

**February
2014**

**Adar I
5774**

7	Kabbalat Shabbat MSG	6.15
14	Erev Shabbat CC	7.00
15	Cheder MSG	3.30
21	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat and supper: bring a non-meat dish to share. Students are especially invited.</i> MSG	6.15

March

1	Shabbat Morning Service SCC*	11.00
	Tea and Talmud SCC*	3.00
2	Philosophy Group CC	4.00
7	Kabbalat Shabbat MSG	6.15
8	Cheder MSG	3.30

Venues

CC	Columcille Centre 2 Newbattle Terrace
MSG	Marchmont St Giles 1a Kilgraston Road
SCC	St Columba's by the Castle 14 Johnston Terrace <i>* Change from usual venue</i>

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ERRATUM 'Israeli–Palestinian Relations' is
the Lit event for 2 March

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 www.eljc.org

<i>Chair/Lulav</i>	Norman Crane	<i>Treasurer</i>	Gillian Raab
<i>Admin/Lulav</i>	Catherine Lyons	<i>Membership</i>	Eva Wiseman

Scottish Charity SC035678

Word from the Chair

I have just finished sawing up a dead *Benjaminus Ficus*. It did not thrive in its new location, a spot with little natural daylight. We have replaced it with a better suited *Spathifillum*, a peace lily.

The life of a community must go through similar processes. What is appropriate at one time may be found less so at another. But, whatever changes occur, we incorporate the best of the past and appreciate the contributions that have helped our community to thrive.

In the past month we have held our Annual General Meeting. Our accounts have been audited and found healthy. Many thanks to Gillian Raab, who prepared them. At the meeting Council said goodbye to Anna Duncan, Philip Wadler and Rebecca Wober, to whom our thanks are due for their invaluable service to our community. I promise not to chop them down! We welcome to Council Katy Bromberg, who has been providing Shabbat activities for under fives.

Other members of Council were re-elected, as were Gillian Raab as Treasurer and me as Chair. Our Constitution requires us to have a Secretary. We could not elect a Secretary from those present, since there was no opportunity for others to put themselves forward. It is not clear what the responsibilities of the Secretary are, since the former secretary's tasks are now performed by various people. At the last Council meeting it was agreed that we should make greater use of Committees. Just how this marries with the function of a Secretary is not yet clear. The whole matter has therefore been remitted to Council.

We welcomed Rabbi Mark back from his vacation in Australia. He was hardly off the plane before he was leading a study session and a Shabbat morning service, and Tea and Talmud the following day, right before our first Community Burns Night Ceilidh (photos, p.3). The haggis was piped in by a very competent young piper and addressed by David Nelson. Music was provided by Gica and the Belle Stars Band. Rabbi Mark sang Burns songs, and we were also entertained by Jon Redpath on the hurdy gurdy. There were close to 100 people, aged 2 to 82, including friends from Glasgow Reform Synagogue and

Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation and guests from the Christian and Muslim communities. We held a raffle to support the Edinburgh North West Food Bank. (Funds raised will be supplemented by the surplus from the evening when accounting is complete.) First prize was won by Ricky Hogg's daughter, Isla, who was thrilled. We thank Nancy Lynner and Joe Goldblatt, Sara Nesbitt and Maurice Shamash, Betty Mackie, Ruth Fry and Jon Redpath, who donated raffle prizes; thanks also to Jennifer Underwood, Gillian Raab, Nancy Lynner, Rebecca Wober, and Catherine Lyons.

By contrast, Monday was Holocaust Memorial Day, and I was on a panel at a student meeting. The principal theme was that Holocaust Memorial should not be passive remembrance, but active opposition to far-right organisations. How necessary this is was made clear to me by two members of the audience who had no concept that free speech is not an absolute right. Where it promotes violent hatred, it has to be curbed. The roots of the Holocaust lie in the easy acceptance of race hatred in Germany long before Hitler.

