



est 2004

December 2014
Kislev–Tevet 5775

5	Kabbalat Shabbat MSG	6.15
6	Cheder MSG	3.30
12	Erev Shabbat Supper and songs Welcoming Students CC	7.00
13	Tea and Talmud CC	3.00
14	Philosophy Reading Group CC	4.00
19	Kabbalat Shabbat and Chanukiah Lighting, with refreshments MSG	6.15
20	Cheder (Children's Chanukah Party) MSG	3.30
27	Shabbat Morning Service CC	11.00

January 2015

2	Kabbalat Shabbat MSG	6.15
9	Erev Shabbat CC	7.00
10	Cheder MSG	3.30
16	Kabbalat Shabbat MSG	6.15
17	Cheder Note times! MSG	2.30–4.45

לולב lulav

vol 1
issue 12

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Venues

CC	Columcille Centre 2 Newbattle Terrace	MSG	Marchmont St Giles 1a Kilgraston Road
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Community Phone This phone number sends voicemail to members the **Contact Team** 0131 777 8024

Urgent Support Only for use in emergency; alerts the whole Welfare Team 0131 208 1447

Email Contact Email the **Contact Team** and the **Newsletter** via the webpage at contact.eljc.org

Website www.eljc.org

<i>Chair</i>	Norman Crane	<i>Treasurer</i>	Gillian Raab
<i>Lulav Editor</i>	Catherine Lyons	<i>Membership</i>	Sharon Goldwater



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Scottish Charity SC035678

Word from the Chair

Last month, after a chavurah supper and songs led by Rabbi Mark, we were treated to a presentation by Janet Mundy and Joe Goldblatt about Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue. The other prime mover of the project, Jane Ansell, unfortunately could not be with us. Over a year ago now, a public meeting was called by Jane and Janet to explore reactions to the idea of Jewish Community Centre here in Edinburgh.

Attendance was good, and the reaction in general positive. Jane and Janet invited a series of people to address three subsequent public meetings to describe three different models of Jewish Community Centre functioning elsewhere. The first described the Oxford Jewish Community. There the Orthodox, Reform, and Masorti communities pooled their resources to secure a building that would allow all three to worship separately but come together for shared social and cultural events. The second meeting dealt with JW3, the London Jewish community Centre largely funded by the philanthropist, Dame Vivien Duffield. Here there are no religious services and there is a kosher restaurant, Zest, influenced by Yotam Ottolenghi. The third speaker was the president of the Jewish Council of Sweden, where state funding provides financial security. The different Jewish communities worship in various buildings but share a community centre.

Each model arises from the particular circumstances that engendered it. Four groups of Jews can be identified in Edinburgh: Orthodox, Liberal, Chabad and unaffiliated. Once it became clear that there is a desire to create a cultural and social organisation irrespective of religious affiliation, a steering group was formed. The steering group comprises members of our community and Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation. I have drafted a report for the group, setting out the following ideas.

1. Use the community hall at EHC as an independent centre, with a separate entrance.
2. Create a new building for the three groups to worship in, plus separate social and cultural space.
3. Create a new building for social and cultural space activities only, with religious activities off-site.
4. Adapt the EHC Salisbury Road building to accommodate more than just an Orthodox congregation in addition a community space.
5. Do nothing and retain the status quo.

It must be stressed that at this stage no concrete proposals of any kind have been put forward. Any proposals that do eventually emerge will be the subject of a great deal of consultation. People right across the spectrum have concerns and sensitivities which must be taken into account. The Friday evening presentation at Columcille was a first step in this direction. It was also an opportunity for people to ask questions and comment.

At this stage EHC would appear to be further forward. The members had agreed at their AGM of last year to form a group to discuss among other things the future of their Community Hall. This group has met several times and some of the ideas raised above would naturally be a facet of these discussions. For Sukkat Shalom these are very early days indeed, and we shall, as they say, watch this space. I certainly envisage needing to write fairly regularly about future developments.

