

June – July 2017

Sivan Tammuz AV 5777

etrog

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## Contents



**Sukkat  
Shalom**  
Edinburgh Liberal  
Jewish Community

**Scottish Charity  
Number  
SC 035678**

- [Diary](#)
- [Word from the chair](#)
- [Among Others: 200 years of Jewish lives in Edinburgh, in words and music](#)
- [Summer Barbecue Sunday 9 July 2017](#)
- [Do you, or does someone you know, struggle to get to services?](#)
- [Jewish Edinburgh on Foot](#)
- [Elkan Hershon's barmitzvah drasha](#)
- [Edinburgh Interfaith Association News](#)
- [Lag b'Omer picnic extravaganza](#)
- [Gardening at Tiphereth – all welcome!](#)
- [A Weekend of Celebration for Liberal Judaism](#)
- [Yom HaShoah in The Peace Garden](#)
- [Sukkat Shalom Year of Song](#)
- [UK Première of Hans Gál's opera Das Lied Der Nacht \(Song of the Night\)](#)

## Sukkat Shalom Contacts

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Contact Team – [contact@eljc.org](mailto:contact@eljc.org) Etrog Team – [newsletter@eljc.org](mailto:newsletter@eljc.org)

**Chair:** Nick Silk **Treasurer:** Phil Wadler **Secretary:** Gillian Raab **Membership:** Sharom Goldwater

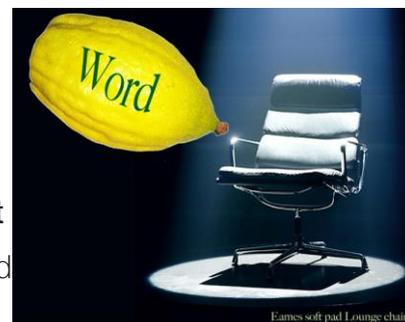
## Diary

<b>June 2017 / Sivan – Tammuz 5777</b>				
Fri 2	Sivan 9	6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	<a href="#">Marchmont St Giles</a>
Fri 9	Sivan 16	7pm	Erev Shabbat service	<a href="#">Columcille Centre</a>
Fri 16	Sivan 23	6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	<a href="#">Marchmont St Giles</a>
Fri 23	Sivan 30	7pm	Supper and Songs	<a href="#">Columcille Centre</a>
Sat 24	Sivan 30	11am	Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Mark Solomon	<a href="#">Columcille Centre</a>
Sat 24	Sivan 30	3pm	Tea & Talmud	<a href="#">Columcille Centre</a>
Sun 25	Tammuz 1	4pm	Philosophy discussion group	<a href="#">Columcille Centre</a>
Fri 30	Tammuz 7	6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	<a href="#">Marchmont St Giles</a>
<b>July 2017 / Tammuz – Av 5777</b>				
Fri 7	Tammuz 14	6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	<a href="#">Marchmont St Giles</a>
Fri 14	Tammuz 21	7pm	Erev Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Mark Solomon	<a href="#">Columcille Centre</a>
Sat 15	Tammuz 21	3pm	Tea and Talmud	<a href="#">Columcille Centre</a>
Sun 16	Tammuz 22	4pm	Philosophy discussion group	<a href="#">Columcille Centre</a>
Fri 21	Tammuz 28	6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	<a href="#">Marchmont St Giles</a>
Sat 29	Av 6	11am	Shabbat service	<a href="#">Columcille Centre</a>

## Word from the chair

In my last ‘word from the chair’ I told you about the composition of Council. This time I’d like to tell you about the main focus of our attention at Council for the last two or three meetings, and that’s the venues we use for our services and cheder. This might seem a bit strange given that we have been using Columcille and Marchmont St. Giles for quite some time now (together with St.

Mark’s for our High Holyday services), and truth be told I think that, all other things being equal, we are very happy at these venues. However several things have come together, which meant that this focus was appropriate.



