graduating, she joined the Civil Service within the Scottish Office in Edinburgh under Bruce Millan, Secretary of State at the time.

With a change of government in 1979, she was made the Private Secretary to the then Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment, now Sir Malcolm Rifkind. It was a particularly difficult time for the Scottish Office as it had manned up for devolution which was rejected in a referendum and after Private Office, Micheline's next job was to secure staffing reductions in line with Margaret Thatcher's plans for slimmed down

government. Micheline was then promoted and spent 2 years writing speeches about the economy, after which she had baby David. Returning to work in 1985 she found herself trying to reform the 14-16 school curriculum against the background of the teachers' dispute, and after those problems were resolved she went off to have baby Duncan. During her maternity leave for Duncan, she moved her family to Jerusalem for a six-month period enjoying all that Israeli life can offer. On return to Edinburgh, Micheline went back to the Scottish Office and a series of policy jobs in the Justice system that lasted 20 more years. There were many highlights of this phase but her favourite work was legislation, such as reform of the parole system, modernisation of the laws dealing with adults with mental incapacity, and the abolition of the ancient system of feudal land tenure.

Micheline took early retirement in 2007 to care for husband Michael, who had been in the Astley Ainslie hospital for 2 years following a stroke. She wanted to take him home but it was not to be. So, in 2008 Micheline decided to change direction completely. She took a Bachelor of Nursing at Napier, and from 2011 until 2015 worked as a nurse at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary before arthritis made it too painful for her to be on her feet so much.

Micheline will never forget the support of the Edinburgh Jewish Community during those difficult years of Michael's illness, including all the kind people who visited him in hospital and the huge turnout for his funeral. The same people gave her great support in her new career of nursing and made her feel proud to have taken that step.

After her retirement, Micheline, forever pushing herself and giving to others, also took on the Editorship of this august publication, ensuring numerous issues during the year by preparing them herself as a pdf and emailing it to people, a most time-consuming endeavour. She also joined and later chaired SCoJeC (Scottish Council of Jewish Communities), and BEMIS (a national body whose mission is to empower Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities). Closer to home, she served on the Board of Edinburgh Synagogue and for a time as Vice Chair, and in the past was Secretary of the Lit and more recently Treasurer of the Lit for about 8 years.

Always a regular shul-goer, she was pleased to have both her sons barmitzvahed at Edinburgh Synagogue, she herself learning to lein to be able to practise with them. To be honest, I'm not sure I know many other mothers who can lay claim to this! She has not let her Hebrew studies die, for Micheline has now embarked on the Daf Hayomi programme, aiming to complete the Talmud a page a day in 7 and a half years. At time of writing she was only on page 52!

Sadly for us, Micheline returned to live in Glasgow in late 2017 primarily to care for her ageing mother. Micheline became the Scottish Regional Fundraiser for the United Jewish Israel Appeal in 2017, whilst continuing as Chair of SCoJeC and BEMIS, and she has now become secretary of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council. Rather gratifying for us, Micheline has not ruled out that one day she may return to Edinburgh full-time. She misses her home in Greenbank Village, the activities and gatherings that Rabbi Rose or the Events Committee host and the Lit. She also misses, but has not said goodbye to, her many and much valued friends and looks forward to seeing them at occasions like Limmud last November. But, as for so many of us, rival attractions may lie in London where son David lives with his young family, having now become Judge David Brannan of the first tier Immigration Tribunal, and son Duncan works in TV.

Micheline is the type of person who makes an enormous contribution wherever she is. She is obliging and generous to a fault, kind and always giving of herself. There is no doubt that the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation are much the poorer for her living those fifty miles away and she is sorely missed. We thank her for all that she has done for us all here in Edinburgh over the years and wish her every happiness in Glasgow. But that wish is always tinged with the sincere hope that we may welcome her back once more to being resident in the fair city of Edinburgh.



## *Mazal Tov...*



to our esteemed former Rabbi, Shalom Shapira, on becoming a great grandfather in December past. Harrel's parents are Shalom's grandson Roee and Hodaya, his wife.

## Chanukah came to Edinburgh Castle 2019



In December, all attending were transfixed to hear the Chanukah classic, Maoz Tzur, being sung for the first time ever at the Governor's Mansion during the annual Choral Festive Party. Spearheaded by Eric von Ibler, Conductor Emeritus of Edinburgh University, the choir performed it beautifully and with much feeling and resonance.



# A Legacy

Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary

– *legacy, noun. that which is left to one by will: a bequest of personal property.*

Elizabeth Rosenbloom

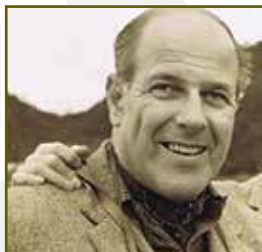
Edmund de Waal's family story, 'The Hare with Amber Eyes' first published in 2010, sold more than one and a half million copies worldwide in 30 translations.



Edmund de Waal

It is a first book by a wonderful talented London potter about his 'hidden inheritance' of 264 Japanese netsuke, a legacy from his ancestral Jewish banking and business family the Ephrussi in Vienna, who were dispossessed of their fortune in 1938 by the Nazi regime. The collection was passed to him by his great uncle Iggie, who had been living in Japan for more than half his life.

Edmund had inherited this 'very big collection of very small objects' after Iggie died in Tokyo in 1994 in his eighties. Edmund had been given a scholarship to study in Japan to learn the language and partake in his professional interest which was ceramics. One afternoon a week he would spend with his great uncle Iggie in his stylish Tokyo apartment, where they would have lunch prepared by the housekeeper, and afterwards his uncle would slide the doors of a large vitrine open to show him the netsuke collection one by one, including a tiny hare with amber eyes. Their conversations took many strange turns and twists each time, as Iggie described his childhood in Vienna where he was born in 1906. The stories were about Jewish friends and family in the city before the first world war. Edmund was becoming aware that he should be taking notes of all these memories, but also felt reticent at the formality of getting a much-loved great uncle to actually dictate his story. It never happened, Edmund went home, and it was not until he inherited the objects, that he decided to go on with what turned out to be a long search to trace their story of how the Ephrussi family came to possess them in the first place. 'The Hare with Amber Eyes' takes us on this fascinating journey to discover a family of enormous wealth who had made the journey from Berdichev in today's Ukraine, to Odessa, where a talented group of brothers developed their grain and oil trading business to include banking. This led to the expansion of business to Paris and Vienna, both cities with a sizeable population of Jewish families of emerging wealth and influence.



Ignace 'Iggie' Ephrussi 1954

There, the families led by brothers, quickly established themselves as influential citizens, businessmen, builders of great mansions in the fashionable parts of the cities, and in Paris beside the Rothschilds, chocolate magnate Emile-Justin Menier and the Jewish financiers the Camondos, they also became art collectors and connoisseurs, using their great wealth and

educated taste to amass collections of important and beautiful objects.

By 2011, Edmund's book had its first reading in the German translation in the Jewish Museum in Vienna. Edmund de Waal stood one evening in October in the Museum in front of a packed audience to present the story of his family. A connection had now been made, and Danielle Spera the museum's director was determined to build on this friendship with the family, now scattered worldwide. For the museum's exhibition 'The Ringstrasse: A Jewish Boulevard', they secured loans from the American branch of the family giving insight into the Palais Ephrussi which was now known to most Viennese as the headquarters of Casinos Austria, the state-owned gambling group! Over the years, many meetings with Edmund de Waal followed when he was giving talks and exhibitions in Vienna. An Australian collector gave two of the ceramic works as a donation. Edmund was taken on a tour of the museum where he was shown donations which the Ephrussi family had made to various Jewish institutions including a magnificent Torah mantle which was housed in the City Temple in 1862. It bore the dedication as "A gift from the heart, to enhance the glory of the house of God". Edmund was very impressed by the museum, and Danielle, the director, travelled to England in 2017 to look at the family archive in Edmund's London studio. Edmund had spread out long tables with photographs and archive items telling the various chapters of the family history in Odessa, Vienna and Paris, where Charles Ephrussi had become an art critic, collector and author.

Charles was the inspiration for Proust's novel 'In search of lost time'. This was the period of the height of French anti-Semitism where the Dreyfus affair had split French society. It was Charles who had bought the collection of Japanese netsuke, tiny carved toggles which are used to attach articles to the sash of traditional Japanese costume, from an art dealer August Sichel who specialised in Far Eastern art, highly fashionable in the 1880s. He gave these to his Viennese relations as a wedding gift. Soon after this visit by Danielle, Edmund and the family in England made the decision to donate the whole archive to the museum, and the netsuke collection to be on long term loan. The current magnificent exhibition "The Ephrussis. Travel in Time" opened in 2019 was the culmination of this archive's journey. The Austrian government's decision to extend citizenship to descendants of Nazi victims who had fled during the Third Reich was further impetus to the family to see the archive housed permanently in Vienna.

I was determined to see it!



A mid-February flight from Edinburgh for £78 return! What's not to like about that! Further searches for a hotel in the celebrated Fleischmarkt in the historic centre within walking distance of the museum clinched the idea. I reckoned that four days would give me enough time to see the exhibition and explore some of Vienna's Jewish past and present. The weather was uncommonly mild, so the down quilted coat, hat and gloves proved far too warm. I set off for the Jewish Museum on day one. It was in 1895 that the establishment of the first Jewish museum in the world took place in Vienna sponsored by a group of prominent citizens; its focus being the culture and history of the Austro-Hungarian Empire's Jewish population, particularly in Vienna and Galicia. Zionist objects were added in the interwar years, but when the Museum was forcibly closed in 1938, the objects and library were dispersed to other institutions in Vienna including the Ethnology Museum. Many of the objects were used for the anti-Semitic propaganda exhibition 'The physical and psychological appearance of the Jews'. Some artefacts were returned by 1950 although some were not restituted until the 1990's. Sadly, over half the objects have disappeared, occasionally turning up on the art and antiques market. The museum opened its doors in 1993 in its present location in the Palais Eskeles in Dorotheergasse, a major overhaul of the building taking place in 2011. The careful curation of its objects is a testament of the pride and prestige the museum's displays and collections now attract.

The second location for the Museum is in the Judenplatz, once the centre of medieval Jewish life in Vienna. Simon Wiesenthal persuaded the city council for the need of a memorial devoted specifically to the victims of the Shoah. In 1995, while preparations were being made for the erection of Rachel Whiteread's competition-winning memorial in the square, the foundations of the medieval synagogue were unexpectedly uncovered and exposed. Built in the mid thirteenth century and added to over the next century and a half to become one of the largest synagogues of its time, it was destroyed in a pogrom of 1421, and the stones used to build the Old University. This spectacular find led to the decision to erect the memorial immediately above the excavations, and the remains of the synagogue can be visited from the Museum's basement. The powerful memorial, a concrete cube which looks like a library turned inwards, pays tribute to the Jews as 'The People of the Book'; the inward looking shelves appear to be filled with endless copies of the same book, containing the life stories of the many victims – and hence forever closed. The double doors on the front of the memorial are also turned inwards and have no doorknobs. They suggest the destruction of intellectual life through the extermination of Austrian and European Jews. On the base in front of these closed doors is a text in German, English and Hebrew commemorating the 65,000 Austrian Jews who were killed, and on the plinth surrounding the whole monument are the names of the places where the crimes against these Jews were committed.



Shoah memorial Judenplatz

The Memorial ties in very well with Edmund de Waal's recent work which has been touring from the Venice Biennale in 2019. 'THE LIBRARY OF EXILE'; opening at the British Museum has been curtailed by the lockdown. The work holds more than 2,000 books written by those forced into exile and spans 88 countries and dozens of languages. Edmund describes it thus; "you reach down a book which matters to you and add your name to the bookplate". It feels like a real response to how reading affects us and how we pass things on.

## A legacy, in fact.

Both the Jewish Museum of Vienna and the British Museum in London are delaying the exhibitions so that post Covid 19, we will be able to see them.



# A Letter from Israel

Carmel Cohen

On a recent family visit back to Edinburgh we went to Shul on Friday evening. I was moved to see a memorial plaque to my grandfather, Reverend Teitleman.

On Shabbat morning I was amazed to learn how active the community is despite its small size. At Kiddush I met Harriet Lyall, whose late mother [Goldie Aronson] was in my class at school. Harriet insisted that I write an article for the Edinburgh Star. Here it is!

We, the Caplan family, were happy in Edinburgh. We had good relations with our non-Jewish neighbours and my parents were active in the community. As keen Zionists, my father was JNF Commissioner and my mother, Chairwoman of WIZO. My brother went to Heriot's school and my sister and I went to Gillespie's. In 1941 my sister, Esther, was Dux\* of the school. On long Shabbat afternoons in the summer we would walk in the King's Park [now Queen's Park] and sometimes climb to the top of Arthur's Seat - only up the difficult path. My father would never let us take the easy way up. We loved Edinburgh yet we always knew that one day we would go to Eretz Yisrael.

One Friday night, my cousin Asher Kaufman met a young South African doctor - Dov Cohen - in Shul and invited him home for dinner. I met Dov and we had so much in common that, by the end of Shabbat, we felt, as they say in Yiddish, it was 'basherte', our destiny. With the warm approval of our parents we became engaged and were married a short time after I graduated from Edinburgh University with MA (Hons.) in Hebrew.

My parents, brother and sister and their families made Aliyah. We arrived in Israel in the Autumn of 1954. My parents met us at the port in Haifa. Although we were expecting them to be happy to see us, my mother stood with tears streaming down her face; she had been witnessing heartbreaking scenes of arrivals of survivors from the camps in Europe, being reunited with their families in Israel. Others were coming from Iraq and North Africa. How did little Israel manage to absorb all these people? It was a miracle, but Israel is full of miracles.

Conditions were hard. There was rationing of food, clothing and footwear. Dov went straight to work in Tel Hashomer Hospital, completing his training in Paediatrics. Salaries were very low and we were lucky to receive our pay by the middle of the month. When news circulated that salaries had arrived, everyone would queue up together: workers, nurses, doctors - even Hospital Director, Dr. Haim Sheba.

\*Note: "Dux", Latin for "leader", was the title awarded in Scottish schools to the top student in the final year.



We received a flat to rent in the Hospital grounds. It was one room with a tiny kitchen in the corner, a shower and a toilet. I bought a piece of material to make a curtain to string across one end of the room to make a nursery for our baby son, Eytan. I remember one Friday preparing for Shabbat. I was making chicken soup from the rations, it was probably no more than 800 g of chicken. When I took the pot off the stove, there was so little space that the pot overturned and all my soup fell into the sink. Despite the hardships, we were young, and happy to be part of the early days of the State.

In 1957 a new General Hospital was planned in Safed to accommodate the growing population in the North. The Rothschilds had built a hospital there at the turn of the 20th century, to counter a mission hospital built by the Church of Scotland. During World War 1 it became a British military hospital. In 1948, it was taken over by the Hadassah Medical Organisation for patients with tuberculosis. My husband was now asked to open up a Children's Department there. So we packed up our belongings and off we went to Safed with our two little children.



