



May – June 2018
Iyar – Sivan – Tamuz 5778

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**Sukkat
Shalom**
Edinburgh Liberal
Jewish Community

**Scottish Charity
Number
SC 035678**

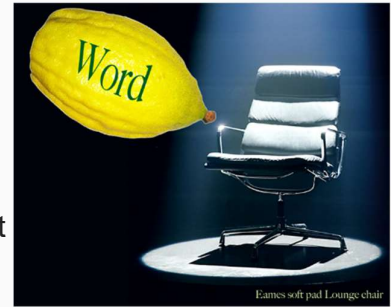
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Diary

May 2018 / Iyar – Sivan 5778				
Fri 4	Iyar 20	6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	Marchmont St Giles
Sun 6	Iyar 21	10:15am	Singing Workshop	Contact Sue Bard (susanbard3@gmail.com) for venue information
Fri 11	Iyar 27	7pm	Erev Shabbat service + communal supper. Please bring a dish to share (no meat or shellfish, thanks)	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Fri 18	Sivan 5	6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	Marchmont St Giles
Sat 19	Sivan 6	7pm	Erev Shavuot service and shiur	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Fri 25	Sivan 12	7pm	Erev Shabbat meditative service, led by Rabbi Mark Solomon	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Sat 26	Sivan 12	11am	Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Mark Solomon	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Sun 27	Sivan 13	3pm	Singing Practice	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Sun 27	Sivan 13	4pm	Discussion Group	St. Marks Unitarian Church
June 2018 / Sivan – Tamuz 5778				
Fri 1	Sivan 19	6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	Marchmont St Giles
Fri 8	Sivan 26	7pm	Erev Shabbat service	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Fri 15	Tamuz 3	6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	Marchmont St Giles
Sun 17	Tamuz 4	10:15am	Singing Workshop	Contact Sue Bard (susanbard3@gmail.com) for venue information
Fri 22	Tamuz 10	7pm	Supper and songs, led by Rabbi Mark Solomon. Please bring a dish to share (no meat or shellfish, thanks)	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Sat 23	Tamuz 10	11am	Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Mark Solomon	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Sat 23	Tamuz 10	3pm	Tea and Talmud	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Sun 24	Tamuz 11	4pm	Discussion group	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Fri 29	Tamuz 17	6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	Marchmont St Giles

Word from the Chair

After my last 'Word from the Chair', I had several comments from members saying that they had read my article and even enjoyed what I had written, I was quite pleased to receive the feedback, not just because it was mostly positive but also because it shows that people are reading what is written in the newsletter. While we have a great newsletter team who without fail put together great newsletters, it is always nice to have feedback that the final product is read.



This month I'm reverting back to mentioning things that we discussed at our last Council meeting. The first is fundraising, which is a topic I've mentioned before and indeed highlighted at the AGM. It goes without saying that it is important that we are financially stable, and while we've increased the membership fees for the last two years, that's not something that we want to do every year. A much better option is to have regular fundraising initiatives, and as well as providing us with income, they are also a good way of having social activities and a bit of fun. Have a look at what we have to say in this Etrog for more details of a great event planned for later in the year as well as some other fundraising ideas. And if you've got any ideas of your own, we'd love to hear about them.

One of the other things that we discussed at Council was whether we should be more formally defining some of our policies. I don't know about you, but my instinct is that we don't need policies – we're a religious community and surely it's obvious what we do and what we're about. However, I do realise that things move on, and times change, and while I might think that "it's obvious", in truth I do think that we need to have some policies. In fact, while I wouldn't claim to be an expert on legal matters, I suspect that some of the things we need are legal, or quasi-legal, requirements. A couple of examples are a Child and Vulnerable Adult protection policy and a policy for the handling of personal data, both of which are much in the news these days. If we take the latter as an example, I think we do all the right things. We don't pass on details of any of our members to any third party, we keep details in password protected documents and whenever we send out 'mass e-mailings' like the newsletter or mid-month reminders, they are always done as bcc copies so that e-mail addresses aren't disclosed. So what does writing down all these things do? Well, it shows that we have thought about such matters, that we do take them seriously, and that we want all our members to know this too. I want to say that it's a bit of a bonus if we also comply with a legal requirement, which I'm sure doesn't come over quite as well as I want it to, but I hope you know what I mean. We're doing the right thing for the right reason and it also makes us legally compliant – it's a win/win. So, over the course of the coming months, I expect that you'll see

a few more of our policies appear on our website together with the constitution. I'm not expecting that any of them will be contentious, but if you do read them and have any comments, please do let me know.

