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April 2015
Nisan—Iyyar 5775

10	Erev Shabbat CC	7.00
17	Kabbalat Shabbat MSG	6.15
18	Cheder MSG	3.30
24	Supper and Songs <i>Bring a non-meat dish to share</i> CC	7.00
25	Shabbat Morning Service CC	11.00
	Tea and Talmud CC	3.00
26	Philosophy reading group CC	4.00
29	Challah Bake <i>See p. 3</i> MSG	6.00

May

1	Kabbalat Shabbat MSG	6.15
8	Erev Shabbat CC	7.00
9	Cheder MSG	3.30

Later in May

Shavuot events, see p. 3

Venues

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

לולב *lulav*

vol II
issue 4

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<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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Word from the Chair

We arrive once more at Pesach, the *z'man cheiroteinu*, the Season of our Freedom. Our ancestors were freed from slavery, the Torah and the Haggadah tell us. During Pesach we eat matzah, the bread of affliction. The Haggadah tells us that in every generation we should regard ourselves as having been personally liberated from Egypt. Commentators remind us that in every generation tyrants have arisen to oppress us, from Haman to Hitler, sometimes to destroy Jews utterly. The grandparents and great-grandparents of many of us were forced to flee from pogroms and eventually found freedom on these shores as citizens of the UK.

We now live in a complex society of different ethnic backgrounds. It is not us who are the prime targets of race hatred and xenophobia. I was asked, as synagogue chair, to provide a message of support for a counter-demonstration against those who would seek to destroy cultural, religious and ethnic harmony in our society. In March, we had the Scottish Defence League on our doorstep, with the threat of protest by Pegida Scotland the following week. Here is what I wrote.

Just like weeds, Fascists come out in Scotland in the Spring. Unfortunately we cannot simply dig them out by the root and eradicate them that way. What we must do is vociferously oppose their noxious attack on the garden of our democracy. This year, the situation is particularly bad. Here they are today, and they say they are coming back next week with a different set of banners. The arrival of Pegida is particularly disturbing, as a new and unwelcome player on the scene, with its false air of political respectability. Pegida is no different from Fascist organisations anywhere. Their message differs little from that of the Nazis of pre-war Germany. The so called Scottish Defence League, with their bully boys brought in from England, would like to arouse fears in Scotland of people who are different from them; to spread vicious lies about citizens of our country. We Jews know what it is to be such a target. We add our voice in support of all people who stand up against the poisoning of our society.

In the same vein, as chair, I have committed our community to the Interfaith Manifesto initiated by the Jewish Council for Racial Equality. See more about this, and Rabbi Danny Rich's work to support asylum seekers, on p. 5. Other Jewish responses to rising xenophobia are reported on p. 6.

It was made clear at our AGM that we ought to review our security in response to heightened anxieties. Council has taken this up, and Marjorie Broadie and I will inspect the premises we use in the company of Andy Jones, our Crime Prevention Officer from Police Scotland, examining the physical aspects of our security and also our security procedures.

I take the opportunity to thank Marjorie wholeheartedly for all the time, dedication, and effort she has always put into organising our security arrangements. Loyal accompanied by her husband, Jonathan, she has done a lot of the work herself, from waiting outside for stragglers to getting up periodically to admit latecomers. Sometimes lateness is inevitable, but can we all do our best to arrive on time? We will provide a number to call once the doors have been shut.

I take great pleasure in the "Righteous Muslims" exhibition. Put together by a Muslim organisation, Faith Matters, it tells of the rescue by Muslims of Jews in various parts of the world during the Second World War. We displayed the exhibition first at a *Being Jewish in Scotland* event at Salisbury Road and it is now on public display in Butterflies Café until 12 April. Our reception evening was attended by Muslims, Jews, and Christians and addressed by academics and representatives of each faith group. Our thanks are due to Karen Campbell, the Minister of Marchmont St Giles, for hosting the exhibition, to Tasneem Ali and Zareen Taj of the Muslim Women's Association of Edinburgh, to Fiona Frank and SCoJeC for funding, and particularly to Catherine Lyons, our editor, whose initiative and hard work were responsible for the mounting of the exhibition.

Norman Crane

Welcome to Glencora!



Mazel Tov to Katy Bromberg and Alasdair Gray on the birth of Glencora (Malka), and to Tavish, who is now a big brother. Glencora was born on 20 March.