Speaking for myself only, I am excited by the idea of a genuine community-wide cultural centre in Edinburgh in addition to a synagogue in which to worship. Hillel used to say:

If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
And if I am only for myself, what am I?
And if not now, when?

We have focused recently not only on our relationships with other local Jews but also with those of other faiths. I report on our Interfaith Week activities on p. 6.

Norman Crane

Our Ark nears Completion

Last month Katy Bromberg reported that a new supplier was sought for the aluminium panels. We now have the panels, and they are in the process of being installed. Pictured right is the panel, designed by Lauren Fox, that will go across the top of the ark and allow the *ner tamid* to shine through.

We still don't have a protective bag for transporting the Ark. The company first contacted proposed a solution that would have weighed 25kg, and that amount of additional weight would have made transport more difficult and not less. Lauren and Katy are on the case, so to speak, and we will hear more in the new year.



Sue Lieberman's Book Launch

After Genocide: How Ordinary Jews Face the Holocaust will be launched on Wednesday **21 January** 2015, 6.30, at Blackwells in Edinburgh. A conversation with Sue about the book featured in [last month's Lulav](#). (Erratum: the date for the launch was not correct in that article.)

Americans in Scotland: Thanksgiving and the Edge of Now

As president of the American Women's Club of Central Scotland, Nancy Lynner was [interviewed in the Scotsman](#), in a report about the increase of American Thanksgiving foods being sold in the UK. Not to be outdone, Lulav has asked Nancy to reflect on Thanksgiving.



It feels good to be thankful. This is one of the benefits of American Thanksgiving. Another great fact is that there is no religion attached to this holiday. It's about just being thankful, together, with friends and family. Everyone can celebrate Thanksgiving. The timing of the holiday is well-placed for reflection — before the calendar year is up — the calm before the storm of December.

The menu varies from table to table, but terrific home-cooked food is one of the goals. Traditional menus includes turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, green beans, pumpkin or pecan pie, or both. Even if you have to cook for days, or wash loads of dishes afterwards, it is worth it, because Thanksgiving is a hallmark of the year. Families travel to be together. It reminds us of the present — today! But we also remember who was with us in previous years. *Who isn't able to come this year? Who made that amazing pie last year?* The edge of now is sharpened when we reflect on the past and the future.

Nancy Lynner

Ceilidh Collection

Jenni Underwood and Gillian Raab share their photos



ten
YEARS



The 5775 Kol Nidre Appeal

As presented by Sue Lieberman

It has been my privilege for the last two or three years to stand here and make the annual Kol Nidre appeal on behalf of Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh; and here I am again.

The Kol Nidre appeal is one of the most important statements we, as a community, make about our commitment to the key ideas enshrined in Tzedakah: charity and justice. We are a small community and we punch above our weight in what we raise and disburse amongst our selected charities each year. Last year, we raised over £4,000, and I hope that this year, notwithstanding the economic climate, we can do at least as well.

It is our policy at Sukkat Shalom to choose charities each year in four categories.

- a local Jewish charity
- an Israeli charity dedicated to peace and justice in Israel-Palestine
- a local non-Jewish charity
- a development charity

We also have two less formal considerations. As we are a small community, we like where possible to choose charities that are also small, because we know the difference that relatively small amounts of money make. We also like to choose charities where one or other of our members has a personal connection.

Last month, *Lulav* featured Calibre Audio Library and Physicians for Human Rights–Israel; this month, the other two charities whose work Sue presented. To donate to the appeal, please send a cheque payable to Sukkat Shalom, Edinburgh to Gillian Raab (Treasurer ELJC), 10 Ainslie Place, Edinburgh EH3 6AS. If you wish to pay by bank transfer, please send email to ask for the bank details: treasurer@eljc.org.