Nick Silk

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

Two further Lit meetings are still to come this year. Both will be on Sunday evenings at 8pm in the Community Centre Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, 4a Salisbury Rd, Edinburgh EH16 5AB, UK ([map](#))

6 May: Jane Goldman, 'Philip Roth's The Human Stain: identity politics and categories of the human'

This Novel about identity politics on an American university campus asks important questions about the intersection of competing concepts of race, class, gender, and sexuality in American culture more widely. Jane suggests that discussion at the meeting will be enhanced if those attending read Philip Roth's novel beforehand.

Jane Goldman is Reader in English Literature at the University of Glasgow. She is a General Co-Editor of the Cambridge University Press Edition of *The Writings of Virginia Woolf*, and author of *The Feminist Aesthetics of Virginia Woolf: Modernism, Post-Impressionism; The Politics of the Visual*, and a number of other books and publications on Virginia Woolf. As well as her long-standing interest in American literature, Jane is also a poet and her works have been published in a number of magazines and journals. *Border Thoughts* (Sufficient Place, 2014) is her first slim volume.

27 May: Ilan Baron, 'Obligation in Exile: The Jewish Diaspora, Israel and critique'
Why is debate about Israel often so contentious? What explains Diaspora Jews' non-religious attachments to Israel? What does Israel provide ideationally for Diaspora Jews? How are we to understand Diaspora Jews' relationship with Israel? In this talk, Dr Baron will explore the findings from his book, *Obligation in Exile: The Jewish Diaspora, Israel and Critique*, and will suggest a different way to think about and debate Israel and its role for Diaspora Jews.

Ilan Zvi Baron is Associate Professor in the School of Government and International Affairs at Durham University, where he is also the Co-Director of the Centre for the Study of Jewish Culture, Society and Politics. He has published on International Relations theory, identity and

security, the Jewish Diaspora's relationship with Israel and the international cultural politics of Israeli cuisine. His recent books include *Obligation in Exile: The Jewish Diaspora, Israel and Critique*, published by Edinburgh University Press, and with Manchester University Press, *How to Save Politics in a Post-Truth Era*.

Sukkat Shalom Fundraiser, Sunday 27th October 2018

SAVE THE DATE and make sure you don't miss out on what's going to be great evening's entertainment for everyone, children and young people included. We'll need volunteers to help out with preparations before and on the night. If you'd like to get involved, contact Ricky Hogg on rickyhogg7@gmail.com or 0796207017

The Giving Machine: Give while you shop!

The Giving Machine (<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk>) is a not-for-profit online fundraising website that enables online shoppers to give cash donations to UK charities free. We've registered with The Giving Machine, so now you can support Sukkat Shalom while doing your shopping. It's a great way for us to fundraise, and as well it costs you nothing!

You can use The Giving Machine by going to the site, signing up and then searching for "Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community" and then selecting us from the Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh page. When you want to buy something, sign in through the site before you shop and then when you buy, a donation is generated that comes to us.

Many popular retailers are registered with The Giving Machine, including Amazon, eBay, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose, John Lewis and the Apple Store. Some sites like Amazon will donate a maximum of up to 2.25% of a purchase if you consent to giving Gift Aid as well, so please remember to enable that when you sign up!

Gareth Owen

(Editors' note: Gareth tested the efficacy of The Giving Machine by buying a rather superior mouse-trap. The donation worked and so, you'll be pleased to hear, did the mouse-trap. A mouse has died for our cause – the least you can do is SIGN UP NOW and say Kaddish.)