Spring Brunch

It's time for another social brunch and all are welcome. Venues suggested so far are Montpeliers, Bruntsfield, and The Merlin, Morningside. Other suggestions welcome. It will be either **16 or 30 May**, around 10.30am. If you want to come, let me know your availability.

If you haven't been along to a social outing before, it's a great way to get to know people and they are always a fun, informal affair! Get in touch or sign up through the Contact Team.

Jen Underwood

How many Strands can you Braid?

There is still time to sign up for the Great Big Challah Bake with former professional baker Paul McPhail. Paul will be showing us how to braid three, four, five, and maybe six strands of dough.

The Great Big Challah Bake will take place on Wednesday **29 April** at 6.30, in Butterflies Café at Marchmont St Giles. All challot can be taken home (in plenty of time for Shabbat dinner on 1 May). All ingredients will be provided. You just need to come dressed for baking. Book your place with Cathleen Ferguson (caferg@hotmail.co.uk).



© Ruth Hartnup

Helen Zollinger and Catherine Lyons

Counting the Days to Shavuot

Once the matzah is out of the box, it is never too early to start thinking of Shavuot. This year, the festival falls on a Sunday, and Rabbi Mark Solomon will be with us for the whole weekend. After Shabbat, we will be gathering on Saturday evening (**23 May**) for a Tikkun Leil Shavuot led by our rabbi, in a conveniently located venue in South Central Edinburgh. We will begin at 8.00 pm and share dairy delicacies. Book in advance through the Contact Team.

In the morning (**24 May**) we will hold our Shavuot Morning Service at 11.00 am at Columcille.



Introducing our new Care Team

The new Care Team is an initiative arising from the Consultation, completed following our AGM.



Left Des Shanko
Right Joe Goldblatt



We have teamed up to offer a caring service for Sukkat Shalom members who are unwell or simply need support. The service is confidential and provides a get well, sympathy, or cheerful greeting card for those in need. The Care Team is also happy to phone or make personal visits if they are welcomed. The Team will also, if requested, notify the Rabbi if the person in need would like a telephone call from him. The Team welcomes referrals for Sukkat Shalom members. If you know of someone who would benefit from the service please contact us at care@eljic.org.

Israel's first state-funded Progressive rabbi to address Liberal Judaism's Day of Celebration

Miri Gold is the first Progressive rabbi in Israel to be paid by the government. She is one of several Progressive Israeli speakers at the Israel-themed Day of Celebration, to be held at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue on Sunday **7 June**.



Rabbi Miri Gold, of Kehilat Birkat Shalom, Kibbutz Gezer

To find out more and book your place, visit the [Liberal Judaism Day of Celebration Booking Page](#).

Rabbi Charley Baginsky is chairing the Day. She says that, though we may be left disillusioned and despairing by the election results, Progressive Israelis need the recognition and support from us that they do not speak with the same voice as the government:

It is a time for re-engagement for the sake of both our communities. We have the potential to develop a new model of relationship based in mutuality and learning, dialogue and debate that is constructive and enriching.

Ethical, Moral, and Fair policies for Migrants on 7 May: ELJC Chair, Norman Crane, signs the Interfaith Manifesto

Along with Liberal Judaism, the Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community is a signatory of the [Interfaith Manifesto](#). Other signatory organisations include the Movement for Reform Judaism and the Muslim Council of Britain. An initiative of the Jewish Council for Racial Equality (JCORE), the Manifesto is endorsed by Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Protestants, Catholics, Methodists, Quakers, Sikhs and Buddhists, and offers 'a moral voice on immigration and asylum'. It was launched in March at the London Central Mosque, which two weeks later was the target of a vicious demonstration by the neo-fascist Britain First.



The Interfaith Manifesto was launched at the London Central Mosque. (Photo: from [the report of the launch in the Jewish News](#), with permission)

The organisers of the Manifesto explain why this initiative was launched:

The run-up to this year's general election has become increasingly dominated by an immigration debate that denigrates, demonises and scapegoats migrants and asylum seekers, creating an 'us-and-them' culture which has spread throughout much of British society.

The Manifesto calls for protection of migrant workers from destitution and slavery, the right to work for asylum seekers whose case is not resolved within six months, and (in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) an end to the detention of children.

Meanwhile, in this *Season of our Freedom*, Orthodox and Progressive rabbis, working with Tzelem and René Cassin, have visited an 'Immigration Removal Centre'.

