



est 2004

# October 2014 Tishrei–Cheshvan 5775

<b>3</b>	<b>Erev Shabbat – Kol Nidre</b>	7.00
<b>4</b>	<b>Shabbat – Yom Kippur</b> (Non-members: see the <a href="#">High Holyday web page</a> .) <b>Book now for the breakfast meal</b>	11.00
<b>11</b>	<b>Shabbat Sukkot</b> Decorating of the Sukkah CCM from 9.30 Morning Service followed by Kiddush in the Sukkah CCM	11.00
	Cheder	
	MSG	3.30
<b>15</b>	<b>Simchat Torah</b> (Bring Fairtrade chocolates) MSG	6.30
<b>17</b>	<b>Kabbalat Shabbat</b> MSG	6.15
<b>25</b>	<b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> CC	11.00
	Tea and Talmud CC	3.00
<b>26</b>	<b>Philosophy Reading Group</b> CC	4.00
<b>31</b>	<b>Kabbalat Shabbat</b> MSG	6.15

## November

<b>1</b>	<b>Cheder</b> MSG	3.30
<b>7</b>	<b>Kabbalat Shabbat</b> MSG	6.15

# לולב lulav

vol 1  
issue 10

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## Venues

<b>CC</b> Columcille Centre 2 Newbattle Terrace	<b>SMU</b> St Mark's Unitarian 7 Castle Terrace
<b>MSG</b> Marchmont St Giles 1a Kilgraston Road	<b>CCM</b> Christ Church Morningside 6a Morningside Road

**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](http://contact.eljc.org)

**Website** [www.eljc.org](http://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

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## Word from the Chair

Individuals in our community and in the nation have taken part in debate and listened to arguments. The feelings of us all have been deeply committed. The intellectual argument has been won or lost, according to our point of view.

Now is the time to put behind us both the arguments and the feeling of division, with no sense of triumph or defeat. We must take seriously the good intent of those on the other side. We have a political framework in which we must all collaborate in a spirit of reconciliation and cooperation. There are many aspects of political life in which yes or no are not the only ways to consider issues. Many will find themselves sharing opinions across the divide. On both sides people believed they were arguing in the best interests of Scotland. If the same energy is devoted to moving forward together then the people of Scotland will gain. Taking seriously both sides of the debate will go a long way to achieving national unity.

What in the Jewish experience could help? We can point to our own history. At the end of the Second Temple there were many factions in Judaism. Pharisees, Sadducees, and Zealots vehemently, sometimes violently, opposed each other. Arising from the ashes of the Second Temple arose Rabbinic Judaism, to which we are heirs. The Rabbis created and developed the Talmud. Debate is the very stuff of the Talmud. It is of the greatest importance that the opinions of all parties in the debate are recorded and valued, not just of those who win a particular argument. In fact they all become, and are acknowledged as, a part of the decision. There is a sense of common endeavour which shows a way forward for the politics of debate in Scotland.

A few days before the Referendum, we celebrated our tenth anniversary as an independent community. Our thanks are due to those who had the courage and foresight to launch the initiative. Ten years later, numbers are close to trebling, and cheder numbers have quadrupled. Our membership covers South East Scotland, and we are international in our origins. We include converts to Judaism: dedicated and enthusiastic members of our family. We have championed the rights of people who would once have been treated as second-class. We have furthered the cause of social justice at home and abroad. It was with pride and joy that I joined in our celebrations.

Even without a special occasion this would be a busy and meaningful time of year. Rosh Hashanah saw us make first use of our new ark in a normal service. It is beautiful and dignified even in its as yet unfinished state; an example of *hiddur mitzvah*, the beautification of a mitzvah. Further decoration and a protective covering are still to come. It is a manifestation of our presence, in the absence of a building; we have arrived and are here to stay.

We are about to experience together the spiritual intensity of Yom Kippur. We are but human, though, and look forward to the final blast on the long shofar used by rabbi on Rosh Hashanah. It was heartening to hear the clear sound produced by several children, in particular, Hannah and Daniel, on that same instrument. After the fast will be our traditional break-fast meal, catered by Judith Stewart of Butterflies, at the back of St Marks (and not at St John's, despite earlier notice to the contrary). Please hurry up and book your places as we need to let her know numbers.