Safed had been a great centre of learning and Kabbalah in the 16th century. The old city had ancient synagogues, picturesque winding alleys and an Artists' Colony. A 'Ma'abarah' - a camp for immigrants waiting for permanent housing - was set up with wooden huts. The Hospital provided us with a three-roomed flat of 50 square metres and we felt we were in clover!

Meanwhile, Dov had no idea of the challenge he was facing. Although the Hospital building was imposing on the outside, the interior was dilapidated and plaster was falling off the walls into the children's cots. There were certainly no basic facilities to start a paediatric ward. And, despite Safed's extremely cold winters, there was no heating. The first challenge, however, was dealing with the dirty laundry from the children's ward. Until then it had been sorted outside the front of the hospital and transported in an open horse-drawn cart to the laundry on the other side of town.

Lebanon. After it closed down, the army would take him across the border to the Hospital in Marjayoun, to hold a paediatric clinic there.

We decided to make Safed our permanent home, and so we built a house with a garden. We planned the garden with flowerbeds at the entrance and fruit trees at the back. We planted a vineyard and, eventually, with the help of the children - and later on the grandchildren - my husband made wine.

The house had been built with a separate entrance for patients. After he retired, being dedicated to paediatrics, Dov worked from home in primary care. The Hospital, meanwhile, became a teaching hospital affiliated with Bar Ilan University, the medical school opening its doors in 2011.

I helped as telephonist, secretary and cleaner. I loved working with the mothers and children, learning about the different



We had no telephone, and sometimes Dov worked for hours on end with no way of contacting me. Our first winter in Safed was particularly cold with heavy snowfall. The pipes froze so there was no water; nor was there electricity. We boiled up snow on the paraffin stove. In the spring we would take the children walking in the beautiful surrounding area. When time allowed we would go down to the Kinneret - the Sea of Galilee.

The Hospital expanded and a new building was completed in 1973 just before the Yom Kippur war. In addition to our wounded soldiers, the Hospital now received Druze patients from the Golan Heights which, until then, had been under Syrian rule. With many marriages between cousins, Dov saw inherited diseases that had never before been diagnosed or treated in these children.

As part of Army reserve duty, Dov would see children at a paediatric clinic at the 'Good Fence' at Metulla, opened by the Israeli army for children from the Christian villages in South

people in Safed. He now treated children whose mothers had been his patients as babies. They came from diverse immigrant groups; Moroccan, Tunisian, Russian, Ethiopian, a small number of English speakers and many from Haredi homes. He saw patients from all over the Galilee, never refusing a 'phone request or a knock on the door in the middle of the night.

In his late 80s, Dov was honoured as Distinguished Citizen of Safed. His health declined and, sadly, in 2015, he passed away. I moved to Jerusalem where two of my daughters live. Nevertheless, the house in Safed is often filled with family members.

I have fond memories of growing up in Edinburgh. Yet I look back with gratitude to Hashem, and with pride, that in our small way we have contributed to the building of our country, Israel.



# A Century-old Dream of Aliyah

Harold Sterne



My grandfather's family originally planned to make Aliyah in the 1920s — exactly 100 years ago — with the intention of settling in a small kfar near Binyamina named Karkur. This is the story of Scottish and other British religious Jews whose intense desire to live in the Holy Land led them to found institutions that would purchase land, sign up potential pioneering families and brush aside all obstacles to their goal of Aliyah.

My grandparents Harris and Hannah Simon left Lithuania in 1906 and settled in Edinburgh. Like many other transplanted Lithuanian Jews, they dreamed of settling in Palestine. Fortunately, their dream was shared by others in Edinburgh, London, and other cities. These pioneers-to-be formed a limited liability company, The First London Achuzah Company, to buy land and create a farming community in the Land of Israel.

They sent funds to the Palestine Land Development Company in order to meet their obligations. (Indeed, part of this money had reached the latter Company by various channels during the war years.) The first two members who settled in Eretz Israel were Louis Levinson and B. Davis, who made their homes in Tel-Aviv. Hayyim Inwald, who had passed away not long after the War, had left instructions to be reburied at Karkur, together with a legacy for setting up a medical dispensary there. Levin and Shulman, both from Edinburgh, Scotland, visited Eretz Israel to see how Karkur could be developed, but died on board an Egyptian boat in an epidemic, which was raging at the time. In October 1918 Dr. Hayyim Weitzman wrote to the Achuzah member David Harris:

"You will understand, of course, that just at present it is still difficult to travel to Palestine, and still premature to think of settling there..."

However, the Company were convinced that work on the spot must not be deferred, and sent Israel Olszeman to the country as their representative, to carry out the preliminary work involved in digging a well and putting the area under plantation, subject to consultation with the members who had already settled in the country.

The Directors also regret to have to record the tragic death which has overtaken two of our members, the late Messrs. B. Levine and H. Shulman, both of Edinburgh, who on their return from Palestine caught a contagious disease on entering Port Said. They were placed in quarantine but unfortunately died within 3 days of each other. This was a severe blow to their poor wives and families and likewise to all the members of our Company, and the Directors immediately communicated with the families and expressed to them their sympathy.

By 1920, The First London Achuzah Company had already authorised 2000 shares at £25 each and had brought in £25,000, purchasing land from the Palestine Land Development Co. in Karkur and adjacent Rabia. Company directors had already gone to Palestine, bringing with them army huts, a tractor, various tools and agricultural implements. A large tract of land was leased to nearby Arabs for farming, and a nursery of 4,000 olive and 1,600 almond trees was purchased. After boring a well 22 meters into the soil, the property finally yielded 3,000 gallons of good fresh water.

The First London Achuzah Company's 1920 Annual Report of September 1, (exactly 100 years ago) reported the colony's costs, including new buildings, iron works, pumps, horses, olive, almond, and eucalyptus trees to drain the swamps, plus expenses for barley and wheat as well as labour and management costs. The Report sums up the company's progress by stating: "The Directors think that the shareholders will feel satisfied with the start made on their behalf and... that very shortly the Colony will be sufficiently developed to receive all those members who are prepared to go and make their permanent home there".

The Annual Report also mentioned that three men from Edinburgh had travelled to Palestine to check on the company's investments, but caught typhoid fever on the return home and died in Port Said, Egypt.

Those members anxious to settle in Karkur included my grandfather and grandmother. There were other families that went to Palestine from Edinburgh such as the Kaufmans, the Tossmans who went as early as 1920 and the Nathans to name a few. But as serious proposed pioneers, the family prepared themselves by sending their son David to study agriculture in Canada in 1932. Although all shipping and other arrangements had already been made for the move to Israel in the mid-1930s, my grandfather became gravely ill, passing away in 1936, and the family sadly had to stay in Edinburgh. David returned home from Canada, later graduating as a doctor in Edinburgh. The dream of aliyah was abandoned.

Eight years later, a woman and her daughter arrived in Edinburgh from Israel. Although her name was also Simon, she was no relation. The woman persuaded my mother to sell her the rights to the family's land in Israel. Grandmother's brothers and sister found out, resulting in a fierce family row.

In 1986, after selling my business, my late wife and I made Aliyah. Soon after our arrival, we travelled to Karkur to see the almost legendary place I had heard about all my life. I checked in with the local kfar office in Karkur to request assistance. After explaining who I was and the family's history with Karkur, Mr. Perach, the local official, took down a thick file that contained many letters from my mother, her brothers and her sister. The records showed that during the intervening years much had happened in Karkur and Israel, and the family connection to Karkur was lost.

Meanwhile, Karkur had slowly progressed from an empty wasteland to a sleepy farming colony founded by English-speaking chalutzim, then becoming a moshav, which today has morphed into Pardes Chana-Karkur - a up-and-coming residential area on the Binyamina train line.

My grandfather would have been pleased to know that two of his grandchildren and two of his great-grandchildren have fulfilled his dream of Aliyah.

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is pleased to announce its much  
enhanced and enlarged WEBSITE



Full details of all its new features  
are on Page 38

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# Bonhams



# David Gonshaw

## Edward Green

David Gonshaw's start in life was not easy. He was a victim of the times but also of his birth. Born in the early thirties, his mother was a seamstress and housewife. His father left home before he was ten and he was never to see him again.

David saw the devastating effects of the blitz and indeed was a casualty of it, first being evacuated to Whitstable which proved to be equally dangerous where he saw fighting overhead between the Hurricanes, Spitfires and the Messerschmitts. Returning to Brixton where his mother lived, he saw even more of the blitz and witnessed the blowing up of a shelter next to their home, killing many. He was once more evacuated out of London to Gainsborough in Lincolnshire which proved to be a terrible experience. On arrival, he caught scabies and was sent to hospital. On release, David was sent to a camp school near Hemel Hempstead where he was to stay for four years and enjoy some sort of contentment. When the time came for him to leave, he found it very distressing, as he had no real home to return to as his mother could not accommodate him and had 'moved on'. The next few years were very unsettled; he moved to Stevenage for a few months and in early 1946 was in a hostel in Hatton Garden, London. Later that year, he returned to live with his mother who by that time had relocated to Finsbury Park in North London.

They were soon on the move again as his mother remarried and they went to live in Hackney. After being demobbed, his stepfather, Sidney Winter, had a credit drapery business and David helped him briefly before joining the merchant navy for two years attending training school in Gravesend. He was sixteen at this point. In early 1948, he was on a very small cargo ship of 500 tons that sailed up the river Rhine and docked in the port of Cologne. He told me that on the dockside was a starving young woman with a baby in her arms whom he took on board giving sustenance and shelter. Of course, this was strictly forbidden, but he went against all the rules letting her off the ship at the next port. His merchant navy days were not all plain sailing as he also suffered from severe asthma once practically losing his life whilst out at sea. It was only the quick thinking of

the Doctor on board that saved his life but it was to be weeks before he could work again.

Unable to find a suitable ship to serve on two years later, David opted to undertake National Service and was sent to Germany after initial training in Yorkshire. He was a dispatch rider in the army, the length of service having been extended from eighteen months to two years as the Korean War had broken out and the army was on alert.



At this point, David's life seemed to continue in these two or three yearly stints. On leaving the army, David was a bus driver for London Transport before working for a Jewish owned company as a van driver, leaving two years later to join his stepfather in his business working as a collector salesman for three years. The next period saw David running his own paraffin delivery service, making good money, before moving on and undertaking a hairdressing course, the idea to open a salon with his then girlfriend. Sadly the romance failed and this led to a nervous breakdown. Recovering, David returned to various delivery jobs whilst living with his mother and stepfather who were by this time in Stanmore. It was then that David felt that the lapse in his education needed to be addressed. David had been unable to read or write until the age of thirteen and recognising that he was way behind others, wrote to Harrow

Council for a grant to attend college. He was given funding to last him one academic year allowing him to attend Fairmont College in Birmingham. This is where he learned writing and other skills which were to help him move on in life.

It was on his return to Stanmore after college that his Jewish life was awakened. He had never been told by his mother that he was Jewish although she lit candles every Friday night without David knowing there was any meaning attached. An aunt had let the secret of his birth slip. David had been taken along by a friend to the West Central Club in High Holborn run by a Miss Levy meeting where he met a host of Jewish youth. That precipitated a trip to Israel in 1962 where he stayed for seven weeks; many years later David was granted Israeli citizenship.

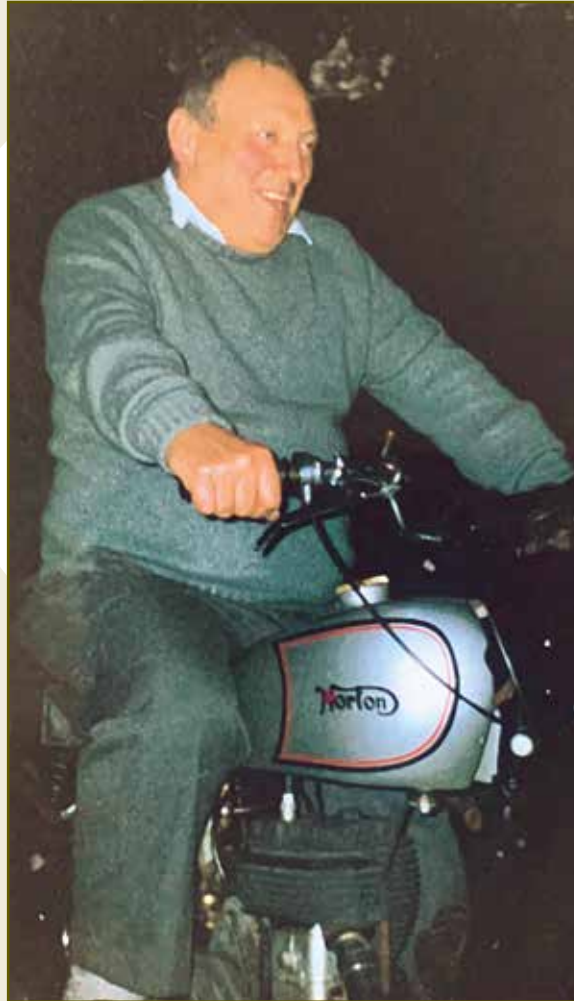


He had found his heritage having had no previous knowledge. Nine years later, when he was forty, he was to further examine his Jewishness through the support of the Lubavitch in Stamford Hill. And later again when he had moved to Edinburgh, although he had been there for some years, he had the urge to visit Salisbury Road on Yom Kippur 1997 leading to his membership of the community in Edinburgh. David Sedley was then the Rabbi and David found him an enormous support in his quest for his religion and belonging. He recounts that the first year was hard-going and that it was Rabbi Sedley who encouraged him to persevere and support the community, for which he will always be grateful, making friends with the late David Goldberg, Gershon Mendick and the Gilberts to name just a few. David has also persevered in his thirst for knowledge of the faith he was born to, learning to read Hebrew and to this day reads in Hebrew a daily parshah from the Chumash. On joining the EHC, David also became a member of Lodge Solomon and over the years has remained a committed Mason.

But back to 1964 which saw his return to Israel for a full year, living and working for a time on a kibbutz, and employed as a truck driver elsewhere during this time. But unable to settle, no doubt due to his unpredictable childhood, David returned by car overland through Italy to Stanmore where by this time his mother and stepfather had separated. Sadly, he had never enjoyed a strong relationship with his mother; any closeness erased by his absence during his formative years. David couldn't settle into work on his return and took a variety of jobs before once again feeling that his lack of formal education needed to be further addressed. In 1973, he had saved what was then the princely sum of £500 to register for a residential year's course at Newbattle Abbey College in Dalkeith and it was there that his life would change finally for very much the better.

He met Irene who was the residential domestic bursar and they found a companionship that had eluded David for his life until that point. David talks of Irene grounding him. For all his life he had wandered and now he found a partner and contentment. They married and Irene encouraged David to buy a home for the first time in his life. They bought their first home in Southfield Loan, just off the Milton Road in Edinburgh. David became a driving instructor, an occupation that he followed for over twenty years. They enjoyed a companionship that middle age can bring with long drives in to the countryside and travel abroad.