[Speaking to *The Jewish Chronicle*](#), Rabbi Danny Rich said that "locking up people without any limit on the time — many of whom are vulnerable and will eventually be granted a temporary or a permanent stay here — is particularly poignant at Pesach, when we Jews commemorate freedom for oppression in Egypt."



JCORE's rabbinic delegation to Downing Street, earlier this year, handed in a letter to the Prime Minister. Two hundred and forty signatories wrote, 'We in the Jewish community know only too well the perils of being refugees and the indifference which too often meets their desperate plight to find sanctuary.' Even four months ago, only 90 Syrian refugees had been resettled in the UK. The Government intends to accept a 'couple of hundred', even though there are currently over 3.8 million Syrian refugees.



**Our Seder
this year
hosted eighty
people in the
hall at
Marchmont
St Giles**

Beyond UKIP: Diversity Cabaret initiated by Holocaust Survivors' Grandchildren

Readers may know that our own John McArdle, cofounder of the disability rights advocacy group Black Triangle, was a participant in the much-reported Beyond Ukip Cabaret. John is quoted in [the Guardian's report of the Cabaret](#), regarding hunger strikers in detention centres (on which, see p. 5).

Cabaret organiser Dan Glass spoke to *Lulav* about its Jewish inspiration. Never Again Ever is an anti-Fascist group of grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors. At their Holocaust Commemoration this year they reflected on how UKIP desecrates the memory of their ancestors and contradicts the intent of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. UKIP targets marginalised communities: gays, ethnic minorities, migrants, disabled people, people living with HIV.

The Beyond Ukip Cabaret took place in the George and Dragon pub in the Kent village of Downe, in Nigel Farage's would-be constituency. It was inaugurated by Ruth Barnett. A Holocaust survivor who arrived on the Kindertransport, and author of *Jews and Gypsies: Myths & Reality*, Ruth is a 'leading light' to Never Again Ever. The Cabaret celebrated figures recently targeted by UKIP, including a group of breastfeeding mothers. Free Polish lessons were provided.

Following the Cabaret, Dan and other participants have been threatened by Britain First (whose slogan is 'UKIP at the Ballot Box; Britain First on the Streets'). The neofascist group stormed the building where the Beyond UKIP Cabaret was holding a debriefing, and one Britain First member so far has been charged with assault. The police and the Community Security Trust are processing reports from Dan regarding death threats to him and his family. Nigel Farage insists that Britain First is not associated with UKIP but as yet he has not spoken out against the violence and death threats made by his supporters.



Ruth Barnett opens the Beyond UKIP Cabaret at the George and Dragon Pub in Downe, Thanet (Photo: Mike Kear Photography, with permission)

Righteous Muslims Exhibition in Edinburgh



Left: At *Being Jewish in Scotland*, Salisbury Rd: participants take a breather from the Klezmer Ceilidh to peruse the Righteous Muslims Exhibition. On the table is a facsimile edition of the *Sarajevo Haggadah*, kindly lent by Norman Crane. During the War, this medieval Haggadah was hidden under the floor of a Mosque.

Right: Guests at the launch of the Exhibition at Butterflies Café, Marchmont St Giles.



New Offices for the Edinburgh Interfaith Association

We are cordially invited to the grand opening of the new EIFA Offices at 25 Nicolson Square on **4 May** at 6.00: The City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, 25 Nicolson Square, EH8 9BX
RSVP to Sakina by **24 April**. sakina@eifa.org.uk



The new EIFA offices will be housed in the recently refurbished City Methodist Church

Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group: Spring Events

Forthcoming events will be hosted in the venues of different faith communities. The meetings take place on Wednesdays start with vegetarian refreshments. There will then be a guided tour and a talk, with the opportunity to ask questions.

15 April 2.00: *Kagyü Samyé Dzong Centre* (Tibetan Buddhist Meditation), 4 Walker Street, Edinburgh EH3 7LA (0131 225 8359)

20 May 7.00,
Blackhall Mosque

The April meeting takes place, unusually, in the afternoon. There will be a guided tour and a talk on Buddhism by Ani Rinchen. In July, there will possibly be a visit to Rosslyn Chapel. There will be no meeting in August. For more information see the [Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group](http://www.edinburghwomeninterfaith.org) website.