At the AGM, we said that as well as increasing our membership fees we would review our expenditure. One of our main areas of expenditure is the hire of premises. We have therefore been reviewing how much we spend at the different venues. While it is not just a case of **getting the cheapest option, it is right that we don't spend more than is necessary. That being** so, we are in discussions with some of the venues we use. While it would not be appropriate to say any more given that these discussions are ongoing, it does seem right that I let you know that these discussions are taking place given that we said we would look at our expenditure.

As well as looking at costs, we have also taken the opportunity to review security aspects. As you know, we have very good relations with the local Police and we invited a police officer along to one of our Council meetings. The summary is that our security practices are deemed to be proportionate. **That's not to say that we can't make improvements**, both at the venues we use and in the way we operate, and again we are now looking at how we can make these. However, it is reassuring that the advice from the police is that what we are doing is indeed proportionate.

**The last aspect doesn't actually** concern the venues we are using at the moment but is to do with the proposed new Scottish Jewish Cultural Centre (SJCC). I think most of us are aware of the SJCC and I know that there are quite a few of us who are actively involved with this project. Several weeks ago I was asked by Adrian Harris, the Chair of the Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue Group (the body which is hoping to build the SJCC) whether Sukkat Shalom would wish to have space in the SJCC for worship. This same question is being asked to the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, and Adrian also noted that, while very likely, it has still to be confirmed whether the SJCC will actually be available for communities to worship in. The other question that Adrian asked was, if we do wish to hold services in the SJCC, what would Sukkat Shalom need in order to be able to worship in comfort?

When we discussed this at Council, it was a very quick discussion. We all agreed we would like to use the SJCC for worship, and for us to do so, we would need to be able to worship according to our Liberal Jewish practices. As well as the services themselves, we would have to be able to hold bring-and-share meals, and the facilities would have to be fully accessible.

These discussions with Adrian and the Dialogue Group are still at a very early stage, and as **they progress I'm sure that we will all be more involved and get an opportunity to express our** views. However, I did want to let you know that we have had these initial discussions, and if

you do have any thoughts on any of the above, please do let me know.

So, that has been the main focus of Council recently. Clearly, as and when the SJCC is built, **that will impact on where we hold our services, but in the meantime we'll continue our review** of expenditure as it applies to the hire of premises. **You'll see elsewhere with the article on taxis** that we have been doing other things at Council, and as I said above on the SJCC discussions, if you do have any thoughts, comments or suggestions on any aspects of our community, please do let me know.

Nick Silk

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## Among Others: 200 years of Jewish lives in Edinburgh, in words and music

Sunday 11 June, 6pm: The Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street



'Among Others' is a newly-created programme of words and music exploring the history and ongoing life of Edinburgh's 200-year old Jewish community. It features original music by composer Phil Alexander (of Moshe's Bagel fame), original writing by Ellen Galford (novelist, essayist and fledgling Yiddish poet) and Edinburgh Jewish oral histories and reminiscences. It is sponsored by the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society as part of *J200*, the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Edinburgh

Jewish community.

Get your tickets from the Scottish Storytelling Centre (£10 full price, £8 concessions). There are only 100 seats, so buy early so as not to be disappointed.

<http://www.tracscotland.org/scottish-storytelling-centre>, 0131 556 9579

## Summer Barbecue Sunday 9 July 2017

Our **annual summer BBQ will be at Kate and Nick's, 18 Grange Knowe, Linlithgow**, tel (01506) 845325 on Sunday 9 July. Arrive any time from 12.30. Contributions of food and drink are welcome but please no pork or shellfish. All welcome - kids, adults, friends, relatives.

If anyone wants a lift from Linlithgow station, just call (but **ideally let us know beforehand so we've not drunk too much...**). It is also possible to walk from the station by the scenic route round the back of the loch, estimated time around 45 minutes.