David even took Irene flying, a past time that he had enjoyed since the early sixties when he had wanted to become a commercial pilot, his lack of education and funds precluding him taking the flying course. David, over the years, had indulged in his hobby and learnt to fly, eventually racking up over 850 hours flying solo mostly out of Elstree and Edinburgh airports. David also was a bit of a daredevil in his flying days, at one time in his mid-thirties flying under one of the bridges that span the Thames; that little exploit cost him a six month ban! Even to this day, he relishes the memory of the sense of freedom flying gave him and remembers the wonderful peace that flying provided especially when one was towing gliders into the air.



David also enjoyed riding his motorbikes owning, over the years, a Norton and a BMW amongst others. Like flying, he loved the sense of freedom that riding a motorbike could give him. And he also told me of buying a minivan once for £50 to drive down to Marseilles to visit a girl he knew, and then driving home and selling the car for the purchase price. This very well describes David's sense of adventure. But over the last twelve years his major passion has become writing. Stories about his flying and army days are well recounted, as well as novellas and fables about famous people. David has literally written tens of thousands of words, enough for a number of books. I, amongst others, have very much enjoyed his writings whenever he has allowed me to read them.

David and Irene moved into Greendyles Road in 2004, a home they were to share until Irene's sudden death in March this year after over forty years of marriage. Irene had, for the last couple of years, been suffering from dementia, a cruel illness that robbed them both of a peaceful contentment in their last years together. David looks on Irene as his anchor and recognises that his life was only on an even keel after they married. She gave him a base, and in

effect provided the stability for a man who had always a need to move on throughout his life. She was even patient enough to allow him to return after spending a year away in Israel during his marriage recognising that in many ways David was a free spirit. He has remained so to this day.

Over the years, David has become a well-known and respected member of our community. Few of us will have known his story; he has always been reticent in telling us about his life, showing a modesty for his many achievements and exploits. I think we all have enormous admiration for what he has achieved despite many deprivations that would have held others back. I thank David for allowing this interview to take place.



# 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."

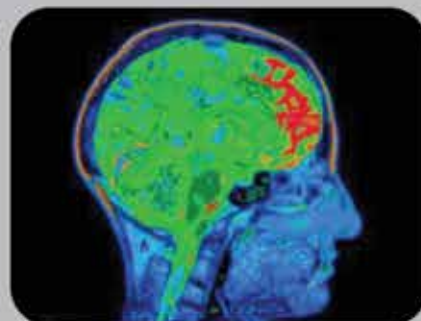
"Acting now will vastly improve life for people with dementia and their families and, in doing so, will transform the future of society."

#### 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!**



**0131 629 1819**

[www.edinburghhearingpractice.co.uk](http://www.edinburghhearingpractice.co.uk)  
[admin@edinburghhearingpractice.co.uk](mailto:admin@edinburghhearingpractice.co.uk)

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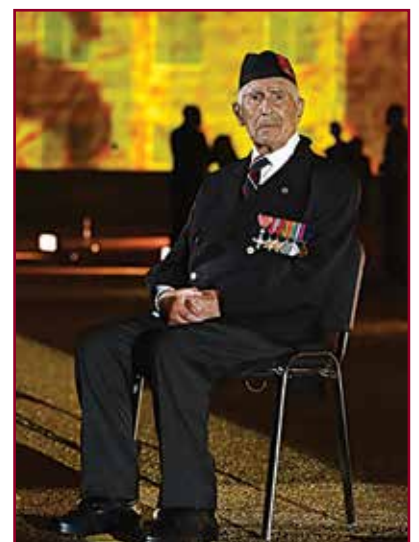
## 75th Anniversary of VJ Day

Edward Green

August's 75th anniversary of VJ day was celebrated in a strange style and due to the Covid 19 rules very much at a social distance.

My step-father, Arthur Lawson, now 98 and one of the last remaining veterans fighting in the Far East was called upon once again by the BBC to feature in their programmes marking this momentous victory. He had featured in previous anniversaries. First came an interview at our home down south, where they set up a filming camp in the garden. Fortunately it was a good day, and it was fascinating to see how much effort and paraphernalia goes into a mobile studio! Arthur remembers all as if it were yesterday and is very erudite; he imparts with the most impressive clarity the details of his years and those of others serving during those terrible times.

The week before the anniversary saw him whisked up to London to film on Horse Guards Parade in advance of the day, the 15th August. His testimony was recorded, with a standing ovation at the end given by the orchestra, the film crews and all who were there. And on the actual anniversary day, the BBC screened his contribution as the final and most moving reflections for the event which had been hosted by Joanna Lumley with an impressive cast, and a tribute to the veterans given by the Duke of Cambridge.





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# Chabad

## Adam Schwartz

When I began my studies at the University of Edinburgh in their Masters of Animation program, I was immediately taken by the city. Coming from Montreal Canada's Jewish community, everything in Edinburgh from its timeless architecture, its people and its old-world culture felt inviting to me.



Rabbi Pinny Weinman with three of his wonderful sons, together with Adam Schwartz

After settling in my dorm and classes I was getting accustomed to living in the city of Edinburgh and even found a job at Hector Russell Kilt makers. After being exposed to the wonderful Scottish ethos, I began to explore the Jewish culture that the city has to offer. It was not long until I came across Chabad Edinburgh and met Rabbi Pinny & Gitty Weinman and their children.

In my hometown of Montreal, I was very familiar with the Lubavitch movement and had a long appreciation for what this school of Hassidim does for the Jewish Community. I attend Rabbi Weinman's Friday night dinners on a weekly basis. From the moment I first knocked on his door, I was greeted with a warm smile and an inclusive atmosphere. Every Friday night feels like you are at a relative's house spending your Shabbat dinner with friends and family. The sense of warmth and connectiveness continues with his weekly Torah lessons. Regardless of one's level of knowledge of Torah or Hebrew, Rabbi Weinman will guide you through the Parsha of the week and you will experience a mini version of Yeshiva life in Scotland.

A crucial aspect of Chabad Edinburgh is its approach to the Jewish holidays. When one prays in their small synagogue, it feels as if you are transported into the golden age of Jewish life in Eastern Europe but with a modern spin. From Rosh Hashanah to Purim, Chabad Edinburgh creates a sense of Jewish belonging and connects one to Yiddishkeit in a place where one would least expect to see it. One of the highlights of my experience with Chabad Edinburgh was lighting of the Hanukkah Menorah in St. Andrew Square this past year. I am accustomed to Chabad's lighting of the Menorah from my experience in Montreal and know the honor of lighting the Menorah is normally bestowed to public officials and important members of the community. I felt truly part of the Jewish community here in Edinburgh as I lit the Menorah with the Flower of Scotland playing in the background as both Rabbi Weinman and I were hoisted up to the top of the Menorah. As we were lowered down, I realized that no matter where a Jew may go in the world, Judaism will always be with them and Chabad makes sure that the Jewish Nation has no borders in the world.

Here is to another wonderful year with Chabad Edinburgh.

# Holocaust Memorial Day

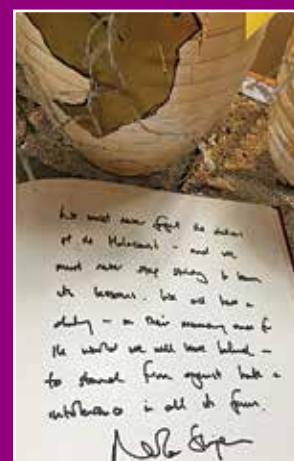
Edward Green

Tuesday the 21 January marked the opening of an exhibition at St Ninian's R.C. school in Edinburgh where the young students had decorated 75 paper lanterns to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

Judy Russell was having a busy week and she spoke here at the school to the children as well as at the Lit, of her parents and their frightening and harrowing time during those dreadful years.



Judy Russell



Then on the evening of the 27th January, the Scottish parliament hosted in the Garden Lobby the National Commemorative Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day. It was particularly gratifying to know that for the first time in many years, HMD ceremonies in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland were taking place on the same day.

Iain Gray MSP and Daniel Johnson MSP were the sponsors with the Memorial hosted by Interfaith Scotland to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the 25th anniversary of the Genocide in Bosnia.

The First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, welcomed to the Parliament Janine Webber, survivor of the Holocaust, and Hasan Hasanović, survivor of the Genocide in Bosnia. Both told their remarkable and moving stories to a Parliament packed with guests from across Scotland.

Nicola Sturgeon, The First Minister of Scotland, said: This year is particularly poignant as we observe the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and 25 years since the genocide in Srebrenica. The theme for this Holocaust Memorial Day – Stand Together – highlights the importance of our collective societal responsibility to stand against hatred and prejudice and to promote strong, inclusive and respectful communities.

The commemoration in Scotland also included a digital exhibition of The Children of Buchenwald, created collaboratively by the pupils of Bellahouston Academy and two schools in Rostov on Don in Russia.

One of the highlights of the evening in Parliament was the playing of the specially commissioned music Unforgotten, written and composed by Oleg Ponomarev, a Russian Jewish Gypsy and world famous musician, and Lev Atlas from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.



Janine Webber



# Yom Ha'Shoah 5780

Tuesday 21st April 2020



Ingrid and Henry Wuga

Yom Ha'Shoah 5780 was indeed very different. Our usual venue of the Princes Street Gardens where the Holocaust Memorial is was replaced by Zoom! But it gave us the opportunity to hear a testimony so movingly given by Ingrid and Henry Wuga on line from Glasgow. Ingrid and Henry, now well in their nineties, never say no and are always willing to speak on the Holocaust helping to teach many who often have no idea as to what went on. Their personal memories have altered literally thousands' perception of what happened. Children from all over Scotland in so many schools have benefited from hearing them and indeed meeting them, as have parliamentarians, lawyers, medics and people from all walks of life in Scotland.

Introduced by our Chairman, we heard from Dorothy Sherratt about her visit to Poland, from Lesley Danzig about Denmark's experiences during the Holocaust, a reading from Marjory Broadie, and further reminisces from Françoise Robertson who has been our most welcome main speaker in the past.

Rabbi Rose conducted the service with Rabbi Mark Solomon singing 'Asherei Hagafrur' concluding with Julian Goodman reciting the El Malei Rachamin, the Memorial Prayer.



Unforgotten being performed



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# 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz

On Monday 27 January 2020 a historic event took place on the high street of Edinburgh marking the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz.

In 1945 on this date the Soviet army liberated several thousand remaining Jewish prisoners at Auschwitz following the extermination of 1 million others. The event was organised by the Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre.

The Rt Honourable Frank Ross, the Lord Provost welcomed leaders of the Edinburgh Jewish community, Rabbis Rose, Solomon and Wineman, Ash Denham, MSP, Scottish Government Secretary for Community Safety, Andrey

Yakelov, Consul General of Russia, Janine Webber, Holocaust Survivor, students from the Jewish Students on Campus and many others to Edinburgh City Chambers. The participants then processed to the War Memorial and wreaths were laid on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council, Auschwitz State Museum, the Russian Consulate and Edinburgh University.

A letter was read by the Lord Provost from the Vice President of the Auschwitz - Birkenau State Museum commending the City of Edinburgh and its Jewish community for their efforts to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz.



Professor Joe Goldblatt, a trustee of the Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre said "Of course we all wish this tragic event had never occurred. However, it was important for Scotland's capital city to lead in our national commemoration with the official laying of wreaths at our War Memorial. To my knowledge, this is the first time in the long history of our city that an official civic ceremony was held to honour the memory of the Auschwitz victims, to cherish the survivors and to give thanks to their rescuers".

## Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society 2019-20 Report

**Harold Wollman** (President of EJLS)

David Aaronovitch, has an impressive CV too long to mention all here, but within the list is included, broadcaster and commentator on culture, international affairs, politics and the media.

David spoke to a large and receptive audience on the subject of his book, 'Party Animals: My Family and Other Communists'. His London's East End Jewish father and non-Jewish mother were card-carrying communists and devout atheists. They lived cautiously loyal to their beliefs in an anti-communist majority. Their commitment and involvement in the movement informed everything else in their lives.

Though his father vehemently dismissed and thwarted any early attempts to find out about his heritage, later in life his curiosity won out. Though he may not adhere to all its ramifications and despite all his father's attempts David clearly identifies with his new found ethnicity. However he could not ignore his controversial upbringing and when he was invited to write for the JC he felt he had to decline. An altogether fascinating talk and question time.





# FROM INEQUALITY

UJIA is committed to improving the lives of children and young adults in Israel. Over the past few months, we have had to go further, as the corona pandemic threatened to make life even worse for those on the periphery or at risk. We have worked with the vulnerable to ensure the gaps that already exist do not widen during these challenging times.

Here in the UK with Israel Tour and Birthright not able to take place this summer, we have been working on new and innovative ways to ensure that our young people are still engaged with Israel, even when they cannot visit.

This Kol Nidre our appeal to you is to help us close the gaps in Israeli society by changing inequality into opportunity and working with us to ensure that future generations of British Jews retain that unbreakable lifelong connection.

To support the work of UJIA today, you can donate online at [ujia.org/kn20](https://ujia.org/kn20) or contact Charlene Blake on **0141 530 5340** or email [charlene.blake@ujia.org](mailto:charlene.blake@ujia.org)



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# During the pandemic of 2020 ZOOM comes to the EHC

## Coffee Morning 10th May



## The Welfare Group at work







**Anthea Jackson, JCD's Executive Director**

### Brief History of Jewish Child's Day

By 1946, with the realisation that probably a million Jewish children had perished in Hitler's death camps, two Jewish agencies were both working to alleviate the hardship faced by the survivors. Youth Aliyah was responsible for the emigration of as many of these children as possible to Palestine and to aid their rehabilitation there. The Central British Fund was financing the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad, providing immediate help such as shelter, care and medical expenses for thousands of children both overseas and in the UK. It also funded homes in the UK and, for more chronic cases, in Switzerland for many victims of tuberculosis.



Inspired by the work of both these organisations, the late Arie Handler and the late Dr Israel Feldman conceived the idea of creating a "Jewish Child's Day," which would differ from other fundraising bodies in that it would fully involve the children of the UK in raising money for their less fortunate brothers and sisters all over the world. This was to be held on the first Sunday of Chanukah. Mr Handler had been one of the founders of the Religious Zionist movement in the UK and present at the Israeli Declaration of Independence.

The Jewish Chronicle became Jewish Child's Day Patron, and remains so to this day. The first Jewish Child's Day was subsequently held on the 14th December 1947 and was a resounding success. It is estimated that around £14,000 was raised in that first year – a tremendous sum for the time equating to over £500,000 now!

A Jewish Child's Day collection box was to be found in most Jewish homes especially where there were children. Many will later remember the iconic 'blue egg' collection box. The money raised in the early days was to be split equally between Youth Aliyah and The Central British Fund (CBF). Part of the funds were to be used in a scheme which was known as Operation Grand National Junior, whereby unaccompanied children under fourteen were enabled to leave the Displaced Persons' (DP) camps and proceed to Palestine as legal immigrants. The idea was well received and Chaim Weizmann, the first President of Israel agreed to be the President of Jewish Child's Day and sent a message to its sponsors; ***"Our children are today the only real asset that remains to us... No investment in the world pays higher dividends in human happiness and contentment than the rescue and rehabilitation of children"***.