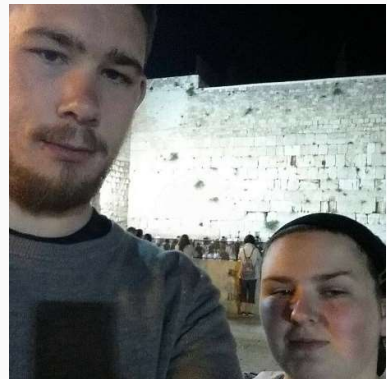


Welcome to old friends and new members, Becky Gilhooley and Fraser Halliday

Becky and Fraser have been part of our community for some time and at the end of last year they were accepted into the Jewish faith by the Beit Din. We are delighted to welcome them now as members of Sukkat Shalom, admitted as such by Rabbi Mark Solomon at a moving and joyful Shabbat service.

Both from Edinburgh, Fraser and Becky grew up in similarly non-religious families. Fraser has always liked history, and learning about the Russian pogroms at school sparked his interest in Judaism. His wish to study Judaism began then and from that grew his love of the religion and its culture and traditions. Becky's encounter with and growing attachment to Judaism has been a very personal experience. During a period of grief, she found great comfort from Judaism, her introduction to it being the Mourners' Kaddish that Fraser shared with her. Subsequently, Becky heard about Sukkat Shalom and Rabbi Mark through colleagues at the nursery where she worked. When Fraser started to think about conversion, he was personally attracted to Sukkat Shalom by Rabbi Mark and the power of his teaching, but he was also attracted by Liberal Judaism's approach to gender equality. It was important to Fraser that he and Becky could enjoy and participate in services together.

Fraser and Becky have found the experience and process of conversion both positive and also inevitably challenging. As Fraser said, 'It can seem very daunting to leave your comfort zone'. For Becky, it was different from anything she'd experienced before and she acknowledges the effort that it has required from her. Both spoke of the welcome and support they've felt from Sukkat Shalom and about the importance of feeling part of a group all of whose members were going through a similar experience. Becky and Fraser appreciated the quality of attention and amount of time given to them individually by the Beit Din; it was special for them that this was something they did together. They are both looking forward to deepening their knowledge and experience of Judaism and to contributing to Sukkat Shalom. They hope eventually to make Aliyah to Israel.



During this period, there have been other changes in their lives. Becky's career working with young children has been developing and she has completed her Level 3 SVQ in Children's

Care, Learning and Development – a great achievement . She has now set herself the goals of gaining experience and qualifications in the field of work with older people and in management. Fraser was formerly a full-time football coach, working with Edinburgh Council and also with professional teams, including Dunfermline Athletic and Rangers FC. He has recently changed his job from Operations Manager of Edinburgh's Nike Store to Deputy Manager of Ladbroke's in Galashiels, gaining him hours of time a week formerly spent commuting. Fraser and Becky moved to Galashiels in the Scottish Borders a year ago and are loving the town and the seclusion and beauty of the landscape. We hope to have the pleasure of enjoying it with them during the coming year.

2. BIRTHS



Woody Asher Zollinger born 27th Sh'vat, 5778

Helen and Stewart Zollinger are delighted to introduce their first child, Woody Asher who was born on Monday 12th February weighing 7lb 2oz. Woody has a special heart condition and is currently undergoing some treatment in the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow, but will hopefully be able to meet you all at services soon!

Ida Fox-McLoughlan born 10th Nisan, 5778

Very proud new mums Lauren and Lou Fox-McLoughlan are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Ida on Monday 26th March, weighing 7lb 1oz.



Yael Budd's Bat Mitzvah 17 March 2018

A piper, indomitable in the March snowstorm, welcomed us all, including Budd family and friends from many countries to Yael's Bat Mitzvah service. The prayer book produced specially for this occasion wove personal family history and Yael's own reflections on this significant event around the familiar Shabbat service. It was interesting to learn that though the Budds came to Scotland from Canada, this was in some sense a return in that Yael's great grandmother had been born in Edinburgh in 1904, two years after her parents migrated here from Latvia.

Rabbi Mark Solomon conducted the service with great feeling and warmth and Yael chanted her Torah parashah (Exodus 12:1-20) with skill, afterwards speaking movingly about the meaning to her of becoming Bat Mitzvah. Congratulations Yael, and very best wishes for the future to you and your family.



