

THE EDINBURGH

STAR

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THE MAGAZINE FOR THE EDINBURGH JEWISH COMMUNITY

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Editorial	5
Rosh Hashanah Message – Rabbi David Rose	5
Irene and David Hyams – Edward Green	6
Shirley and Peter Bennett – Edward Green	8
First Minister's Public Meeting With The Scottish Jewish Community	10
Lord High Commissioner visits EHC – Micheline Brannan	12
Shabbat UK – Mark Curtis	14
The Truth is Out There – Somewhere – Jo Capek	16
EHC Welcomes Jane Rickman – Edward Green	17
EHC Chagim – Micheline Brannan	18
Community Centre Walk Pencaitland – Harriet Lyall	19
Community Centre Coffee Morning – Judy Gilbert	20
Writing the Story of Your Life – Rabbi Dr Raphael Zarum	21
Edinburgh Friends of Israel – Dorothe Kaufmann	22
Israel Women's Under 19 Lacrosse Team visit – Micheline Brannan	24
Righteous Muslims Exhibition – Micheline Brannan	25
Jabulani Journeys – Rabbi David Rose	26
The Night the Bomb Fell on 29 Roseneath Terrace – Harriet Lyall	28
Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue Consultation – Janet Mundy	29
EHC AGM Wednesday 24 June 2015 – Micheline Brannan	30
EHC Cheder Prize Giving 2015 – Janet Mundy	32
Yom Teruah	34
The Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 – Lord Julian Goodman	38
Jewish Lives, Scottish Spaces – Hannah Holtschneider	43
Book Festival	44
Obituaries	46
Mazal Tov	49
Scotland's Gardens: Merchiston Cottage Garden – Esther Mendelssohn	50
Scottish Friends of Alyn – Clarice Osborne	52
Lafayette's Tomb – Micheline Brannan	52
Down Memory Lane	53
The Edinburgh Jewish Community will be 200 Years Old in 2016	54
Chanukah Save the Date	55
2015 –2016 Festivals	55
Forthcoming Events	

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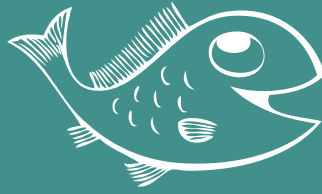
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Editorial

What is a Jewish community? To me a Jewish community is a group of families and individuals who share ties of religion and history and who work together to make the whole more than the sum of the parts.

This was illustrated for me recently during the visit of the Israeli under 19 girls' lacrosse team, who entered the world tournament for the first time ever this summer, held at the National Hockey School in Peffermill Road. We managed to create a really special atmosphere for two Friday nights for these visitors. The first week our lovely Israelis resident in Edinburgh provided a whole Friday night dinner for the visitors and some members of the community. The second week, food was supplied by Glasgow-based caterer LeChaim, and again there was some local help with the entertaining. It was rewarding how easily the fifty or so young players relaxed and how much they appreciated the welcome. Only the special ties that link Jews in Israel and the Diaspora make it possible to establish such a bond so quickly.

This is just one of several examples in the current edition of the Star speaking loudly of how the Jewish Community in Edinburgh pulls together. The EHC communal seder which took place for the third year running, was this year run by Rabbi Rose with support from across the community and from visitors who simply rolled up their sleeves and helped out. Shavuot at EHC brought in many non-members, including Rabbi Mark Solomon and some of his flock, to study with Rabbi Natan Levy at a Tikkun Leil. The ever-popular Festival Open Day made a come-back on 16 August, with massive attendance not just from Edinburgh

but from across Scotland. From a strong communal base, we are better able to relate to the wider community. This can be seen in the historic visit of the Lord High Commissioner to the General

Assembly of the Church of Scotland to EHC on 22 May, and in the attendance of the Lord Provost and other civic dignitaries at the EHC Civic Service on 15 August, which was this year advertised to the whole community on Jay Events. There is much more to report about the wider Jewish Community and owing to personnel changes we do not have a specific report from Sukkat Shalom this time but we hope to do so next time.

There are always worries about the future, and arguments within families are always the most intense, but we must be positive, and remember that our bonds are more powerful than our differences. Rosh Hashanah is a time for reflection and renewal. I hope that we will resolve to work together even harder in the coming year to maintain and build Jewish life in Edinburgh. With that in mind, I wish all readers a *Kativah veChatimah Tovah*.

Micheline Brannan



Rosh Hashanah Message

The period between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is one of introspection. During this period we are meant to take stock of our lives, not only individually but also collectively. We should examine our society as well as ourselves and seek to improve them.



This summer I had a unique opportunity to experience close up the very different society of South Africa. While South Africa has many problems and can certainly learn things from us, I feel that there are important strengths in their society that we lack and can learn from. One of the noticeable features of South African society is a deep sense

of spirituality. This not only is found in the black community but throughout society including among Jews, who are amongst the most Jewishly committed communities in the world. The spiritual aspect of their lives is simply important to them. People are connected to their traditions and regard them as relevant to their lives today. This is, unfortunately, something that we have lost in Scotland where aggressive secularist groups seek to drive religion from the public square and school children know next to nothing about their own religious heritage. Scotland has a specific religious heritage whose unique lessons are being ignored. We need to reconnect to our sacred side and have spiritual values influence our society. Our young people need to know about the traditions of this country and we need to make them relevant for us today. Only then can we create a healthy society worthy of being inscribed for life.

A Happy New Year
Rabbi David Rose

Irene and David Hyams

Edward Green



Irene and David Hyams are undoubtedly one of the better known Jewish couples in Edinburgh; David for his sweet and kindly nature, and Irene best known for her sense of fun, style and 'joie de vivre'. David, although seen as Edinburgh born and bred, was actually not! His mother went back to her home town of Glasgow to give birth to her only child and Glasgow was to feature heavily in his life from then on..

Not only was one set of his grandparents there, but that was where he was to meet his future wife and the rest is as one says, history! Irene Field, as she was then, was just 18 when she went to a function at the Glasgow Jewish Institute. This strange young man came over whilst she was playing chess. His 'chat up' line was to ask her if she was related to a friend of his from Cardiff and he produced a photo from his pocket of the aforementioned girl! They felt they already knew each other well when they met again two weeks later at the same Glasgow Jewish Institute; David asked Irene if he could escort her home, and they have been a couple ever since.

They married less than 18 months later on the 1st February 1955 at Giffnock and Newlands Synagogue, with a reception at Geneen's Top Hat, and returned to make their home in

Edinburgh despite Irene's mother asking Irene "Are you sure you want to go there?". Their first home was in Duddingston. They subsequently lived in Fairmilehead, which Irene found very cold, then to Colinton for twenty years before moving to a flat in the Polwarth area of Edinburgh and more recently to Pitsligo Road in Morningside where they have a most attractive ground floor flat in a new development with wonderful communal gardens.

Irene's parents had been in the wholesale gown business, and, perhaps because of that, Irene has enjoyed a lifelong love of fashion. David was to take over his father's fur business, which had been started by his grandfather in 1895 and was to move the business from Bruntsfield into spacious and attractive premises in Church Hill. Irene, with her love of fashion, and undoubted skills in selling and experience of retail (on both sides of the counter) found herself assisting David in the business, and she, too, quickly became synonymous with the Dominion Fur Company, side by side with David, as previous generations of Hyams's had been before them.

Irene and David reminisce; "It was a wonderful business to be in. We feel we saw it at its best time, we loved every part of it, a wonderful product and wonderful customers." and they clearly enjoyed not only working together but also the business as a whole. The next generation was split; Steven, Irene and David's elder son, was born in 1957 on Valentine's Day. Steven from the age of five always anticipated that he would go in the business,

while Gary, born around Rosh Hashanah time 1959, from an early age knew he wanted no part of it, choosing to go into the legal world and working for many years with Lindsay's, a respected and well-known Edinburgh practice.

We all know Steven as the respected and valued Chairman of the Community Centre Committee. He was educated locally in Colinton and is married to Susan who hails from Manchester. They have two children, James and Amanda. Irene and David are justly proud of their grandchildren, who were educated at Heriot's like their grandfather and Uncle Gary before them, moving on to Edinburgh University for James and Strathclyde University for Amanda. Steven, after many years in the fur business, now works in the family's property business alongside Gary who has retired from the law.

Irene has a sister, Myrna, to whom she remains very close, as she does to her three nephews and their families. Myrna lives in London with her husband, Felix, and the two sisters are often together. I remember once sitting on a park bench in Bournemouth, waiting for Maryla who was shopping. I started talking to the gentleman sitting next to me. He told me he had relations in Edinburgh "but I wouldn't know them"! I said, "Try me!" He turned out to be the aforementioned Felix and the relations were Irene and David. I quickly countered "Of course, I know them; everyone does!" and that is indeed the case because as I have mentioned at the start they are one of the best known and most popular Jewish couples in Edinburgh.

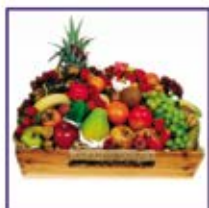
Irene has been one of the band of wonderful Luncheon Club cooks for many years. She has also worked in the past for WIZO. David, while taking no formal position in the Synagogue, has been one of the EHC's most committed members. The Hyams's are always to be relied on to give their support to whatever may be going on in the shul, both financially and with their attendance at events, and are known for their generous support to Jewish charities outwith the Synagogue as well.

Irene and David count many members of the EHC as their close friends and value their friendship enormously. They play bridge together; and Irene with ladies from all over Edinburgh, they enjoy the theatre and cinema, the galleries but perhaps the pastime they both enjoy the most is travelling. Irene and David have been fervent 'cruisers' in the past although David's recent ill health may curtail it at present. They have, without doubt, been devoted to each other for the last sixty years and remain so with Irene laughingly saying how lucky she was that she chose the right man when she was just 18! But then she admits that perhaps it was the other way round and David chose her ("he's just a fabulous man!"). She says she will always be grateful, as they are a most devoted couple who so clearly love and cherish each other each and every day.

The Executive and Readership of the Star extend their congratulations (rather belatedly; the Queen with her card was on time!) to Irene and David on their Diamond Wedding anniversary and wish them very many happy years ahead.

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Shirley and Peter Bennett

Edward Green

Shirley & Peter Bennett, who are celebrating their Golden Wedding in September, are a rarity amongst the members of EHC these days, as both hail from Edinburgh and have also remained in this fair city.

Shirley's father was the eldest of the Zoltie clan of ten children of whom her uncle, Sidney, known to all, is the youngest. Shirley's mother was an 'import', however, coming from Middlesborough.

Peter's father was an 'import' too, a Londoner who came to Edinburgh to marry Peter's mother, part of the Solstone family who had their roots in Poland and moved to Edinburgh when his mother was just a baby.

At the time of their meeting, in Jewish terms, Edinburgh was a very different city, with plentiful Jewish youth and a vibrant social scene. Shirley and Peter were both members of Habonim and Maccabi. They attended the social gatherings on a Sunday evening in the old community centre across the road from the Synagogue. They knew each other as part of the crowd and lived just three streets away from each other. Shirley was sixteen and Peter eighteen when they had their first date. They must have liked each other as five years later, Rabbi Weinberg married them. The wedding that took place on the 19th September 1965 was witnessed by many of the Edinburgh couples still around today and was followed by a reception at the George Hotel.

Their first home was on Milton Road West and it was there that their children spent their childhood. Their first born Martin, arrived in November 1966. He was educated at Edinburgh Academy and Newcastle University where he read electronics and is now a sound engineer living and working in Montreal with two daughters, Xara (16) and Charlotte (9).

Their daughter Debbie, was born in May 1969. She attended St. George's and then studied creative design at the Manchester School of Art. She went on to work in advertising for over twenty years with a specialty in branding, but is now a partner in her husband's property development business. They have been blessed with twin daughters, Farah and Jay (7) who recently attended and caused a stir at the EHC. They currently attend Jordanhill School in Glasgow.

Debbie is undoubtedly talented and we owe her the present design of the Star. Her changes to the layout and look of the magazine were adopted when Peter was our much-lauded editor, who oversaw a transformation of the magazine into its present guise and produced over ten issues.



Shirley and Peter have always contributed to the EHC. Not only was Peter the Editor of the Star, but he has been the Chairman of the Community Centre Committee and indeed was its first Chairman when the Community Centre moved to its present premises from across the road.

Shirley and Peter undoubtedly enjoy community life, and are always keen to support events within and without the synagogue. Shirley was active for some years in the Ladies Guild and is still a regular cook for the luncheon club. Shirley also keeps in touch with many who have left Edinburgh to live elsewhere and who have retained affection for their old friends in Edinburgh.

Shirley is a most capable girl in addition to the skills already mentioned. She is a wonderful singer, specialising in Jazz, and often attending "Singers Nights" which, to the uninitiated, are evenings where amateur singers get together to sing with a live band. Peter in earlier years used to accompany Shirley by playing the guitar and the EHC members have often had the joy of seeing them perform together. Peter's guitar playing stems from his early years as lead guitarist in The Rapiers, a rock band which long term Edinburgh folk will remember. This has transmitted itself to the next generation as Debbie learned piano and Martin took up the sitar on a trip to India.

Peter is now retired from his main career in computer software in which, for twenty-five years, he part-owned three software companies. Shirley began her working life as a hairdresser, and, for eight years, owned a 'collectibles' shop in Bonnyrigg. She was a regular at many antique fairs, which to this day she misses. Peter was known to help her set up only on the days when golf was to be played later!

Although he doesn't play golf now, Peter is still an active sportsman, skiing with yearly trips to the slopes and is also an ardent cyclist. He is a keen photographer and constantly spends time updating and practising his skills in both taking and editing images. Even more excitingly, he has been a pilot since he was eighteen and flew his own airplane for over ten years. Shirley and Peter travelled to seventeen countries during their time of ownership of the plane and would often take off at the spur of the moment for a weekend in Northern France, a particular favourite. Shirley's role, she says modestly, was the in-flight caterer, but I am sure she assisted far more. Both Shirley and Peter are also bridge players and enjoy art, theatre and films.

Thirteen years ago, they bought a second home just outside Callander. In true Peter fashion, he saw what enormous opportunities there were in that area and developed a restaurant and boat rental business next to their property. They have leased this now but retain ownership.

Many of our readers will have heard of the U3A. For those – perhaps the younger ones – who have not, it is the University of the 3rd Age, rapidly becoming a phenomenon in the UK. It is designed for people who have reached retirement to continue with education, and to allow the possibility of passing on their knowledge. Peter has taught photography and iPad courses there. Shirley has enjoyed courses on art and singing and both now are devotees. Peter also attends Rotary and is a past President of the Callander Rotary Club. He was also Chairman for four years of the Callander Youth Project, an independent voluntary youth organisation. Shirley kept herself busy by being the Events Coordinator for eight years of the Edinburgh Fine Arts Society, which she still attends and enjoys.

Shirley and Peter may have been married for fifty years, and, while they have wound down their business commitments, they are busier than ever in other directions and undoubtedly enjoy a vibrant life together making a contribution every way they turn. They are devoted parents and grandparents, frequent travellers and just after this interview were leaving to spend a month with their son and his family in Montreal. But to us, they are the respected and much valued members of the EHC.

The Board and Readership of the Star take this opportunity to wish them every good wish and many congratulations on their milestone golden wedding.



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First Minister's Public Meeting With The Scottish Jewish Community

Micheline Brannan

On Monday 31 August, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon joined members of the Jewish community in a public discussion at the Giffnock and Newlands Synagogue Hall.