By car, come off the M9 at Junction 3 and turn left towards Linlithgow. As you go past the Oracle Factory there is a turning for Grange View on the left. Turn in there, then left at the roundabout into **Grange Knowe. We're in the first cul-de-sac on the right.**

## Do you, or does someone you know, struggle to get to services?

The venues at which we hold our services are all reasonably accessible by public transport, and for those of **us who come by car, the parking isn't too bad.** However during discussions recently at Council we were all made aware that not everyone in our community has access to a car or is able easily to use public transport.

So we have set up a contract with a local taxi firm for those members who would like to come to services but find it difficult or even impossible to get to them. The contract involves Sukkat Shalom depositing a set amount of money with the taxi firm so that taxis can be ordered just using a password and code, and the cost of the taxi is taken from the money we deposit.



**Ricky Hogg is overseeing the contract and while it is very much a case of 'let's see how it goes', we do hope that those of us who would benefit from having this system in place are able to do so. If you'd like to find out more and think this scheme might help you, or someone you know, give Ricky a ring on 07962 076017.**

## Jewish Edinburgh on Foot

Sun 13 August 2017 10:30 am – 12:30 pm



A walk organised by the Lit (Edinburgh Jewish Litewrary Society) and the Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue as part of the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the first Synagogue in Edinburgh, and in Scotland.



Synagogues, shops, bakeries, butchers, homes, neighbourhoods, cemeteries, schools. The walk will explore aspects of Jewish life in central Edinburgh over the past 200 years. It will start on the High Street and will finish at the synagogue on Salisbury Road.

Reserve your place on Eventbrite [here](#).

## Sukkat Shalom Seder 2017/5777

The Seder was a large and enthusiastic gathering of members, visitors from abroad and Scotland, excited and well behaved children, as well as local people who enjoy ushering in and celebrating Pesach with its Roman, European and Semitic influences. With Rabbi Mark at the helm, with lively participation in singing and story telling, and with the enjoyable meal from Butterflies Catering, the evening was a happy and sociable success. Thank you Norman and Wendy for the plethora of seder plates as well as the great selection of afikomen rewards, much appreciated by the children!





Miriam Vickers

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## Elkan Hershon's barmitzvah drasha

"Our Sedra this Shabbat is a double portion, Vayakhel-Pekudey, Exodus Chapters 35 to 40, which concludes the book of Exodus. Today we are reading the very last section of Pekudey, Exodus 40, verses 17 to 38.

Exodus contains many chapters about the building of the Mishkan, the tent-Tabernacle which travelled with the people through the wilderness. It starts in Exodus 25–30, where God gives **Moses all the instructions for building the Mishkan. Then there's a break for the** episode of the Golden Calf, and after that it continues in chapters 35–40 with the carrying out of these instructions, and finally the setting up of the Mishkan and all its furnishings and adornment—ten chapters dealing with the building in enormous detail.

The Tabernacle is built for several reasons: the main one is to create a sort of portable Mount Sinai, to act as a reminder of the revelation of the Torah and accompany the people wherever they go. It is a travelling holy place where services, sacrifices and worship can be carried out, and where people can find atonement for their sins. It is also an Inner Sanctuary where Moses can talk with God.

There are many parallels for me between that portable Sanctuary and our community of Sukkat Shalom. We are a peripatetic or travelling community, constantly journeying between

Columcille, St Mark's, Marchmont St Giles and occasionally Christ Church Morningside: every service we have, wherever we are holding it, we create a sanctuary where we can share our prayers to God. We set up our portable Ark, we bring a Torah scroll to put in it, we put out a bimah—the reading desk, with its cloth—and we put out the chairs and arrange a kiddush.