It is these powerful words and sentiments that have driven the charity to become the organisation it is today and has allowed us to continue the vital work to help Jewish Children in need not just once per year but all year round for over 70 years.

### The Work of Jewish Child's Day

Today the charity allocates over £300,000 to around 120 projects per year across the UK, Israel and smaller communities around the world supporting children aged between 0-18 years of age.

Our work knows no bounds and through funding grants provide support to those children who are blind and deaf, those challenged by physical, learning or emotional difficulties, children who have been abused, neglected, deprived or disadvantaged, children who don't have a safe and secure family or home, and those who are battling against severe illness. We support projects who provide an array of services. It is through such incredible organisations that Jewish Child's Day often helps those children find their smile again and go on to lead valuable and good lives.

Sadly, there is enormous demand for this work; our support is needed every day of the week, every week of the year and to this end fundraising has become a year round necessity. From medical equipment such as wheelchairs and walkers, funding hospice rooms for children who are terminally ill to weekly horse-riding sessions to assist a group of severely autistic children we do our utmost to support.

Recently a big push has been to support the battle in response to the mental health crisis facing our youth of today. Jewish Child's Day work with iHeart (Innate Health Education and Resilience Training) – is dedicated to increasing mental health, well-being and resilience in the UK. iHeart's vision is to effect a sea-change in how young people perceive their wellbeing and mental health, creating resilient adults and contributing members of society. Over the past two years, the iHeart programme has been delivered to over 3,500 young people in 55 schools and educational institutions, primarily in the UK, but also in Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and the USA. JCD are particularly proud to be have been a part of this process which are very active in a number of London Jewish primary schools. The Training is a dynamic 10-session wellbeing programme already proven to be highly successful in helping



children manage stress, anxiety, low self-esteem and conflict, as well as many other emotional and social changes they encounter, such as dealing with social media and bullying.

In the same vein, Jewish Child's Day also support Arts Therapies for Children, an organisation working with school SENDCO's (Special Education and Special Needs Coordinators) where children who have emotional or behavioural difficulties are identified. Arts Therapies for Children work with 15 Jewish primary schools in the UK, and through Art & Play therapy, children are provided with the essential therapeutic support that they deserve.

This is a growing medium for assisting children and is active here in Edinburgh particularly in the more disadvantaged areas such as Wester Hailes where there is a dedicated Art Therapy Room opened by the Duchess of Cambridge at the Education Centre.

Incredibly, it seems almost impossible to think that children in developed western countries die from hunger and do not have the means to have a hot meal every day. JCD fund a number of projects who support such children and give them that essential meal they need.

The charity's philosophy has never wavered, and we still encourage Jewish youngsters to take some form of responsibility for the care of Jewish children who are less fortunate than themselves. Our annual Blue-ish Jewish Day held across Jewish Primary Schools across the United Kingdom is testament to this and has become synonymous with the charity. The simple action of dressing in blue and donating £1 is something truly magical, simple and so very effective.

We see our aim as being to collaborate more with like-minded organisations where we have the same remit and objectives. For example, we are planning to run a joint challenge Trek in Israel next year together with Keren Malki. The Malki Foundation empowers Israeli families of children with severe disabilities to keep the children within their family home instead of living in institutions.

Earlier this year we partnered up with PJ Library, the Jewish family engagement programme, to send a book to almost 8,000 children throughout the UK. These are free award-winning books based on Jewish culture, values and traditions to children aged between 6 months-8 years. One of the books 'Be Kind' fitted right into our remit with the message of Tzedakah; the basis of the Jewish Child's Days' ethos. By sharing ideas and working together in partnership with other organisations such as this, it reduces costs, raises more awareness and helps us to share our values and mission.

As with many charities of a similar age, JCD sees a challenge in engaging the younger generation but we see that achieved by always seeking new initiatives and collaborations. Jewish Child's Day's outreach supports communities not just in London but across the UK, including children's centres in Manchester, 'hardship to therapy' programmes in Leeds and in the past special educational tools for schools in Glasgow to name but a few. JCD are aware that many of the regional communities are getting smaller but are still so grateful to those who support us each year through their Kol Nidre Appeals. Eve Oppenheim has been a member of the National Council of Jewish Child's Day since 1969; her continued commitment and love of the charity is very much appreciated and valued.

### Eve Oppenheim writes...

I was asked to join the newly-founded Jewish Child's Day Edinburgh committee at its inception in 1961 and was invited to become chairman when the previous chairman moved to Glasgow. Attending the quarterly meetings of the National Council of JCD from 1969 as the Edinburgh delegate, gave me an insight into how the grants committee operated, carefully scrutinising the many requests for help before allocating some or part of the requested funds to those most in need.



Sadly, the community has dwindled, as has our own committee, but we have managed to retain our annual Chanukah Appeal for Jewish Child's Day. I am always splendidly supported by Carole Cowen, whose help is invaluable and by Merav Gardi who organises the Cheder collection....my sincere thanks! Finally, and most importantly my whole-hearted thanks to the Edinburgh Community who have, over many years, willingly and kindly donated so generously to our Annual Appeal.



# Recipes for you to try

Harriet Lyaall

What could be a tastier treat to the tastebuds than the delicious interaction of fresh juicy salad with succulent fried fish in crispy batter?



## Salads

### Israeli Salad



Israeli salad is a staple of buffets at our self-catered events: its appeal lies in its simplicity, being a combination of crunchy cucumber and sweet, plump tomato, finely diced into cubes which, according to your particular preference, can be as small as 5 mm or as large as 1/2 inch. The mixture is seasoned with herbs and a dressing of oil, vinegar and lemon juice. A gadget similar to a potato ricer or garlic press can be used to achieve uniformity and also speed up the cutting for the type of salads featured here. (I used an Oxo Good Grips Vegetable Chopper, purchased for £17:59 from Lakeland.)

#### French dressing

The proportions of French dressing are approximately 1 part vinegar to 2 parts oil; to these are added, according to taste: lemon juice, crushed garlic, dried herbs, mustard, and salt and pepper; even a soupçon of sweetener such as honey can be added should you so prefer.

My Chilean friend makes a rather similar salad called "Pebre" by adding copious fresh lime juice, fresh chopped coriander leaves, Jalapeño peppers and/or Tabasco sauce and finely diced onions to the cucumber, tomato, seasoning and dressing. The ingredients are minced together and left to marinade so that the end result is akin to a salsa.

### Russian Salad



#### Ingredients

Waxy potatoes boiled and chopped  
or fluffy potatoes mashed  
Carrots, boiled  
Gherkins, chopped  
Tinned or frozen peas  
Chopped fresh parsley or, as here, coriander  
Mayonnaise

Mix ingredients together and serve as shown.

Recipe by Mary Cadogan, BBC Good Food online.  
Variations on this recipe include celery, French beans, broad beans, and capers. Hollandaise sauce may be used instead of mayonnaise.

# Batters

## Avril's Fried Fish Dressing



This is not a true batter, but rather a light coating of the fish before frying.

Lunch Club supremo Avril creates the Dressing from egg and fine matzoh meal in the proportions, for 36 fish, 750 g matzoh meal to one dozen eggs. Scaled down, this equates to:

### Ingredients

2 eggs, beaten  
125 g matzoh meal  
6 fillets of sole

Lightly swish the fish in the mixture of beaten egg and matzoh meal and fry quickly in hot oil.

Avril's fried fish is renowned for its light, succulent texture and delicious flavour. This is due to her skill in creating the Dressing and to her expert judgement of timing and temperature in the frying process.

For the purposes of this feature, we are assuming that the Batters here detailed would be used to fry fish. Nevertheless, there is nothing to say you can't fry anything you fancy in batter, for example, broccoli, mushrooms, elderflowers, apple rings, even deep-frozen ice cream or, dare I say it, a Mars bar!



Herb Garden behind the Beit Ha Midrash

## Tempura Batter



Pieces of Halibut and Sole, and chunks of Aubergine, in Tempura Batter

The following is taken from "The Fish Course" by Susan Hicks, published by BBC Books 1987:

This very light batter gives a crisp snowy appearance and is suitable for coating deep-fried small pieces of fish.

### Ingredients

One egg  
250ml of iced water  
125g of white flour, sifted

Using a balloon whisk or fork, lightly mix together all the ingredients until smooth. Do not beat or overmix. Use straight away.

Tempura requires minimal cooking time, allowing the flavour of the fish to be unimpaired and savoured to the full.

Note: *Tempura*, with a "u" is not to be confused with *tempera*, with an "e", which denotes a type of oil paint. More information on the truly fascinating origins of tempura can be found online, for example on the YouTube channel "BEGIN Japanology - Tempura" by Peter Barakan.





# The Edinburgh Star's New Website

Jo Capek

It was in 2013 that the then editor Micheline asked me to create a website for The Star. Back then, there were three printed issues a year, but over time this varied, with some issues becoming on-line only, before finally just a single, large, professionally produced publication was issued at Rosh Hashana.

Through the years the website remained unchanged, other than for the addition of the new magazines as they came out as well as occasional notifications about events at The Fringe, etc. Not being one to blow my own trumpet, I will limit my comments about the current site to saying it behaved flawlessly, though as the number of issues per annum reduced, so did the number of visitors who appreciated this.

Over this period, websites have developed enormously with the result the one I had created has long begun to look tired and drab. Thus, it was increasingly obvious that the community had a splendid asset, but one that was now going to waste. Step in the current editor Edward, who decided that not only did it require invigorating, but better still a total re-incarnation was called for. Ever the amenable underling, I concurred. Also, over the years, my web creation talents had been left far, far behind: somewhere in the electronic middle-ages. Hard as it was for somebody with an ego the size of a planet to admit it, I had to accept I was not the person to design a new and interesting resource for everybody with affiliations to Edinburgh Jewry. In other words, The Edinburgh Star website needed a complete revamp; one created by a professional au fait with the most recent developments in website creation.



So much for the background: what does this new website offer?

Unlike the previous site which had less than half the issues up on-line, the new one has every single publication. This has involved scanning thirty or so of the earliest magazines for which no suitable computer file existed.

Furthermore, whereas the previous site allowed you to read the whole of those publications that had been loaded on to it, there was no easy way of searching for a specific article, photo, individual or place within them. Many a happy hour could be

spent reading back issues before tracking down the piece desired – always assuming that this was not on one of the 'absent' magazines.

Consequently, arguably the largest change is that now the entry of a single word or phrase will

send the electronics scurrying to find every reference to these key words, as well as offering you the precise pages where they are to be found.



The previous site had been written at a time when internet access on mobile phones was still in its relative infancy. Nowadays an individual is just as likely to use the 4G or 5G connection on their phone to access websites as they are to use a PC or Apple computer via a wi-fi. This meant that whereas The Star's site still looked acceptable on the relatively large 'landscape' orientated screen of a laptop, it was far from attractive or easy to scroll around the smaller 'portrait' one of a mobile. The new site is now equally suitable for either. Heaven forbid that a third type of device becomes the norm!

Large numbers of our readers are familiar with the use of Blogs. Their immediacy and flexibility of informing or contacting members can be invaluable. The new site therefore incorporates one, but sadly it can not be as open as we would have liked. It is a sad fact that a significant segment of the population is blessed with a knowledge of world affairs gleaned from Mein Kampf, Hisbullah or Twitter. Unsurprisingly these persons would see it as their duty to employ these 'facts' to litter our Blog with the benefit of their intellect couched in four letter vocabulary. Therefore, it will unfortunately be necessary to submit your comments, queries and notices to the site's webmaster who will place it in this area for you. The site's creators hope that this slight inconvenience will not stop what therefore will more realistically be called the 'From our readers' feature, becoming a priceless method of getting in touch with persons that one has lost contact with over time, passing on news of interest to Edinburgh's Jewish community or placing requests for further information about material found on the site.

Lastly, but most definitely not least, the new site had not only to have an attractive, modern look but also become an ever-growing, valuable national resource for years and hopefully generations to come. Is one a hopeless dreamer imagining that at some time in the future one's great-grandchildren will look one up on this new site to see what we got up to during 'The Pandemic'?

Naturally an archive such as this has to be easy to use in order that persons,

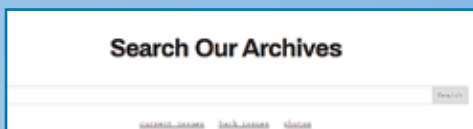
irrespective of whether they have Edinburgh connections or not, no matter where they are in the world, will wish to return frequently to browse the site; much as one may repeatedly return to a favourite family photo album. Achieving this is easier said than done since over forty years in the computer industry has taught me that much of the population would rather walk on hot coals than read an instruction manual. Nevertheless, since the searching capabilities of the new site are now so comprehensive, some explanation of what will probably become its most useful and popular feature is needed. Familiarity with Google searches is fine up to a point but would not make best use of The Star website's search facilities. Therefore, I have used my normal test methodology to ensure the next paragraphs are easy to understand. This is to employ as IT guinea pigs those members of my family, whose total absence of technical talent is matched only by my complete lack of dress sense. Since they can now find whatever they wish, I trust the section below will permit you to do the same.

Two things are vital when searching for a particular article or photo. Obviously first and foremost is that you can find it. It somewhat defeats the object of the exercise if you are hunting for an Esther Cohen and all you receive from the search is a blizzard of references for a Sarah Levy. The

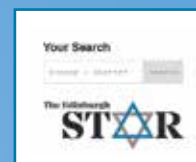
second essential attribute of the search is to limit how many references are presented. Having found Esther Cohen, it is less than useful if the search then offers you forty instances of where she is to be found on the site along with every other Esther and every other Cohen it contains. After discovering the fifth reference still did not provide the information about the Esther that you required, in all probability you would rapidly give up on the site and opt for Netflix whilst wishing your person of interest had been named Isabella Tinkle.

To avoid these frustrations, you will have to familiarise yourself with three simple pieces of search grammar so as to make searches more specific. Before you turn the page and scream, "Grammar! Schmammar! Heaven protect me from geeks!", I stress the word simple. Simple! Simple!! Simple!!!

Search type 1 is by far the most basic. This is to enter a single word into the search box. Often this is all that is required but typing in just **Esther** might not be such a great idea since the search would give you every Esther from Esther Asher to Esther Zalin plus anybody who ever turned up at a Purim party as Queen Esther. At least if the word or name you enter is unusual (such as mine) then you would almost certainly be given a manageable number of references.



Search type 2 is to enter two or more key words into the search box, but unlike in my example above where you merely type them in, this time you separate the words with a plus sign, i.e. **Esther + Cohen**. This would mercifully eliminate all the Esthers from Asher to Zalin except for those at some point called Cohen. In other words, this search method should not inundate you with references unless you typed in something found all over the site like Edinburgh + synagogue.