At Edinburgh's official commemoration the following evening there was moving testimony from two survivors of later Genocides: from Kosovo, and from Cambodia (see the last issue of *Lulav*). The latter told a story of hope, and of Cambodian flute music as a life-enhancing force.

February is a quiet month for us, and provides time for us to develop in harmony, like the new peace lily in our house. There are nevertheless some plums to pick out. We welcome students in particular to our Friday evening service and Chavurah supper on **21 February**. I would mention Clive Lawton's visit on **27 February** in particular (p. 5). Our next Shabbat morning service is on **1 March**, at St Columba's. Arrangements for Purim are well in hand. Theatrical types should read the article on p. 4. Looking further ahead, the Seder will be conducted by Rabbi Mark in his own inimitable way, not to be missed; see the attached book form. And now I shall return to contemplating my indoor garden.

Norman Crane

Sonsie faces at the Burns' Night Ceilidh



David Nelson addresses the haggis, accompanied by our young piper.



Now a much anticipated fixture of our January calendar, Rabbi Mark Solomon sings Burns.



A surprise performance on the Hurdy Gurdy by Jon Redpath



Blandine (left) with Scotland's progressive Jewish leaders! Eileen Carroll, who chairs Glasgow Reform Synagogue, and Norman Crane meet for the first time.



The Hat Dance: who shall have the hat next and who shall have the next dance?



The veggie haggis and cranachan proved very popular, as this group can attest!

Many thanks to Jenni Underwood for the photos. Jenni also took the lead in organising the ceilidh. Look out for her next production — our Purimspiel!

Purimspielers! It's time to tread the boards

At the January launch meeting it was agreed that Jennifer Underwood would lead the script-writing team and be the producer, and that Leora Wadler would be the director.

Rehearsals will be held on Sunday afternoons or perhaps a weeknight evening if this suits. There will be a maximum of four rehearsals, and you won't have to know your lines off by heart). There will also be a rehearsal for the children's chorus organised through Cheder. Purim itself is on 15 March so **rehearsals will kick off late February**.

There are large and small roles available, and we always need help behind the scenes. It's fun and a great way to meet new people! If you fancy getting involved, get in touch through contact.eljc.org.

Jenni Underwood and Leora Wadler

'Take up the Ark of the Covenant and pass on ahead of the people,' a portable Ark for travelling with our scroll?

Towards the end of 2013 I brought to the Council the notion of having a portable ark to house our scroll. With the tenth anniversary of the community coming up, the Council is interested to make this happen. I am developing a brief to serve as the basis of a commission for this to be made. If there are elements of the ark that are important to you, now is the time to contribute your thoughts for consideration. Please respond by the **end of February**, via contact@eljc.org.

Rebecca Wober

Rabbi Baroness Neuberger to present the Malcolm Goldsmith Lecture 2014: Dying well and why it matters?

The lecture is sponsored by Faith in Older People, a Scottish charity that promotes appreciation of the spiritual dimension in the well-being of older people. It will be held on 11 March, at 2p.m., at the Roxburghe Hotel, 38 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4HQ

Apart from her better known accomplishments, Julia Neuberger is the author of Not Dead Yet: a Manifesto for Old Age and Is that all there is? Thoughts on the Meaning of Life and Leaving a Legacy.

Tickets are £10 from the Faith in Older People events booking website.

A celebratory weekend for our tenth birthday

Council has nominated the anniversary of receiving our Torah scroll as the occasion of the community birthday, 15 September. What sort of occasion should it be? Coming two weeks before Rosh Hashanah, we will already have big events ahead of us.

Rabbi Danny Rich will be here, as well as Rabbi Mark Solomon, of course. And Rabbis Pete Tobias and Aaron Goldstein (our start-up rabbis, if you like) are also invited. (See Rebecca's article above for one of the plans we are making.)

September is a long way off. But we only have a few months to plan. There is an opportunity here for an engaging and memorable occasion. If you'd like to get involved, get in touch through contact.eljc.org.