Every Shabbat my family and I have to make quite a journey to get here to Sukkat Shalom. If Nicola Sturgeon has her way we might even have to bring out passports in future to cross the border! The Hershon family has had to cross many borders to get here. My great-great-great grandfather, the first Elkan Hershon, had to come by ship from Riga to Liverpool. For that matter, my mother has recently found out that her ancestors came by ship as well, but they **were Vikings coming to pillage. I don't think the Hershons did much pillaging. Throughout the centuries the Jewish people have travelled, by necessity or by choice, but wherever they have gone, they have taken the Torah with them, a portable Mount Sinai, a travelling Sanctuary. Generations of Jewish boys have learnt their barmitzvah portions and chanted in front of the congregation to show that they will carry on the tradition into the future. I feel proud to take my place in this tradition."**



Rabbi Mark, Elkan, his dad Daniel,  
and Isak



Four Hershon brothers: Elkan,  
Elias, Isak, and Abel

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# Edinburgh Interfaith Association News

Sunday 4 June, 12:00pm, a special Tsok Puja with the Kagyu Samye Dzong Edinburgh Buddhist Centre, Bernard Street, Leith EH6 6SH

EIFA is pleased to be joining the Kagyu Samye Dzong in their annual Buddhist Holy Week, celebrating the Birth and Enlightenment of the Buddha. On Sunday June 4th (Guru Rinpoche Day) the Centre will conclude a weekend-long course of Dharma teachings with the Shower of Blessings Ceremony. Supporters of EIFA are invited to attend the Centre at 12 noon. There will be a brief explanatory introduction followed by the Ceremony which will last approximately 45 minutes. The service includes a blessing of the food that we will share at the end of the service. This event replaces the regular June community meal.

## Unite4Ramadan

Last year Edinburgh Interfaith Association launched Unite4Ramadan. This year local Muslim women are hosting Ramadan Community Dinners across Edinburgh to give people an opportunity to come together, get to know each other, ask questions in an informal atmosphere and then share a delicious meal to break the fast.

Fasting for the day is totally optional but last year a number of us did it and it made the iftar break-fast meal all the more enjoyable. This year Ramadan runs from Friday May 26th to Saturday June 24th. There are no venues or times confirmed yet but you can check <http://www.eifa.org.uk/unite4ramadan/> for further details.

## Future dates for your diary

Tuesday 19th September: EIFA Annual Peace Service

Sunday 12th November to Sunday 19th November: Interfaith week

And of course there are the regular community meal events - normally on the first Monday of every month. See <http://www.eifa.org.uk/> or the EIFA Facebook page for further details.

Stew Green

EIFA Jewish Community Board Rep

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## Lag b'Omer picnic extravaganza

Several Sukkat Shalom families enjoyed a wonderful day out in the Callendar Park woods in Falkirk where they joined many other Jewish families from across Scotland. The woods are a great place to visit, and surprisingly wild for somewhere so close to the town and just a short walk from Falkirk High Station. The Forestry Commission staff put on lots of activities for the children, such as archery for the older ones, making fairy houses for the little ones, story-telling



for everyone and

much more. We are most grateful to the sponsors of the event, SCoJeC and the Newton Mearns Hebrew Congregation and to all the volunteers who helped run the event and prepare and serve the barbecue. The event concluded with

demonstrations of fire juggling.

## Gardening at Tiphereth – all welcome!

Sunday 4 June, 11.00am – 1.30pm

What began as a one-off national Mitzvah Day event in November 2015 proved so enjoyable **that it's carried on. On this, our fourth visit we'll be helping to prepare the garden at The Hollies for the summer, including working on the new vegetable plot. Please come along and join in. You don't need gardening experience, just enthusiasm and energy. There are suitable tasks for all ages and capabilities.**

The Hollies is one of three households that make up Tiphereth, an intentional community that includes adults **with learning disabilities. It's in the Colinton area of Edinburgh, belongs to the international Camphill Movement and is one of ten Camphill communities in Scotland, all of which follow Rudolf Steiner values.**

**If you'd like to come, or want to find out more please email Sue Bard on [susanbard3@gmail.com](mailto:susanbard3@gmail.com) or phone/text 07811 409914 for more details.**

# A Weekend of Celebration for Liberal Judaism

Liberal Judaism is holding a Weekend of Celebration in London on 10 and 11 June – a great opportunity to meet members of other communities and enjoy and participate in a range of activities, discussion groups and talks.