Search type 3 can further refine your hunting within the data. We all know that some names are particularly common or popular. Continuing with my notional individual, it is possible that a Cohen family that have been members of the community for several generations had or has many Esthers within it. This could therefore present many references across half a dozen persons, particularly so if one or more Esther Cohen were especially active. Assuming our interest is in the Esther Cohen who went to Cambridge University, we would also enter "**Cambridge University**" in the search box. Note that this last search type has enclosed the words or a phrase within quotes, thus indicating that the search must precisely match Cambridge University. You should now understand that omission of the parentheses would potentially provide every higher educational establishment from Aberdeen to Yale via Jerusalem plus all references to Cambridge whether Cambridge Massachusetts or the Cambridge diet.

If you have managed to stay with me this far, all that needs to be added is to say that the various search types can be combined within the same box. Were you to type **Esther + Cohen + "Cambridge University"** then unless this Cohen family were peculiarly academic and with a strong predilection towards The Fens, one would be unlikely to get offered more than a couple of articles or pictures.

As a quick check on whether the above made sense, try the thought experiment of deciding how would entering **Yom Kippur War, Yom + Kippur + War** and "**Yom Kippur War**" differ? Finally, can I suggest you play with the search as much as you like. The illustrations in this article used the key words **Sischy + Sheriff**. Enter what you wish as I stress that you cannot break the site (really, truly, honestly)! The worst that can happen is nothing will be suggested at all or you will be offered a multitude of irrelevant articles.

So, there you have it, a brief description of The Star's new all-singing, all-dancing website. Now I come to think about it, those are about the only two capabilities it does not possess.

[www.edinburghstar.info](http://www.edinburghstar.info)





# Where are they now?

## Sally Cowen Barker

It wasn't until I was about 15 years old that I realised that being a part of the Edinburgh Jewish community was a very special thing.



I realised this when I ventured out of Edinburgh to represent Edinburgh Maccabi at the Maccabi UK committee meetings in West Hampstead, London. Flying down on a Sunday morning and travelling by tube to meet all the other Chairs of Maccabi groups from around the UK. All of them were adults, all of them were male. All of them were incredulous that a 15 year old girl was running the group and becoming a part of the national network. But it seemed to be the most obvious thing to me; as an outlying community, they were never going to feel they had to come to us, so we had to go to them.

We hosted a weekend away in 1999, with Maccabi members from London, Leicester, Brighton and Glasgow all enjoying the hospitality of our great community and the wonders of our City. That year, I won the Maccabi Leader of the Year UK award, which still sits proudly on my bedroom shelf in Edinburgh.

One of my earliest memories is cheder in the old community centre on the other side of Salisbury Road. Putting on Purim plays and serving tea to the elderly ladies at long trestle tables. When it came to moving into the new community centre in 1981, the Cowen family were pivotal. My brother Gary's bar mitzvah party was the first event to take place in the Marion Oppenheim Hall.

I loved cheder, singing songs with the Rev. Knopp, reading with Micheline Borowski (now Brannan), drawing with Norma Brodie and bible stories with Elaine Samuels. But most of all I loved staying behind after cheder to play games, arts & crafts and socialise with all my Maccabi friends.

Sharing my bat mitzvah in May 1985 with Gillian Berger, Sara Judah and Suzanne Adelman was a great occasion, standing on the Aron Hakodesh to recite the 10 commandments and give our insight on how to be Jewish women, having passed an exam set by the then Rabbi's wife, Debbie Sinclair.

When I moved to Leeds University, after completing my education at Watson's I wanted to continue to have that sense of community. Unfortunately, I found once again that being an outsider from a small community meant that this was very difficult. Those who had come from large communities had established friendship groups before they arrived at Leeds. But those whom I befriended then remain firm friends now and helped me to maintain my Jewish social life throughout my University years.

I studied Law and decided that my future lay at the Bar. As an English qualified lawyer, it meant a return to Edinburgh was not possible. I therefore applied to Bar School in London and in 1994 took up my place, driving all my possessions to London from Edinburgh in the back of my car, stopping with my brother Mark in Manchester on the way. My car was ransacked and I lost everything. Despite that I rushed to London to start my summer placement. I was so lucky that my 'other family' were there to help me, with Andrew Caplan and his new wife Kathy helping me settle in London that first week.

My life at the Bar settled down and as I started my career I returned to an area of London I was familiar with in West Hampstead (two streets away from Maccabi HQ). I shared a flat with the girls I'd met in Leeds.

My career at the Bar has been a source of huge pleasure. Specialising in Employment Law and Personal Injury, I am proud of my achievements in helping large numbers of people to overcome discrimination and physical injury, obtain justice and compensation.

In 2018 I was appointed as a part-time Judge in the Employment Tribunals in Scotland, my chance to return home and work regularly in Edinburgh and Glasgow. In becoming a part of the Judiciary in Scotland I feel I am maintaining the long connections between the Jewish community and the City of Edinburgh.

I also sit as a Chair in the GMC's Fitness to Practice panels in Manchester, ensuring that the doctors in our NHS are competent and capable. It's undoubtedly the most worthwhile work that I do.

James and I married in 2003 and moved to Woodside Park in 2005 when our son, Samuel was born. I joined Woodside Park (United Synagogue) in 2006, which is a small (by London standards) community, but which instantly felt like the Edinburgh community I know and love. Whilst the choir could never measure up to David Mendelssohn and his brigade, I enjoy the service and remember the voice of Barney Hoare when the Sefer Torahs are being returned to the Ark.

Both my son, Samuel, and my daughter, Sadie, have attended cheder there and I now run the parent committee of the cheder. London communities face different challenges from those in other areas – namely competition, but the similarities of trying to fight to continue to exist are very similar to those we faced in Edinburgh. I'm delighted that whilst cheders generally have been the victim of the success of Jewish schools in North London, ours has continued to attract children from all around the area.

Sam's bar mitzvah in May 2018 was a fantastic weekend in glorious sunshine, surrounded by many family and friends. Another generation of the extended Cowen family taking their place as part of a Jewish community was one of my proudest moments (so far).

Being part of a community remains a very important part of my life and I hope that I am showing my kids that this can be a fantastic experience as well as a great source of friendship and support for years to come.

I continue to take any and every opportunity to tell people of the thriving and wonderfully resilient and talented community that I come from.

## *Congratulations...*



to Gary Cowen, the son of Carole and Mickey Cowen (and sister of Sally), who was installed as a member of Queen's Counsel on the 16th March 2020 at Westminster Hall by the Lord Chancellor, the Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC. Gary is also a Judge of the First Tier Tribunal (Land Registration).

## To The Editor

Sir

I am sure I speak on behalf of the entire Community when I say thank you to the Welfare Committee.

During the past few difficult months I know of many who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help those in need. I am sure this was greatly appreciated.

Let's up hope that the next few months sees the back of Coronavirus and that we are all able to enjoy a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Best wishes and kindest regards

Sandra Caplan



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Pinner, Middlesex

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Sam and Ruth Adler**

**Michael Adler and Sue Fyvel**

**Ena Amitai**  
Netanya, Israel

**Margaret Aronson**

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

**Clarice Been**  
London

**Shirley and Peter Bennett**

**Barbara and Leslie Bennie**

**Marcia and Leonard Berger  
and Yvonne**

**Avril and Norman Berger**  
Edinburgh

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

**Douglas and Rosalind Brodie**  
Elstree, Herts

**Norma Brodie and family**  
Edinburgh

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**Sandra and Sidney Caplan**

**Lady (Joyce) Caplan**

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**Kenneth and Irene Collins**  
Glasgow and Israel

**John and Hazel Cosgrove**

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

**Andrea and Malcolm Cowan**

# לשנה טובה תכתבו ותחתמו

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Giffnock, Glasgow

**Carole and Mickey Cowen**  
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& Jonathan Danzig,**  
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**David Ellison**  
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**Zena Eunson (nee Glass)**

**David, Gillian, Richard and Menna  
and Jonathan Field**

**Finlay Family**  
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**Einan and Merav Gardi, Omni,  
Ilana and Shlomit**

**Judy and Anthony Gilbert  
and family**

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

**Kate and Ronnie Goodwin**  
Edinburgh

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and Freddie**

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**Lori Kastner (nee Adler)  
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**Cassie, Jonty, Lily and Jack  
Karro**  
Melbourne, Australia

**Lilian Kessly (nee Dorfman)**  
Mervona, Western Australia



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

**Isobel King**  
Melrose

**Shera and Jonathon Kisilevitz**  
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**Kate and Debra**  
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**Avery, Elena, Namoi and Orli  
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**Roy, Archie and  
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**Irene Paterson (Saltman)**  
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and family**

**Elaine, Aaron, Joel, Elsa, Lois  
and Maya Raffel**  
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**Jane Rickman**

**Hilary and Arnold Rifkind  
and family**

**Malcolm Rifkind and family**

**Francoise Robertson**  
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**Rabbi David Rose**

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**Phyllis Rosenberg (nee Stoller)**  
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and Joanna Seckl**

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**Nick and Kate Silk**

**Valerie Simpson**

**Rabbi Professor Danny and Debbie  
Sinclair, Noam, Yonatan and Orit and  
the Bermans, Jerusalem, Israel**

**Judy Sischy and family**

**Rachael Skop**

**Carolyn and Mervyn Smith**  
Cheam, Surrey

**Joyce and Jonny Sperber  
Avigal and Mikael Pommert,  
Adina and Carmela**

**Harold Sterne**  
Netanya, Israel

**Jackie, Raymond, Lawrence  
and Michael Taylor**

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Cheadle, Manchester

**Rabbi & Mrs Pinny Weinman  
and family**

**Pam, Jonathan and Dorothy**

**Hilary, Graham, Martin Jolene  
and Laura West**

**Madeleine Whiteson**  
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# CST wishes our community a peaceful, healthy & safe New Year



It is CST's mission to protect our Jewish communities up and down the country. We are committed to you, and ensuring your security, so that Jewish life can continue to exist and thrive in the UK.

The past year has been filled with challenges, both individual and collective. The pandemic has touched all of our lives, some in deeply tragic ways. The ability to physically meet with friends, family and in community – the networks that can make the most difficult and uncertain of times more bearable – has been removed. Where there is crisis, anger and blame follow, often directed at Jewish people. Now that we can gather together once again, CST is here to make sure it happens safe from prejudice and physical harm.

We wish that the security we provide were not necessary, but sadly terrorism, although rare, is a reality that can happen anywhere. Last Yom Kippur, the synagogue in Halle, Germany, was attacked by

a neo-Nazi. Using a homemade gun, he tried and failed to enter the synagogue, but did kill a passer-by and a customer at a nearby kebab shop. It was the cooperation of the congregants and shul staff, simply properly closing the door behind them, that saved the lives of those inside the service.

CST is here to protect you and facilitate the flourishing of Jewish life. This works best when you work with us. Please be mindful of basic security procedures and of our many dedicated volunteers who are devoting their time and efforts to ensure our safety, allowing us to spend the High Holy Days in peace. We wish you a safe, happy New Year, and a meaningful fast.

Please consider volunteering for CST or donating to us. We are a charity and we cannot do our work without your help. In an emergency, call the Police and then call our 24-hour National Emergency Number 0800 032 3263.

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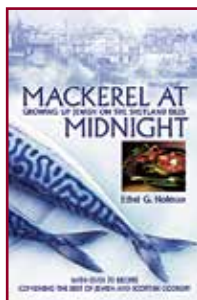


# Book Reviews

**Mackerel at Midnight** by Ethel Hofman

Reviewed by Joyce Capek

If there was anything positive during the Coronavirus lockdown, it was surely the opportunity to attend (virtually) events that one might not otherwise have been able to get to. Such an example was the series of talks, organised by SCoJeC in aid of the Aberdeen synagogue, that were enjoyed by a far wider audience than might have been the case in normal times. One of those talks that particularly intrigued me was Ethel Hofman's entertaining and heart-warming account of growing up pre-WW2 as a member of the only Jewish family in Shetland. I was not familiar with 'Mackerel at Midnight'; nor had I ever considered that there was any Jewish life on the Shetland Isles. In truth, I had little knowledge of these islands at all. But I was captivated by Ethel's talk and had to get my hands on a copy of her book!



Like hundreds of Jews escaping the Russian pogroms, Ethel's grandfather and his sons were seeking a better life in America, but landed in Glasgow, where they decided to settle. However, unable to earn a living in the big city, the three sons decided to head for the Shetlands where, in due course, their success at peddling jewellery and trinkets allowed them to set up their own shop, Greenwald's, in Lerwick. Two of the brothers moved back to Glasgow, but Harry remained. Persuaded that he should find a Jewish bride, a shidduch was arranged with a Glasgow girl, Jean Segal, who somewhat reluctantly accompanied her new husband back to Lerwick. The marriage was not a particularly happy one but nevertheless the couple raised three children in a warm and loving household, instilling in them Jewish values and educating them in all the Jewish traditions despite the constraints of living in a very Christian environment. Ethel's father may not have treated his wife with much kindness, but he was a cheerful, sociable man who was greatly respected by all his customers. Ethel's mother settled into Shetland life and struck up close friendships with local ladies, who greatly appreciated her culinary expertise and her willingness to get involved in the activities of the Shetland community. In turn the islanders were always ready to support the Greenwalds, and Ethel recalls how, during the war years, a large Seder was organised each Pesach for the many Jewish servicemen who were stationed in the Shetlands.

Ethel eventually left Lerwick to study Home Economics at the Glasgow 'Dough School' then returned to the Shetlands to teach until she had earned enough to fund her move to the USA. 'Mackerel at Midnight', as well as being a charming autobiographical account, with vivid depictions of the Shetland landscape and the warmth of its people, is interspersed with an eclectic mix of recipes, with familiar Jewish dishes (tzimmes, gefilte fish, kugel) alongside traditional Scottish ones (bannocks, stovies, Shetland stap). This book is a 'must read' for anyone interested in Scottish history, Jewish life in early 20th Century Scotland, or simply the culinary traditions of the time.

**Elizabeth Rosenbloom who has close family links to the Shetlands, has written the following for The Star:**

October 14th 1939. HMS Royal Oak is sunk in Scapa Flow by a German U boat. Winston Churchill orders the building of concrete barriers to protect the important natural harbour for the British Navy in Orkney. The Admiralty award the contract to Balfour Beatty, one of the largest civil engineering firms in Britain.

The labour force required rose to over 2,000 men by 1943. The Italian POWs made up most of the workers and built the famous Italian Chapel there.

Accommodation blocks and eating facilities covered a large part of the small islands which would be linked by these massive concrete causeways.

A certain young chartered accountant, Mr John Rosenbloom, my father, had been sent from the Edinburgh offices of the Admiralty Professional Accountants Department to keep an eye on expenditure. He was billeted in one of the accommodation blocs. The construction workers and staff shared the large canteens for all meals, and it was there that he met a very attractive Miss Jessie Bremner from Shetland. Jessie had actually been employed as a cook for Scotch Whisky magnate Henry Wells in his Edinburgh mansion after taking a two year course in institutional management at Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh's famous catering college, but had volunteered to serve in a professional capacity as canteen manageress. Romance blossomed, and they kept in touch during the war years after many separations, until in September 1945 they married in London.

