

**January
2014**

**Shevat
5774**

- 3** Kabbalat Shabbat
MSG 6.15
- 10** Erev Shabbat
CC 7.00
- 17** **Tu b'sh'vat Seder and
Supper** *Bring a non-meat
dish to share, more info in
Word from the Chair*
MSG 6.15
- 25** Shabbat Morning Service
CC 11.00
Tea and Talmud
CC 3.00
Burns Ceilidh *see p.3*
MSG 7.00
- 26** Philosophy Group
CC 4.00
- 31** Kabbalat Shabbat
MSG 6.15

February

Adar

- 2** **Annual General Meeting**
See Word from the Chair
CC 2.00
- 7** Kabbalat Shabbat
MSG 6.15
- 14** Erev Shabbat
CC 7.00

Venues

- CC** Columcille Centre
2 Newbattle Terrace
- MSG** Marchmont St Giles
1a Kilgraston Road

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Ceilidh, Purim, and more activities

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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 the Welfare Team **0131 208 1447**

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

Website eljc.org

Chair/Lulav Norman Crane *Treasurer* Gillian Raab
Admin/Lulav Catherine Lyons *Membership* Eva Wiseman

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Word from the Chair

The year has finally turned, so Happy New Year to every one!

We start the new year with a retitling of our newsletter. From now on it will be called *Lulav*. As far as Sukkot goes, a lulav symbolises the backbone of a person. We hope that *Lulav* will be the communication backbone of our community.

There is unfortunately plenty of winter left. Brrr! Of course, in the Jewish calendar, thoughts turn very quickly to Spring, and the festival of Tu Bishvat will shortly be with us. The festival's other name is Rosh HaShanah La-Ilanot, the New Year for Trees. Why do trees need a new year? Well, really it is us people who have needed to mark particular stages in the development of a young fruit tree's life. Entwined in the great ethical code found in Lev. 19 are some verses relating to when the new growth of fruit trees may be used for eating. Just as in the racing world, where all horses are deemed, for classification purposes, to be born on the 1 January, so each year of a young tree's life was deemed to begin on the 15th of the month of Shevat.

These prescriptions applied to life in Temple times, but it was the mystics of Safed in the 1500s who breathed new life into the festival and devised a ceremony for it. They modeled the ceremony on one aspect of the Passover Seder. Namely the drinking of four cups of wine, to which they linked the eating of four kinds of fruit, classified according to whether they have hard or soft outers or centres and whether or not they have seeds. Eating fruit and nuts of different kinds and drinking wine of different colours are used as symbols for the religious beliefs they considered important.

We shall be celebrating Tu Bishvat, a day late, on **Friday 17 January**, using a seder booklet prepared for us by Rabbi Mark Solomon. This is an enjoyable experience and I recommend it. Our Religious Affairs Coordinator, Nick Silk, reminds us all to contribute a non-meat dish to our shared supper, and encourages both adults and children to come. Notice the time — we will be starting earlier than usual, at 6.15.

Shortly after Tu Bishvat is our Burns Night Ceilidh, on **Saturday 25 January**. This is a first for our community and will be a great social occasion. So, on consecutive weekends, we have a celebration drawn from our medieval mystical tradition, followed by a typical celebration in contemporary Scottish culture. The weekend after that, members of our community are drawn together for our Annual General Meeting, at 2pm on **Sunday 2 February**. Formal notice will go out in advance. Any resolutions should be submitted to me by **Friday 17 January**.

The following month offers more celebration. Happily, Purim falls on a Sunday this year, and our rabbi, Mark Solomon, will be here for the weekend. There will be a Purimspiel on the evening of Saturday 15 March. We have had offers from a young director and from a possible script-writer. Purim schpielers everywhere, see p. 3 for an initial gathering of those who want to be involved.



Almond tree in blossom
CC:Wikipedia/Lourdes Cardenal

Within the life of the community, this year marks a stage in our development. We shall celebrate the community's 10th birthday. Just as with race horses and trees, it is difficult to determine the exact date for the birth of the community. So, we have decided that we shall use the weekend of 12–14 September, the anniversary of our Siyyum HaTorah, the reception of our scroll into the community.