Saturday 10 June will be a whole day of Liberal Jewish Music with an impromptu mass choir followed by a wide and intriguing choice of workshops. See the full programme and book your place at [www.tinyurl.com/LJMusicDay](http://www.tinyurl.com/LJMusicDay)

Sunday 11 June is titled When Judaism Meets Politics. Keynote speakers are Lord (Alf) Dubs on 'The power of empathy' and Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin on 'The role of faith in leading opinion and action' plus lots of breakout sessions and discussion groups. See the full programme and book your place at [www.doc2017.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.doc2017.eventbrite.co.uk)

Both events are being held at Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue, Oaklands Gate, Northwood, London HA6 3AA. The cost for each day is £35/£15 and includes a buffet lunch. Accommodation can be arranged with members of the community.

## Yom HaShoah in The Peace Garden

Yom HaShoah is Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed this year on 24th April by the Edinburgh Jewish community in a short service in the Peace Garden, in Princes Street Gardens. The event was organised by the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation and addressed by the Lord Provost's representative, Baillie Angela Blacklock. Members of Sukkat Shalom have always attended this service, and for the first time, this year, we were asked to contribute a reading (see below). Traditional rites of mourning—the singing of Psalm 23, El Malei Rachamim, and the recital of Kaddish—brought very close the losses from the Holocaust.

*One evening, when we were already resting on the floor of our hut, dead tired, soup bowls in hand, a fellow prisoner rushed in and asked us to run out to the assembly grounds and see the wonderful sunset. Standing outside we saw sinister clouds glowing in the west and the whole sky alive with clouds of ever-changing shapes and colours, from steel blue to blood red. The desolate grey mud huts provided a sharp contrast, while the puddles on the muddy ground reflected the glowing sky. Then, after minutes of moving silence, one prisoner said to another, "How beautiful the world could be." —Viktor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning**

# Sukkat Shalom Year of Song

Our Year of Song will be going ahead thanks to a generous grant from the North London Progressive Synagogue Trust. This project will give everyone who wants to sing the opportunity to enjoy and get to know the music that is such a beautiful and fundamental aspect of our services.

This project is free and open to all members and friends of Sukkat Shalom. People of all **ages (including older children and teenagers) are welcome. You don't need to have had** previous experience in a choir, or to be able to read music or Hebrew. You do need to have enthusiasm and to commit to coming to as many of the workshops and practices as you can. We are very lucky to have leading this project both Mich Sampson – choir director, singer and teacher – and our own Rabbi Mark Solomon, who is also a trained cantor and has a deep knowledge and love of Jewish music of all kinds.

The observation day will occur on Saturday 26 August, when Rabbi Mark is conducting the **service. It will include Mich's observation and recording of the service, a lunchtime meeting** with singers /potential singers, and a two-hour meeting between Mich, Mark and members of the community in the afternoon .

## WORKSHOPS AND SINGING PRACTICE DATES

Workshops will take place on Sundays from 10.30 – 4.00 with a one-hour break for lunch.

**The venue isn't yet confirmed.**

Singing Practice Sessions will take place on Sundays from 3.00 – 4.00 at Columcille, Newbattle Terrace

WORKSHOP 1: Sunday 5 November

SINGING PRACTICE 1: Sunday 26 November

WORKSHOP 2: Sunday 3 December

SINGING PRACTICE 2: Sunday 10 December

WORKSHOP 3: Sunday 21 January

SINGING PRACTICE 3: Sunday 28 January

WORKSHOP 4: Sunday 4 March

SINGING PRACTICE 4: Sunday 18 March

WORKSHOP 5: Sunday 6 May

SINGING PRACTICE 5: Sunday 27 May

Please register your interest with Sue Bard [susanbard3@gmail.com](mailto:susanbard3@gmail.com) 07811 409914/0131 468 1151