Very many Shetlanders escaped the huge decline in the herring fishing after the end of the First World War. The Bremners left Scalloway where my mother was born and brought up to a fishing and Navy family in 1928, to live in Leith, which housed a huge population of Shetlanders who worked in the merchant navy and whaling industries. I am still in close touch with my Shetland cousins, and so enjoy going back to this beautiful time warp of a place to visit. They reminded me of the shop which the Greenwalds had in Lerwick, where my mother's beautiful sapphire and pearl pendant was bought, and also tales of Julius Quint who had been an itinerant pedlar from Latvia, who converted to Christianity, married and had family in Shetland. Recently his family came back to trace their ancestor's life and visited his tiny grave. He was buried in 1938 in the little church graveyard in my grandmother's village of Walls in the west of mainland Shetland. Little Fanny Rose Greenwald is buried in Lerwick's cemetery, having died of gastritis aged only ten days old in 1924. These Jewish characters are remembered very fondly by the older generation of Shetlanders and are a testament to the welcoming nature of these northern people with whom I share a heritage.

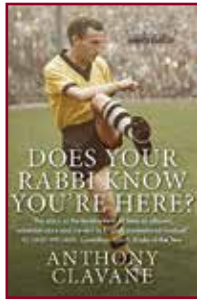
**Does Your Rabbi Know You Are Here** by Anthony Clavane

Reviewed by Sid Caplan

The author wrote this book due to an anti-semitic remark about Jewish sportsmen and women.

He calls it the story of England's forgotten tribe.

At the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th the sons of the



Jewish immigrants up until the Second World War on a Saturday after work or synagogue played football for the local team usually from their factory (Arsenal started as Woolwich Arsenal) or area they lived in. Manchester United started as Newton Heath and Aston Villa from the Aston district of Birmingham. The days of transfers had not arrived.

The title of the book came from the banter from the terraces and was not racist in any way. So different to the racist comments to black and asian players of to-day. It was shouted at players such as Louis Bookman who played Bradford City, Harry Morris for Swindon Town and

Leslie Goldberg for Leeds United, and many many more.

The book is fascinating if you are a football fan or even if you are not as it showed that the visibility of Jews in football rose with the increasing sense of security they felt that they could be part of "The Beautiful Game"

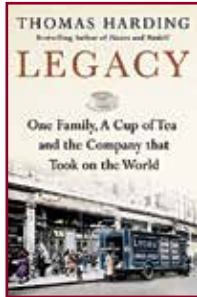
The only disappointment was that the author kept to England and therefore did not include Scots for example Sam Latter who played for Third Lanark in the early twenties.

This book would make a good present for Chanukah.

**Legacy** by Thomas Harding

Reviewed by Edward Green

Thomas Harding's book Legacy tells the story of the Salmons and the Glucksteins, two prominent Jewish families from the first half of the last century whose antecedents arrived as penniless immigrants from Eastern Europe and went on to build a catering empire rarely rivalled. J. Lyons, the name taken from their brother-in-law as it sounded more English, was famous for their Corner Houses and hotels throughout Britain as well as their bakery, outside catering, tea making, and a host of other profitable ventures. They were even to cater many of the large functions at Buckingham Palace including the Garden Parties. Mr Lyons, not the greatest businessman we are led to believe, became the



'silent' partner in the business, but not silent enough for Joe Lyons not to be awarded a knighthood for the incredible contribution the family had made to British society!

I found the book fascinating telling the reader of their roots, their striving for success and acceptance, and the family's entrepreneurial brilliance rising to the fore through struggles and obstacles only to decline in the coming generations despite spawning many who became serious politicians, academics, and 'celebrities' in recent times. I found the way they dealt with equality of reward amongst the family intriguing with a fund available to all male members of the family. It was novel then, although not unheard of, and would be novel now within a family business. Outside the business they are pillars of the community, their young involved in The 'Season', supporting the Conservative Party, leaders within the Board of Deputies and other Jewish

organisations, and with influential political acquaintances in high places.

The author has made the book easy to read and because it invoked memories of the childhood of people my age or older it became an even more compelling book. As a child in the late 1950s and early 1960s, I remember well being taken to The Lyons Corner House by our grandparents after the circus at Olympia, also owned by them I seem to remember. Often too to the restaurant down the stairs at the Cumberland Hotel in Marble Arch for special occasions often meeting other families we knew. The large silver carving trolley would be wheeled round, there was an equally spectacular dessert trolley from which we often asked for ice cream, Lyons of course, and invariably used to go up and ask the bandmaster to play a tune for the family.

It is a riveting read about an extraordinary extended family and the history of the times they lived in. I highly recommend it.

**Odessa Stories** by Isaac Babel

Reviewed by Elizabeth Rosenbloom

Described as 'criminally good' by the Guardian reviewer, this wonderfully atmospheric new translation from the original Russian published in 1931, is simply a terrific read.



Odessa, the Ukranian port city once the home of thousands of Jewish merchants, was run by gangsters - and they are Jewish! The stories, set about a century ago, are about the people of the once free port city.

As a child growing up among these characters, Babel heard all these stories about them. Characters such as Tartakovsky, known as the 'Yid and a half' because of his feisty temperament and great wealth, Lyubka the Cossack,

who abandons her newborn to attend to her business empire, and the great Benya Krik, the King, who orchestrates the demise of Tartakovsky, and regards the police department with utter contempt.. That's in the tale of 'How it was done in Odessa' - his lightning quick rise, and his terrible end....

Babel's band of Jewish gangsters, thieves and smugglers form the first part of these stories. The second part are from Babel's own childhood, when his



family move to Odessa from Nikaloyev. His famous tale 'The Story of My Dovecote' is a heartbreaking account of the boy's longing for his own dovecot, which his father buys for him as a reward for high examinations marks to enter school. But when he finally gets his doves, on his way home from picking them out at the market, he is caught up in a pogrom, and his precious birds are smashed over his head and killed. The dazed child returns home but finds his family in a state of utter turmoil because of their persecution. The young Isaac

suffers a dreadful case of hiccups, and is diagnosed with a nervous disorder caused by the trauma of the Russian pogrom which his family were victims of. This tale mentions one of the sons of the wealthy Ephrussi family about whom I have written in the Star in this edition.

Isaac Babel was born in 1901, and came to prominence in 1926 with the publication of his novel 'Red Cavalry', his account of his life with the Cossacks fighting in the Soviet-Polish war of 1920. He has been acclaimed as the greatest

prose writer of Russian Jewry. He was immensely popular in Russia, but was shot by Stalin's firing squad in the Great Purge of 1940 in the Lubyanka. His long standing affair with the wife of the NKVD was an unwise move, and made him many powerful enemies. His work was banned, and his name removed from all literature, but he was rehabilitated by Nikita Khrushchev. His writings have since gained great popularity in Russia. And hopefully in this award winning translation, will do so in English.



## SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES (SCOJEC)

### My Four Years as Chair of Scojec

**Micheline Brannan**

I completed my 4 years as Chair of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities on 27 June 2020 when Alan Kay was elected to succeed me. During that time SCoJeC adopted the strapline of "Representing, connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland". We do this in many ways but never had the mission seemed so vital as when COVID 19 struck just before Pesach.

When lockdown was announced shortly before Pesach, our Director, Ephraim Borowski was immediately in close discussions with the Scottish Government about the needs of our community. This resulted in a one-off grant for immediate needs, such as delivery of kosher le-Pesach food parcels to students stranded in Scotland. SCoJeC set up meetings every two weeks with community leaders across the country. All these meetings took place using Zoom, to which we have now become very used. I was hugely impressed with the way EHC responded to the crisis, setting up a Welfare Group that reached out to the most vulnerable in the community.

Fiona Frank, our Projects and Outreach Manager, masterminded a series of online activities. SCoJeC partnered with "The Lit" and the Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue Group / Cultural Centre, to put on their events using our Zoom platform. This widened access to our events, and I hope we will continue to open up events by Zoom even when lockdown has fully ended. A silver lining.

During lockdown, as before, we have had full support from Edinburgh's SCoJeC members: John Danzig, Hilary Rifkind, Gillian Raab, Carol Levstein and Raymond Taylor. I know that SCoJeC's close association with Edinburgh will continue to thrive under our new leadership. I wish all Star readers a good and sweet New Year.



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# Lodge Solomon's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Sidney Caplan



Alec Rubenstein and Lawrence Taylor flanking the Lord Provost and Bailie Lezley Cameron

Lodge Solomon received its charter on 5th February 1920 and to celebrate this momentous occasion it was decided to hold a "Divine Service" on Sunday the 9th February 2020 in Salisbury Road.

After months of planning for the service, it looked as if Storm Ciara which was battering Britain and was credited to be the worst storm to hit the country this century was going to be a worry for the members of Lodge Solomon and members of the Edinburgh Hebrew congregation wishing to attend.

This storm had already resulted in hundreds of flights being cancelled. Even Her Majesty the Queen was affected, declining to attend the usual Sunday service at Sandringham on safety grounds. However at 10.00am. and after a hearty breakfast attended by the Rabbi along with members of the Synagogue and Lodge members, it was decided that the Divine Service should go ahead as, much to the delight of all, the weather had improved. The sun even started to shine and the 'feel good' factor was once again present amongst those setting up. The Rabbi had indeed perhaps put in a good word earlier!

The Synagogue was looking grand, a floral display had been set up by Mr and Mrs Edward Green and this was in full bloom. The Synagogue had received lots of love and attention from various members of the community and it was looking ready to attract the day's VIPs and guests.

Just before 3.00pm, the general congregation had taken up their respective seats. Lodge Solomon members had been stationed at various positions to act as ushers and two processions of VIPs and invited guests began to assemble on the two west staircases into the Synagogue. The Rabbi and choir being the key to the success of this service had taken up their respective positions earlier.

At the stroke of 3.00pm. the director of ceremonies Bro. Tom Wood, who is well known to the EHC, asked the assembled congregation to be upstanding to receive representatives from the Grand Lodge of Scotland headed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland Bro. William Ramsey McGhee and representatives from the Edinburgh council headed by the Right Honourable Lord Provost of Edinburgh Councillor Frank Ross who was supported by Bailie Lezley Cameron.

The two processions entered the synagogue simultaneously; Grand Lodge and guests down one set of stairs and Edinburgh council and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Edinburgh down the other set of stairs. It was a sight to behold!

Each procession looked splendid in their respective finery; the Lord Provost with the High Constables in full regalia accompanied by the brethren from the Province of Edinburgh headed by its Right Worshipful Master Bro. Norman MacLeod coming down the right hand side whilst the Grand Master Mason and Lodge Solomon's Right Worshipful Master Bro. Lawrence Taylor with the Provincial Grand Masters in all their insignia down the other side.

The synagogue choir ensured that this was an entrance to remember and the traditional opening prayer on entering the synagogue, 'Ma Tovv, how goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, thy dwelling places, O Israel.' This was exceptionally moving for all. This psalm was indeed an expression of appreciation for being able to come together and worship in the synagogue. A mixture of Hebrew and English ensured that all our guests would follow the service; and prayers were recited for the Queen and the Royal family and for the welfare of the State of Israel. A special prayer for the celebration of Lodge Solomon's 100th year membership of The Grand Lodge of Scotland was also delivered by the Rabbi.

Rabbi Rose, in his sermon, welcomed everyone to the anniversary service. He informed all that this was a milestone to remember and that each of us would take home something today to treasure. The service was meaningful, informative and specific. The memorial prayer was also recited for the departed founders and brethren of Lodge Solomon, who without their inputs there would have been no Lodge.

After the choir and the congregation sang Psalm 23, the Benediction was sung in Hebrew and then in English. The Service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

The Director of Ceremonies then asked for the congregation to remain upstanding whilst the Provincial Grand Lodge of Edinburgh Piper Bro. David Black led the Rabbi, The Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and the guests to the Marion Oppenheim hall for an afternoon tea. At the tea where an anniversary cake was cut, The Right Worshipful Master of the Lodge, Lawrence Taylor, presented a donation to the Grand Lodge Benevolence Fund. The Grand Master responded with a tribute to Lodge Solomon and speaking of what freemasonry means in this

modern age. A wonderful surprise was when the Grand Master presented Alec Rubenstein with the Masonic Long Service Medal. At the age of 103, Alec remains the longest serving member of the Lodge with over 70 years service and its most able Treasurer.

The Master Of the Lodge also presented the Lord Provost with a donation to the City of Edinburgh Provost's One City Trust charity which was most gratefully received by The Lord Provost who then spoke of the valued contribution the Jewish Community, which includes the Lodge, has given to the City of Edinburgh. A further donation was given to the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation by the Lodge and this was most gratefully received by the Chairman, John Danzig, who had spoken so warmly of the Lodge and its meaning to the EHC.

The final speech was given by Betsy Dorfman whose grandfather, Barney Levy, was the first Master of the Lodge and the driving force behind its inception.

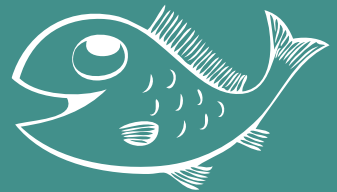
Lodge Solomon looks forward to its next hundred years.

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# Obituaries

## Andrew Lev Raphael Ansell-Forsyth 1/11/88 – 26/11/19

**On 30 November 1988 a boy was born only weighing 5 lbs 7 ounces and looking slightly different. He hardly opened his eyes and sometimes made humming sounds.**

"Words are the language of the mind. Music is the language of the Soul." (Rabbi Jonathan Sacks)

Little did we know then that this struggling baby would grow into a teacher to all those who knew him. Andrew was different from the start, and that was part of his gift to others. His challenges were numerous, but he never gave up. He always chose life, until his work was done.

"After climbing a great hill, one only finds there are many more hills to climb." (Nelson Mandela)

Andrew grew up into a fun-loving person - reading books, swimming, trampolining, filling cafes with his laughter, and always heading our Shabbat table. Yet in his more private life, he kept 10 medical consultants busy and was miraculously helped by friends and family through all his medical crises.

Andrew loved his holidays and travelled to Lanzarote, Israel, France, London, America, Italy, Portugal, and all over Scotland. His record number of aeroplanes was three in two days when we went to Eilat one winter. Andrew was also a very regular shul goer, often adding his own songs to the Rabbi's melodies. He loved Scottish music and ceilidh dancing. We were regular visitors at the Edinburgh fringe. Anyone who knew Andrew well would know his favourite authors were Reverend W Awdry, John Cunliffe, Eric Hill, and Janet and Allan Alberg. With a few prompts, he could often say the whole story.

Andrew gave birth to two charities in his lifetime - Sleep Scotland and Teens+. It is because of him that people all over the UK now have sleep counselling and support. To quote one of the families with children with special needs and severe sleep problems who benefitted from the service,

"I can't thank you enough for transforming our lives." When Andrew left school, he wanted to continue learning, and saw to it that an education project was set up for school-leavers with complex needs. "Education is not preparation for life, it is life itself" (John Dewey).