Hilary Rifkind gives the vote of thanks

The meeting was jointly organised by the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council (GJRC) and the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC). The current President of the GJRC, Paul Morron MBE, chaired the meeting. Hilary Rifkind, Chair of SCoJeC, gave the vote of thanks.

The public discussion followed a commitment by the First Minister to the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities that she would address a community meeting.

Nicola Sturgeon could have spent the time preparing for the reconvening of the Scottish Parliament on 1 September or watching the Festival Fireworks in Edinburgh, but she generously chose to spend her time with a packed audience of 300 from Glasgow, Edinburgh and other Jewish communities, earning our sincere thanks, whatever one's politics.

While some audience members kept trying to drag Ms Sturgeon back to the Referendum, the meeting was intended to highlight the issues of being Jewish in Scotland, highlighted in research carried out by SCoJeC and funded by the Scottish Government. The First Minister listened to concerns raised by the Jewish community about a rise in anti-Semitic incidents and made it clear all such incidents are unacceptable and will not be tolerated in Scotland.



L to R Raymond and Jackie Taylor, and Arnold Rifkind in the audience

During the question and answer session, the First Minister reaffirmed her support for Israel and Palestine to live peacefully and securely side by side.

Speaking after the discussion the First Minister said:

"I was delighted to accept the invitation to meet with the Jewish community to hear their views on the experiences and issues of concern to Jewish communities in Scotland.

"We believe that everyone has the right to be safe and to feel safe in their communities, and we are committed to creating and supporting safer and stronger communities in which we all take responsibility for our actions and how they affect others.

"I look forward to greater engagement with members of the Jewish community in the near future as we work together to eradicate anti-Semitism and intolerance in this country."

A presentation was made by Paul and Hilary to Ms Sturgeon of the photographic book:

"Scots Jews: Identity, belonging and the future" by Judah Passow.

Inadvertent humour moment: Nicola Sturgeon states:

"One of Scotland's problems is that we have an ageing population – not that there's any sign of it in this room."

Everyone laughed but apparently she meant it literally. Must have been the liveliness of the questions.



Nicola Sturgeon addresses the guests. Paul Morron (chairing) and Hilary Rifkind listen intently



Nicola Sturgeon accepts presentation on behalf of GJRC and SCoJeC



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History is Made

LORD HIGH COMMISSIONER VISITS THE EDINBURGH HEBREW CONGREGATION – THURSDAY 21 MAY 2015

Micheline Brannan

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland takes place annually in May for a week. Her Majesty the Queen annually sends a Lord High Commissioner to be Her representative at the General Assembly. The Lord High Commissioner (LHC) is the Sovereign's personal representative to the General Assembly. Normally the General Assembly passes off between Holyrood Palace and the Mound without touching Salisbury Road, but last May history was made, when EHC received a visit from their Graces, the Rt Hon the Lord Hope of Craighead, this year's LHC and his wife, Lady Hope.



Lord and Lady Hope arrive with the Purse Bearer – who is keeping a Kippah in the Purse

Lord and Lady Hope were met by Rabbi David Rose, the Rabbi of Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, and Mr Raymond Taylor, the Chair of the Board of Management, with Mrs Jackie Taylor, the Secretary. Other office bearers and Board members were also present. From Glasgow, Rabbi Moshe Rubin of Giffnock and Newlands Hebrew Congregation attended, as well as Ephraim Borowski and Nicola Livingston representing the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities. After introductions, Rabbi Rose conducted the visiting party into the synagogue itself, where he explained the layout of



Rabbi Rose welcomes Lord Hope

the synagogue, and how it functions. Lord Hope was particularly interested in the many stained glass windows. Rabbi Rose showed the party a siddur and took them up onto the Bimah to see a Sefer Torah. The party then moved downstairs to the Beit HaMidrash which was expanded and reconsecrated in 2012 to provide a smaller more manageable shul for winter use. Rabbi Rose pointed out to Lord Hope how wrought iron partitions and carpeting from the former Netherlee and Clarkston Synagogue in Glasgow had been incorporated into the design. Following the synagogue tour, the party moved into the Marian Oppenheim Hall for light refreshments. During this time, Chairman Raymond Taylor made a short speech welcoming Lord and Lady Hope, and presented Lord Hope with a souvenir of his visit in the form of 2 books relevant to the history of the community. These were "Two Worlds" by the late Professor David Daiches, and "Scotland's Jews" by Dr Kenneth Collins. Flowers were presented to Lady Hope by Hilary Rifkind.

“Lord Hope made it clear that his visit arose from personal interest, because of a recent visit to Israel, and also because his father had played a role as part of the British forces in Palestine in rescuing Jews.”

“Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis made history when he became the first Rabbi (and only the third Jew) to address the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and called for a deeper appreciation for each other's traditions, leading to greater respect and stronger bonds between our faiths.”

Lord Hope responded by thanking the Chairman and Board for their welcome. Lord Hope made it clear that his visit arose from personal interest, because of a recent visit to Israel, and also because his father had played a role as part of the British forces in Palestine in rescuing Jews. Lord Hope said that he had never visited a synagogue before and wanted to understand the Jewish religion better, which had been achieved during this visit.



Lord Hope meets Rabbi Rubin

While there was no allusion during the visit to the breach that had occurred between SCoJeC and the Kirk in 2013, when the General Assembly considered the controversial 'Inheritance of Abraham' report, it was clear that Lord Hope's visit represented a further step in re-establishing a warm relationship. On 22 May 2014, Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis made history when he became the first Rabbi (and only the third Jew) to address the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and called for "a deeper appreciation for each other's traditions, leading to greater respect and stronger bonds between our faiths.



Rabbi Rose explains the Sefer Torah to their Graces



Gershon Mendick talks to Lady in Waiting, Laura Mackenzie Stuart, while Rabbi Rubin speaks with Lady Hope, Tony Gilbert looking on



Hilary Rifkind presents a bouquet to Lady Hope



Lady Hope with flowers presented by EHC

The Right Honourable Sir James Arthur David Hope, Baron Hope of Craighead, KT, PC. enjoyed a long and distinguished legal career, including 24 years in the judiciary. He was appointed to Scotland's top judicial post as Lord President in 1989. In 2009, he became the first Deputy President of the United Kingdom Supreme Court. Lord Hope retired from the bench last year. His wife, Lady Hope (Katherine), is active in judging dressage competitions and in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, amongst other interests.

The couple attended with the Purse Bearer, Tom Murray, who is an Edinburgh Solicitor, the Reverend Neil Gardner, MA BD, who is the Minister of the Canongate Kirk and ex officio Chaplain to the Lord High Commissioner, Mrs Laura Mackenzie Stuart, a Lady in Waiting, and Lt Louise Worrall, a Navy Officer serving as Aide de Camp.

More photographs are available on our website:
www.edinburghstar.info



Lt Louise Worrall, Aide de Camp, talking with Sidney Caplan and Steven Hyams, while Rabbi Rose chats to Revd Neil Gardner

Shabbat UK

Mark Curtis

When it was suggested by the Chief Rabbi that British Jewry should take part in Shabbat UK 2014 I was sceptical. Inspired by the international Shabbos project, Shabbat UK sounded fantastic but I could not imagine it taking off in the traditionally reserved communities in the UK.

I could not have been more wrong. During Shabbat UK last year you might have had the opportunity to take part in some of the hundreds of events up and down the country and after reading and hearing the staggering number of personal accounts I couldn't believe what I was hearing. It wasn't just the staggering number of people who took part in Shabbat UK, with over 100,000 Jews engaging with Shabbat, but there was an energy and enthusiasm across the board in a way that I believe has never really been experienced before. The boundaries that are often present within our society had been knocked down and we came together in ways that had not previously been witnessed.

From the south coast to Scotland the excitement was catching and the challah bakes, Shabbat meals, havdallah concerts and fireworks brought our communities together. To see 4,000 people make challah together at Allianz Park was astonishing and, from the reports on social media, they were also delicious.

The way our communities bought into the whole concept has changed my perception of British Jewry. We were all able to relate to Shabbat in a way that many of us hadn't previously been able to. A generation brought up on mobile phones with constant access to information, saw the beauty of stepping back and enjoying an experience of Shabbat with family, friends and community.

Over the last year, we have all seen how so many individuals in our communities have taken the Shabbat UK spirit forward. Whether it was developing an extra connection to Shabbat through food, blessings or synagogues, spending a Friday night with our families or taking part in a community event we have kept that momentum going.

As we approach the second Shabbat UK, and begin planning all the community events to celebrate a united Shabbat with our fellow Jews, I truly think we can top the experience we had last year. The Chief Rabbi has thrown down the gauntlet to all of us, what can we do to make this Shabbat UK even more incredible than last year? It is up to each and every one of us to take up the challenge and prove that this wasn't just a flicker of inspiration but a commitment to the values of Shabbat.

Shabbat UK's legacy wasn't just about engaging with Shabbat for one year as a once off, but about us knocking down more boundaries and pushing the limits of what we as British Jewry can achieve. This year we need to think bigger and better.

On the 23rd and 24th of October this year, we hope that we will all be able to come together to celebrate an inspiring Shabbat UK and we look forward to doing it together with you.

Mark Curtis is
Project Manager of Shabbat UK



THE CHIEF RABBI'S



CST Protecting our Jewish Communities



CST, Community Security Trust, is here to help ensure that our Jewish communities throughout the UK are **protected all year round and able to lead their Jewish lives with peace and dignity.**

CST's work at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur depends upon the **cooperation and participation** of all of our Jewish communities. There is no other time when the partnership is more obvious, nor more necessary, and thousands of volunteers help to make that a reality.

This year, CST will once again be working in **close cooperation with Police, synagogues, security volunteers and security rotas** at hundreds of synagogues over the chagim, but you may also see more commercial security guards working at synagogues than has previously been the case.

These additional guards are now largely paid for by government and are organised by CST and synagogues, as part of our joint security response to the tragic terrorist attacks in Paris and Copenhagen earlier this year. We regret that the additional security is necessary, but we sincerely hope that it provides a **practical and reassuring response to the current situation.**

Thank you once again for cooperating with our security teams at this busy time, and thank you for playing your part in our joint security efforts. **Shana Tovah and well over the fast to all of our community, and to all of our volunteers and their families, to whom we all owe a special thanks.**

Yours, CST.



In an emergency contact the Police on **999**, then contact CST,
Edinburgh: 0800 032 8461 Manchester: 0800 980 0668

In a non-emergency, please call the Police on **101**, then contact CST,
Northern Regional Office: 0161 792 6666

www.cst.org.uk

 @CST_UK

 Community Security Trust

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The Truth is Out There – Somewhere

Jo Capek

When I first used Photoshop, I foolishly thought it was the most brilliant piece of computer software. With a few quick swipes of the mouse I could tidy up every flaw in my original digital photograph. An electricity pylon here, a telegraph wire there or an unsightly blemish anywhere was swiftly eliminated leaving a pristine image that Cartier-Bresson would have been proud of. But unfortunately now, as if rendering flawless skin on ageing celebrities, trimming kilos from the buttocks, midribs and thighs of wannabes and boosting the cleavage of the neverwillbes is not enough, anyone with a basic PC and pirate copy of the program can fabricate a 'genuine' item of photo-journalism in order to further their unworthy aims – and of course Israel is on the receiving end of much of this rubbish.

Sadly, no matter how supportive of Israel one may be, the plain truth is that there is much to criticise about the country. However, with even a microsecond's thought, it is apparent that in its attempts to make the best of such a bad situation, the state's current government can never achieve unsullied perfection. Nicola Sturgeon with far fewer critical problems is faring no better in bringing a fabulous blend of Valhalla, Eden and Nirvana north of Hadrian's Wall. It is therefore only reasonable for persons to criticise Israel, and if their preferences are pro-Palestinian I see nothing wrong in their doing so with some vigour.

And yet there are sensible limits. Much of the ordure heaped upon Israel would be comic, were it not so rabid. It would be unbelievable were it not disseminated so wildly. It would be ludicrous were it not presented as fact. Those who wish to berate Israel certainly have understood the principle that a lie repeated often enough quickly becomes perceived as the truth. Quite possibly many of you will have come across a recent example of such deceit which entirely proves my point.

A persistent self-appointed purveyor of 'Middle Eastern facts', finding he was running short of malicious material to broadcast about Israel through his blog, saw no problem in employing some creativity. Quite which asylum he raided for his idea is still a mystery but he came up with the priceless notion that Mossad had broken into his house, and wait for it for I kid you not; all they did once inside was steal one of his shoes. He justified this apparent lack of dishonest ambition by claiming the operation was merely designed to unsettle him. This demented piece of anti-Zionist propaganda rapidly sped round the world since it was repeatedly retransmitted as yet another example of the diabolical Israelis seeking to terrorise some poor little jihadist.

Full marks to the many Islamists who realised this was a complete load of bovine excrement and thus immediately began explaining to the world the piece had no merit at all. After about a week of their also telling the author what an oaf he really was and striving to convince him that such nonsense would bring their cause into disrepute, he eventually relented and in a desperate attempt to save what little face was left him, he blogged that the whole thing had been a hoax. Amazingly for this genre of internet twaddle, this farce did not use Photoshop. Naturally the retraction was not as widely disseminated.

Now I love a hoax, spoof or general parody as much as anybody. Some of my most-visited websites are devoted to the subject. I eagerly look forward to the annual Ig Nobles, those celebrations of scientific research that parody the Nobel Prizes. They are given each year for the 10 most unusual or trivial pieces of research in science – just so long as they are amusing. Also anticipated are The Darwin Awards, a gala "saluting the improvement of the human genome by honouring those who accidentally remove themselves from it". Hoaxes however are my particular favourite and they have a long and in many cases glorious history. With a few exceptions they fall into one of two categories. Either they try to achieve some clearly defined end or they merely set out to amuse. Obviously the very best do both.

The earliest successful hoax I am aware of is the Trojan Horse, but I can not help thinking this can not have been the first. I have at times mused on some Stone Age artist sketching a buffalo upon his cave wall but the whole tribe knowing it was really meant to represent his mother-in-law. All of which makes it remarkable that the Iranians' attempt to Photoshop an assertion they were armed to the teeth with ballistic missiles aimed at Tel-Aviv was so dire, especially as the military usually expend huge quantities of time, money, talent and care into creating their ruses. Kim Jong Un is another who should fire his keyboard artists. An example of what can be achieved photographically, even in the years BP (before Photoshop), is that most amusing propaganda film purporting to show Hitler dancing the Hokey-Cokey on entering Paris in 1940.

The gullibility of an audience or readership never ceases to amaze. Perhaps the prime example of this is of the Holy Foreskin. This religious relic was apparently given to Pope Leo III by Charlemagne who claimed he had acquired it from an angel. Needless to say, before very long at

least a score more sacred pudendal bits and pieces were in circulation around the abbeys, minsters and cathedrals of Europe. Eventually there had to be an investigation as to which was the genuine article. Needless to say it concluded the one in The Vatican must be Christ's off-cut since it performed the most miracles. I am not mocking those who lived in the Dark Ages, since modern man is just as foolish.

With the advent of photography the fraudsters really got into their stride. A photo-montage of a girl with some fairies certainly fooled Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, probably since Sherlock was otherwise engaged. Astonishingly the BBC's Spaghetti Tree is regarded as a classic of the genre and yet even as a teenager I was not fooled by it.

Much more my kind of spoof is the 'Left Handed Burger'. This acme of the culinary art was created by Burger King as a boon to all left handers. Judging by the number of orders they received for it, this takeaway would have been a highly profitable line had it been real. I appreciate such jests because their aim is solely to amuse.