# UK Première of Hans Gál's opera *Das Lied Der Nacht (Song of the Night)*

**SUNDAY 4 JUNE 7.15 at the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh**

Pre-concert talk 6.30

Tickets & Information: 0131 668 2019 <http://www.thequeenshall.net/>

**Hans Gál's opera 'Song of the Night' will be performed for the first time ever in the UK at the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh**, the city that became Hans Gál's eventual home. Premiered in Breslau in 1926, last performed in 1930, 'Song of the Night' is a romantic drama, set in 12th century Palermo: it represents just one facet of Gál's remarkable and diverse musical career.

Gál was born near Vienna in 1890 to Jewish parents of Hungarian origin. In the extraordinarily rich musical environment of Vienna at that time he became a pianist, composer, musicologist and teacher, gaining a reputation and commanding respect in all these fields. In 1929, he was made Director of the Music Academy in Mainz, Germany, rapidly establishing it as an outstanding and prestigious institution. **But in 1933 when Hitler came to power, all Gál's music was banned and he was dismissed from his post.** Gál returned to Vienna, where he tried to pursue his musical career, but was again forced to flee with his wife Hanna and their two sons, Franz and Peter, on **Hitler's annexation of Austria in 1938.**

The Gáls had planned to go to the United States, but a chance meeting with Sir Donald Tovey, then Reid Professor of Music at Edinburgh University, brought them instead to Edinburgh where Tovey gave Gál some temporary work. The Gáls found accommodation as **the caretakers of an evacuated girls' school in Rothesay Terrace and Hanna worked as a housekeeper for Sir Herbert Grierson, a retired Professor of English.**

**The family's early years in Edinburgh were very hard and infinitely darkened by knowledge of the fate of family members in Vienna.** During 1940, Gál, as an Austrian refugee, was interned in Liverpool and on the Isle of Man. Gál described the hardship, disruption and humiliation of



internment in his diary 'Music Behind Barbed Wire', a description that does not accord with familiar accounts of Britain's allegedly benign internment regime. Once released, Gál was active among refugee musicians principally through The Anglo-Austrian Music Society founded in 1942 by Austrian refugee musicians and British musicians including Ralph Vaughan Williams, Adrian Boult and Benjamin Britten. Its purpose was to help Austrian musicians survive and overcome harsh British Government policies of internment and the prohibition of paid and even unpaid work for musicians.



In Edinburgh Gál launched a weekly Collegium Musicum that met on Sunday afternoons at the evacuated school where the family lived – Hanna producing famed Viennese cakes despite the rigours of rationing. In 1944, a third child, Eva, was born. Gál secured a full teaching post at Edinburgh University and the family moved to a flat in Warrender Park Crescent.

Hans Gál was involved in the founding of the first Edinburgh International Festival in 1947 and he continued to contribute enormously to the cultural life of the city until his death in 1987. Gál never

stopped composing and left a large and diverse body of work. Until his work was banned it was highly regarded and frequently performed. Gál's more traditional tonal music co-existed with, and was then banned with, the work of modernist composers. In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, music such as his fell out of fashion, ironically partly because of its identification with the period in which Nazism flourished. Now, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, interest in Gál's life and work is reviving, not least through the efforts of the Hans Gál Society. We are the lucky beneficiaries.

*In writing this I'd like to acknowledge Rebecca Wober who alerted me to the existence of The Hans Gál Society (set up and run by members of Hans Gál's family)*

*<http://www.hansgal.com/> for their tireless work and informative website, and finally Michael Haas, author of Forbidden Music: The Jewish Composers Banned by the Nazis and also of an enlightening blog: <https://forbiddenmusic.org/>*

Sue Bard