Our Sukkot service the following Shabbat will take place in community hall of Christchurch, Morningside on "Holy Corner". It promises to be enjoyable festive occasion, The sukkah will be erected on the front lawn. Parents, please bring your children; they will love it. Help build and decorate the sukkah, from 9.30, if you can. That afternoon will be cheder as normal. To round off the festival season, we celebrate Simchat Torah the following Wednesday in our usual rousing fashion.

Sadly, I must finish on a sombre note. On behalf of us all I offer the deepest sympathy to Cathleen Ferguson whose mother died last Saturday.

*Norman Crane*

## A big welcome to new members

### Sarah Shamash and Cathleen Ferguson

We welcome Sarah (née Nisbet), who married Maurice Shamash this summer. We are also pleased to welcome Cathleen Ferguson as our latest new member. Cathleen's journey has been a long one; she says she has finally found a home for her soul.



Sarah Shamash



Cathleen Ferguson



## Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group hosts Rebekah Gronowski

Rebekah will speak at the Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group's November meeting on 'Journeys in Judaism: Intersecting Paths in Festivals'. The group meets every third Wednesday of the month. Meetings for **15 October** and **19 November**, both at the Methodist Church, Nicholson Square, EH8 9BX.

## Jewish Quarterly, for free

Ellen Galford is looking for a good home for recent, lightly read, issues of the Jewish Quarterly. Ellen has Winter 2009, Autumn and Winter 2011, all four issues for 2012, and Spring and Summer 2013, and possibly more recent ones too. Contact Ellen through [contact.eljc.org](mailto:contact.eljc.org). Find out more about the JQ from [jewishquarterly.org](http://jewishquarterly.org).



## Gillian Merron to visit Edinburgh

Gillian Merron, the new chief executive of the Board of Deputies, will address the next SCoJeC council meeting, together with Philip Rosenberg, the Board's Director of Public Affairs. Gillian is a former Labour MP and minister for public health. She is a member of the Lincoln Jewish Community, and one of Liberal Judaism's National Officers.

The meeting takes place at the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, Salisbury Rd, Sunday **5 October**, 1.30. Anyone in the wider Jewish Community will be very welcome. RSVP to Hilary Rifkind, chair of SCoJeC, via [contact.eljc.org](mailto:contact.eljc.org).



## The Tree of Life, now in Aluminium

Last month we featured images of the curtain for the ark, a work that is evolving in the hands of textile artist Katy Bromberg. The curtain was in place for the dedication, which took place at our Tenth Anniversary service. Katy will continue to embellish it in the coming months.

This month we reveal the design for the screens that will be set in the doors, designed by sculptor Lauren Fox. Lauren writes:

Being a part of the process of creating our community's first ark has been a wonderful experience. And being asked to design the panels which will fit into the front of the ark was an honour — daunting, but exciting. Spending some time with various members of the community, hearing their ideas at the Art Studio workshop, and discussing the message we wanted to be at the front of our services, looking out at us, was a chance to think about who we are as a community, what being a part of it means — what being in a service means too, for each of us in our different ways. The ritual objects we have in Sukkat Shalom may not be many, but each is treasured: for its history, for the atmosphere it helps us to create, and for its important function as we each reflect, and take time to pray, meditate, and wonder.

It was with all of this in mind that the weight of my task dawned on me. I felt a responsibility to create something special, and meaningful, yet also wanted to honestly incorporate the ideas that had been shared with me. This finished design is a result of a process of exploration: of different avenues of ideas, of ideals and messages and symbols. It is a tree, made of many parts. The branches also number the branches of the menorah. Originally I had thought of also representing the seven species into the design, but actually the simplicity of this structure and message stood out for me.

The text, which I imagine you will be familiar with, can be translated as: 'It is a tree of life to those that hold fast to it, and all of its supporters may find happiness'. This is something I personally feel about being a part of Sukkat Shalom, as well as the wider Jewish community. We all make up the tree of life, and through investing in it, and in each other, we find strength and love and support. We also find challenges, but in holding fast to the tree, and to our faith in each other, we find joy and peace, too.

It is wonderful that Sukkat Shalom can look back on a decade of the community, and forward too, to many more to come! May we all hold fast to the tree of life that is our community, and may we all find happiness.