Finally, the Chair has moved, and sends thanks once more to all who have eased this transition.

Norman Crane

Burns Ceilidh Supper — be quick! Tickets selling fast

Our Burns Night Ceilidh Supper will take place on **Saturday 25 January**, at Marchmont St. Giles. Traditional food and a ceilidh spiced with klezmer from the Belle Stars Band, and songs by Robbie Burns sung by Mark Solomon. Tickets are available by contacting Gillian, treasurer@eljic.org.

Tickets

£15 adults

£10 students, and children 12 years and over

£5 children 5 years and over.

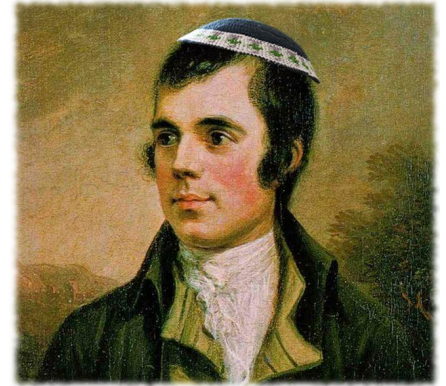
There is no charge for children under 5.

Buffet Supper

Vegetarian Haggis, Neeps, and Tatties

Cranachan or Fresh Fruit

BYOB, whether alcoholic or soft drinks.



Remember last year? Mordechai had to parade through the streets on a cow because the king's horse had been mysteriously turned into horsemeat!

Playtime for Purimspielers!

Anyone who wants to be involved in the Purimspiel should come to the kickoff meeting. Whether you're an old hand or have never been involved before, everyone is welcome.

Purim practice kicks off on

Sunday 19 January, 1.00pm – 3.00pm.

Please contact us for venue details by using the Email Contact Page, contact@eljic.org.

Leora Wadler and Jenni Underwood

Eva needs some help managing our growing membership

Eva Wiseman has new work commitments and would like some help, as our community grows. Anyone who can help, especially with a view to taking over the role eventually, should get in touch with Eva.

Norman and the Council thank Eva for all her efforts managing our membership database and contacting new members. Membership numbers have shot up during her management!

Contact Eva or Gillian if you can help using the Email Contact Page contact@eljic.org.

Radical Roots, Relevant Responses Liberal Judaism's Biennial 2014

The next Biennial Weekend conference will be held 9th-11th May 2014 in Reading. The Early Bird offer (which saves you £50) is set to run out on 31st January. So book now at LiberalJudaism if you want your place at the reduced rate.



Tzedakah for Kol Nidrei

It is our minhag to donate money to a range of causes at this time of year: two local charities, one Jewish and one not; a non-profit organisation working for peace and justice in Israel and Palestine, and another one working for international development. We like to select projects that embody Jewish values of justice and dignity, projects that our community has some connection with, and small-scale grassroots projects where, as a small community ourselves, we know our donation will make a difference. This year, the Council has selected Cosgrove Care, the PF Counselling Service (formerly the Pastoral Foundation), Rabbis for Human Rights, and the Jabulani Project.

There is still time to donate to our Kol Nidrei appeal. *The final date for receipt of contributions is **22 January***. All monies have to be deposited and accounted for by our treasurer well ahead of the AGM on 2 February.

You can contribute either by electronic transfer or by posting a cheque

By transfer:

Lloyds TSB

Sukkat Shalom:

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

00974077

Sort Code 30-13-01

By cheque payable to 'Sukkat Shalom, Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community':

Gillian M Raab, Treasurer

Sukkat Shalom, ELJC

10 Ainslie Place

Edinburgh EH3 6AS

The PF Counselling Service

In the last of our series about our chosen causes, Sue Lieberman looks at the PF Counselling Service.