Those that seek to mislead or profit may be extremely droll but I'm always wary of their undercurrent. The so-called analysis of presidential intelligence is one such. Its perpetrators allegedly determined that Roosevelt had the highest. Unsurprisingly the Democratic 'researchers' placed Bush lowest with an IQ of only 92. Is it any wonder that the political battleground is

now the greatest source of misinformation, and with the advent of the internet the quantity of such attempts at humour has soared whilst their quality has plunged? At least the 'Nobody for President' campaign has a simple charm with battle cries of "Nobody cares!", "Nobody's perfect!" and "Nobody keeps his election promises!"

Perhaps the saddest hoax based upon an image, just so long as you exclude those with terrorist, vindictive or extremist intentions, is one of the very earliest to use photography as its basis: in more senses than one. Hippolyte Bayard created a photograph purporting to show him lying in a morgue after drowning himself. The reason for his apparent 'suicide' was anger at the French government heaping money and honours on Louis Daguerre, when Bayard believed he had been the true inventor of photography.

Edinburgh can hold its head high when it comes to fooling the masses; and no I do not include Nessie as an example. How many tourists snapping away at a little bronze dog realise the tale of Greyfriars Bobby was a hoax. Far better, as it combines all the elements of internet, imagery and worldwide distribution is that perpetrated by a garage owner from Leith. Seeing the Google Street View camera was about to pass down the road he staged a mock axe attack with the help of one of his mechanics. The incident instantly went viral and soon afterwards the garage received a visit from the local constabulary. To their credit, the police had the good grace to enjoy the joke upon

establishing the truth.

It therefore now only remains for me to offer up my contribution to the genre. With any luck, it will not be long before those journalists incapable of checking their facts or zealots whose *raison d'être* is to malign Israel will commence transmitting into cyberspace the following news bulletin. I naturally will assert it was recently issued by The Knesset.

"ISRAEL GIVING JUDEA TO PALESTINIANS"

Israeli astronomers have found the most earthlike exoplanet yet observed. Although they wished to call it Judea, the International Commission on Astronomical Nomenclature insisted it be named HR8799-D. Prof. Golem ben Zion, who led the team which identified the planet, writing in the highly regarded journal 'Astronomical Abstracts' said, "Calculations show its temperature, atmosphere and gravity to be much like Haifa in spring. It most certainly can support life and being only 43 light years from earth is relatively close."

Whilst awarding the ben Zion team the prestigious Deir Yassin prize for their discovery, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu announced gleefully, "The Palestine problem is now solved. Once a few technical issues of transportation are addressed we will commence transfer of all in Gaza and The West Bank to their new, idyllic homeland." He ended by stating triumphantly, "I'd like to see them try firing a Katyusha at us from there."

EHC Welcomes Jane Rickman

Edward Green

Jane Rickman moved to Edinburgh at the beginning of May 2014 having retired after thirty years from being a solicitor in London. It was a plan she and her late husband Ben had made for their retirement because their son Aaron had settled in Edinburgh. London born, Ben was a mathematician and spent most of his career in London. Sadly, he died, in October 2012, at the age of 62, very soon after being diagnosed with cancer. Jane continued with the plan, and is now glad to be living near Aaron (who works in the banking world here in Edinburgh), his wife Rachel, and their son Louis Benjamin, who was born early in 2013.



Jane and Ben had met at Oxford where they were both studying. Jane was originally from Manchester, and after marrying they lived in Chicago before returning to Oxford and subsequently London. Jane says she is settling well in Edinburgh, making new friends and relishing the theatres, museums, galleries, and so much more that the city has to offer; she enjoys walking, and particularly appreciates being so close to the coast and the countryside. Perhaps what she enjoys most, however, is taking care at times of her grandson, and she is clearly a greatly valued grandmother.

Jane has become a regular of all the service. She helps out with the kiddushim and other events held within the community centre and her hard work in the kitchen was crucial to the success of EHC's Communal Seder. She is a volunteer, helper and attender of the Luncheon Club. We wish her every happiness in Edinburgh and are delighted to have her amongst us.

Chagim at EHC

Micheline Brannan

EHC COMMUNAL SEDER



The table is set for the Seder. Lined up are L to R, Halina Moss, Gershon Mendick, Rabbi Rose, Itamar Nitzan and Anna Duncan

On Friday 3 April, EHC held our third communal seder since the custom was reinstated after a lapse of many years. This year organisation fell to Rabbi Rose, with the assistance of Jane Rickman, Gershon Mendick, Harriet Lyall and many others including your editor. Various guests who had only come to Edinburgh on holiday found themselves in the kitchen on the night. The Rabbi did magnificently not only organising the event and planning all the food, which was supplied as usual by Mark's Deli, but also conducting the seder and making everyone feel a part of the ceremony, as each guest took a turn to read in English or in Hebrew from the Haggadah. While not wishing to say anything negative, as usual interest in the Haggadah waned after the meal, and, owing to the late hour, there were very few guests left by the time Chad Gadya was reached.

SHAVUOT AT EHC



Rabbi Natan Levy was a speaker at the Lit 125 event in 2014. Here pictured making a point during panel discussion with Rabbi Rose, Rabbi Mark Solomon and Gillian Raab.

YOM HAZIKARON & YOM HA'ATZMAUT AT EHC



L to R: Alice and Shimon Goodman, Jonathan Kish, Norman Berger, Gershon Mendick. Opposite them, Lawrence Taylor

There was a service to remember Israel's fallen soldiers followed by a light supper to celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut at EHC on Wednesday 22 April 2015. The next day our Israeli community organised children's activities and a buffet at the Community Centre. We were delighted to welcome Alice and Shimon Goodman, parents of Gidona Henderson, to join us on this occasion.

Shavuot fell this year on 23 and 24 May. The shul was decorated with flowers and plants by courtesy of Maryla and Edward Green and it looked magnificent. This year we had a visiting Rabbi – Natan Levy – a friend of Jane Ansell. Rabbi Levy is well-known to many of us from Limmud. He is the Project Officer, Interfaith & Social Action, for the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Jane Ansell kindly hosted Rabbi Levy and one of his children for the whole Festival and Shabbat. He conducted the Tikkun Leil Shavuot at EHC, which was well attended by the wider Jewish community, as well as preaching at the morning service, and holding shiurim at Jane's home. This made for a wonderful and memorable Shavuot, in the spirit of Z'man Matan Torateinu.

Community Centre Walk Pencaitland

Harriet Lyall

Pottering about in the scullery on the morning of 28th June I thought: "There is nothing I'd rather do today than go for a walk in the country." I couldn't wait to get out into the fresh air and, in the event, my optimism was amply justified: perfect weather, perfect time of year, perfect scenery, perfect walking speed, perfect company, perfect location.

Mustering point was the Winton Arms pub in Pencaitland, which was convenient because it has a good-sized car park where sandwiches, fruit etc. were dispensed from Micheline's car.

Sixteen EHC members took part, including Sharon Ogilvie accompanied by three young 'uns and two beautiful golden retriever dogs, who turned out to be a real joy and asset to our company.

Hilary looked stunning in a red jacket and navy cargo pants: she is the only lady I have ever encountered, in many years of hillwalking, who can wear hillwalking gear with the same grace and élan as occasionwear!

Our Guide for the day was Richard English, Park Ranger with East Lothian Ranger Services. Having a qualified Guide made all the difference to our ability to relax and enjoy the walk. We could simply entrust ourselves to his capable leadership, confident that he would know which turnings to take so there was no danger of our getting lost, and would be able to explain points of interest along the way.

High summer in East Lothian is a surround-sound experience of birdsong in a landscape of woods, fields and hedgerows in full bloom. Our first stop was on the banks of the River Tyne (as in Tynninghame, not Newcastle-upon) which at that point is a mere stream, in a wooded glade ringing with the calls of yellowhammers, various other passerines, and choughs.

We walked along the pink shale bed of the old Railway Line, which has been turned into a walkway with, at intervals, Memory Boards telling the story of the Railway in the words of people who worked on it and used it. To our left was a field of tall grass, an irresistible attraction for our two canine members, who plunged in over their heads, frolicking and cavorting like exuberant puppies.

We skirted the edge of a coppice, the dogs streaking past our legs as we picked our way carefully along the narrow channel in the long grass between the trees and a wire fence. To our right was a field of growing grain, rolling down towards the edge of the land. In the distance was Cockenzie to the West and the Traprain Law to the East, and beyond them the Firth of Forth and a vista of the Fife hills. The sky was huge; misty blue, with big fluffy white clouds piled at the horizon.



Then we came to a stretch of road, passed an old church and its secluded manse, and found ourselves on a vestigial driveway with beautiful trees on either side. Richard pointed out a particularly lovely tree with great spreading branches. "Is this it? Is this the Yew?" but no, it was a cedar, magnificent tree in its own right, but a mere stripling compared with the object of our quest. From a small open meadow, we turned right and seemed to plunge into the narrowest of openings in prickly, coniferous branches. We emerged in a twilight cavern, stepping noiselessly onto a soft, springy carpet of old yew-needles under a canopy of gnarled branches.

The Ormiston Yew is reputedly 1,000 years old. A scientific test of its core put it at 500, but, as it was already an established tree when John Knox and George Wishart

used to hold prayer meetings there, a more realistically conservative estimate is 700, with 1,000 perfectly feasible, as there are historical records going back that far.

The branches have spread to a diameter of 50 feet or so, creating a kind of dome under which it is possible to walk around as if in a spacious room. Under the yew tree there is silence, but silence of a kind in which one is aware of the ongoing life of this venerable entity, its sap flowing, its bark forming itself in gnarled swirls, its roots conveying nourishment to its branches, and young sprouting shoots and fruits continuing to emerge in due season.

Each of us felt deeply touched at the thought of its patient, indomitable life down the centuries, and fascinated by all the human history it had witnessed.

Reuben Ogilvie climbed its branches and announced "I'm going to tell them all at school that I've been to the top of the oldest tree in Scotland!"

Back outside, we had our sandwiches in a little sunlit meadow studded with buttercups, clover and forget-me-nots. The clouds parted and the sun blazed down. Directly we stood up, dusted the crumbs off and made to resume our walk, some clouds re-appeared and a few desultory spits of Scotch mist flew around, just enough to refresh us for ten minutes or so.

The dogs found a nice muddy puddle in which they rolled with every evidence of satisfaction, returning home with a respectable layer of dried mud on their coats.

Returning about 3:30 to our starting point, the Winton Arms, we delivered a huge vote of thanks to our wonderful guide, Richard English, and agreed that we must lose no time before we plan our next such expedition.

There are many more pictures of this outing available on the website:

www.edinburghstar.info

COMMUNITY CENTRE COFFEE MORNING

Judy Gilbert

The helpers on this occasion were, amongst others, Betsy Dorfman, Harriet Lyall, Hilary Rifkind, Jackie Taylor, Jane Rickman, Lesley Danzig, Gershon Mendick and Susan and Steven Hyams (apologies to anyone inadvertently not named).

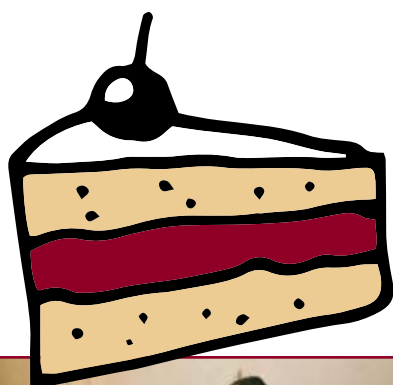
Support this regular and well loved event – next one on 6 September 2015.



Coffee and chat with L to R: Harriet Lyall, Gershon Mendick, Jane Rickman, and Margaret Aronson (Shimon Goodman in distance)



The ever popular cake auction with: Lesley Danzig, Steven Hyams, Betsy Dorfman, Shimon Goodman, Margaret Aronson, Jonathan Kish, Francoise Robertson and others



In praise of coffee mornings

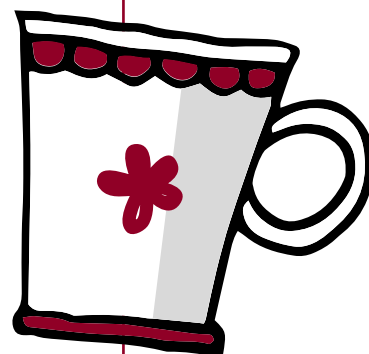
Judy SchMcgonagall

The charming coffee mornings are a regular event.
The funds go to the CCC. Your money is well spent.
Try riffle through the DVDs or choose the potted flowers,
Or float around and socialise to fill some empty hours.

What splendid plates of sandwiches with fillings to delight!
Fresh coffee or a cup of tea to go with every bite!
The table that is groaning with a book for every taste!
The covers seem to ask us 'please don't let us go to waste'.

The produce by the back wall is delicious and enticing,
The cake with fruit or choc'late or a pretty coat of icing,
Some bags of home grown produce call, and jars of something sweet,
The thing to buy for someone as a very special treat.

Remember at the very end the auction is in place.
You make your bid; you win or lose but bow out with good grace.
And thanks to all the helpers* who have made this a success!
The time they gave, the smile, the wave, does nothing but impress.



Children's corner



Susan Hyams attends to the plant and book stall

Writing the Story of Your Life

Rabbi Dr Raphael Zarum, Dean of the London School of Jewish Studies (LSJS)

BeRosh Hashanah yechatevu, uv'Yom tzom Kippur yechateimun

"On Rosh Hashanah it is written, and on the fast of Yom Kippur it is sealed" – This is the central refrain to *Unetaneh Tokef*, probably the most famous prayer in our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. The haunting melody that accompanies these words entices us to reflect on our actions and attitudes of the previous year.

But why use the metaphor of *writing* and *sealing* to describe our judgment? The simple answer is that we are comparing the proceedings of the Heavenly Court with that of an earth-bound human one. Though a judgment may have been written by human judge, it is only sealed and acted upon if there has been no successful attempt to appeal. Similarly, on Rosh Hashanah our judgment is only *written*, but if we commit to improve our ways before the end of Yom Kippur then there is a chance it might be changed before finally being sealed.

To bring these words up to date we might, I suppose, say, "On Rosh Hashanah it is typed, and on the fast of Yom Kippur it is uploaded." Nevertheless, I think there is something important about the actual metaphor of writing. It says in Ethics of the Fathers (Pirkei Avot 4:25):

"Elisha ben Abuya said: When you learn as a child, what it is like? Like ink written on clean paper. When you learn as an adult, what it is like? Like ink written on blotted paper."

The message of this little aphorism is clear, children learn more easily as there is less cluttering their minds. Blotted paper is paper that has been written on a number of times with ink and then erased. Thus the paper is dilapidated and it will be harder for new ink to adhere to it when written upon again. Similarly, we find it harder to learn and recall as adults than when we were young.

I would like to suggest that this might also apply to the books that God, metaphorically, writes us in on the High Holy Days. If every year we regret our mistakes, aim to improve come Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and then just fall back into those same mistakes again right after, then our names are constantly been written and erased in God's books. And that means that every year it becomes harder for our names to stick. They become fainter and more difficult to identify.

For me, this is a profound image. The inability to commit to a consistent and growing religious path undermines the strength of your name – that is, who you are, your very identity. Only commitment to a path, a *derech*, allows you to really have a name. And the pace of progression is much less important than the fact you are actually on a path at all. I think this might be why Maimonides placed the following verse on the top of the introduction to his Guide for the Perplexed, probably the most profound book for Jewish philosophy ever written:

"To the person who sacrifices a thanks offering to Me [God], and sets a path for themselves, I will show them My salvation"
(Psalms 50:23)

In other words, God will respond to a person who is willing, (a) to recognise and appreciate God, and (b) to commit to a sustained plan of action and growth.