The shrine room at the Kagyü Samyé Dzong Centre

17 June 7.00,
The Salisbury Centre

Kindness and Giving

D'var Torah delivered by Stew Green 13 March

The parsha this week is *Vayakhel-Pekudei*, Exodus 35:1–40:38; 12:1–20. In the parsha Moses assembles the people of Israel and reiterates the commandment to observe Shabbat. He then conveys G-d's instructions regarding the making of the Mishkan (Tabernacle, that is, the portable dwelling place for the divine presence).

There then follows lots of detail about the making of the Mishkan until the parsha concludes. The Mishkan is completed and all its components are brought to Moses, who erects it and anoints it with the holy anointing oil, and initiates Aaron and his four sons into the priesthood. A cloud appears over the Mishkan, signifying the divine presence that has come to dwell within it.

In the middle of the parsha, where Moses conveys G-d's instructions re the making of the Mishkan, the parsha says that The people donate the required materials in abundance, bringing gold, silver and copper; blue-, purple- and red-dyed wool; goat hair, spun linen, animal skins, wood, olive oil, herbs and precious stones. So much so that Moses has to tell them to stop giving.

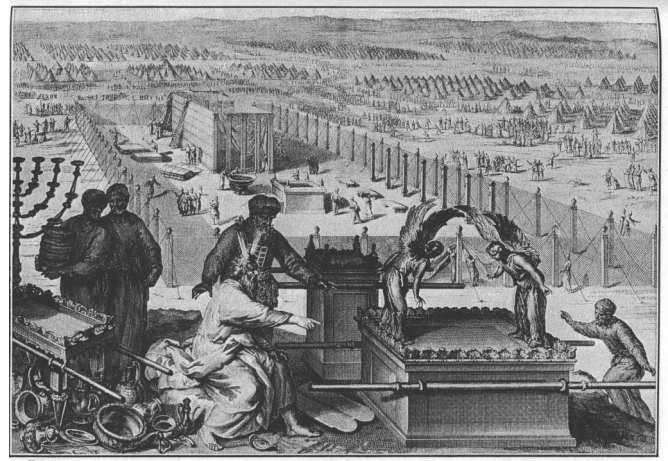
Today as we know, is Red Nose Day. And we know from experience that tonight, people will give money in abundance for Comic Relief. We Jewish people too are very good at giving money for good causes. So much so that sometimes it appears not only part of our heritage and religious tradition, but part of our very DNA.



As I was writing this, I was reminded of the words I offered several years ago at a similar Erev Shabbat service around the time of Sarah Zachs-Adam's Bat Mitzvah. Sarah had kindly asked her cheder classmates Adam, Leora, Naomi, and Rohan to play a part in the Bat Mitzvah service by sharing the reading on the day which was on the theme of 'Giving' (p. 337 in *Siddur Lev Chadash*). Looking back, I have to say I am rather struck by what I wrote. I observed that while giving can often translate into providing financial support to charities and other good causes, it seemed to me that giving money was only part of the intended message.

There are many other valuable forms of non-monetary giving and I am particularly struck by two, both of which I am actively trying to work on for myself: Firstly, giving more time to others (I particularly like the pithy expression I came across recently: "There's no present like time!"). And secondly, practising random acts of kindness.

Knowing what I intended to talk about, Rohan asked me if I had come across Peter Singer, an Australian Moral Philosopher. I hadn't. He then quoted Singer, who has said that, "Where world poverty is concerned, 'giving to charity' is neither charitable nor generous; it is no more than our duty and not giving would be wrong". Having since discovered that Singer is Jewish, his position comes as no surprise. In fact it pretty much mirrors part of the *Lev Chadash* reading on Giving, which says: "To give to those in need is not to be gracious, but to do one's duty. It is an act of love, but also of justice, which is the root meaning of the Hebrew word *zedakah*, for 'charity'." But the reading also continues with something that chimes very strongly with my own beliefs. It says: "Giving is a supreme ethical obligation, second only to the still greater Mitzvah of *gemilut chasadim*, the doing of kind deeds. Giving is greater than all sacrifices. and doing kind deeds is greater than giving. My only thought on this is to humbly suggest that perhaps doing kind deeds is not just greater than giving but is the greatest form of giving.



The Erection of the Tabernacle and the Sacred Vessels, *Figures de la Bible*, 1728 (Source: Wikipedia)