See also 'Ark Update', p. 6. Our ark project is supported by



The NLPS Trust  
for Progressive Judaism

## Celebrating ten YEARS and the Dedication of our Ark



The completion of our Torah Scroll at the Siyyum on 5th September 2004 was a proud moment for our community, and one that will always be remembered by everyone who was there. Although there has been a second Jewish group in Edinburgh for almost thirty years, meeting as a prayer group, we now find ourselves a small but thriving community with regular services, a diverse and enthusiastic membership, a Cheder and our very own Torah Scroll.

So begins a ten-year old report of a founding moment in our communal life. Back in March of that year, we resolved at our Annual General Meeting,

that we are committed to being a fully independent progressive Jewish Community, providing as many Jewish facilities — life cycle events, services and the like — as we possibly can. At this stage we do not know the details or timescales involved, but we are committed to developing these Jewish facilities to the best of our abilities.

It was also resolved,

that we would commit ourselves to buying the scroll that Gordon [Barclay] has located.

In the intervening six months a Extraordinary General Meeting was called, at which our constitution was established, funds were raised, and the scroll purchased.

The scroll, already over 150 years old, was carefully tended and repaired by sofer Mordechai Pinchas (Marc Michaels), who brought it, unfinished, ready for its ceremonial completion (siyyum).

The final words were inscribed by the youngest and oldest members, the young Daniel Naftalin, not long after his Bar Mitzvah as Glasgow Reform Synagogue, and Ida Skubiejska, z"l.

Back then, we hadn't yet resolved to be a Liberal community. Rabbi Nancy Morris, not long arrived in Glasgow, read from the scroll. (The archives record that there were all of 50 people receiving the newsletter!) The breast plate and rimonim, crafted by silversmith Tamar de Vries Winter, followed in 2005, thanks to an generous donation. Discussion with the Reform and Liberal movements followed. We joined Liberal Judaism and welcomed our 'start-up' rabbi, Aaron Goldstein, who was replaced by a rabbi 'loaned' to us by the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, one Mark Solomon. Mark later became our rabbi in his own right, and we welcomed him at his induction ceremony in 2010.

Fast-forward to last month. The guests at our tenth anniversary were testament to the blossoming of our community. Even without a building, we have made Edinburgh a home for our community. Our venues have brought us friends around the city, and we have brought Liberal Judaism to civic society in Scotland. We have contributed to the Edinburgh Interfaith Association, Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council, Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, United Against Fascism. We have contributed to the formation of Equal Marriage legislation. We have volunteered in schools and hospitals. And we are now working with the Scottish Refugee Council and the Edinburgh Food Bank Network. We have good relations with the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation.



Our scroll being piped in beneath a chuppah

Ten years ago we celebrated getting our own sefer Torah. Invested in our very own scroll was the promise of a new, independent and thriving Jewish community. Ten years on, we have an ark to put it in. Our ark is designed to be portable; it is heavy but we don't expect to have to move it all the time, since we have a established calendar of services and venues.

What has changed the most in our founding decade? Perhaps cheder, which has gone from a handful of kids round each other's dining tables to four separate classes and organised tuition for b'nei mitzvah.

Archive documents and images  
curated by Maurice Naftalin



Mordechai Pinchas,  
with Ida Skubiejska and  
a young Daniel Naftalin

## Ark Update

Katy Bromberg reports that the panels designed by Lauren Fox (p. 4) have been created in aluminium by a process of water cutting. The ark will remain in place for Yom Kippur, but will then return to the workshop, where the temporary wooden panels will be removed. The aluminium panels will be inserted into the doors, and the *ner tamid* (in a matching design from Lauren) will also be installed.

Katy is now procuring a case for the ark, designed to accommodate transport, with lifting handles and possibly wheels.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Tenth Anniversary of Sukkat Shalom

*Rabbi Mark Solomon*

*Shechinah, Mekor chayyeynu*, Divine Presence, Source of our lives, on this day of celebration we look back with thanks and forward with confidence and hope. We give thanks for the vision and energy that moved the founders, leaders and members of this community of Sukkat Shalom, and for the support and guidance of the rabbis and officers of Liberal Judaism, in bringing the vision to fruition. We give thanks for the growth of our congregation and the many opportunities we have had to pray and study together, to celebrate the festivals and the stages of our lives, to see our children grow in Judaism and young couples marry, to welcome converts and comfort one another in times of sickness and sorrow.