Catherine Lyons

Get kilted up for kids' good causes: put your best foot forward for Scotland's children



One of our members, Helen Sherbourne, is a fundraiser for CHILDREN 1ST (formerly known as the RSSPCC). Helen invites all of us — friends, family, colleagues, dogs, etc — to take part in the Edinburgh Kiltwalk on **Sunday 11 May**.

CHILDREN 1ST is a charity partner of the event and is recruiting teams and individuals to raise money to support some of Scotland's most vulnerable children and families.

You can choose your distance:

Full Kiltwalk 26 miles

Half Kiltwalk 13 miles

Wee Walk 10K

All Kiltwalkers are asked to raise a minimum of £100, in sponsorship that will go to CHILDREN 1ST and other great causes, like CHAS, Clic Sargent, and Sick Kids.

Maybe Sukkat Shalom can form their own walking team!

To find out more, **get in touch with Helen** via contact.eljc.org.



Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue — Inclusion without Compromise

Executive director of Limmud and former head teacher of King David High School in Liverpool, Clive Lawton will take up this challenging theme on **27 February**, at 7p.m. He will talk about his engagement across the spectrum of Jewish communities, both at Limmud and the new London Jewish community centre, JW3.

This event takes place at Godfrey Thomson Hall, Thomson's Land, St John St, EH8 8AQ (This is the same venue as for the last event, and it is fully accessible).

Tickets are available via www.ejd.eventbrite.co.uk. The EJD team will be serving a light supper and looking for a donation of £5.

After the Referendum

The Edinburgh Interfaith Association is holding a free workshop on Sunday 2 March, 12.30 to 4.30.

This will be a significant year for the people of Scotland. EIFA will be running a workshop to consider how Scotland's Faith Communities should approach the independence question.

What is our vision for Scottish faith communities? What actions will help us realise that vision? The workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss how to achieve the vision with a panel of politicians.

Lunch will be served at 12.30pm and the main event will start promptly at 1pm.

Please register your intention to attend with Matt Lord, by February 14th: mattlord.eifa@gmail.com
0131 629 9058

Meaning and mystery on a winter's night

Those of us who ventured out to the Erev Shabbat service on 10 January were pleasantly surprised to find Stew Green taking the service, and delivering a sharp and engaging D'var Torah.

Welcome to this first full Erev Shabbat service of 2014. I couldn't believe my luck when I discovered that this week's parasha is *Beshalach* (Exodus 13:17 to 17:16). The parasha is full of action, meaning, mystery. It deals with the period following the children of Israel's departure from Egypt leading to the miraculous dividing of the Red Sea. The parasha goes on to describe how G-d sweetens the bitter waters of Marah, and later has Moses bring forth water from a rock with his staff. He also causes manna to rain from the heavens before dawn each morning, and quails to appear in the Israelite camp each evening. Finally, in Rephidim, the people are attacked by the Amalekites, who are defeated by Moses' prayers and an army raised by Joshua.

These days, natural phenomena are often suggested as possible explanations for the 'miraculous' events of the text. I remember Rabbi Mark telling us that some people think that the Red Sea could be a mis-translation for what should strictly be the Sea of Reeds, a marshy area that became dried out by very strong winds and which the Israelites managed to cross but Pharaoh's chariots did not.

Miracle or not, when I was young, this story was an incredibly powerful and evocative one, particularly the image of a 'mighty east wind' blowing over the sea all night, which at dawn divided the waters in two. Then:

The children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground; and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Division and walls have very much been a theme for me this week. Two nights ago I saw an excellent play at the Hampstead Theatre, *Drawing the Line*. The play deals with the events of 1947 when, as Britain was preparing to cede independence to India. Many politicians of the day (though interestingly, not Gandhi) felt that a partition was required to divide India, creating two new countries: a reduced but largely Hindu India; and a largely Muslim Pakistan. We all know about the disastrous and tragic events that followed that division.

Throughout history, people have built dividing walls. In ancient and medieval times these could be small scale, such as city walls to protect communities, or large scale to protect empires and nations such as the Great Wall of China, and Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall of the Romans.