With this in mind, Rosh Hashanah cannot just be a repeat exercise of the previous year. It must become a reinforcement and gradual development of a consistent path. i.e. we should be going somewhere rather than just coasting.

The final irony is the personal life of the author of the Mishnah from Pirkei Avot mentioned above. Elisha ben Avuya, left the Jewish path, rejecting God and Torah. Though he was learned and insightful, religious patterns of behaviour and commitment never *sealed* in him. He was

constantly *rewriting* himself until his very name was lost. Eventually he was just known as *acher*, literally, 'other'.

Rosh Hashanah is *the* day of Jewish identity: when we admit what we truly value, when we reveal our real commitments, when we live up to our names.

May we all be inscribed for Life.

LSJS run a range of courses for people of all ages and levels of knowledge including. You can also train as a teacher or study for a BA (Hons) or MA in Jewish Education. For more information visit www.lsjs.ac.uk



London School of Jewish Studies



Edinburgh Friends of Israel

Dorothe Kaufmann

Edinburgh Friends of Israel held their inaugural conference in March 2015, attended by over 220 delegates from the UK and abroad. Notable speakers included diplomat Dan Golan from the Israeli Embassy, Luke Akehurst Director of 'We Believe in Israel', together with Avner Lustig and Dr Denis McEoin from partner organisation 'StandWithUs UK'. A highlight of the conference was the signing of The Shalom Declaration by Chair of Edinburgh Friends of Israel Dorothe Kaufmann after an introduction by Steve Jaffe from the Board of Deputies of British Jews. We are honoured and delighted that Lady Cosgrove agreed to be our patron and sent a message of support.

Recent events include the first ever pro-Israel street stall on Princes Street, supporting the Tik-sho-ret Israeli Theatre Company performing at the Fringe, and cheering on the Israeli U19 ladies' lacrosse team at the world championships. We will soon host a meeting with a Lieutenant Colonel in the IDF, as part of her nationwide tour. She played a significant part in the Israeli rescue mission to Nepal.

EFI is a community-wide support group dedicated to promoting better understanding about the State of Israel through the advancement of educational, cultural and social events in Edinburgh. We want to present the truth about the only democratic state in the Middle East which holds itself accountable to internal and external scrutiny as it seeks to defend the human rights of all its citizens, including the right to self-determination.

We feel the need to oppose aggressive and inaccurate propaganda which seeks to demonise and isolate Israel. In particular we wish to stand with Jewish people in Edinburgh and in pursuit of our aims restore balance and fairness by disseminating clear, accurate and truthful information about Israel and the situation with her neighbours.

EFI is a founder member of the Confederation of Friends of Israel – Scotland, a body representing a growing number of similar groups throughout the country.

Dorothe Kaufman is the Chair of EFI

Editor's note: A fuller account of the inaugural conference on 29 March can be found on Star Extra www.edinburghstar.info



Dan Golan speaks



Howard Kahn and Clarice Osborne at the conference



Panel discussion



EFI Stall in Princes Street

VALUATIONS · REPAIRS · PURCHASING · WATCHES

GOODWIN'S

FINE JEWELLERY AND SILVER

15-16 QUEENSFERRY STREET
0131 225 4717



106-108 ROSE STREET
0131 220 1230

ISRAEL WOMEN'S UNDER 19 LACROSSE TEAM DINNER AT EHC ON 24 AND 31 JULY 2015

Micheline Brannan

"There is not a huge culture of women's sport in Israel," said Hannah Deoul, head coach of the Israel Women's under 19 lacrosse team, when I interviewed her on 31 July. Hannah continued, "This is one of 3 new teams set up recently in Israel and we are doing better than the men's soccer team because we have already qualified for the World Cup. Lacrosse is centred on Ashkelon which is where most of the players live."



Those smiles are genuine – the team are really enjoying their visit

Asked how the team had done, Hannah regretfully said that they had not won a single game, but this was understandable as some have been playing for only three months and have had little time to prepare.



Scott Neiss of Israel Lacrosse, head of the delegation, makes a speech

Speaking about Edinburgh, Hannah said, "We absolutely love Edinburgh. We are staying at Pollock Halls which is very convenient for the matches and for the synagogue. We have climbed Arthur's Seat. Everyone is so lovely, we can't get enough tea! Although the Jewish Community is small, they have been so welcoming, taking care of us. For some of the girls it is their first time out of Israel and the first time they have been on an aeroplane."

The smiles of the guests tell their own story. The team spirit was very apparent to the locals as Scott Neiss, the head of the delegation, proceeded to present certificates to everyone who had done particularly well during their two weeks in Edinburgh.

Merav Gardi took responsibility for providing a Friday night meal on 24 July, and this was catered by Merav and Israeli friends. Jewish community members were invited to attend for a nominal charge. On 31 July, as Merav was on holiday, the food was provided by LeChaim caterers in Glasgow.



Itamar Nitzan hosts a table

The only negative note about the visit was the presence of Palestinian Solidarity Campaign protesters outside the grounds any time the Israelis were playing. Some supporters of the Israel team were turned away from the grounds although they had legitimately bought tickets, in case Israeli flags and caps exacerbated the situation. This continued harassment of those seeking to show public support for Israel is highly regrettable. These young girls aged 15 to 19 have nothing to do with politics and are only here to compete to the best of their ability at the sport they love. No other country has to contend with such complicated politics any time they want to send a national team.

More photographs are available to view on our website:

www.edinburghstar.info



Happy diners on 24 July. Arnold and Hilary Rifkind can be seen standing



Jackie and Raymond Taylor, and Lord Julian Goodman, serving the meal on 31 July, along with some organisers of the Lacrosse delegation



Hannah Deoul, Head Coach

RIGHTEOUS MUSLIMS EXHIBITION

Micheline Brannan

During the Second World War, many Muslims, especially in South-East Europe, sheltered Jewish neighbours from the Nazis. Some are honoured as Righteous Muslims by Yad Vashem.

Faith Matters, a Muslim civic organisation, has created an exhibition telling some of the stories. The exhibition has been displayed in many places in the UK, but its first public showing in Scotland was a joint project between, Marchmont St Giles', Sukkat Shalom and the Muslim Women's Association of Edinburgh. The exhibition was on show in Butterflies Café at Marchmont St Giles'. It ran from 1 to 12 April 2015. Your editor attended the launch. The panels were displayed in windows along a partition wall. More photographs, including all the panels, which are quite legible if you enlarge the picture on your screen, are available to view on our website:

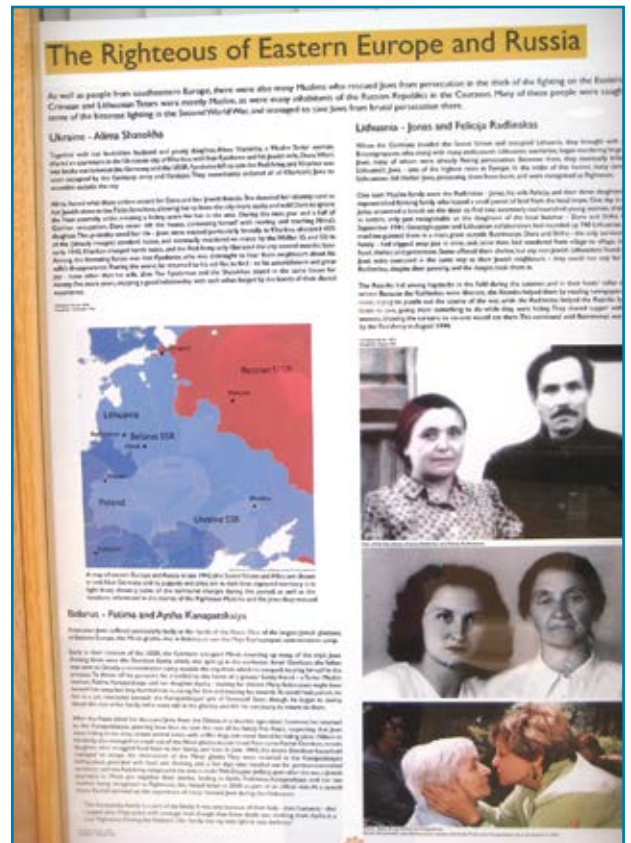
www.edinburghstar.info



Catherine Lyons introduces Tasneem Ali of the Muslim Women's Association of Edinburgh



Catherine Lyons with Hugh Goddard of the Al Waleed Centre for Christian Muslim Relations



A typical panel from the exhibition



Norman Crane, Chair of Sukkat Shalom, with Wendy Crane and Ricky Hogg

Jabulani Journeys

Rabbi David Rose

For two weeks in July I was privileged to have the most amazing experience. I travelled to South Africa as part of the Jabulani Project. It was an experience that was both exhilarating, inspiring and sometimes saddening at the same time and has left me with a great fondness for South Africa and its people and a desire to do more.

Jabulani

The Jabulani Project has its genesis in a twinning of James Gillespie's High School with a school in Umlazi, the black township next to Durban. After he retired, headmaster Alex Wallace saw a need to do more and created a project to work more broadly with deprived groups in the area. Jabulani works with schools in the townships and other groups dealing with deprivation in the area. It operates with a permanent local staff and volunteers from Scotland that come out normally in January/February and June/July.

The Ansell Connection

I became involved with Jabulani because of Isaac Ansell Forsyth. Having hosted as part of the Gillespie's exchange program, Isaac decided to spend six months in Durban during his gap year. Today, along with Alex, he is one of the main Scottish co-ordinators of the project. As such he has got both his mother and myself involved in various ways. I had always wanted to go out and see/work for myself and this July I got the opportunity.

Durban and Umlazi

Durban is South Africa's third city, situated on the Indian Ocean with a tropical/subtropical climate. It is a major port servicing Asia and Australasia. Its topography is extremely hilly, giving it a special beauty and also keeping you fit if you walk a lot. Umlazi is one of the African townships ringing Durban. The townships were created during apartheid to house the African population and were not considered part of the city but a separate entity, often connected to the so called black 'homelands'. Unusually, Durban itself also held black and Indian areas. The townships were built on the least desirable land and even today are mostly centres of deprivation, though there are differing levels of wealth within them. Durban is

also home to a large Indian and Muslim population.

South African Features

The Zulus are the tribe that make up most of the population in the province named after them: KwaZulu-Natal. They speak a language called isiZulu which is related to the other African languages of South Africa. In the past they were mostly a pastoral people and animal husbandry still plays an important role in village life. Two things noticeable about Zulu culture are its reverence of the ancestors and the presence of polygamy. Ancestor 'worship' or reverence is an important part of Zulu culture which generally seems to mesh with strong Christian beliefs, though some of the more fundamentalist churches preach against it. A distinguishing feature of Zulu society is polygamy which seems to be quite widely practised not only in marriage but also in boyfriend-girlfriend relationships. It is, however, not cheap, as it co-exists with a concept called Lobola, a bride price paid to the woman's family. The current rate is eleven cows, decided on by a British colonial governor in the 19th century. This situation often leads to the preference for casual relationships, which however can also carry a (lesser) monetary penalty.

Load shedding is a feature of South African life connected both to poverty and the country's parlous infrastructure. It refers to a government initiative involving the institution of frequent power cuts that are a feature of life in the country. While supposedly carried out according to schedule, this timetable seems to bear little relation to reality. This situation is caused both by lack of capacity and the widespread stealing of electricity from the grid.

Segregation is unfortunately still part of South African society. While apartheid is a thing of the past most whites live in affluent areas with houses surrounded by barbed/electric wire and send their children to affluent schools while most blacks live in less affluent or poor areas and go to schools that often have poor resources. What appears to me to have happened is that a section of the black community has become 'white', affluent in wealth, location and education and sharing some of the prejudices of the white community, not letting their children play with children from the townships, for example. It is also noticeable that there appears to be little social integration between the communities, with mixed groups even occasioning looks, something I personally experienced.

Monkeys are another feature of life in Durban, as in much of Africa. They will happily turn up in your back garden and if you don't shut windows and doors, gladly steal food from the cupboards and even the fridge.

The Jewish Community

While in South Africa I was lucky to be supported by a wonderful local Jewish community. The South African Jewish community is warm, committed and friendly. I personally was not only welcomed but happily employed in giving sermons and Divrei Torah. I also gave a speech about Scottish Jewry. People in the community seem to be committed to the new South Africa and the community as a whole is involved in social action. They were interested in our work and often asked how they could help in certain situations. Unfortunately, despite having had a Scottish Chief Rabbi, they have an appalling taste in whisky, drinking mostly blends. I of course began to educate them in the matter with some limited success.



Rabbi Rose with pupils and staff



Jane Ansell with pupils



Rabbi Rose speaks to a class



Rabbi Rose gives presentation

Teaching

The main activity in which I was involved was teaching public speaking in schools in Umlazi. This was not only of general importance for the kids' future, but an oral examination in English and Zulu was a requirement of their matriculation. Even though it was winter holidays the children still came in for extra tutoring for their exams. I worked with three different schools, each of whom had differing levels of facilities. The basic format was to give them some brief instructions and then get them to present a speech, while training them in deportment and delivery. Examples of the topics they chose were teenage pregnancy, load shedding, miracles and xenophobia. The kids were in general more articulate, mature and engaged than I have found with Scottish students. In two of the sessions Isaac also did a seminar on leadership which again highlighted the different values and preoccupations of the students compared to Scotland.

Interfaith and Israel

One of the things I set out to do was make interfaith connections. This was achieved by Crispin Hemson, a lecturer at the Durban University of Technology. A fascinating character, Crispin was an independent councillor under apartheid

and led the fight against the attempt last summer to exclude Jewish students from the university. We had a meeting at DUT with a group of people from different faiths and there was some interest in connecting with Edinburgh. When the issue of Israel came up, however, there was some tension, especially from the Muslim lady. Unfortunately, they have been led to believe that Israel is similar to apartheid South Africa, something difficult to dispel and damaging to the status of the strongly Zionist Jewish community. As the head of the South African Board of Deputies said to me that evening: 'now you know what we are up against'.

Helping Hands

One of the most worthwhile things I did was to assist with a party for children in another township called Lamontville. This was run by an organisation called Helping Hands, which was set up by a Muslim family and is still run from their home. They provide everything from hot meals to daily necessities to the most needy, as well as holding events like the children's party. It consisted of a meal and entertainment including some by the children themselves. It was a wonderful and inspiring event to be involved in despite the fact that neither the Muslims nor myself could eat the food.

Bobbi Bear

The most moving and distressing place I visited was on the last day. Bobbi Bear is a charity set up to rescue and help abused children. The statistics are horrifying. One child is raped every minute in South Africa, and in KwaZulu-Natal 51% of people between the ages of 16 and 45 are HIV positive. Bobbi Bear runs a safe house from which they go out in cars and rescue abused children. They then provide them with immediate medical and other help provided using 'rape kits' tailored for age. They also take them through the investigative and judicial process and provide ongoing support. The name of the charity comes from a toy bear that is given to the children and on which they draw what has happened to them, helping the Bobbi Bear workers to attend to both their medical and legal needs. The charity still desperately needs funds for running costs.

The experience I had in South Africa was eye opening and inspiring and hopefully will lead to greater involvement both here and in South Africa in the future.

Anyone that wishes to know more or donate to Bobbi Bear or Jabulani should contact me – details on inside front cover.



The Night the Bomb Fell on 29 Roseneath Terrace

Harriet Lyall

My mother's grandparents arrived in Great Britain from Latvia, in about 1890, refugees from pogroms. The Aronsons settled in Glasgow, where they raised ten children. By the late 1930s, their continental relatives were desperate to come to Britain but it wasn't possible to take them, for which my grandparents were racked with guilt for the rest of their lives. The letters simply stopped coming and everybody knew what must have happened.