Piper Jamie Errington greets the guests



Connie and Arabella hand out kippot



Service book designed by sister Sadie



Nadine supervises as Yael cuts her cake

Liberal Judaism Spring Camp



My name is Connie Dover and I went to the Ijy Netzer camp this Spring. It's in England so I was the only Scot but everyone was very welcoming and kind. They do sessions a couple of times a day. This camp's topic was minorities in minorities so we learnt about Jews around the world. There are also fun and sporty activities. Every time I think about the camp it makes me smile.

Connie Dover age 11

NOTE: You can read more about the activities of Ijy Netzer and other camps and trips they organise at their web site <http://www.ijy-netzer.org/about-us/>

Yom Hashoah – 12th April in Princes Street Gardens.

The memorial service for victims of the Holocaust was well attended, despite the freezing weather. For many years now Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation have organised this event at the Holocaust memorial stone in the Peace Garden and, as usual, it was attended by the Lord and Lady Provost of the City of Edinburgh. This year, for the first time, Sukkat Shalom and the Association of Jewish Refugees were asked to participate.



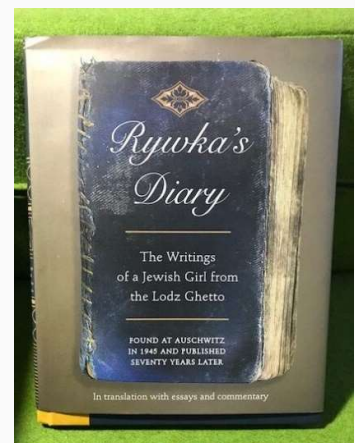
Our founding chairman, Maurice Naftalin, read an extract from Rabbi Hugo Gryn's writings reminding us of the need to fight racism, intolerance, bigotry and all betrayals of humanity. As at the Passover Seder there is an imperative to teach children these lessons from the past.

Time is short, and the task is urgent, There is a choice.
And we are not so much chosen as choosers.

Francoise Robertson spoke on behalf of the Association of Jewish Refugees, telling the moving story of her mother's flight from Nazi occupied Belgium, with her 3 month old daughter. The service concluded with the Memorial Prayer (El Malei Rachamim) for the souls of those who perished in the holocaust recited by Julian Goodman,

RYWKA'S DIARY published by Harper 2015

Appropriately, on the weekend following Yom Hashoah, Rabbi Mark decided to spend two sessions looking at extracts from 'Ryvka's Diary' instead of our usual Tea and Talmud and Philosophy. This diary, by Rywka Lipszyc is one of several surviving diaries written by Jewish children and young people during German occupation in the Second World War, the most well-known being that of Anne Frank. Apart from its content the way in which this diary survived and was discovered is remarkable. In the spring of 1945 Zinaida Berezovskaya, a doctor with the Liberating Red Army, found it in the ruins of the crematoria at Auschwitz-Birkenau. It is speculated that it



was left behind when Rywka was moved to Bergen-Belsen and buried by one of the prisoners whose job it was to sort through the property of murdered victims, in the hope that it would be discovered at some time in the future. Presumably sensing its possible importance, Berenskaya took it with her when she returned to Omsk, in southwestern Siberia. The Diary remained with her until her death in 1983, when it passed with her other effects to her son, Ghen Shangin-Berezovsky. On his death in 1992 it went to his wife, Lilavati Ramayya. In 1995 Ghen's daughter, Anastasia Shengina-Berezovskaya, saw it on a visit from San Francisco, where she had emigrated in 1991. She immediately sensed its value and took it with her when she returned. Over the next few years she attempted to find an appropriate body which would be interested to translate and perhaps publish it.

In June 2008 the Diary arrived at the Holocaust Centre of Northern California and from there, passing through various bodies and individuals, it was preserved, transcribed and annotated and the author identified through records. Finally it was translated into English and published with an introduction and background material. Rywka's surviving relatives were located in Israel. Mina and Esther, the cousins who survived the ghetto and camps with her, lived to a great old age and had large families. Mina's daughter, Hadassah Halamish, contributed their recollections and Esther provided a postscript.

So what became of Rywka? Her relatives thought she had died in Bergen-Belsen just before Liberation and before they were evacuated to Sweden. It is only during the research connected with the Diary that a document was discovered dated September 10 1945, several months after Liberation, that shows Rywka was still alive then. Despite many and ongoing efforts no other records have come to light which might tell us what happened to her after that. At present the Diary alone remains as witness to her life.