Andrew was a highly spiritual individual, as his younger brother Isaac wrote:

Andrew was a teacher, developer, and leader. Even in Andrew's lifetime I often contemplated the similarities between him and the Jewish People's greatest ever teacher-developer-leader, Moses. As Moses was "heavy of mouth", Andrew spoke differently to the rest of us; as Moses had rays of light shining from his face, Andrew's smile lit up a room; and as Moses was "exceedingly humble", Andrew put every ounce of effort he had into everything he did, and demanded credit for none of it. All of these are characteristics of distinctive spirituality - speech is the bridge between the transcendent and the material, the face reflects the soul, and Moses's phenomenal humility earned him the title "Man of God".

We, his family, friends, and community were the honoured ones who were given this beautiful boy to have and to hold. Although his own work here is completed, his spirit continues to energize his family and friends to develop new projects. We love him with all our hearts, miss him dearly, and will continue to honour his name.

Robbie, Andrew's big brother, told his story so well in the poem:

### Jane Ansell



*It all began when we were wee,  
Two mischievous boys in their own different ways.  
Addie Boy and his brother Robbie.  
We were joined at the hip from your very first days.*

*From your first breath the odds were stacked against you,  
You didn't have it easy like me,  
You loved the attention of Mummy, Daddy and your new friend Ju Ju,  
You lit up the room, wherever you would be.*

*Books and videos came onto the scene,  
Spot, Thomas the Tank and Postman Pat,  
Fireman Sam, with his engine bright and clean,  
You memorised every page, there's no doubting that.*

*You couldn't speak quite like the rest of us,  
But that didn't get you frustrated,  
You pointed and improvised with little fuss,  
A new language had been created.*

*As time went by you began to grow up,  
Playgroup, nursery, then school,  
You began to learn and were quick to pick up,  
Beginning your love of the swimming pool.*

*New hobbies and interests came into your life,  
Trains, aeroplanes and of course music,  
Cassette tapes were played morning, noon and night,  
Given the chance, you would always choose it.*

*A third brother came when you were five,  
Sharing attention? We thought you'd despise it,  
However from the moment he did arrive,  
You had so much love for brother Isaac.*

*52 Granby Road became your home,  
It had everything you wanted and needed,  
From room to room you would happily roam,  
Making it your own, you certainly succeeded.*

*Your sense of humour was one of the kind,  
That infectious laugh and giggle,  
We would endlessly repeat your favourite lines,  
And I could never resist a tickle.*

*You had become an incredible young man,  
Moving from Headwell, to St Crispin's, then Teens plus,  
New people came into your life, like your best friend Sam,  
They loved you just as much as us.*

*As we grew older our paths changed,  
But nothing really changed at all,  
We still laughed and joked like we were kids,  
As you grew so handsome and tall.*

*Earlier this year, you became uncle Andrew.  
A new experience in your life,  
Wah wah wah, Eliana said to you,  
You held out your hand for a high five.*

*You were the best brother, son and friend,  
Teaching us all how to be kind, caring and true,  
You gave us happiness and joy, from the first day until the end,  
Andrew, we will always love you.*

**Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation donated a Sefer Torah** in 2018 to the "70 scrolls for 70 years" project, organised by Professor David Newman.

The article below has been posted on Face Book by David Newman and gives details of the new home for the EHC Sefer Torah.

#### **FROM EDINBURGH TO MEVO BETAR, ISRAEL**

Yesterday evening we celebrated the inauguration of two Torah Scrolls (הרות ירפס תסנכה) in Moshav Mevo Betar (see overleaf) on the outskirts of Jerusalem, in honour of my late brother in law, Gidon Ido, who passed away five years ago. Two Sifrei Torah - one Sephardi and one Ashkenazi - were inaugurated at the same time - which is quite unique. The Sephardi scroll was completely new and written in Ido's name, while the Ashkenazi scroll was brought by me from Edinburgh in Scotland, as part of my project of bringing unused scrolls from the UK for use in new young communities in Israel (the Sofer - professional scribe - worked out that it was probably written in Germany in the early 20th century and therefore brought to the UK by refugees from the Nazis - as indeed many scrolls were). It was repaired and made ready for use here in Israel and was dedicated in the name of Rabbi Jacob Rabinowitz, who was a Rabbi in Edinburgh from 1897-1917 (arrived from Lithuania, went on to London where he passed away in 1932). Rabinowitz was my great grandfather and therefore a direct ancestor of our niece, Ido's daughter who, together with her husband and children, are residents of this mixed Ashkenazi-Sephardi, Religious-Secular community. It allowed all of us to forget election results, Corona virus restrictions and fears, the Gaza border, and all other such diversions (dare I say the disastrous results of a certain football club in North London), for a few hours.

Given the generational and large age differences in large families, a grandson of Jacob Rabinowitz, Rabbi Benjamin Rabinowitz (who was born after Jacob passed away), formerly of the Edgware synagogue in London and now a resident of Jerusalem, was present at the event and danced with the Scroll. The young children of Einat and Lior Guttman-Ido, the niece and nephew who are residents of Mevo Betar, are three generations further on - all told five generations removed from the Edinburgh Rabbi but in a direct line from Eliezer Simcha Rabinowitz of Lomza in the late nineteenth century, to Einat Gutman-Ido in 2020. It is all about heritage and continuity - let alone the linking up of families who came from Eastern Europe and the UK with families who came from Iraq and Kurdistan, but share similar heritage, religious practices and texts, and many other customs, not least the major culinary diversity (perhaps a new definition of culinary postmodernity).

I continue with my Torah scroll project, linking up communities in the UK with new young communities in Israel and am always open to suggestions from communities who have a surplus of unused Torah scrolls - including those in need of repair and which otherwise would simply remain orphaned and unused, to participate.

In itself it is a form of cultural geopolitics!!!

Shabbat Shalom



# Isaac Sifnugel Neirus

3/9/29 – 14/2/20



**My father, Isaac ("Itzic"), was born on 3rd Sept. 1929 in a village called Vertiujeni in Bessarabia, Moldova, modern day Romania.**

The village is on the Romanian bank of the Dniester River about 10 km from Soroca. The population in the early 20th century was around 2000, over 90% were Jews. Incidentally, in 1941, Vertiujeni became a notorious transit camp for the Nazi regime, where tens of thousands of Jews were incarcerated over the summer before being shipped out. Hundreds died under the brutal conditions, many more were abused or died during forced transportation. Fortunately, by then my family was mostly long gone.

Whilst Bessarabia had initially welcomed Jews in the early 1800s, by the beginning of the 20th century outbreaks of anti-Semitic violence were quite common, including the infamous Kishinev pogrom, which left many dead, injured or homeless whilst the police stood by. Many Jews subsequently left for Palestine or America, but by 1930 there were still 200,00 Jews in Bessarabia, around 7% of the population. But the writing was on the wall for Jewish life in central Europe. After WW1, the Dnieper divided the Bolshevik Soviets and the Romanian nationalists. Jews were caught between and buffeted by these powerful,

intransigent political forces and suffered from both. In 1930, my father (2 years old) and his family emigrated to Peru, at that time a land of considerable promise, as was much of South America.

In Lima, my grandfather started a business. Isaac stayed in Peru until 1949 when, aged 20, he emigrated to Israel. He had met my mother through 'Betar', a young Jewish Zionist movement. In Israel he created, with my mother and other Javerim, the pioneering moshav Mevo Betar. Father tells of a time when his truck drove over a landmine, placed on the road by their Arab foes. His car was blown several feet in the air, only to land safely on its wheels. A narrow escape. There were many such stories of quiet heroism, understated bravery, the meat and potatoes of the pioneers. But there were many good times. They worked hard to build the community, clearing the stony land, irrigating and planning the rocky fields, raising livestock, building the moshav houses, defending their land and making deep friendships that lasted a lifetime. It was on the Moshav that my older brothers Yair (1952) and Danny (1953) were born.

However, in 1954, when Isaac's mother in Lima became ill, my mother and brothers returned to Peru to take care of her and subsequently Isaac followed (he seems to have been torn between family in Lima and the land he had fought for and built at Mevo Betar, a not uncommon dilemma in those days). Unfortunately, the 'quota' of Jews allowed into Peru was closed at that moment and Isaac had to live alone in neighbouring Ecuador for a year and a half until Peru opened again to Jews, a

perennial tale of our diaspora.

I was born in Lima a few years after the family was reunited. We lived in San Isidro, a pleasant middle class district near the Pacific Ocean, sensibly removed from the politics, crime and episodic violent eruptions and occasional anti-Semitism of the centre of the city. In San Isidro and neighbouring Miraflores, the majority of Lima's 4000 at the time thousand Jews lived. There were 4 synagogues. We were members of The Union Israelita Synagogue, and Isaac was a regular attendee.

Isaac had a good career as a businessman in Lima. He worked for a company, which imported toys from different parts of the world.

Isaac was a member of the Jevra Kadisha and created the Bikur Jolim. This was the city's Jewish old people's home, a charity that Isaac and a few of his friends built up from scratch, in rather the same way that he had built Mevo Betar in Israel all those years before.

He passed away in the new Bikur Jolim this year dying on 14th Feb 2020 after a long illness. Isaac was predeceased by his elder sister Jaiké and brother Pepe, all three dying within twelve months of each other.

Isaac was a wonderful father, kind, patient and wise. I particularly treasure memories of walking with him on Shabbat to the synagogue, and of trips with the family during the summer (December to March) to a rented cottage on the beach outside Lima.

**Molly Seckl**



# Edith Rifkind

23/10/1946 – 20/10/2019



**When my mother became Lady Rifkind after my father's knighthood in 1997, she joked that she had lost all of her own names.**

She was born as Edith Amalia Steinberg in Lancashire in 1946. Her own mother, Roma Likierman, had left Poland a decade earlier. My grandfather, Joe Steinberg, was a Polish airforce engineer, and had been imprisoned in Siberia after Stalin annexed eastern Poland at the start of the war, losing his first wife and daughter. Eventually given the chance to join the RAF, his journey to Britain involved sailing around the Cape of Good Hope.

As my mother used to tell it, he saw the lights of Durban from a porthole one night, and vowed that this faraway land would be his new home. Not long after my mother was born, she and Roma went to join him in Johannesburg, where he worked for the company making x-ray machines. In time, the family relocated up to Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia, which was the city my mother would tell you she was from. When she spoke to another southern African, even on the phone, you could always hear it.

As a teenager, with huge reluctance, she came back to Britain alone to go to Huyton, a boarding school near Liverpool. Most holidays were spent with her cousins, the Likierman family, to whom she became very close. Once a year she would fly home, often in a seaplane via Lake Tanganyika. She would have liked to become a doctor, but her father was not keen. Instead, she developed a passion for zoology, eventually studying at King's College, London. With an eye back on Africa, her specialism for a time was

the sleeping sickness caused by the tsetse fly.

It was back home, after graduation, that she met my father. The same age, and also fresh out of university, he was briefly teaching politics at the University College of Rhodesia. Before long, he lured her back to Edinburgh. Never religious, my mother had viewed this ready-made community of what must have felt like about fifty thousand assorted Rifkinds with some trepidation, but she soon became a part of it. At first, she and my father lived on the Canongate, before crossing over to Drummond Place in the New Town. My sister, Caroline, was born in 1974 and I followed three years later. Not long after my birth we moved to Duddingston Village, which would have been a convenient walk to the synagogue, had this ever been a thing she felt remotely inclined to do. After her father died in 1979, her mother Roma moved to Duddingston, too, with her own flat on the other side of the village.

For a time, my mother worked in clinical research at Edinburgh University, and lectured at Napier. As we grew older, so as to travel more with my father, she worked as his secretary. Terribly clever and more cultured than the rest of us put together, I don't think she felt she'd had much of a career, but I also don't think she minded, hugely. Despite her supporting role, theirs was a very egalitarian partnership. At one point, I seem to recall, she bought them both a flat in London without even bothering to let him see it first.

Particularly in my father's last years in government, at the Foreign Office, she travelled widely. By this point Caroline was at Durham University, and I was at boarding school. My friends used to joke that I'd come home for the holidays to an empty house, £50, and a note which said, "gone to China, pizza in the fridge". This was not wholly inaccurate, but I'd maintain that it indicated trust, rather than neglect. Although always affectionate, my mum's parenting style was to treat us as responsible adults from an early age, and wait for us to catch up. We had a lot of freedom, and there was seemingly no limit to the number of stray teenagers she was content to find sleeping in various parts of her house on the mornings after

the nights before. Somehow, they never badly misbehaved, either. She was an odd mix of indulgent and firm.

She was also very practical. "I'm not Joseph Steinberg's daughter for nothing," she used to say, citing her engineer father, after fixing this or that. The talents of her mother, a pianist, alas seem to have skipped a couple of generations. Officially, my mother never learned to speak Polish, the language of both her parents, although she was occasionally to be overheard muttering darkly to builders, and on one famous occasion hollered something unspeakable out the window at a couple of drunk and noisy Polish ex-servicemen late one night in Drummond Place.

My mother was in her early 50s when she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Hers was the primary progressive form; slow but relentless. She dealt with it with a bravery that, even now, I find awe-inspiring. For a time, the more it advanced, the more she wanted to do. She and my father bought a new house, their beloved Eskgrove in Inveresk, and a dog, a cocker spaniel called Rufus. My sister and I thought they were mad. When my girlfriend (now my wife) and I spent the better part of a year travelling in Africa, the pair of them flew out with Caroline to meet us in Zanzibar, with mum trundling along the cobbles of Stone Town in a wheelchair. Not long after that, my parents visited the Galapagos Islands; a life-long zoologist ambition. She needed assistance to scramble between precarious small boats and the shore, but it did not hold her back.

The last five years, as her disease advanced, were often harder. Her bravery, though, never left her. She saw both of her children married - me to Francisca Kellett and Caroline to Andrew Lennard. Tsonka, her carer, became part of our family, and still is. Relocated permanently to London, my mother lived long enough to know all four of her grandchildren - Roma, Ruby, George and Charlie - and would beam at them from her chair in my parents' flat in Westminster Gardens as they periodically destroyed her living room. She died in hospital on 20th October, 2019, with family all around.

**Hugo Rifkind**



## Joyce Taylor (nee Crème)

22/4/1926 – 3/5/2020



**Joyce Taylor was born in Manchester on the 22nd of April 1926, as she always said – just one day after the Queen.**

She grew up in Blackpool, apart from one year in Manchester, where most of the Crème family lived, and she attended a Jewish primary school during that year. There she made friends that she was to keep in touch with all her life. Returning to Blackpool her parents ran a small kosher guest house on the North Promenade.

She was a teenager during the War but was old enough near the end of hostilities to join the Army, being part of an entertainment group called Stars in Battledress. It had been decided that entertainment was a means of keeping soldiers motivated and the group performed all over Britain, and some even took part in shows nearer the front lines. It was an exciting time and many of the Stars in Battledress became household names in later years. These included Charlie Chester, Tony Hancock, Dick Emery, Spike Milligan, Harry Secombe and Jon Pertwee. Joyce travelled with the group from the Shetland Isles to the Isle of Wight and many places in between. For a short time, she was based in London where the group had accommodation in the Bishops Avenue in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

She married Harold Taylor in September 1949 and came to live in Falkirk where the Taylor family business, specializing in furniture, carpets and fancy goods was based in the town's Manor Street. She was busy looking after her children, Irene and Raymond but also found time to teach ballet and tap and keep fit around the Falkirk area. She also involved herself in the business and always enjoyed her interaction with customers.