The PF Counselling Service is a voluntary counselling agency which offers short and long term therapy to adults, irrespective of where they live or their ability to pay. It was established in 1986 and is now the largest independent charity providing voluntary counselling services in Edinburgh. Based in Morningside but reaching out to people throughout Edinburgh, it helps people from all walks of life to overcome difficulties, to experience personal growth, and to make the changes necessary to lead a more fulfilling life. All the PF's counselling staff are fully trained professionals who offer their services voluntarily on a committed weekly basis. Other volunteers cover reception, book-keeping and the library, while a tiny core of paid staff and sessional supervisors are the only paid personnel. The PF is a placement of choice for people training as counsellors, offering excellent support and development for newly-practising individuals. People seeing a counsellor at the PF may suffer from one or more of many difficulties in their lives, such as depression, anxiety, abuse, loss, grief or addictions. Each weekday, around fifty people from every walk of life and from every corner of Edinburgh attend the PF for counselling, and a further ten or so register as new clients. In 2011–12, over 10,000 counselling sessions were provided, seeing over 600 clients with the help of 85 volunteer counsellors: all this on a budget of little over £200,000. Meeting this continuous demand is not easy, especially when the PF is determined not to introduce a minimum donation or fee. As a professional psychotherapist myself, I am extremely glad of the existence of the PF. The opportunities for people on low incomes to get quality emotional help in times of mental distress are very limited, and it is of enormous importance that I can refer people to the PF when they are unable to afford private therapy.



Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue

The next meeting of the Jewish Dialogue project will take place on **27 February**, with guest speaker Clive Lawton. More information will be available soon.

The Shoah: a cause of collective trauma for 'ordinary Jews'? Sue Lieberman will talk about her book at the Lit

On 12 January, our very own Sue Lieberman is guest speaker at the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society. For the past seven years, Sue has been researching and writing a book on the impact of the Holocaust on Jews with no immediate or obvious family connection. She will be presenting her work in public for the very first time.

Sue describes her book — the core material for which comes from interviews with a cross-section of Jews — as a reflection on the nature of collective trauma. She plans to present some of her research findings, and to indicate the tremendous psychological challenges that the Holocaust has left us.



*Sunday 12 January, 8.00pm at the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, Salisbury Rd
More Lit events are described on p.8. (Note that the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society, the Lit, routinely uses EHC as a venue, but it is an independent organisation.)*

Local spending on education — which do you value more, electoral accountability or locally sensitive diversity?

A Bill going through Holyrood to promote local government accountability also includes a measure to abolish church representatives (Kirk and Catholic) on local council education committees.

Legislation from 1973 requires local authorities to appoint three church members. In practice, today, these appointees are sometimes, but rarely, Muslim, Jewish, other Christian denominations, or representatives of interfaith bodies. Nevertheless, the legislation still stands.

Background information to the Bill quotes the Edinburgh Secular Society, who observe that 'church representatives hold the balance of power on 19 council committees across Scotland'. Unelected religious representatives are voting on matters of service provision, with no accountability to taxpayers. They are an anomaly to the democratic governance of modern Scotland.

So there is one view. The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities provisionally proposes another, and invites all of us to comment. Leah Granat of SCoJeC will consolidate the, doubtless diverse, views of the Jews in Scotland. SCoJeC's draft response proposes expansion rather than abolition. Representatives should be appointed from communities served by denominational schools. They should also be drawn from communities around music, sport, dance, etc., where those disciplines are served by specialist schools or centres of excellence. Faith and ethnic minorities (Jewish, Muslim, Chinese, Polish, etc.) needed to be empowered; where they constitute at least 1% of the local population according to the 2011 census, they should be represented on education committees. Gaelic speakers are another community of interest that should be represented where they are a significant group within a locality.

SCoJeC asks us to respond to three questions (but other comments are welcome too).

1. Should the obligation to appoint three church representatives be removed?
2. Should elected councillors constitute at least two-thirds of all local authority committees?
3. Should unelected members now become non-voting members?

The deadline for responding to SCoJeC is midday **22 January**. See [Current Consultations](#) on the SCoJeC website.

The deadline for responding direct to Holyrood is **27 January**. See the [Scottish Parliament Consultation](#).