Jewish Care

When it comes to choosing our local Jewish charity, it has to be said that we don't have a lot of choice, and we have adopted the practice of alternating each year between the two principal Jewish charities in Scotland. This year it is the turn of Jewish Care. Jewish Care is Scotland's leading Jewish welfare charity. Founded in 1858 and based in Giffnock in Glasgow, it helps people in Jewish communities wherever they live in Scotland: services which include day care, social work care, community care, support for carers and for people with mental health problems. Help goes to families in crisis, young people, individuals with mental health difficulties and older people struggling to maintain their independence. This year it is expected that over 500 Jewish families will contact the charity for help. One of the key issues facing Jewish Care over the past five years has been the impact of welfare reform — which has meant benefit cuts and loss of income to those at the most disadvantaged edge of society. It may surprise, even shock, you to hear that homelessness has become a significant issue amongst Jewish people in Glasgow and surrounding areas. Amongst those affected are people with learning difficulties and mental health problems. In 2013 Jewish Care gave at least £25,000 from its hardship fund to help Jewish people in hardship, including those on long-term sickness, people who cannot meet their fuel bills, and people urgently in need of rehousing because of benefit cuts. Jewish Care also runs a food bank. About 50–75 people are currently in receipt of regular help



Ladies from Jewish Care's Thistle Club enjoy an outing.
Photo: thejc.com

because of financial hardship. This figure includes whole families. Jewish Care services are open to any Jewish person in Scotland in relevant need. Some of our own members have been directly helped in the past, and no doubt more will be in the future.

Mercy Corps

Mercy Corps is a global non-profit humanitarian and development agency working amid disasters, conflicts, chronic poverty and instability to help people and communities overcome the massive challenges they face. Mercy Corps helps build secure, productive and just communities. It often enters countries during a humanitarian crisis, then stays on to help communities recover from crises and create mechanisms to increase future resilience. Since 1979, Mercy Corps has provided assistance to people in 114 nations. Today the agency's programmes employ over 4,500 staff worldwide and reach 19 million people in more than

forty countries. Mercy Corps Scotland is part of this global agency and is based at Mercy Corps' European headquarters in Edinburgh. Mercy Corps concentrates its help on youth, women and smallholder farmers. It works to establish robust organisational systems and structures, to strengthen leadership and develop partnerships. It is active in some of the world's toughest places. In the year to June 2013, Afghanistan was its single biggest focus. Since then the Syrian refugee crisis has taken over, and Mercy Corps now works in Jordan, Turkey and Iraq to alleviate some of the effects of this humanitarian crisis. Mercy Corps also works in the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Indonesia, to name but a few other countries. It is present in Gaza and Colombia, and recently began activities in Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria. Our member Lauren Fox has worked abroad for Mercy Corps in a paid capacity and voluntarily, and continues to support them. She says, "They do brilliant work".



Mercy Corps' local Ebola Response Team at work in Liberia

Faith Leaders' Meeting and Interfaith Shabbat

Norman Crane

A meeting for faith leaders was held in the City Chambers on the Thursday of Interfaith week. Stew Green, our Interfaith representative, and I attended. We were shown some photos on screen of tragic incidents with just a date and place as a caption, asked for our responses to them and how as faith leaders we might deal with them. They were thought-provoking and engendered much discussion, which culminated in a suggestion that we might embark on a collaborative project to symbolise our wish to work together.

Our Shabbat morning service that week was designated 'Interfaith Shabbat' and we were joined by a number of people of other faiths. Rabbi Mark tailored the conduct of the service and the content of his sermon to suit the occasion. Afterwards a celebratory kiddush was enjoyed by visitors and members of the community alike. Conversations flowed in the easy going, friendly manner one would have hoped for.



Edinburgh's Faith Leaders: in the front row, you may spot (left to right), Rabbi David Rose, Stew Green, Norman Crane. Photo: EIFA

As a Printmaker, Miriam Vickers continues to impress

Miriam has long been highly regarded as a watercolourist, known for vibrant landscapes in a distinctive palette. For the last three years she has also been etching. This winter exhibition season, she has made her mark on contemporary Scottish printmaking.

The Royal Scottish Academy Open-Submission Art Exhibition opened its doors at the end of November (in the Lower Galleries of the RSA). The Society of Scottish Artists launches its 2014 exhibition at the beginning of December (in the Upper Galleries of the RSA). Both exhibitions attracted a high number of submissions. One artwork in three was accepted by the SSA; one in five was accepted by the RSA, Miriam estimates.