As we complete our first ten years, we pray for renewed strength and vision, that we may continue to grow together in mutual respect and friendship, to work in harmony with our fellow Jews in Edinburgh and Scotland, to share the riches of spiritual insight with all people of faith and all seekers of truth, and to pursue the sacred goal of tikkun olam — our shared duty to mend the world through acts of justice, righteousness, loving kindness and peace. Amen

## Klezmer and Curry



Photos: Fiona Frank

Kalpna, the vegetarian Indian restaurant in Southside, was an adventurous choice of venue for an evening of Klezmer music, organised by Fiona Frank which, incidentally, marked her birthday and also provided some light relief from the endless chatter of political pundits on the evening of Referendum day, 18 September.

The main musical contribution was from an American group led by the superb flautist Adrienne Greenbaum; indeed the first part of the evening was more like a concert than the more informal style of Klezmer to which we are accustomed locally, and during which conversation and dance can continue uninterrupted. Later on, when the performers had to leave, several other Klezmer musicians emerged from audience and what seemed like a (very good!) jam session followed. Unfortunately Joy and I had to leave before the end, as we had an early start the next morning; but a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all.

*Peter Bennett*

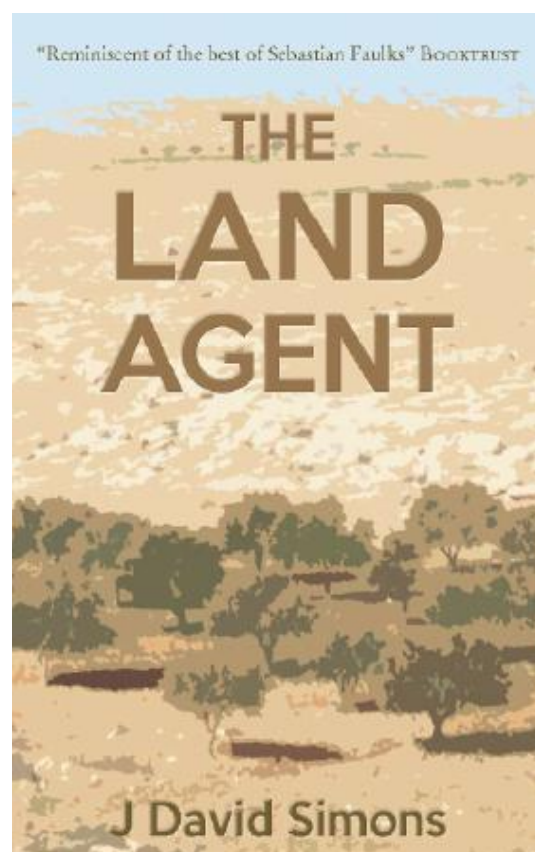
## Glasgow to Galilee: Part Three, The Land Agent

The Edinburgh launch of J David Simon's latest novel, *The Land Agent*, will take place at Blackwell's on South Bridge on **29 October** at 6.30.

Working as a land agent for one of the richest men in the world, Polish–Jewish immigrant Lev Sela stumbles upon a strategic area of land that doesn't exist on any map. The resultant struggle for ownership involves the Jews, the Arabs, the Zionists, the British, a Russian engineer with ambitions to build a hydro-electric power station, and the local Bedouin. The dispute also draws Lev into a relationship with a beautiful Scottish pioneer living on a nearby kibbutz.

*The Land Agent* is the third title in J. David Simon's Scottish–Jewish magnum opus, the Glasgow to Galilee loose trilogy, which follows his award-winning novels *The Credit Draper* and *The Liberation of Celia Kahn*.

Those wishing to attend should RSVP direct to David, via [contact.eljc.org](mailto:contact.eljc.org).



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## Southside of Edinburgh? I'd like to talk to you

My name is Chris Cotter and I am a PhD student at Lancaster University — although I have lived in the Southside of Edinburgh for the past ten years — and I'm seeking to interview participants for a study looking into the history and character of the Southside, particularly relating to local attitudes to religion and religious diversity. Whether or not you think you have anything to say about the Southside, or about religion, I am interested to hear from you.



If you are interested in find out about the project, in participating, or if you know anyone who might be, see [southsidededinburgh.wordpress.com](http://southsidededinburgh.wordpress.com) or contact me on 07860 777 148.

*Chris Cotter, Lancaster University*