She had grown up in a small but vibrant Jewish community in Blackpool. The Falkirk Jewish community was never very large but the shul and cheder had closed by the time of her arrival.

However, the Taylor family had relations in Glasgow and had long been members of the Great Central Synagogue in South Portland Street in Glasgow's Gorbals. It was at South Portland Street Shul that Raymond had his barmitzvah and Irene and Kenneth were married and Joyce was, for a time, a member of the Ladies Guild. When the shul in the Gorbals closed Harold and Joyce became members of the Queens Park Synagogue. Harold died in 1998 and Joyce joined Raymond and Jackie, Lawrence and Michael as members of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation.

Although living far from an organized community she kept a strictly kosher home, was intensely proud of her Jewish heritage and treasured visits to her family in Israel. Rebbetzen Shapiro, of the South Portland Street Ladies' Guild, described her home as a 'Jewish oasis'. She was very proud that her son Raymond was Chairman of the Edinburgh Synagogue at the same time as her son-in-law Kenneth was the Chairman of the Hatzvi Yisrael Synagogue in Jerusalem.

Her 90th birthday, celebrated in April 2016, was a special occasion, just for her children and grandchildren, and a few of the great-grandchildren. Though there was already evidence of what was to be her final illness she enjoyed her day to the full surrounded by her family. Joyce's death, during the corona virus, meant that the numbers at her funeral were very restricted and her family in Israel were only able to be present via ZOOM. ZOOM 'services' during the shiva were conducted by Rabbi Moshe Rubin and Rabbi David Rose. Rabbi David Sedley also participated from Jerusalem. The family are grateful to the three rabbis for their support and comforting words. During the shiva, her grandchildren recalled, through ZOOM, their grandmother with much affection, remembering visits to Falkirk and the interest and understanding she gave them.



Joyce is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Irene and Kenneth in Jerusalem and her son Raymond and daughter-in-law Jackie in Falkirk, six grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

**Irene Collins and Raymond Taylor**

# Joe Aronson

10/5/1939 – 2/7/2020



Margaret and Joe Aronson celebrating their recent golden wedding at the Waldorf Astoria, Edinburgh

Joe was born in Portobello, Edinburgh, and lived all his life in the city he loved and was educated at the James Gillespie's Boys' Primary School and High School, where he excelled at **woodwork and the sciences.**

His uncles Sam, Charles and Monty had established the Ronson Fur Service Limited, off George Street in Glasgow and he was apprenticed to their business as a young man, travelling by train from Edinburgh every day and arriving home late. After his apprenticeship, Joe purchased his own shop in Haymarket, where he successfully ran his business until retirement. His tailoring skills enabled him to move easily from one craft to the other in the late 1990s and many customers wrote of their appreciation of his superb skill in pattern-making, cutting and sewing garments. These ranged from coats, jackets and evening dresses, to trousers, skirts and blouses. He took great pride in his work and would never turn out a shoddy job.

Joe and I met singing at a rehearsal for a concert and married ten months later. We settled firstly in Haymarket Terrace, over the shop, and later moved to Arden Street, Marchmont, where his extraordinary skills at tiling, painting, wall-papering, carpet-laying, plastering, curtain-making, building bookcases, re-flooring the hall and bathroom and upholstering furniture - to name but a few, created a happy nest for us.

I taught singing privately several days a week, and Joe enjoyed getting to know the pupils and students - always acting as door-man, with a smile and enquiry as to their well-being, families, studies or health. The recent numerous cards and letters from past and present singers pay tribute to his interested, kind and caring nature and their love for him.

Joe's parents Ben and Eva both sadly suffered from ill health in later years and again his loving compassionate nature and devotion to them at that time was inspirational for all to see.

His four main interests were music, his love of his own faith and interest in mine, the Shul choir and the Shul Luncheon Club, and these filled his days, weeks and years giving him immense satisfaction and happiness. He loved to be busy and could not abide being unoccupied.

We travelled to see my family in Australia, Hong Kong and Bangkok on numerous occasions and he loved and was deeply loved by them all. We shared many happy times visiting his beloved cousins in London, Oxford and Glasgow and their love and generous inclusion in family functions underpinned his strong sense of family loyalty and gave him strength and confidence. Joe's niece Harriet gave us much happiness and pride when she entered our lives again, and we were able to participate in Synagogue services and functions together. I am overjoyed Harriet heard her Uncle Joe sing at numerous High Holy day services in the Choir.

We were married for over 50 years and I am blessed beyond blessings to have shared my life with Joe.

## Margaret Aronson

### Harriet Lyall, the daughter of Joe's late sister, Goldie, writes:

When Joe stood up at the Ark and sang "Etz Chaim He l'machaziqim bah" (She is a Tree of Life to those who hold Her" - Proverbs 3:18) it was, for me, the most beautiful moment in the service. I would catch my breath so as not to miss a note. Joe's voice had a sweetness and richness of timbre that was (to quote a friend) nonpareil. He could reach the farthest corner of the auditorium simply by projecting his voice without having to raise it. With Margaret's expert tuition he conserved his voice with good vocal technique, so that, in January 2020, he still sang as beautifully as he would have done when he first joined the Edinburgh Synagogue choir in 1955.

Not only did Joe possess remarkable vocal talent, but he was also terrific with his hands. He spent his boyhood constructing Meccano and building working models, including a boat, which he sailed on the Blackford Pond and for which he won a prize. Who has not benefited from his ability to fix things... but his greatest gift of all was the uniquely comforting quality of his presence. There was an easy-going, relaxed, companionable quality about him that was like an invisible duvet; this proved to be a consoling comfort blanket in my life. My heart lifted when I met Uncle Joe in Shul. For the seven years we attended the Salisbury Road Synagogue together, it was our custom to meet up at the Kiddush and then return to Margaret and Joe's home where we would all have lunch and discuss the day's events, world affairs and everything in between.

Uncle Joe was my mother's brother, her junior by seven years. He was a 16 -year-old schoolboy when my mum married my dad. As time went on, Joe and my father grew to be great buddies and the two of them collaborated on many projects, including making a toboggan from an oak headboard, on which Joe, my dad and I went sledging in the winter of 1961. For a family wedding in 1963, Joe created the most exquisite little dress for me to wear as flower-girl.

Uncle Joe was one of the pillars of my world. Through the stages of my life, he was there for me. Now all the stages of his life are passed, it is with deep sadness, but also with great pride and sense of blessing that I have the privilege of writing this for him.





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## Cover Picture

### Edward Green

Isaac Rosenberg (25 November 1890 – 1 April 1918)  
was an English poet and artist.

*Self Portrait 1911, The Tate*

Isaac Rosenberg was born in Bristol, the second of six children and the eldest son (his twin brother died at birth) of his parents, Barnett (formerly Dovber) and Hacha Rosenberg, who were Lithuanian immigrants to Britain from Dvinsk (now in Latvia). When he was six, the family moved to Cable Street in Stepney, in the East End of London where there was a large Jewish community. His parents set up a butcher's shop but the shop was soon confiscated and Rosenberg's parents were forced to work as itinerants during the rest of his life.

At the age of twelve, he received a good conduct award and was allowed to take classes at the Arts and Crafts School in Stepney Green and at fourteen started an apprenticeship with Carl Hentschel, an engraver from Fleet Street.

He became interested in both poetry and visual art, and started to attend evening classes at Birkbeck College. He withdrew from his apprenticeship in January 1911 when he was twenty, and as he was showing such promise as an artist and through the sponsorship of a Mrs Herbert Cohen, he was able to attend the Slade Art School, a significant centre of aesthetic theory and still very much the foremost art college to this day. During his time at the Slade, Rosenberg notably studied alongside fellow Jewish artists David Bomberg and Mark Gertler.

He also began to write poetry seriously publishing a pamphlet of ten poems, *Night and Day*, in 1912. Multi-talented, he exhibited paintings at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1914 and undertook a number of self-portraits of which this is only one.

Isaac Rosenberg was physically slight and prone to ill-health, and hoping to cure himself relocated in 1914 to the warmer climate of South Africa, where his sister Mina lived in Cape Town. The Jewish Educational Aid Society of London helped by paying the fare. After arriving in Cape Town at the end of June 1914, he composed a poem *On Receiving News of the War*. While many wrote about war as patriotic sacrifice, Rosenberg was critical of it from the outset. However, feeling better and hoping to find employment as an artist in Britain, Rosenberg returned home in March 1915. He published a second collection of poems, *Youth*, and then being unable to find a permanent job enlisted in the British Army at the end of October 1915. He asked that half of his pay be sent to his mother who had continually been in dire financial straits.

In a personal letter, Rosenberg described his attitude towards war, "I never joined the army for patriotic reasons. Nothing can justify war. I suppose we must all fight to get the trouble over."

Isaac Rosenberg may be remembered as an Anglo-Jewish war poet, but his poetry stretches beyond those narrow categories. He was not a happy soldier but the war and the conditions of war inspired some of his best work.

Since Rosenberg was only twenty eight when he died, most critics have tended to treat his corpus as a promising but flawed start, and they wonder if he would have become a great poet had he lived.

His poetic legacy is still being debated: was he a Jewish poet; was he an English poet; was he a war poet; was he a painter-poet; was he a young poet; was he a great poet or a minor poet? In his brief career, Rosenberg created a small selection of poems and a great many questions. His career was cut tragically short when he was killed while fighting in the Battle of Arras on the 1st of April 1918. It is interesting to note that during his time on the Western Front, he applied for a transfer to one of the all-Jewish battalions formed in Mesopotamia, but historians have been unable to trace his application.

Critics have said Isaac Rosenberg found a truly distinctive voice, one indebted to the Chumash and his sidelined Jewish identity. Many critics see Rosenberg strictly through his war poems. Rosenberg's vision of the human relationship with God was rooted in his Jewish heritage and depends on the metaphors of the Chumash. "Had Rosenberg lived to develop further along the lines on which he had already moved," wrote David Daiches in *Commentary*, "he might have changed the course of modern English poetry, producing side by side with the poetry of Eliot and his school a richer and more monumental kind of verse, opposing a new romantic poetry to the new metaphysical brand."

He was first buried in a mass grave, but in 1926 the unidentified remains of the six Kings Own Regiment soldiers were individually re-interred at Bailleul Road East Cemetery, Saint-Laurent-Blangy, Pas de Calais, France. Rosenberg's gravestone is marked with his name and the words, "Buried near this spot", as well as – "Artist and Poet".

#### The Jew

*Moses, from whose loins I sprung,  
Lit by a lamp in his blood  
Ten immutable rules, a moon  
For mutable lampless men.*

*The blonde, the bronze, the ruddy,  
With the same heaving blood,  
Keep tide to the moon of Moses.  
Then why do they sneer at me?*



Private Rosenberg, personal  
service number 22311

#### The Editor adds:

*During the lockdown, I have enjoyed the Scottish Jewish Art Club held each week on Zoom and hosted by Fiona Frank of SCoJeC. Fiona is the torchbearer for her late aunt Hannah Frank the well-known and much respected Glasgow artist.*

*I was very pleased when Fiona allowed me to ask the assembled participants if any could recommend a picture for the front cover of this edition of the Star. Our requirements were that it had to be by a Jewish artist of a Jewish person or a Jewish theme. Lewis Stevens, a retired academic from Dunblane, proposed this compelling self-portrait of Isaac Rosenberg for which I am most grateful. When researching, I realised what a fascinating story there was behind this artist I hope all our readers will agree that it was a wonderful suggestion and greatly enhances the magazine.*

*A rather odd coincidence is that this Isaac Rosenberg died in the last months of WW1. We have an I. Rosenberg on our listing for Edinburgh of those lost in the First World War and his name is read out at our Remembrance Service each year.*





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# Forthcoming Events

## Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

The table below lists the Lit programme for 2020-21 as far as it is presently arranged. Because of present circumstances, arrangements are substantially behind and less firm than would normally be the case at this time of the year.

Also, because of the situation, presentation of meetings will be different from previous years: **all meetings before the mid-winter break will be held by Zoom**; for meetings after the mid-winter break, we hope to be able to resume customary meetings in the Marian Oppenheim Hall, but if

circumstances warrant it, we will continue with some or all Zoom meetings; no dates for the second half have been fixed as yet (listed as TBA below).

In addition to those listed below, we are hoping to have in the first half, Jack Fairweather, speaking about his book 'The Volunteer', the story of Polish resistance fighter, Witold Pilecki, who voluntarily entered Auschwitz, to send out messages about conditions there.

**Tony Gilbert**

Speaker/Event	Date	Title/Description
<b>Aviva Ben-Ur</b>	Oct 18	On her book re: slavery and Jewish plantation owners in Suriname between c.1650 and 1800
<b>Poetry Evening</b>	Nov 01	An evening of Poetry from our Community for us all to share
<b>Jonathan Silvertown</b>	Nov 15 or 29	Title: Comedy of Errors. Why evolution made us laugh
<b>Lord (John) Dyson</b>	TBA	Title: A Life in the Law
<b>Hadley Freeman</b>	TBA	On her book, House of Glass'
<b>Naomi Gryn</b>	TBA	On the book 'The Last of the Just' by Andre Schwarz-Bart... following her radio programme: <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000dnd7">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000dnd7</a>
<b>Tony Kushner</b>	TBA	On the history of a triple murder involving a Jew in 18th century England ("the Jacob Harris story of 1734")

## 2020 – 21 Festivals

<b>Rosh Hashanah:</b>	<b>Saturday 19th September – Sunday 20th December 2020</b>
<b>Yom Kippur:</b>	<b>Monday 29th September 2020</b>
<b>Succot:</b>	<b>Saturday 3rd – Friday 9th October 2020</b>
<b>Shemini Atzeret:</b>	<b>Saturday 10th October 2020</b>
<b>Simchat Torah:</b>	<b>Sunday 11th October 2020</b>
<b>Chanukah:</b>	<b>Friday 11th – Friday 18th December 2020</b>
<b>Tu B'Shvat:</b>	<b>Thursday 28th January 2021</b>
<b>Purim:</b>	<b>Friday 26th February 2021</b>
<b>Pesach (Passover):</b>	<b>Sunday 28th March – Sunday 4th April 2021</b>
<b>Yom HaAtzmaut:</b>	<b>Saturday 17th April 2021</b>
<b>Lag B'Omer:</b>	<b>Friday 30th April 2021</b>
<b>Shavu'ot:</b>	<b>Monday 17th – Tuesday 18th May 2021</b>
<b>Tisha B'Av:</b>	<b>Sunday 18th July 2021</b>



# CHANUKAH

Please save the following dates in your diary



**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Winter Cabaret & Supper**

**SUBJECT TO COVID RESTRICTIONS**

The EHC Community Centre Committee invites you to a Winter Cabaret and Supper with entertainment from Shirley Bennett and Fay Levey at Community Hall, Salisbury Road

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.*