Back in the early 1990s, as a student at the Glasgow School of Art, Miriam was on holiday in Orkney, where she sketched a landscape near Stromness. Twenty years later, Miriam has used her 'View from the Croft' to create a prizewinning print.

Against tough competition, Miriam submitted distinct prints of *Orkney Landscape* to both the RSA and SSA. Both were accepted, and her print in the SSA has won the Scottish Art Club Prize.

Miriam has oil and watercolour landscapes currently exhibited in Glasgow at the Compass Gallery's Cabinet Show (an exhibition of intimate artworks in the style of seventeenth-century private collections). She is also a collaborator in No Fixed Abode, a project organised by Edinburgh Printmakers in conjunction with the *Big Issue*. No Fixed Abode examines home and homelessness, and aspires to provide real benefit to the *Big Issue* vendors themselves.

Miriam has etched a portrait of one of them, as a former social worker, familiar with the *Big Issue*, she has known some of the vendors personally, and is pleased to present her sitter with a print.

Miriam is offering to guide us round the exhibitions at 2.00 on Sunday **14 December**. RSVP to Miriam by using the [Contact Page](#).



Orkney Landscape, at the Royal Scottish Academy Open Exhibition, 2014
©Miriam Vickers



View From The Croft, Orkney Isles, winner of the Scottish Art Club Prize, Society of Scottish Artists Annual Exhibition, 2014
©Miriam Vickers

LINKnet minority ethnic mentoring service



You Know How it Feels: a presentation by the director of LINKnet

You Know How it Feels is our volunteering project run in conjunction with the Voluntary Action Fund and supported by Fiona Frank of SCoJeC. The project funds our own community development while facilitating our support of refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants in Scotland. This support can take the form of welcoming, befriending, advising, language support; or just providing a listening ear. Often the volunteer gets as much out of it as the person who's 'receiving help'. Reaching outside the Jewish community will also help to cement relationships across cultural 'borders'.

Fiona Frank, SCoJeC

At the next meeting we will hear from Dissa, (R. Disssanayaka), Director of LINKnet Mentoring Ltd, an organisation that mentors individuals from ethnic minorities to support them in applying for jobs, find out about opportunities for education, or look for general personal development. LINKnet is currently keen to recruit new mentors.

Martha Harding, Training Officer at the Scottish Refugee Council, spoke at the Erev Shabbat dinner in May about the situation of refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland, and spoke in more detail at the volunteers' meeting in August. At that meeting people went off to find out about different organisations working in this area, to see where we could get training and support.

In August Martha gave Volunteers an in-depth run-through of the asylum process and the difficulties people face at every step of the way. We also talked about the benefits that volunteers get out of volunteering and about why it might be a good thing for Jewish people to be seen to be reaching outside their own community at this time.

The volunteering opportunities that Martha had suggested are:

The Welcoming Association: they might be worth contacting but are not currently seeking volunteers.

Scottish Detainee Visitors visits detainees at Dungavel detention centre.

Ethnic Minorities Law Centre: volunteers have to commit to one day a week over 3-6 months.

Sahelia's befriending service (women only) asks for a minimum of four hours fortnightly for a year.

SCoJeC can pay for volunteers training and travel expenses, from our grant from the Voluntary Action Fund, for the next 3 months. We are planning to meet up regularly to share our experiences.

If you would like to join the You Know How It Feels Volunteers, send a request to join the group's mailing list by using the Contact Page. The next meeting of the group will take place on Thursday 11 December. Refreshments will be available from 7.00; the meeting will begin at 7.30: Marchmont St Giles (1A Kilgraston Rd, EH9 2DW).

Current and prospective Volunteers should RSVP to Fiona: fiona@scojec.org

Two Jews, three Israels: Clive Lawton at the Lit

Janet Mundy

Clive Lawton is a lifelong educator (former head teacher at King David's School in Liverpool, former director of Limmud and currently scholar in residence at the London Jewish Cultural Centre). He always challenges his audience to take nothing for granted, and he applied this principle to great effect in his talk at the Jewish Literary Society on 3 November.