And our modern times are no different. There are numerous examples of other walls, other divisions of peoples and nations. Examples include the Berlin wall, the 'peace' walls of Belfast, the Nicosia wall in Cyprus, the Korean demilitarized zone, and of course, the Israeli West Bank Barrier.

All of them are controversial. All of them divisive. And none of them ultimately contributes more than an attempted pragmatic solution to the desire to offer protection and maintain power.

If one day a successful two-state solution is to be found for Israel and Palestine someone will need to draw a line. Let us hope that this can be the Israelis and Palestinians themselves, and that, however difficult, the disastrous outcome for India and Pakistan can be avoided this time.

In the meantime, we the impotent masses can only watch, wait, hope and pray. Yet we are not entirely powerless, far from it. Each of us has the ability to act in ways which model and help create the world we would like to inhabit. As 2014 begins, let each of us commit to doing what we can to demolish existing barriers between ourselves and others and to seek to act in ways which avoid creating any new walls or divisions. Not only will our lives be enhanced through our living peacefully and travelling in a positive direction, but nobody else needs to drown along the way!

Stew Green

Shalom Darlings! Equal Marriage passes into law in Scotland, as Rainbow Jews prepare to celebrate in London

Rebekah Gronowski, who has participated in the development of the legislation, reports on an historic day in Holyrood.

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill: the Members of the Scottish Parliament say Yes!

On the afternoon of 4 February 2014, a momentous decision was made, an historic moment. Our MSPs voted Yes! The votes were: 105 For, 18 Against, No Abstentions.

The Campaign for Equal Marriage was led by the Equality Network, Stonewall Scotland, the Transgender Alliance, and the Scottish Youth Parliament. It was supported by many other groups and individuals. Liberal Judaism in Scotland has been at the forefront of the campaign, and Nick Silk and Rabbi Mark Solomon have made particular contributions. The Unitarians, Quakers, Pagan Federation, Metropolitan Churches, Open Catholic organisations, and Humanists also supported the campaign. Although some faith organisations do not agree with the Bill, many members of their congregations have been keen and hard-working supporters of the campaign.

Many of you will have seen photographs of the launches and the campaigns, in some of which Rabbi Mark and I have both appeared. There has been extensive consultation with Scottish society, including religious organisations. Everyone in Scotland has been given the opportunity to voice his or her opinion. Protections have been built into the legislation for every eventuality and for every Faith or Belief organisation, individual ministers and others whose views are strongly against the Bill. Their interests have been protected. It has taken longer to reach this than the rest of the UK but I think it is the very best piece of legislation which could have been brought before our Parliament.

I thank the Members of the Scottish Parliament who took part in all stages of the Bill and in the excellent debate; many of them gave impassioned speeches for and against. We, in Scotland, thank you all!



Mark's celebratory T-shirt (currently on show at the Rainbow Jews exhibition, see below!)



Poster for a Jewish Lesbian conference from 1983, part of the Rainbow Jews archive exhibition at the LSE Atrium Gallery

In the same week as the historic vote in Scotland, a ground-breaking exhibition, hosted by Liberal Judaism, launches in London. Rainbow Jews is a pioneering oral history and archive initiative at the London School of Economics as part of LGBT History Month.

Britain's first ever source of Jewish LGBT history, from the 1950s to the present, features: gay Holocaust survivors, strictly Orthodox lesbians, aspiring transgender rabbis and young LGBT activists.

Rabbi Lionel Blue, Britain's first rabbi to come out publicly, will be celebrating his 84th Birthday at event.

See www.rainbowjews.com for more information.

Enlightening Jews?

There's still time to sign up and take your pick of Anchovies, Sardines, Ghosts, and Golems

Last month we previewed the film, *Regina*, and the novelist Nick Barlay, author of *Scattered Ghosts*. There are plenty more treasures on offer at the *Enlightening Jews?* day to sharpen (and sweeten!) the brain and the palate.