For those of us who were able to attend Mark's sessions with Rywka's Diary, the description of her life and thoughts during a brief six month period in her life, from October 1943 to April 1944, when she was fourteen years old, there was a feeling of a very real personality. I felt it was notable that, though usually those who attend Mark's sessions are quite vociferous, encouraged by Mark to participate with ideas and questions, we were comparatively subdued, focused only on the text and asking and answering questions concerning background and eliciting meaning, which is not always clear. (The Diary is written in a mixture of Polish and Yiddish by a young girl whose education in Polish ceased on the closure of the schools when she was ten.) Rywka comes over as in many ways a typical young girl, self-centred in that she is very concerned with her own emerging personality and interests, sensitive to criticism, with no liking for household chores which take her away from what she wants to do. But she

is also from a very Orthodox family, with a love of Judaism and a habit of judging herself and what she sees around her by the standards of her religion. She is very troubled by the difficulties of living up to this due to the conditions in the Lodz Ghetto and by the awareness of evil which is forced upon her by it. She is devastated not only by the wickedness of the German aggressors but by the less than perfect behaviour of their victims, such as the stealing of food from their fellow victims. She is no less hard on herself, aware that she deals very badly with hunger and feeling guilt that her younger brother used to give her bread from his own sparse ration. She wondered if this may have been partly responsible for his being selected for deportation and probable murder on account of looking unhealthy - and therefore not likely to be a useful worker. She herself has a job which means she is safe for the moment from deportation, though she is appalled when it forces her to work on the Sabbath.

Being orphaned by the age of twelve, Rywka, the oldest of her family, goes, together with one of her sisters, to live with her cousins, while her other sister and the brother who was deported went to other relatives. The parents of her cousins die before Rywka is fourteen and she is left in a household of five girls, the oldest of whom is not quite twenty. At an age when a normal girl needs the support and guidance of her parents, not to mention the additional problems of life in the Ghetto, she is thrown on her own resources, her cousins having their own problems which are only increased by the sometimes resented presence of two younger girls. Rywka turns to the writing of her Diary which becomes her confidante. She has ambitions to be a writer and turns for guidance in this to an older girl whom she declares she loves, again not untypical of a teenage girl's 'crush' but in this case filling the emptiness left by the loss of her parents and brother.

Inevitably much of the Diary is concerned with the external conditions of her life, starvation, the threat of deportation, illness and the dawning awareness of the likely fate of those deported, the less than happy relationship with her cousins on whom she nevertheless has to depend for a home. Rywka bemoans the concern with externals, wanting to write about what is inside her. She finds it difficult to express her feelings as skilfully as she would like, attempting poems and including letters to her beloved mentor, Surcia. Sometimes there are obvious examples of immature unskilful writing - for example the exclaimed 'Ohs' scattered like further examples of her eccentric punctuation - which to my shame set the ghost of my teacher's red pen twitching. But remarkably, over the six months of the Diary this young girl, desperate for education and self-improvement, noticeably improves her style and expresses thoughts which could come from someone much older. She is grateful for her religious faith, feels the beauty of the world and strives to retain the feeling, deprived of everything else, feels her own smallness but tries to understand her place in the world, sees

the struggle for survival, particularly apparent at mealtimes, and concludes that in these circumstances we are machines with well-developed animal instincts. Yet near the end of the Diary, which ends, mysteriously, in the middle of a sentence, Rywka affirms her desire to live. We read of many horrors, but that a young girl can live through them and still see enough in the world to want to continue in it is something we can take away and ponder on.

Wendy Crane

Did we save your family?

Wednesday 6 June 7pm – 9pm at Giffnock and Newlands Synagogue, 222 Fenwick Road, Glasgow G46 6UE

World Jewish Relief is organising what promises to be a very interesting evening, revealing information that has only just come to light about Scotland's Jewish refugees, with contributions from the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR), Gathering Voices and the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre.

This event is FREE, but please reserve a space by visiting www.worldjewishrelief.org/glasgow or call 020 8736 1250

Edinburgh Star honey cake quest and New Year greetings

Calling all Star Bakers! In this year's Rosh Hashana edition of the Edinburgh Star we would like to print a selection of our readers' favourite Honey Cake recipes. If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please email it to joyce@capek.co.uk before June 30.