Everyone knows that Israel is a controversial topic for discussion, for Jews and non-Jews alike. He asked the audience to take a step back and think about what we actually mean by the word "Israel", which has at least four separate meanings. These include the name given to Jacob after his tussle with the angel, the Biblical land of Israel, with its circles of diminishing holiness from the *Kadosh K'doshim* outwards, the People Israel, and the modern State.

None of the definitions is entirely clear. The borders of the modern State of Israel are constantly disputed, but so is the original location of the *Kadosh K'doshim*, making it difficult to define the exact level of holiness of any given place. Clive pointed out that, while Jews feel that the State of Israel emotionally belongs to us, 20% of its citizens are not Jewish and, while they may feel Israeli, they do not feel any affinity with Jews in the Diaspora. On the other hand, Jews instinctively react either to attack or defend the State of Israel's policies and actions in a way that other religions and nations would not do. Clive contrasted this with the lack of reaction to the Christian phalangists' massacre in Lebanon in the 1980s, and Margaret Thatcher's exaltation in the sinking of the Belgrano.

Clive's talk was intended to be a springboard for thoughtful dialogue, and a lively question and answer session followed, covering areas including whether Jews should make Aliyah, political Zionism, and the role of apology in modern politics. As he responded to the questions, Clive suggested that the function of Jews is to force the world to cope with diversity by not fitting into neat categories of race or religion. As Sue Lieberman pointed out in her vote of thanks at the end of the meeting, Clive cast light on why there is so much muddle about Israel and that we need to be cautious on how we intermix terms and concepts. Everyone present would have liked the discussion to continue for longer, and perhaps will approach future discussions about "Israel" with a new sense of clarity.

Lulav thanks Janet for this preview of an article to appear in the [Edinburgh Star](#).



Jacob Wrestling with the Angel, Rembrandt, 1659 Photo: Wikimedia



ב"ה

**WEDNESDAY,
17 DECEMBER 2014
6:15 PM**

At St. Andrew Square
Followed by a Reception at Motel One - Princess Street

Grand Chanukah Celebration







- 🕯 Greetings from local dignitaries
- 🕯 Live Chanukah music
- 🕯 Lighting of the largest Menorah in Scotland
- 🕯 Latkes
- 🕯 Doughnuts and lots more.....
- 🕯 Make sure to join the fun!

A project of Chabad of Edinburgh
www.chabadofedinburgh.com - 0131 281 4495

News from St Mark's

Catherine Lyons

I am not in the habit of making cold calls. But nine years ago, it occurred to me that a Unitarian Church might provide a space that we could deem a sanctuary.

In 2005 we had been holding services in halls that seemed to me to be too mundane for communal prayer. I picked up the phone and called Andrew Hill, then the minister at St Mark's. I still remember that Andrew answered immediately, and with equal speed impressed me with his grasp of my request. 'You'll like St Mark's', he told me. 'We have no Christian iconography. Would you like to come and see? Meet me at the church in half an hour.' He understood progressive Judaism and owned a Reform siddur.

Andrew has since retired (semi-retired, at least!), and been replaced by Maude Robinson. On 30 November a special service was held to honour Andrew's 33 years of ministry and install a new lectern. Nick Silk attended on our behalf. The design of the elegant wooden lectern is a serendipitous complement to our Ark.

Pictured above are representatives from the groups that use St Mark's. Nick is left of Andrew. Maude is second from the right. (Thanks to Rebekah Gronowski for finding the photo on Facebook.)



Photo: Kate M Foggo

EMERGENCY APPEAL Ebola Crisis Appeal



Thousands of children have been left orphaned by Ebola . We need your support to provide **Orphan Survival Packs**. These life-saving packs provide food, mattresses, bedding, and clothing to children left isolated and alone by Ebola.

Donate Now to the [World Jewish Relief Ebola Crisis Appeal](#)