Silvia Nacamulli, from La Cucina di Silvia (at www.cookingforthesoul.com) will present Jewish Flavours of Venice. Venetian food benefits from spices and ingredients arriving from East and West, and the Mediterranean, for example *Bigoli in Salsa*, *Sarde in Saor*, and Venetian-Jewish *Strufoli*.



Silvia Nacamulli's Strufoli



Mia Spiro's *Anti-Nazi Modernism: The Challenges of Resistance in 1930s Fiction*

Thinker and critic **Mia Spiro** uses Jewish history, modernism, and the impact of the Holocaust to explore the relationship between ethics and culture. She is the author of *Anti-Nazi Modernism: The Challenges of Resistance in 1930s Fiction* (2013). She has also published work on Jewish representation in the interwar period, and on the Jewish Golem myth in modern and contemporary film and literature.

Her current research examines *Modern Monsters: Golems, Vampires and the Ghosts of War*. Mia will describe how elements of the supernatural and 'border-crossing' figures have been used by contemporary Jewish writers to grapple with oppression, migration, and antisemitism.

Enlightening Jews?, the 125th birthday of The Lit*, will take place on **30 March** at **Boroughmuir High School**. The price for the whole day, including lunch, is £25, £15 for students, free if you are under 15.

For full details of how to sign up, see the [Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society Website](#).

Representing Israel in Modern Egypt, and Twenty-First Century Jihad: author Ewan Stein is next at the Lit

If the titles of **Ewan Stein's** recent and forthcoming books intrigue you, you won't want to miss his forthcoming lecture at The Lit*.

In a change to the original programme (and in correction of our announcement in the January *Lulav*), Dr Stein's lecture on *Arab perspectives on Israel* will take place on **9 February**, 8 p.m. at the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, Salisbury Rd.

* The Lit (properly, The Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society) is an independent organisation, drawing members from both Edinburgh congregations and from local secular Jews.

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity number SC035678

You, your family, and friends are cordially invited to celebrate Passover with us at
Our Community Seder for Pesach 5774

Monday 14 April/14 Nisan (first night of Pesach), 6.45pm for 7.00pm.

We have a strict limit on spaces this year so please book early. Seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. **The last possible booking date is Sunday 6 April.**

The seder will be held at Marchmont St Giles Church Centre, 1a Kilgraston Road, EH9 2DW, and will be catered and served by Butterflies Catering. Your ticket includes a three-course meal (fish or vegetarian), kiddush wine, and soft drinks. You may, if you wish, bring your own table wine to have with the meal.

The seder will be led by our Rabbi Mark Solomon, using the Liberal haggadah *B'Chol Dor Va'Dor* (left). If you do not have a copy, you can order copies below, along with your ticket, at £8.50 each.



No member should be prevented from attending or owning a haggadah by being unable to meet the cost. If cost is a concern, contact our treasurer, Gillian Raab, in confidence. If you are a visitor from elsewhere and unable to pay in Sterling, or unable to bring or buy a haggadah because you are travelling, contact our treasurer, Gillian Raab, providing her with the information requested on the form below, and to find out how to pay in a different currency.

To buy your ticket: mail the form with a cheque payable to 'Sukkat Shalom, Edinburgh' to: Dr Maureen Mackinnon, 12 Woodfield Park, Edinburgh, EH13 0RB.

You can contact our treasurer, Gillian Raab, by web email or by phone:

- Either visit contact.eljc.org and select 'Treasurer' in the menu in order to send email.
- Or leave your contact information in voicemail on the community phone: (0131 777 8024).

✂ -----

Your name _____

Contact details (email address and/or telephone) _____

SEDER BOOKINGS

Number		Total cost	Number of veggie (non-fish) meals
	Adult members at £16 each		
	Children of members at £7.50 each		
	Adult non-members at £22 each		
	Children of non-members at £10 each		
	Number of little ones sharing adult meals	free	

NUMBER OF HAGGADOT

	Haggadot at £8.50 each		
	Total amount payable		

Do you have a seder plate we could use on one of the tables? If so please tick here and bring it with you on the night, with a label on the bottom with your name on it.