By 1940, Great Britain was putting a defiant and optimistic face on its predicament but was privately pessimistic and convinced that invasion was imminent. "The full might and fury of the Enemy" Churchill said "is now turned upon us." The British War Cabinet introduced stringent rationing. One of little Golda's chores was meticulously cutting newspaper into neat squares, threading it onto string and hanging it up in the bathroom for use as toilet paper: another was nipping out to the Kosher butcher during the "black-out" (all lights had to be extinguished, to make navigation as difficult as possible for the enemy bombers) to obtain the family's precious meat ration. Golda's father, Benny, was an A.R.P. Warden, with a tin hat (against falling debris) and a stirrup pump (to spray water in the event of a fire). My mum remembered him grumbling as he tried to make omelettes out of the dried egg ration. Experiments were tried with coffee made from acorns and dandelions, but these proved so loathsome that they were quickly abandoned. Then there was the infamous snoek, a fish so disgustingly oily and flabby, it made you gag if you tried to eat it, no matter how hungry you were. People were told to "make do and mend", and became increasingly ingenious in finding solutions to the problems of daily life. They did become very lean and fit, however.

Hitler said that the map of Britain resembled a chicken and he would wring the chicken's neck: by this was meant focusing the offensive on the narrowest part of the island of Britain, namely the 50-mile corridor between Edinburgh and Glasgow. Glasgow Clydebank was of strategic importance because it was there, in the great John Brown shipyards, that the battleships of the British Navy were constructed. Accordingly the Luftwaffe bombed that area to oblivion, whole swathes remaining waste to this day.

One bright, moonlight night in the autumn of 1940, with the Forth and Clyde Canal shining clear guidance to the enemy bombers as they came across the North Sea and headed for the west of Scotland via Edinburgh, one bomber took a pop at the Bertram's Armaments Factory, a few blocks away from where the Aronson family lived at number 29 Roseneath Terrace.

Golda had been born in 1932 and, seven years later, on the very eve of war, Eva had found herself pregnant again. Benny's savvy mother Amelia had been full of forebodings and had remonstrated with her daughter-in-law, in broken English, as well as in Yiddish, Latvian, Russian and German, both Hoch and Platt. Other members of the tribe had chimed in: things were not looking good for Jews, was it not lunacy to bring yet another one of us into the world at a time like this? Nevertheless, Joe was successfully born in May 1939 and there he still was, eighteen months later, bouncing in his playpen, with WWII raging overhead.

The family heard the bombers directly above, they heard the whistling sound of a bomb dropping, and the series of hideous impacts as it slammed into the two-foot-thick sandstone gable end, rebounded, slammed into the opposite gable end and descended in a series of zigzags before embedding itself in the foundation. The solid stone building shook like a curtain, the noise was appalling, ear-splitting, bone-grinding, every window in the entire street exploded, littering the floor with glass. Eva threw her hands to Heaven and exclaimed "Oy Benny, we're doomed!"

And then...silence!

The bomb didn't go off. No-one was seriously injured. The bombers passed away over the North Sea. The Aronson family were evacuated to Fife, before going back home. Golda continued to excel at school and Joe got a Meccano set for his birthday. A cat was acquired. Benny's nerves were affected but it didn't prevent his long and successful career as a salesman, football fan (Glasgow Rangers) and regular attendee at the shul.

Britain's Jews, including the Aronsons, threw themselves zealously into the British War Effort: brave people gave their lives so we could have a future. I owe my very existence to the Services, of which my dad was such a proud member; to my grandparents' determination to raise their family against the odds; and the Providential fact that they were protected from a direct hit by the two-foot-thick stone walls of an Edinburgh tenement.

Editor's Note

We are delighted to welcome Harriet to the Editorial Board of the Edinburgh Star. Harriet has also joined EHC and is most welcome as a new member, and as someone who is prepared to roll up her sleeves and contribute to the hard work of running EHC in all sorts of ways.



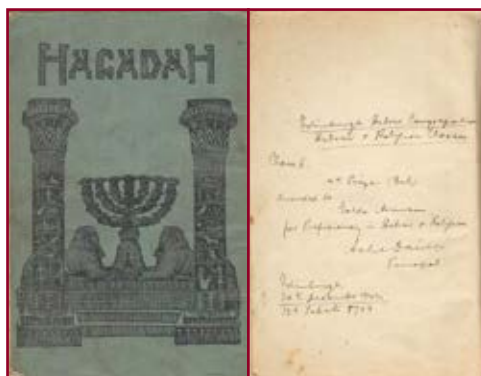
My Mum's little brother Joe Aronson with me at the Festival of Purim in 2014



My father, Jim Lyall, aged 17 in 1944, on board H.M.S. Sheffield. Five years later, in 1949, he went to Edinburgh University, where he met 17-year-old Golda. They married in 1955, in London, which is where I was born.



19-year-old Golda in 1952, the youngest graduand of her year at Edinburgh University
"Your mother was a bonnie lassie, a bonnie, bonnie lassie!"



Golda's Hagadah, presented to her on 12th Tevet 5703 (20th December 1942) by Reverend Salis Daiches, a distinguished Rabbi of Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation.



The front wall at 20 Roseneath Terrace



The newspaper report of the bomb landing on the Edinburgh tenement on whose ground floor was the Aronson residence: note that, because of Wartime restrictions, Edinburgh is not named.



The Aronsons in 1946: Benny, Chava, called Eva, 14-year-old Golda and 7-year-old Joe, after a family wedding in Glasgow.



The wall at 29 Roseneath Terrace still showing damage

Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue Consultation

Janet Mundy

The Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue has appointed Clive Lawton, former Director of Limmud and a world-renowned educator, motivator and lecturer, to carry out a consultation over the next few months on future options for the Edinburgh Jewish community. He will be visiting Edinburgh on 9 – 11 September and 20 – 23 October and is keen to engage with as many people as possible during these visits, as well as by phone or e-mail where face-to-face contact is not an option.

There will be a general meeting led by Clive on the evening of Thursday 10th September 7 – 9 pm at Godfrey Thomson Hall, Thomson's Land, St John Street, off Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AQ

If you would to attend the meeting or would like more information, please contact Janet Mundy – mundy.janet@gmail.com

EHC AGM WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 2015

Micheline Brannan

Reports of AGMs do not make riveting reading and EHC's is no exception. However on this occasion there was a contested election for seats on the Board of Management and the Star here records the outcome of the election, and the subsequent Board meeting at which the Executive members were appointed.

In addition, Hilary Rifkind as Treasurer gave a financial report which indicates that the EHC is running at a significant deficit. David Neville and others commented on their commitment to the continued existence of EHC and the ongoing work of the Futures Group in developing ideas to secure a viable and vibrant future.

Those elected were:

Raymond Taylor	Chairman
Hilary Rifkind	Hon. Treasurer
Micheline Brannan	Vice Chairman/ Community & Welfare
Jackie Taylor	Hon. Secretary
Arnold Rifkind	Religious Affairs
Steven Hyams	Buildings
Anthony Gilbert	Minute Secretary

Michael Adler
Carole Cowen
Susie Kelpie
David Neville
Elaine Samuel

Steven Hyams retains chair of the Community Centre Committee.
Mickey Cowen is chair of the Yom Kippur Appeal Standing Committee
Elaine Samuel is chair of the Education Standing Committee



David Neville gives his election address



Elaine Samuel gives her election address



Everyone votes



Michael Adler gives his election address



Hilary Rifkind gives the Treasurer's report, with Jackie and Raymond Taylor on platform

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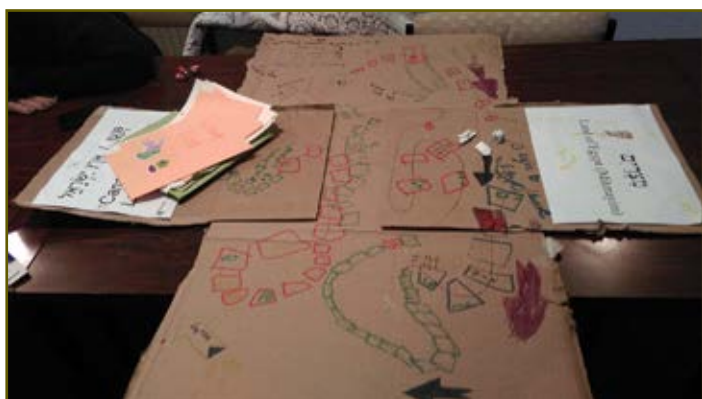
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EHC Cheder Prize Giving 2015

Janet Mundy

Adults going along to the annual Cheder Prizegiving usually expect to find out what the children have learned. However, this year's presentations by the children gave the audience an opportunity to learn something new.

Each of the classes had developed games which were on display on the day. Class 1 (Shlomit Gardi, Jack and Nixie Dismore and Aiddie Finlay) presented their game related to their Torah studies.



Class 2 (Sam Ross, Lotem Gardi, Ruth Adler and Saphie Ogilvie) not only created a game called Jewfestivopoly (with help from the Levy/Maher family!) but also filmed a video "advert" which was highly informative and very entertaining!



Not to be outdone by the younger classes, Class 3 (Reuben Ogilvie, Dorothy Sherratt, Sam Adler and Connor Finlay) had developed a multi-level interactive computer game to test knowledge of festivals, with help from Jonathan Danzig and Merav Gardi. Jane Ansell, aided by Omri Gardi, had also helped this class with a special project on Lashon Hara, and the class also gave a presentation on their project, including Dorothy Sherratt's poster.



Every cheder child received a prize in recognition of their hard work this year, and special prizes were given to Leo Finlay, Connor Finlay and Dorothy Sherratt.

Hannah Cohn-Simmen and Omri Gardi received copies of "Torah for Dummies" (and Geniuses!) to thank them for their role as helpers this year.

It was a special year for Clare Levy, who has been involved with the cheder as pupil, helper and teacher for many years but is now leaving to start university. Her whole family was present (mother Elaine in virtual form, thanks to modern technology) to witness the gifts from the children, parents and shul.



Clare Levy with parting gifts from Cheder

As recognised by the adult speakers – Rabbi Rose, Raymond Taylor, Hilary Rifkind, who presented the prizes, and two of their teachers – Merav Gardi and Lord Julian Goodman – the children have achieved a great deal this year, and we can all share in the nachas!

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

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Samuel and Ruth

Michael Adler and Sue Fyvel

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Netanya, Israel

Joe and Margaret Aronson
15 Arden Street
Edinburgh

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

Clarice Been
80 Willifield Way
London

Shirley and Peter Bennett

Barbara and Leslie Bennie

Lennie and Marcia Berger
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Schools Hill, Cheadle

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Shrutee and Ananya Brannan
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Norma Brodie and family
Flat 3, 4c Mayfield Gardens
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Christine and Dave Burns

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Benjamin, James and Zoe

Ian and Rachel Caplan,
Olivia and Daniel

Sandra and Sidney Caplan

Shari, Martin and Hannah
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Betsy Dorfman

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David, Sheryl, Cameron and
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27 Plantation Street
Mervona, Western Australia

Isobel King
Melrose

Jonathan Kish

Abby, Joel, Deborah,
Saul, Joshua and Eliora Korn
Ra'anana, Israel

Ian and Joan Leifer
and family

Kleile(nee Fluss) Lerner
21 Massada Street
Ramat Gan, Israel

Anita Levinson and family
3 Ross Road,
Edinburgh

Carol, Tom, Maurice
and Benjamin

Emma and Bert Levy

Elaine Levy, Eddy Maher,
Sarah and Clare

Brian and Esther Levy (nee
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Stanmore, Middlesex

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Litman, Flat 2, Heron's Court
Shenley Hill, Radlett

T.R. Lowrie
11 Greenhill Place
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Sharon and Mike Lurie
Kate and Debra
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Hilary and Arnold Rifkind and
Richard

Michael and Sharon Rifkind
Eli, Natan, Avigayil and Maytal
Teaneck NJ, USA

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Ra'anana, Israel

Pearl and Ian Shein

Leonna and Alan Shenkin

Vivienne Shreir (nee Goldberg)

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Judy Sischy and family

Rachael Skop

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Avigal, Mikael, Adina and Carmela

Harold Sterne
19/3 Pierre Koenig Street
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Jackie, Raymond, Lawrence and Michael Taylor

Carole Weinberg
6 Lyntonvale Avenue
Gatley, Cheadle, Manchester

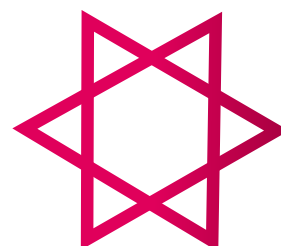
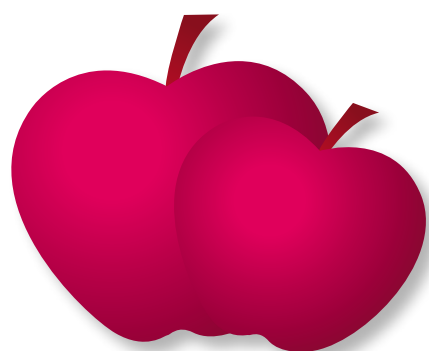
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Pinner, Harrow

Madeleine Whiteson
28 Mayfields
Wembley Park, London

Wiener-Sherratt family

Sheila and Alfred Yarrow
9/4 Nof Harim
Jerusalem, Israel

Syd and Paula Zoltie



The Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015

Lord Julian Goodman

I look back on this year's Fringe feeling totally *oysgematted*, but in a contented way, and I'm still elated from the experience. Of course I went in search of things of Jewish interest, but I was a little indulgent this year, and although nearly everything I saw had at least a somewhat tenuous connexion, there were a couple of shows I saw for the sheer hell of it, being caught up in the atmosphere. I have to say it was one of the best years I can remember for some time, so let me share with you some of my favourite moments.

The first show I went to see was a preview show, before any of the Press Launches, and before the official start of the Fringe. **Jon Cozart – Laughter Ever After** was on at the *Underbelly Med Quad*. I had been gifted the tickets, so went along out of curiosity. Jon Cozart is a bit of an internet sensation. Having just graduated from College, he is already a professional YouTuber, with millions of subscribers to his channel and millions of viewers of his videos. He had made a video of all the Harry Potter stories in 99 seconds which went viral at the same time as the premiere of final film in the series. He went on to make more videos, including 'After Ever After', which is a parody of Disney heroines AFTER they had reached the "happy ever after" stage in the movies, which he sings with three other video versions of himself. Jon's show was a history of his success, including live performances of his best known songs, and new songs he has written, along with the story of how he has become so popular. It was a fascinating insight into just how much hard work it takes to become an overnight success, and a perfect showcase of his skills and talent. The audience was made up many of his teenage fans, but a substantial number of us middle aged fogeys were totally charmed by his performance too. His love song to his girlfriend was just as impressive as his parodies of Boy Bands and hit TV shows and films, and I'm a sucker for anyone else who plays the ukulele too. After the show every day, he patiently met with all the fans that were queuing up to have autographs and selfies taken with him, and was happy to chat to anybody who wanted to. I was aware of his videos beforehand, but was so impressed with the charm of his show, I went along for a second viewing during the middle week, and found an even more polished performer, unencumbered by jetlag this time (not that I'd realised this the first time), and opening up part of the show to a question and answer session, which had even more revelations. It was a perfect opening show for me, and I couldn't help walking away with a big smile on my face.