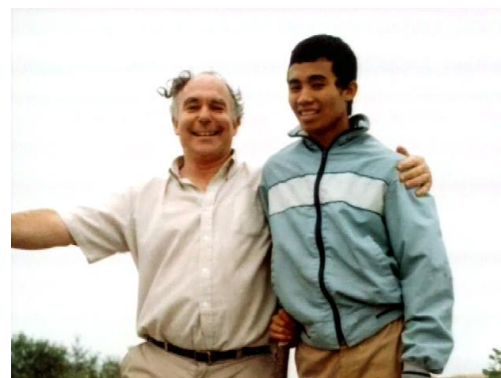
Edinburgh Interfaith Association marks Holocaust Memorial Day

Stew Green

This year's Holocaust Memorial Day Service will take place at Royal High School on Tuesday January 28th; 6.45pm arrival for 7pm start. It is always an excellent and moving event, and is followed by hospitality provided by the City Council. The service this year will feature two notable guest speakers.

Adem Repeša was born in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a republic of former Yugoslavia. At the start of the war in Yugoslavia, Adem was a student of electro-engineering. Before coming to the UK in 1994, he spent six months in a concentration camp, after which he was transferred to a refugee camp in Croatia, where he lived for another seven months. He now lives in Derbyshire and is New Communities Support Co-ordinator, leading on delivery of various strategies and programmes supporting the integration of newly arrived children and families from asylum, refugee, and economic migrant backgrounds.

Arn Chorn-Pond is a Cambodian human rights activist committed to preserving traditional Cambodian 'Khmer' music. He was born in 1966, and when the Khmer Rouge came to power in 1975, Arn and hundreds of other children were sent to Wat Ek a Buddhist temple converted into a prison camp, where he survived by playing the flute and keeping the soldiers entertained. When the Vietnamese invaded Cambodia in 1978, Arn was handed a gun and forced to fight before he managed to escape into the jungle where he survived for months by himself. In late 1980 he crossed the border into Thailand. A Thai soldier took him to the Sa Kaeo Refugee Camp where he met the Reverend Peter L. Pond. Reverend Pond took Arn to Jefferson, New Hampshire, and formally adopted him in 1984.



Arn Chorn-Pond and his adoptive father, Rev. Peter Pond

Source: Wikipedia/Shirley Mason Pond

Among other honours, Arn Chorn-Pond was one of the first recipients of the Reebok Human Rights Award (1988) and has also received the Amnesty International 1991 Human Rights Award, the 1993 Kohl Foundation International Peace Prize, and the 1996 Spirit of Anne Frank Outstanding Citizen Award.

To reserve a ticket, contact Matt Lord at the EIFA office by email or phone (mattlord.eifa@gmail.com, 0131 629 9058) Note that the Royal High School is out at Barnton, so it may be helpful to car-share especially for those without own transport. If you are planning to attend by car and could take others, or if you would like a lift to the event, please me know.

Finally, if you may also like to see the [Edinburgh Interfaith Association Autumn Newsletter](#).

You can contact Stew about HMD lift sharing via the Email Contact Page, contact.eljc.org.

Jerusalem home swap offered

Hanan Bordin of the Yiddish Department at Hebrew University is seeking a home swap with someone in Edinburgh, for Passover or during summer-autumn (June-October). Further information is available on request using the Email Contact Page at contact.eljc.org.

Philosophical Cake: feeding the mind and the body

The philosophy reading group has taken a detour from Arthur Green's *Radical Judaism* in recent months, to undertake a crash course in Medieval Kabbalah, by way of preparing to understand Green's contemporary reconstruction of the mystical tradition.

The group always eats well and studies well, and especially well in recent months thanks to contributions from Lynsey Levy. Thanks to Mark Solomon for his patient and enthusiastic teaching.



These are not iced gingerbread golems, but models of Adam Kadmon, primordial Adam, who embodies the divine attributes (Sefirot).



This most delicious chocolate cake is decorated with the Kabbalistic Tree of Life, a diagram showing how the Sefirot are configured in Adam Kadmon.