We look forward to receiving your contribution.

The central section of the glossy Rosh Hashanah edition contains a New Year greetings. You can sponsor one of the squares in this for a minimum donation of £15. To do so just contact Sylvia Donne (j.s.donne@outlook.com) with a note of who your greeting should come from (e.g. Jack and Jill Bloggs from Anytown).

Thank you from the Star Editorial Board

Peace Walk Sunday 13 May, 1.45pm

This year, the Edinburgh Interfaith Association annual Peace Walk promises once again to be a memorable event. The walk will begin at 1.45 pm at St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral at 61 York place, EH1 3JD and will proceed to the Edinburgh Baha'i Centre, St John's Episcopal Church, St Mark's Unitarian Church, and the Lauriston Jesuit Centre and finally to the Muslim Welfare House where refreshments will be served. A first for the Peace Walk, the 'Interfaith Stop' at St Mark's Unitarian Church signifies Unitarian inclusivity in the use of this building as a meeting place for three Faith Communities: the Unitarian Congregation, the Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community - Sukkat Shalom and the Buddhist Wild Geese Sangha Group.

For more detailed information the route see the map in the poster below.

**13
MAY**

Peace Walk

*Let us gather together to celebrate
faith communities in our city*

Meet at 1:45pm at St. Mary's, 61 York Place

**Finish at the Muslim
Welfare House for
refreshments**

**EDINBURGH
INTER FAITH
ASSOCIATION**
A Registered Charity in Scotland SC017622

- St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption**
61 York Place, EH1 3JD
- Edinburgh Baha'i Centre**
44 Albany Street, EH1 3QR
- St. John's Episcopal Church**
Princess Street, EH2 4BJ
- Interfaith Stop @ St. Mark's Unitarian Church**
7 Castle Terrace, EH1 2DP
Meeting place for three Faith Communities:
Unitarian Congregation, Buddhist Wild Geese Sangha Group and
the **Liberal Jewish Community Sukkat Shalom**
- The Lauriston Jesuit centre**
28 Lauriston Street, EH3 9DJ
- Muslim Welfare House**
59 Lauriston Place, EH3 9HY

Israeli Film Festival comes to Edinburgh 6/7 May

SERET London – the Israeli Film & TV Festival are thrilled to announce they will be making their Scotland debut in Edinburgh with screenings taking place at The Cameo in May. SERET was founded 7 years ago and are a charity that runs an Israeli film festival in London, Berlin, Amsterdam and more.

Their mission, in association with the Scottish Israeli Cultural Association, is to celebrate Israeli culture in Scotland with as many people from the community and beyond, so do help by coming along and publicising the events to your friends. Israel celebrates her 70th anniversary this year, and despite being so young, she takes pride in her rich, outward-looking and globally praised film and television industry. SERET London 2018 will be bringing two captivating films to screen to Scottish audiences for the first time – the riveting documentary, 'Ben Gurion, An Epilogue', and the transfixing 'The Testament'. Details below.

The Testament (Sunday 6th May, 20:00, The Cameo)

Winner of the Orizzonti, Competition at Venice Film Festival and winner of Best Film at the Haifa Film Festival. While investigating classified testimonies of Holocaust survivors, Yoel discovers, to his shock and surprise, a testimony given by his mother, a testimony



he didn't know existed. In her testimony she confesses to a substantial secret from her past. Yoel, who's conducting a double-investigation, personal and scientific, is trapped between walls of silence - on one side, denial of the Holocaust on the part of the villagers, and on the other, his mother's silence regarding her past. As a historian with an unshakeable commitment to the truth, he decides to continue his investigations even at the cost of ruining his personal and professional life.

Ben Gurion, Epilogue (Monday 7th May, 18:30, The Cameo)

is a fascinating documentary based on archive material. The film reveals the final years of Israel's founder, David Ben-Gurion, who has been described as the living embodiment of the romantic ideal of Israel. Excluded from leadership, he looks back on the Zionist enterprise in his lifetime. A six-hour interview with David Ben-Gurion, one of modern history's greatest leaders emerges from the obscurity of an archive where it has lain unrecognized for decades.