One of my indulgences is going to revisit performers that have impressed me over the years, so my next show was **Jess Robinson: The Rise of Mighty Voice** at the *Pleasance Dome*. Jess was my favourite show last year, so I couldn't wait to see her again. The similar format of the two wheels of fortune matching up random divas with random songs was in place, but loads of new material between songs kept us even more entertained. Sonia from *Eastenders*' vignettes were just as funny, and the timing and repartee between Jess and her Musical Director, **Kirsty Newton** were spot on. In fact all her impressions were spot on, but her musical talent is simply staggering, as my former music teacher agreed, so it must be true! This year's show had a few extra treats, such as a hat machine generating stars to impersonate, and a duelling recorders routine. One extra special treat was a video of her late grandfather, **Jules Ruben**, the jazz pianist, enabling her to do a duet with him that she had not managed while he was alive. It was really beautiful to watch and hear. Yet again, we couldn't help leaving the venue feeling thoroughly entertained.



Jess Robinson
Photocredit, Steve Ullathorne



Beyond Expectations

I was lucky to catch one of the last performances of **Beyond Expectations** at *Greenside @ Infirmary Street* during its short run. Written by Martin Levinson, Pearl Shein's son, this was the telling of Dickens' *Great Expectations* from the perspective of Estella Havisham. Estella was actually played by Martin's daughter Jess, but rather cleverly, puppets were used to portray her as a child. It was a beautifully imagined production, with a clever backdrop via projector to enhance the scene with animation and soundtrack. Admittedly, there were some slight technical issues during the performance I attended, but the cast carried it off extremely well, and I was rather impressed with the show as a whole, and was very glad to have seen it.



Man Rhap Debra Tammer, Tommy Burgess in Mancunian Rhapsody

I made my way up the Royal Mile to see **Mancunian Rhapsody** at *C Cubed*. A spoof documentary musical comedy based around the Erev Shabbes preparations of Rivki Pashinsky, a frumme mother of 3, the weekend of her nerdy Rabbi son Michael's, forthcoming wedding to a Brooklyn born, alopecia-ridden, lisp-inflicted and overweight Devorah Feigenblum, until rumours of certain sexual peccadillos bring his plans crashing down. Set in the backdrop of Rivki's "guilty pleasure" of being a huge fan of the music of Freddie Mercury, the piece is choc-full of clever parodies to modern songs too; performed by the caricatures of various ultra-orthodox protagonists in the story. Written by and performing the role of Rivki, **Debra Tammer** gives an insight into the complexities of an orthodox lifestyle. Some yiddisher viewers found some of the content an exercise in taking the mickey out of this way of life, but considering most of the audiences would have been *nisht fun unzerer*, the detailed explanations of *shabbes kettles*, *shabbes goyim*, washing berries and vegetables, *sheitls* and modesty etc. is the only way a wider audience could possibly keep up with all knowledge we have all been brought up with. **Tommy Burgess**, who played Rabbi Michael Pashinsky, gave a wonderful portrayal of a real *nebekhl* with a lovely voice; you'd find it hard to believe he wasn't actually Jewish. There were some lovely little Jewish jokes dotted through the script, and this was a much needed parody of ITV's Strictly Kosher, which made me feel less guilty about deriding some of the TV show's more ridiculous aspects. The titular Mancunian Rhapsody at the end was the best parody song of all, and the whole show was warmly received by the audience.

My next show was **Al Porter Is Yours** at the *Gilded Balloon*. I had caught a snippet of his act at one of the press launches, and thought I must see the rest of his show, and I wasn't disappointed. This 22 year old Dubliner was making his Edinburgh Fringe debut, and was so popular, that by the end of his run he was putting on extra shows right, left and centre! Described by others as a "Frankie Howerd for the 21st Century" and "Dave Allen meets Alan Carr", this camp comedian had

audiences eating out of the palm of his hand. His rapid-fire story telling had people roaring with laughter at his experiences growing up on a council estate, his irreverent take on his Catholic upbringing and his outlook on life in general. I think he'll be giving Graham Norton a run for his money very soon, but I know he's going to be huge! He was extremely likeable, totally outrageous and most importantly, very funny. It was only in conversation later that I discovered another tenuous link to my remit, but even without that, I'd have been singing his praises!

While I was in a "high camp" frame of mind, another show was celebrating its 20th anniversary. I had heard about this show for many years, but this time a *Yiddisher* friend of mine was appearing in the cast, so I finally had an excuse to go and see for myself. **Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens** was on at *Just The Tonic Caves in Niddry Street*. This musical has been described as a *Rocky Horror Show for the 21st Century*; it had similar innuendo filled character names, plot lines, murders and love interests, but a happy ending through the power of disco and glitter boots! The costumes were outrageously camp, the songs were full of energy and there was a wonderful magic trick with a vanishing cabinet in one of the flashback scenes. The cast were also full of energy, had great voices, and interacted joyously with the audience. The dank, dark vaults of the venue added to the atmosphere, the story being set in a less than salubrious bar in the far reaches of the galaxy, and the audience members were positively encouraged to join in with the singing, dancing and wearing of copious amounts of makeup and glitter. Everyone left the venue singing and dancing, and by the end of the run, the show had deservedly won a couple of awards, including a best musical one.

On the next Sunday, I attended the much anticipated **Festival Open Day** in the *Jewish Community Centre Hall*. Once again, it was hosted very ably by **David Neville**, and featured a plethora of Jewish performers and others of a Jewish interest, all appearing in the Fringe. Some of the shows I had already seen, and others I was booked in to see over the next fortnight. These included **Mancunian Rhapsody**, **Victoria Wood + Me**, **Naomi Paul: Price Includes Biscuits and Bette Midler and ME**, of which I have gone into greater detail elsewhere in this review. There were of course several acts showcased that I didn't get a chance to see in full, but the Open Day is a great opportunity to get a flavour of the shows on offer.

Troublesome People by **Jill Haas** was showing at *The Quaker Meeting House*. Set in WW2, it explored the experiences of German Jewish refugees, Pacifist Quakers and Conscientious Objectors and the farmers near where they are interned on the Isle of Man. The Jewish refugees were escaping conflict, the pacifists trying to avoid conflict and the farmers automatically considered the German Jews as "the enemy" and were reticent to have them working on the farms. The play explored the courage and bravery required by everyone during WW2 and helped highlight the plight of these individuals surviving on the periphery of a global war.

Melanie Gall was performing in two shows at *The Safari Lounge*, one of which, **Opera Mouse**, was a children's show, which she explained the background to, however, she showed off her

formidable singing talents with excerpts from **Stitch in Time: A Knitting Cabaret**. This was a collection of the lost knitting songs of WW1 and WW2 from Canada, Britain, America and France. These fell into 3 categories: propaganda, novelty songs and ballads. Some of them were written by Jewish composers and one even by Glenn Miller.

Talking with Angels: Budapest, 1943 was showing at *Summerhall*. Adapted and performed by **Shelley Mitchell**, this show was based on the true story *Gitta Mallasz*. Four close-knit artists who, notwithstanding the upheaval of war, made detailed notes of their conversations with other worldly entities. It is from the word-for-word account that Shelley took the audience on a rather spiritual journey, describing the Schindler like, artificial sewing factory that saved 100 women, and how the Nazis were more determined to eradicate Hungarian Jews at this point than actually fighting the Allies.

Daniel Cainer: 21st Century Jew was appearing at the *Underbelly Cowgate*, but treated the Open Day to several of his songs, culminating in the finale with “A Yiddisher Neshommeh”, one of his best songs, celebrating the humble bagel and its significance to Jewish life.

Once again, the Open Day was a great success. More chairs were needed as the hall was filled to capacity. Everyone enjoyed the delicious refreshments as much as the tasty menu on stage and they all left with their physical and cultural appetites comfortably rewarded.



Victoria Wood + ME

Over at the *Gilded Balloon* I went to see **Victoria Wood + Me**. With permission from Victoria Wood to perform her material, **Mo Shapiro** had created a character called *Gladys* who was born on the same day and in the same hospital as Victoria Wood.

She performed some of Wood's greatest stand-up routines, monologues and songs, while explaining the similarities between their two lives. Her characterisations were well observed, and this was a warm tribute to one of Britain's best loved funny ladies. It was a joy to see this brilliant material performed live again by a talented actress.



Bette Midler and Me

Also at the *Gilded Balloon* I saw another tribute to another funny lady. This time **Sue Kelvin** was performing in **Bette Midler and Me**. Telling how Bette Midler's life from Hawaii to Broadway and Hollywood was a huge inspiration to her growing up as a not so glamorous Jewish girl in Didsbury, she recounted Bette Midler's rise to fame through hard work and unorthodox choices, performed a selection of comedy monologues based on Midler's characterisation of Sophie Tucker and a wide variety of songs that have all been performed by Bette Midler throughout her career. Many in the audience were surprised by the insights into a career that helped launch Barry Manilow's stardom from the humble beginnings of a cabaret show in a salacious bathhouse, and how Midler's life affected hers at various stages. Supported by actress and singer **Alex Young**, and musical director **Sarah Travis**, **Sue Kelvin** gave us a show full of exuberance, humour and great music. The two lives of two performers sat comfortably side by side, showing how someone can still have a great influence no matter how far away they are, and the audience loved the show from start to finish.



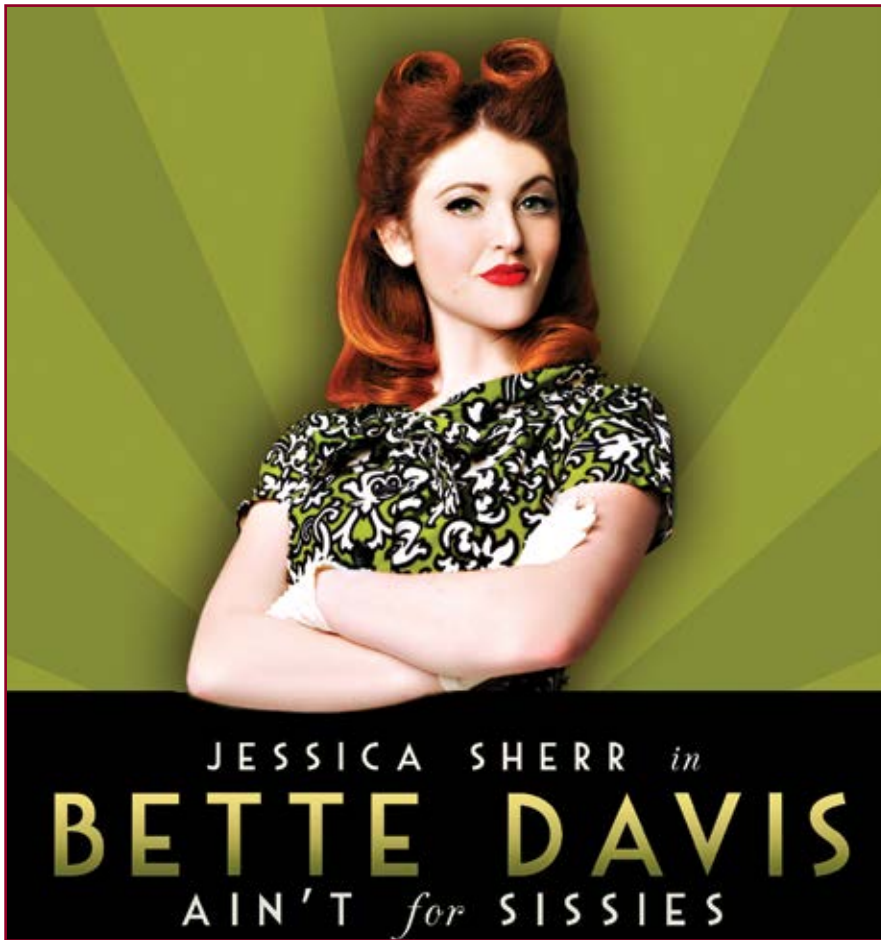
Velvet cast

I went along to *The Spiegeltent* in St Andrew Square to see **La Clique's** show **Velvet**. Over the years, I have had some of my favourite Fringe experiences in *The Spiegeltent* with **La Clique's** productions, and I wasn't disappointed this year either. **Velvet** was a sumptuous performance of circus, burlesque and wonderful singing to the theme of 70s disco. It wasn't so much a show as a whole experience. There was a warm welcome on arrival; I was shown to the best seat in the house, and as the music and lights flashed around me, a wave of excitement swept over the audience. Amongst the acts, **Mirko Köckenberger** returned after 3 years with a wonderful acrobatic routine, balancing on a tower of suitcases, changing his outfits while upside down performing handstands from the summit, while the top suitcase is moving about on a roller. All this is done with a huge smile on his face that is totally infectious. **Stephen Williams** performed feats of aerial gymnastics, with straps suspending him high up in the air one moment, while the next he swooped down circling the stage. One of the surprise acts for me was **Craig Reid** as **The Incredible Hula Boy**. A portly young gentleman with astonishing hula hoop skills; he amazed the audience with several displays of dexterity including the appearance of being inside a Slinky, and controlling the hoops while being suspended on high with one hand. It was remarkable. All the acts were performed to wonderful disco music, beautifully sung by **Marcia Hines** and **Brendan Maclean**, with backing singers and dancers, and flashing disco lights. The audience were clapping and cheering throughout the show, and several times they were dancing in the aisles, especially during the big finale numbers. This was a glorious production that just epitomised the experience of the Edinburgh Fringe.

Naomi Paul: Price Includes Biscuits was on at *The Space @ Surgeons Hall*. I have to admit that this is a guilty pleasure of mine. I love Naomi Paul's deadpan delivery, political satire, witty songs and her totally unexpected twists in her punchlines. Her little forays into her Jewish background and her life experiences are always funny, and her asides to the audience about set changes etc. are delightfully bizarre and amusing. She always delivers a very clever show, and the lovely biscuits are just an added bonus.



Naomi Paul



Bette Davis Ain't for Sissies

I received a tip to go and see **Jessica Sherr** in **Bette Davis Ain't For Sissies** at the *Assembly Rooms*. It certainly paid off! This one woman play was set during the 1940 Academy Awards (for the films of 1939), when Davis' performance in *Dark Victory* lost out to Vivien Leigh for *Gone With The Wind*. Written by Sherr, this was a brilliantly atmospheric portrayal of a Hollywood legend, recounting her rise to stardom through a series of flashbacks and current phone calls to other stars, and her mother Ruthie, and conversations with her 2 previously won Oscars, during the awards ceremony. Sherr's immaculate hairdo and imposing gestures, as well as her vocal talents, transported the audience back in time to the "Golden Age". I was mesmerised by her performance from start to finish, and after the play, Jessica Sherr confided in us that Bette Davis' estate had given her a pair of her evening gloves from the period, so a bit of Davis was definitely in the room with us, not that we needed any assurances!



The Missing Hancocks: Live in Edinburgh!



Miss Behave's Game Show

There was a real feel-good atmosphere to this year's Fringe, and this was just a sample of some of the best things I saw. I really have to give mention to a few other shows though. **The Missing Hancocks: Live in Edinburgh!** was a truly wonderful presentation of what recording *Hancock's Half Hour* must have been like in the 1950s, and was a brilliant experience. The wonderful **Barry Cryer and Ronnie Golden – Old Masters** entertained the crowds to daft jokes and sublimely silly songs. **Stuart Goldsmith** is still one of the best and most likeable stand-up comics around and **Miss Behave's Game Show** was even bigger and better than last year, with even more merriment and mayhem! I decided not to single out any one show out this year; I'm just looking forward to next year!