Where will we be in 2014?

Making travel plans in January sometimes means booking a holiday in July. But not for Nick Silk! Nick reports on venue planning for our services in the year ahead.

We had our annual Religious Affairs meeting in December. We reviewed services in 2013 and looked at our schedule for 2014. Minutes of the meeting will be in the members' section of the website. While they are not what I would call exciting (and I chair the meeting!), there is one thing I need to highlight.

As you all know, we have been used to a standard routine; Columcille for erev Shabbat and Shabbat services, and Marchmont St Giles for Kabbalat Shabbat, with various other venues, such as St Mark's for High Holydays. Unfortunately, due to a change of administrator at Columcille, there was a breakdown in communication, and we will not be able to hold all of our erev Shabbat and Shabbat services at Columcille in 2014. Obviously this means that we will have to hold some of our services at other venues, so please do make sure you read Lulav or check the website to make sure that you turn up at the right place! While this is not ideal, after speaking to Columcille staff, I am confident that in future years we will be able to hold our erev Shabbat and Shabbat services there.

One of the functions of the Religious Affairs committee is to assign services during the year to members who would like to lead them, so I'd also like to take this opportunity to encourage any members who are interested in leading services. Should you wish to participate in leading a service, please let me know.

Challenging analysis from Avigail Abarbanel

Israeli-born activist and psychotherapist talks in Edinburgh next month about the psychology of Israeli settler-colonialism



A granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Avigail grew up in Tel Aviv. After military service, she studied Political Science and Jewish Studies at Bar Ilan University before completing her degree at Macquarie University in Sydney, with a thesis on Australian reactions to Kristallnacht. She trained as a psychotherapist, and was influenced by Bowen's theory of self-differentiation in her understanding of her own family, her Israeli identity, and Israeli society in general. She worked in private practice in Canberra, and has served as president of the Australian National Network of Counsellors. After ten years in Canberra, Avigail now lives near Inverness, where she runs the Fully Human psychotherapy and counselling practice. In 2012 she published *Beyond Tribal Loyalties: Personal Stories of Jewish Activists*.

It will be of interest to some of our readers to know that this event is taking place. Avigail's opinions are not endorsed by ELJC council or by *Lulav's* editors. While some of her views will resonate with the views of a number of our members, her views will be anathema to others. In her personal view of Judaism, Avigail parts company from everyone in our community. Her experience has led her to conclude that there is no functional difference between Judaism and political Zionism, that Judaism and universalist ethics are fundamentally incompatible. But, for all the distance she has put between Inverness and Israel, her Jewish identity is ineluctable. Her dissatisfaction poses a direct challenge to what it means to be a Liberal Jew. Her talk will be at 7.30pm, Tuesday **4 February** at St John's Church Hall, Lothian Rd.

Catherine Lyons

Early-bird rate extended for Enlightening Jews?

The Limmud-style day celebrating 125 years of the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society will take place on **Sunday 30 March**, at Boroughmuir High School in Bruntsfield. Adult registration is £25, now until **10 February**, £30 thereafter.

Among the sessions on offer, Nick Barlay will be discussing his new novel, *Scattered Ghosts*, and the film, *Regina*, will be shown. (Regina Jonas, z"l, ordained in 1935, was the world's first female rabbi, *right*.) Rabbi Mark Solomon and Gillian Raab are both speaking on a panel. For full details of how to sign up, see the [Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society Website](#).



Source: Nick Barlay

The next event at the Lit features our own Sue Lieberman (see p. 5). Maurice Naftalin and Gillian Raab are among the presenters in February.

On **2 February** (after our AGM, see p. 2), the Lit will be screening *The Gatekeepers*, the documentary featuring interviews with six former heads of the Shin Bet, Israel's secret service agency. You may remember Gillian's review last year in these pages.

The week after that, on **9 February**, the Lit will host a presentation about our congregational human rights trip to Israel and Palestine.



Source: Jewish Women's Archive/Neue Synagoge Berlin-Centrum Judaicum