Barry Cryer and Ronnie Golden: Old Masters
Photo Credit: Steve Ullathorne

Jewish Lives, Scottish Spaces

JEWISH MIGRATION TO SCOTLAND, 1880 – 1950

Hannah Holtschneider

Dr Hannah Holtschneider from the University of Edinburgh, and Dr Mia Spiro from the University of Glasgow have won a grant of £500,000 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to study the effects of the migration of Jews to Scotland on local Jewish and Scottish cultures. From 2015-18 they will be working together with the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre (SJAC) which looks after extensive materials on Jewish communal and individual history and culture in Scotland. The team of researchers is completed by a post-doctoral researcher, Dr Deborah Butcher, who will be based at the University of Glasgow.

Harvey Kaplan, Director of the SJAC, said:

We look forward to working with this exciting new project over the next three years. The wide-ranging collections of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, brought together over the last 30 years, constitute a unique national resource, unparalleled in any other immigrant group in Scotland. We are looking forward to seeing our collections underpinning this AHRC-funded project and being utilised to interpret Jewish history in Scotland.

The SJAC's collections, dating as far back as the late nineteenth century, particularly the written records and objects brought to and accumulated in Scotland by Jewish migrants and refugees, as well as materials surviving the closures of synagogues across all Scottish regions, will form the primary source material. Books surviving synagogue libraries and prayer book collections will provide further materials. By engaging with the SJAC's extensive collection of memoirs, biographies, and recorded oral histories of survivors and refugees, the project will uncover the impact of World War II and the Holocaust on Scottish-Jewish collective identity, and how Jewish refugees transformed the Scottish landscape in the post-war period.

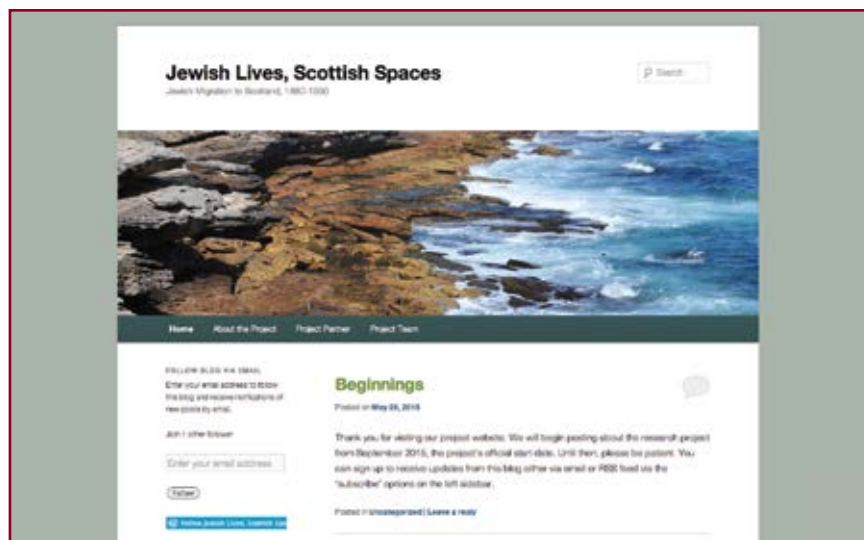
As Jews migrated to and from Scotland, the objects they saved, used and created reveal how Jews identified and negotiated issues such as antisemitism, assimilation, cultural loss, memory and the Holocaust, nationalism and belonging. Such Scottish Jewish 'memory objects' testify to aspects of the past within people's new lives in Scotland. Locating these items within a Scottish landscape makes it possible to study the movement of cultures across Europe and provides a link to the study of the city and Jewish space.



The Jewish Blind Society in the Sukkah



Concert, Ayr, 1950



The project has its own website which will be updated regularly with news about the research and the accompanying programme of public events: <https://jewishmigrationtoscotland.wordpress.com/> The website also allows those interested in contributing to the project to be in touch with the team of researchers. If you have documents and / or objects relating to Jewish history in Scotland in your possession, please get in touch.

Images copyright Scottish Jewish Archives Centre



Howard Jacobson

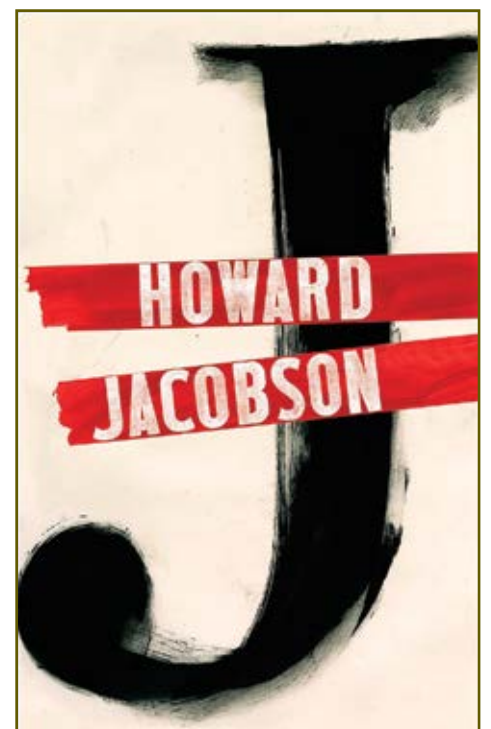
J

Judith Sischy

In walks the familiar figure of Howard Jacobson, clearly comfortable in the surroundings of the Edinburgh Book Festival and in the company of the interviewer Al Senter. I felt he could have been Fagan from *Oliver* or Shylock from *The Merchant of Venice*, almost a caricature of the classic Jew. Howard Jacobson seems relaxed, ready for some repartee, eager to whet our appetites and to share snippets of his new book with us.

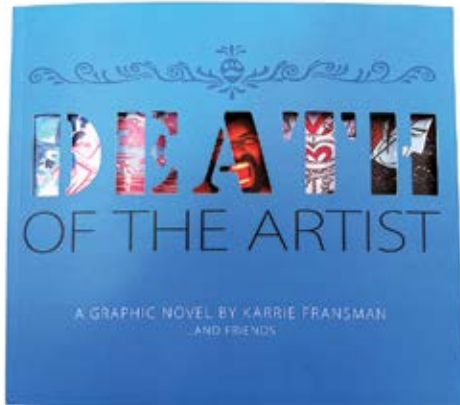
Strange that his surname is Jacobson when his book is called *J* and no one in the book is allowed to mention the word starting with J without a whisper or a shhhh -he does not seem to notice this irony. Indeed he has a lovely story about surnames, playing on the fact that so many Jews have Anglicised their names in the past – in this book Jacobson gives all his characters very Jewish surnames and Anglicises their first names or makes them Celtic, like Lowenna Morgenstern and Ferdie Moskowitz.

The book is essentially a love story set in the wake of a catastrophe that sounds like genocide which may or may not have been in this country or indeed may or may not even have happened.Memories have been damaged or destroyed so who can tell... Jacobson describes it as a black book, amusing at a visceral level, emotional, melancholic, violent in parts. He gives us tantalising hints throughout his lively and entertaining but thought provoking talk – Who died? Who survived? Will the love affair survive? Are we talking of the holocaust of WW2? Are we confronting denial, anti-Semitism, revenge? There is only one way to find out.....



Karrie Fransman at the Edinburgh Book Festival 2015

Janet Mundy



Karrie Fransman is a successful graphic novelist and comic creator whose work has appeared in many of the broadsheet newspapers and she has presented her work in Spain, Belgium, Ireland, Russia, Bangladesh, Croatia, Corsica, Finland, Lebanon and France.

However, to many Edinburgh Star readers, she is the daughter of Tammy and Martin Fransman and sister to Jonathan and Judith. So her appearance at the Edinburgh Book Festival on 28 August was both an opportunity to learn more about her career and to catch up with Karrie and her family.

Karrie's engaging personality came across as she talked us through some of her achievements, showing examples on the large screen. As well as publishing two full-length novels – “The House That Groaned” and her current book (of which more later), she has created comic sculptures, a “tilt” comic, designed to be downloaded onto an iPad, an installation at London's South Bank Centre with a group of Bangladeshi comic artists (the tiger pictured now adorns her bedroom!) and a frame of “selves” to accompany an exhibit of Van Dyck's self portrait at Manchester Art Gallery.

The main purpose of Karrie's appearance at the Book Festival was to talk about “Death of the Artist”, a graphic novel by Karrie and four friends. The basis of the book is a week-long reunion of the friends ten years after leaving university “in a cottage on the misty moors of the Peak District”. Each section of the book is composed by one of the friends, each in a completely different style, with Karrie's section concluding the book. Manuel's ethereal water colours accompany his account of how the friends met, Jackson's weary narrative and near-monochrome illustrations relate the start of their get together and his sister Helena's cheery photographs disguise a darker story featuring Vincent, the hedonist who cannot leave his student life behind. His own section tells of his nine brushes with death in a style reminiscent of 1960s hippie comic strips such as Fritz the Cat. Karrie's own section relates the sombre aftermath of the week.



Selves Portrait

When I skimmed through the book before the event, I was drawn into the world of the five friends, and how their different styles reflected the ways in which their lives had diverged in the ten years since they had first met. As I hadn't seen Karrie for many years, I particularly enjoyed seeing the photos of her and her friends, even if I was a little discomforted by some of the descriptions of their lifestyles (but we were all young once!).

SPOILER ALERT – DON'T READ FURTHER IF YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW THE SECRET TO THE BOOK!



Southbank-Finished-2

Half way through her presentation, Karrie revealed the truth behind the book, which very few readers have guessed for themselves – the book is pure fiction and all sections were written by Karrie herself. The photographs were posed by Karrie and a group of professional models, including one of the group at university, which was in fact taken a day after the others (to give one of the models an opportunity to shave his beard off!).

Once the truth had been revealed, it was fascinating hearing Karrie talk about the technical difficulties of creating five different personas and styles for the book. An interesting discussion ensued with the other speaker, the chair and the audience about the nature of truth in art. Karrie's summarised the conclusion by saying that “emotions have to be autobiographical”.

Later on, in the signing tent, there was an opportunity to catch up with Karrie and the rest of her family on a more personal basis, and to meet her delightful primary school teacher, Nancy Nicolson, shown in the photo.

The Editor adds: Nancy Nicolson was our neighbour across the landing in our Newington flat for 25 years! A very talented musician as well as a gifted teacher.



Janet Mundy, Karrie Fransman and her primary school teacher Nancy Nicolson

Obituaries

Myra Cohen

Braham Cohen



My mother was born in Glasgow on the 14th June 1929 and named “Miriam” although she was better known as “Myra”. Her parents were Sam Boston, the dentist, and Etta. She had an older brother, Victor, who was also a dentist.

With the arrival of World War II, she was evacuated to Sanquhar in Ayrshire and on returning to Glasgow, she attended Hutcheson’s Girls Grammar school where her strongest subjects were art, botany and the social sciences. She went on to study Sociology at Glasgow University. My mother had a varied career which started as a Purchase Controller in Gerber’s Department Store and then as a Sociologist working on planning the redevelopment of the Gorbals. Then she moved down to London to work for Gallup Poll.

She met my father, Philip, a physicist and they married in 1960 in Queens Park Synagogue in Glasgow. He was the love of her life and they initially set up home in Reigate in Surrey where I was born the following year.

We all moved up to Edinburgh when my father changed jobs to work for Ferranti. My sister, Ruth, was born shortly

afterwards and we had a very happy childhood growing up in the house in Ladysmith Road.

My parents greatly enjoyed being part of the Edinburgh Jewish Community and made many close friendships. My mother particularly enjoyed the “Literary Society” and communal events.

Myra was always looking to help others and quietly gave her time as a volunteer working for a charity counselling people in desperate need. Later on, she also helped in day centres for the physically disabled. She resumed her career in the 1970’s and worked as a librarian at the Moray House College of Education and later in the school library at the Edinburgh Academy where my father was a teacher.

She also enjoyed attending night classes, usually art based courses, having a real talent for painting “still life” and “portraits”. Her interest in language and words was evident in her love of cryptic crosswords and she was an expert tournament winning Scrabble player.

There were many very difficult times in my mother’s life, none more so than Ruth’s diagnosis with MS and her gradual deterioration. The devastating loss of my father and later Ruth were very difficult for my mother to come to terms with.

She moved from Edinburgh to return to her roots in Glasgow in 2001.

My mother had a long and full life where family were at the heart of everything. She doted over her two grandsons, Samuel and Nathan.

Myra passed away in February 2015 and is deeply missed.



L to R: Braham, Myra, Ruth and Philip Cohen

Fay Dorfman

Max Dorfman



Fay Mann was born in Gillespie Street in Edinburgh on 18th December 1936 to her parents Henry Mann, who was a hairdresser and Rebecca Mann, both of whom are now deceased.

Fay left school at 15 and Max met her at Maccabi, which was held within the Duncan Street Masonic Hall and through a friend of Max's she asked him to her birthday party. During the course of the party Max asked her if she would like to accompany him to the cinema. To his surprise she was delighted with the idea, and said yes. Some months later Max was called up to the airforce to carry out his National Service. It was agreed that they would get engaged and she would wait for him and Max would wait for her. This they did and on 21st of February 1955 they were married in the Edinburgh Synagogue.

Fay and Max had three sons, Leslie, Justin and Rodney, who were brought up, and cared for, mostly by Fay as Max was a workaholic. However they did go on holiday together and of course they had the weekends. Unfortunately, Fay had multiple sclerosis for many, many years. However in the earlier years of her progressing illness they managed to take holidays as long as they took a carer with them. As her illness progressed she required four carers.

In February of this year, it was their 60th (Diamond Wedding) anniversary. Fay wanted an anniversary party which they had in the Braid Hills Hotel. This was very successful and Fay enjoyed herself immensely.

Unfortunately her illness became too much for her and after being in the Marie Curie Hospice for five days, sadly, she passed away.

Fay was a very gentle person who loved the countryside, greenery, flowers and in particular children. She was very fashion conscious and looked after her appearance. In fact, not long before she passed away (maybe four weeks) she had the beautician, hairstylist etc. visit her at home to ensure that she always looked her best. She was, when able, meticulous, in so far as she and the children were well turned out.

Fay was also very houseproud, and, even though she was unable to do anything at the latter end, she ensured, by instruction, that our home was kept immaculately clean and tidy. I shall miss her terribly.

Eulogy by her son Rodney

My mother Fay to me was like a rose without the thorns. I shall always remember my mother saying 'Be careful' every time I left her even though she was so ill. In other words, she put me first, before herself.

My mother was a very good cook, using mostly her own recipes. The chicken soup was the best chicken soup I have ever tasted. She was my best friend and she made herself available to me at all times, even when she was not well. I shall miss her beyond words.



Fay at her and Max's Diamond anniversary party

David Harris

Eulogy given by Daniel Harris at his father's funeral.

My father who died at the fine age of 89 was a very kind and generous man with a strong sense of humour. He was greatly respected by everyone that came into regular contact with him; regarded as a true gentleman with a meticulous dress sense which included wearing distinctive cravats on occasion.

My father, David, was married to my late mother Millie for over 63 years and together they shared a wonderful life. They were known as the Duke and Duchess of Buckstone where they lived for over 40 years.

My parents brought up my two brothers, Paul and Stephen, and me in a very loving and supportive way. Together they loved to hear what we were doing. Father was extremely good at offering sensible advice to guide us as we progressed. He had excellent manners and was a first class role model for us; we were very fortunate to have him as our father.

Father was a keen scholar studying medicine at the University of Edinburgh before deciding that he would go into his own father's furniture business rather than complete his medical studies. He worked extremely hard in the business for over 40 years before retiring. During his time in the family business he often made furniture deliveries before and after a full working day. He fully supported his family throughout his life and prepared us three boys to follow him into the business.

His retirement was partly spent doing newspaper quiz competitions. His thorough research enabled him to fulfil one of his lifetime ambitions of travelling on the QE2 cruise ship. He entered and won a quiz which had a prize of flights for 2 to New York, followed by a 5-day stay at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel and a return cruise to the UK on the QE2. The folks loved this trip. Father loved to travel and he and mother had some wonderful holidays together. They especially enjoyed going to Italy.

Father also had a great interest in current affairs. Before his eyesight failed he loved to read newspapers. He also enjoyed listening to Terry Wogan in the morning when he was on the radio. In his later years he kept in touch with current affairs by being tuned into the BBC TV News channel.



David and Millie Harris

Father was a very kind and generous grandfather to his four grandchildren, Rick, Sophie, Ben and Charlotte, who were all very fond of him. They all have very good memories of their grandfather.

My wife, Helen, who is a doctor, also formed an excellent relationship with Father and they enjoyed discussing medical matters. I know Helen will also miss Father.

Father was proud to be part of the Edinburgh Jewish Community. He especially enjoyed attending the luncheon club. The Community has lost an important member of its senior brigade.

Father survived a stroke two years ago. With the excellent support of my oldest brother Paul he was able to stay at Buckstone where he felt secure and comfortable.

The Duke and Duchess of Buckstone have now both passed away but our memories of them will stay with us forever.

Father, rest in peace. We will all miss you so much.

Ronnie Goodman

The Star wishes sincere condolences to the family of the late Ronnie Goodman, who is survived by his wife Anne and son Nigel.

Ruzena Wood

Members of EHC will have been saddened to learn of the death of Ruzena Wood, a loyal supporter of our Shul. She will be sadly missed by her many friends.

Bernard Dorfman

The Star conveys our condolences and deepest sympathies to the family of the late Bernard Dorfman, who passed away recently, and whose obituary will follow in the next issue. We wish a long life to Rachel, Selwyn, Elizabeth and all the family. Bernard will be sorely missed in the ranks of EHC - as one of the most regular attenders and supporters.

Mazal Tov



The Star wishes Mazal Tov to **Betsy Dorfman**, **Janet Mundy** and **Sara Lurie**, who all turned sixty recently. They are pictured here celebrating together. Sensational at sixty! All of them hard-working ladies and great contributors to the Edinburgh Jewish Community!

Mazal Tov to **Roy** and **Meaghan**, Melbourne, Australia, on the birth of a son, Owen, brother for Archie, grandson for Esther and Harold Mendelssohn and great-grandson for Anita and David Mendelssohn.



The Star wishes hearty Mazal Tov to **Joyce** and **Jonny Sperber** on the birth of a second grandchild, Carmela Perla, to parents Mikael and Avigal Pommert, and a little sister for Adina.

The Star wishes Mazal Tov to **Sam Adler** who read **Maftir** and **Haftarah** on Shabbat Ki Tetseh at EHC. Congratulations go to parents Susie and Jonathan and sister Ruth as well as the whole Adler and Shenkin extended families.



Pictured at a recent meeting of the Lunch Club, **Betty Caplan** celebrating her birthday. Eve Oppenheim and Esther Mendelssohn prepared the meal of fried fish, new potatoes and carrots and peas. A tasty gooseberry pudding and custard followed and then the birthday cake and also pavlova and tea. It was as convivial as ever and the meal was delicious and nutritious!

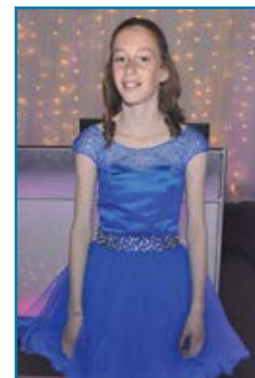


Mazal Tov to **Lily Karro** on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah in Melbourne, Australia, daughter of Cassie and Jonty Karro, grand-daughter of Esther and Harold Mendelssohn, and great-grand-daughter of Anita and David Mendelssohn.



Another Mazal Tov to **Pearl** and **Ian Shein** pictured here when they made the trip north to support son Martin and grand-daughter Jess in the production of the Fringe show 'Beyond Expectations'. Pearl (left seated) and Ian (right seated) are here seen being toasted by family and friends, after which Ian spoke about his happiness in having been married to Pearl for twenty years, and about how he misses Edinburgh.

The Star wishes Mazal Tov to **Andrea** and **Malcolm Cowan** on the Bat Mitzvah of their grand-daughter **Danielle**, pictured on the left with father Elliott, mother Caroline and sister Olivia.



The Star wishes Mazal tov to **Hilary** and **Arnold Rifkind**.

"We celebrated our second grandson's Barmitzvah on 8th August in Teaneck NJ. Natan is pictured here with his older brother Eli, and sisters Avigayil and Maytal."

Scotland's Gardens

MERCHISTON COTTAGE GARDEN

Esther Mendelssohn

Harold and Esther Mendelssohn would like to thank all the members of the Edinburgh Jewish Community, friends and family who helped raise over £1000 for:

Alyn Childrens' Hospital

Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres

The Queen's Nursing Institute

The Scottish National Trust Gardens Fund

Perennial the Gardener's Royal Benevolent Society

Your attendance and assistance on the 21st of June at Merchiston Cottage Garden Open Day under Scotland's Garden Scheme was much appreciated.

Here are some of the lovely pictures taken on the day. Among others, the Star recognises Hilary Rifkind, Anita and David Mendelssohn with Daniel Brodie, and Joyce Cram



Brian Poole, bee keeping expert, was kind enough to bring along an observation hive full of honey bees. He shared his knowledge and enthusiasm in the hope of encouraging people to take an interest and raising awareness of the importance and benefits of bee keeping. He was kept busy by his appreciative audience.

Binny Plant Nursery set up a beautiful plant stand and sales were brisk with a percentage going to charity.

Likewise the afternoon tea and cake stall seemed very welcome as well as profitable. It was tirelessly manned by our able volunteers.

Most surprisingly of all the weather was kind to us despite this having been one of the worst summers on record. Our combined efforts were rewarded and the rain stayed away whilst the sun decided to shine on the happy throng.





The Star wishes Mazal Tov to Esther and Harold Mendelssohn who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on 10 August 2015.



Scottish Friends of Alyn

Clarice Osborne – Chair, Scottish Friends of Alyn

On behalf of the Scottish Friends of Alyn, I should like to thank all those who responded so generously to our recent Appeal to help the children in this hospital. In addition I should also like to thank everyone who marked the celebration of birthdays, anniversaries and other happy events by making a donation to Alyn. It is much appreciated.

With best wishes for a Happy and Peaceful New Year to our friends in Israel and to us all.

Lafayette's Tomb

Micheline Brannan

A curiosity of Piershill Cemetery is the tomb of Lafayette and his dog, which we pass (all too often these days) on our way to funerals and stone-settings. Many visitors know him as Jewish by birth and wonder why he is not buried in 'our' section of the cemetery.

Lafayette has his own Wikipedia entry, and Aubrey Newman, who spoke so eloquently at the stone-setting for the late Dr Berl Osborne, was kind enough to draw Clarice's attention to the piece after his recent visit to Edinburgh.

Lafayette's real name was Sigmund Neuberger. He was born in 1872 in Munich. His family emigrated to America. He became a very famous illusionist, and was highly in demand for theatrical performances, being booked ten years in advance and reputedly becoming the highest paid performer of his time.

He was given a pit bull terrier by Harry Houdini. He named her Beauty and she wore a diamond studded dog collar. He was absolutely devoted to her but she died on 1 May 1911 when Lafayette was on the train to Edinburgh for a two week run at the Empire Theatre.

Devastated by grief, Lafayette bought a plot in Piershill Cemetery to bury Beauty, and planned to be buried with her, when the time came, which he thought could not be long delayed. On 9 May, the night before the funeral, Lafayette was on stage when fire broke out from an oriental lantern that was part of the props. The fire curtain came down and the audience were ushered to safety; meanwhile there was carnage backstage, and at 5am Lafayette's charred body was found, still in costume.

The funeral of Lafayette and Beauty took place once identification procedures had been completed. Four Belgian horses with nodding plumes carried the coffin. When the Rabbi learned that the dog was to be buried too, he refused to carry out the funeral so it was performed by an Edinburgh Minister, and the urn containing the ashes of The Great Lafayette was placed between the two outstretched paws of a statue of Beauty.

In a quirky link to our present day community, the late Norman Cram's father, Sam Cram, was in the audience on the night of the fire, aged 21.



APPEAL FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MONDAY MORNING COOKING CLUB

The Star has received a copy of the following letter via SCoJeC. If any reader would like to contribute a recipe to this project please contact the editor on michelinehbrannan@msn.com and I will ensure it is passed on.

To members of the Jewish Community of Scotland.

My name is Lisa Goldberg, a member of the Jewish Community of New South Wales in Australia.

I am part of the 'Monday Morning Cooking Club', an Australian project that began in 2006 to collect, preserve and share the treasured recipes and stories of Australia's Jewish community. We have published two books so far, Monday Morning Cooking Club (2011) and The Feast Goes On (2014) through Harper Collins. We've sold over 50,000 books, we are a not-for-profit organisation and have enabled charities to raise \$750,000. I have attached two double page spreads from our most recent book and you can find more about us on our website:

www.mondaymorningcookingclub.com.au

We are now working on our third book, which will be a snapshot of the kitchens and communities of the global diaspora, documenting the cooking and immigration of the Jewish people worldwide. We are looking for stories and recipes that come from the heart, recipes that have been feeding family and friends for years, and the ones people are known for.

We need some help reaching the communities outside Australia. We would greatly appreciate it if you could let us know who we should contact in the Scottish community to help us find the most treasured recipes from the best Jewish cooks for inclusion in our next book.

With many thanks, looking forward to hearing back,
Cheers

Lisa

Down memory Lane

The Memory Lane pages have been welcomed enthusiastically by former Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation members living abroad.

Harold Sterne, of Netanya, Israel, provided us with this photograph of the Edinburgh University Jewish Society Committee, taken in November 1959.



Right to left standing: Jack Leithin, Maurice Sagman, Keith Brody, Harold Sterne's mother, Anita Lewis, 'Shirley' and Barry Fluss
Right to left sitting: Annette Caplan, Ann Horenstein (née Vinestock) and Phyllis Stoller



Left to right:
Alec & Lilly Levey, David & Anita Mendelssohn, Pauline & Gerald Lewis, Irene & David Hyams

Jonathan Hyman wrote from London about the upper picture on page 47 of Star 74:

'My name is Jonathan Hyman and I lived in Edinburgh until I was 20. My late grandmother Dora Davis is I think in the second row.'

As a result we were able to put Jonathan in touch with Joyce Cram who had supplied the picture and they had a pleasant conversation.

Dear Ms Brannan

It is always the happiest day when my copy of the Edinburgh Star arrives, and even after so many years of living in this country, the warmth and closeness of the congregation I read about and see in these pages never fails to make me a little homesick. Looking at the photograph on page 47 where you ask if anyone can recognize familiar faces, I've circled four that I think I know.

Besides feeling certain that the gentleman in the bow tie is Rabbi Daiches, I think the gentleman second from the left's name might be Stungo, and I definitely recognize my aunt Sara Nathan standing fourth from the right next to, who I'm pretty sure is my mother Etty Cohen/Pass third from the right. This surely must have been taken in the early twenties, and I realize, especially when reading the magazine how sadly there are very few names of people living in Edinburgh that I now recognize.

Thank you so much for this, and I would love to know how many on this historic picture have been recognized and identified. The other picture below is of my mother on the right with her sisters.



Thank you, and with best wishes.

Hilda Sefor, Washington DC



My mother, Etty Passs/Cohen with her sisters

THE EDINBURGH JEWISH COMMUNITY WILL BE 200 YEARS OLD IN 2016

The Edinburgh Star invites historical written material, articles, photographs, anything readers think would be of interest, in order to have a special feature for this anniversary next year.

Please send your ideas and contributions as soon as possible to:

Harriet Lyall

harrietyall@btinternet.com

Images: Courtesy of the Scottish Jewish Archives, the background shows the first few pages of the minutes of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation Minute book from July 1867 – these have been digitised and are available on a CD.

CHANUKAH

SAVE THE DATE

Please save the following dates in your diary.

Sunday 6 December 1st candle:

Annual public Chanukiah lighting ceremony in St Andrews Square

Monday 7 December 2nd candle:

Chanukiah lighting at Edinburgh City Chambers – open to all

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



2015 – 16 Festivals

Rosh Hashanah:	Sunday 13 September (erev Rosh Hashanah) Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 September
Yom Kippur:	Tuesday 22 September (erev Yom Kippur) Wednesday 23 September
Succot:	Sunday 27 September (erev Succot) Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 September Yom Tov
Hoshanah Rabba:	Sunday 4 October
Shemini Atzeret:	Monday 5 October
Simchat Torah:	Monday 5 October (erev) and Tuesday 6 October
Chanukah:	Sunday 6 December 1st candle
Fast of 10th Tevet	Tuesday 22 December
Tu B'Shvat:	Monday 25 January 2016
Fast of Esther	Wednesday 23 March (also erev Puim)
Purim:	Thursday 24 March
Pesach:	Friday 22 April First Seder

Forthcoming Events



Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation

EHC Events

Friday 23 October Shabbat UK Friday night dinner

Sunday 8 November Remembrance Service and Tea
Website: www.ehcong.com

Shabbat morning services take place every week at 10.00am in the Synagogue at 4a Salisbury Road.

Community Centre Committee events take place in the Marian Oppenheim Hall, Jewish Community Centre, 4a Salisbury Road.

Further details, including time and ticket price where applicable, will be circulated for each event nearer the time.

The Luncheon Club meets every Thursday at 12.30.
New volunteers and/or helpers always welcome.

Contact Avril Berger

t: 0131 664 2938

email: avril.berger@btinternet.com

Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre Forthcoming Events

Sunday 8th November Film Night (to be confirmed)

Saturday 12th December Chanukah Dinner with entertainment (to be confirmed)

Edinburgh WIZO

A Ladies Dinner Party will be held in the Prestonfield Hotel (Garden Room) on Wednesday 11th November. Champagne Reception 7.00 – 7.30. Tickets (£75) are available from Kate Goodwin t: 0131 668 2113

Collection of clothing for the Wizo Nearly New Sale in Glasgow will start the week beginning 26th October. Please contact Sylvia Donne at t: 0131 447 2947 to arrange for uplift.

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

2015

Sarah Lightman	Oct 25	Artist, writer and curator
Caroline Pick	Nov 22	Film of childhood
William Johnstone	Nov 29	On the Book of Exodus
Diana Finley	Dec 06	Title: The Loneliness of Survival

2016

Phil Alexander	Jan 31	Title: "My lover, my murderer's daughter": Berlin and the politics of klezmer music
Toppudit Szekacs-Weisz	Mar 06	Topic: Leaving Freud: the work of Sándor Ferenczi
David Purdie	Mar 27	Topic: the life and work of David Daiches

11 meetings take place at 8pm at the Marian Oppenheim Hall, 4a Salisbury Road, unless otherwise announced. Watch website: www.ejls.org

Sukkat Shalom

Services

Erev Shabbat service will be on the **SECOND** Friday (7 pm) of each calendar month. **Shabbat morning services** are on the Saturday (11am) after the **FOURTH** Friday. These services take place in: Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace.

Kabbalat Shabbat Services (6.15pm) will be on the **FIRST** and **THIRD** Fridays. These services take place at: Marchmont St Giles, 2a Kilgraston Road.

We also have a Tea and Talmud group – to coincide with Rabbi Mark Solomon's visits, in members' homes, and a Philosophy Discussion Group.

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

www.eljc.org