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## June 2015 Sivan–Tammuz 5775

<b>5</b>	Kabbalat Shabbat MSG	6.15
<b>6</b>	Cheder MSG	3.30
<b>12</b>	Erev Shabbat CC	7.00
<b>17</b>	<b>Sue's Jewish Cuba,</b> <i>(See p. 6)</i> MSG	8.00
<b>19</b>	Kabbalat Shabbat (for Pride; <i>see p. 4</i> ) MSG	6.15
<b>20</b>	<b>Pride Edinburgh</b> <i>(See p. 4)</i>	11.30
<b>21</b>	<b>Rosh Hashanah Singing Practice</b> <i>(See BBQ, p. 5)</i> Linlithgow	11.00
<b>21</b>	<b>Annual BBQ</b> <i>(See p. 5)</i> Linlithgow	12.30
<b>27</b>	Shabbat Morning Service CC	11.00

## July

<b>3</b>	Kabbalat Shabbat MSG	6.15
<b>10</b>	Erev Shabbat CC	7.00

## Venues

<b>CC</b>	Columcille Centre 2 Newbattle Terrace
<b>MSG</b>	Marchmont St Giles 1a Kilgraston Road

# לולב *lulav*

vol II  
issue 6

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<i>Chair</i>	Norman Crane	<i>Treasurer</i>	Gillian Raab
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## Word from the Chair

Cheesecake to the right of them,  
 Cheesecake to the left of them,  
 Cheesecake in front of them,  
 Tables groaned and sagged.  
 O the wild charge they made  
 To eat all before them.

(With apologies to Alfred Lord Tennyson)

This is one way to describe our Shavuot weekend. There was opportunity aplenty for us to indulge: a Shabbat Morning Service, two sessions of Tikkun Leil Shavuot, a Shavuot Morning Service, and a further study session on the Sunday evening. There were different varieties of cheesecake. All were delicious, but pride of place goes to the enormous *Käsetorte* made by Sam Paechter from his family recipe.

Before we leave the subject of cheesecake I must refer to a very Jewish debate between Maurice Naftalin and me as to the relative merits of a digestive crumb or a pastry base. *Teiku*, as they say in the Talmud, when, after lengthy discussion of halachah, no decision is recorded. Maurice and I agreed to differ. Of course, cheesecake was not the only food available; thanks go to all who provided dairy delights. Our thanks are also due to those who brought flowers and plants to decorate the sanctuary. It was a heartening response to my request. Columcille at Shavuot was quite transformed.

Shavuot provides food also for the mind. Our Tikkun Leil Shavuot started in Elaine Samuel's dining room. Catherine Lyons presented a thought-provoking study of the *Aleinu* prayer. She examined the prayer with a view to finding both a particularist and a universalist message appropriate for Liberal Judaism. Catherine was followed by Rabbi Mark looking at three ways that Midrash interrelates the Ten Commandments, linking worship and ethics, each to the other.

We thank Elaine Samuel and Stanley Raffel very much for hosting this session. Elaine, a member of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation and a regular at our Tea and Talmud sessions, had offered to host us when we had trouble hiring a venue. The event was oversubscribed; next year we shall do better with forward planning.

We then joined the Tikkun Leil Shavuot session at the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, conducted by Rabbi Natan Levy of the Board of Deputies. His presentation, "Promised Land or Permitted Land?," interspersed passages from sources ancient and modern, expected and unexpected.

The following evening we were all invited to the home of Jane Ansell from the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation. Jane is a prime mover in our Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue. The session was again conducted by Rabbi Natan Levy, who expounded on a Talmudic Midrash in which Moses is shown a vision of Rabbi Akiva explaining Torah to his students. The exposition he gave was a tour de force.

The Shavuot weekend was for me a great pleasure, combining nourishment for mind and body. In coming together to study and socialise, the two main Edinburgh congregations replicated the spirit of rabbinic tradition. The children of Israel received Torah on Mount Sinai as one, but each person understood the Torah in their own way.

Norman Crane



Sam Paechter presents his cheesecake  
 (Photo: Nancy Lynner)

## Remembering Ruzena

*Rebekah Gronowski*

We were very sorry to learn that a long-time member of our Community at Sukkat Shalom, Ruzena Wood, passed away on Monday 11 May, after a short illness in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow. Ruzena, ל״ט, had been living in Antonine House, Bearsden, Glasgow for the last four months. Many of you will know that she had not enjoyed good health for the last two years, having been in and out of hospital several times during that period.

I first met Ruzena in 1993 in the National Library of Scotland Music Department, where she had been a Music Researcher for many years. My purpose at the time was to research the influence of Jewish Liturgical Chant (Cantillation) on the Liturgical music of the Early Church (Gregorian Chant). I was coming up to Edinburgh University with the eventual goal of doing a PhD on this subject.

With our mutual background in music and performance, Ruzena and I hit it off straight away and we became firm friends over the ensuing years. Ruzena had a wealth of knowledge of music and musicians; she had made the acquaintance of many performers and conductors, some of whom had been frequent visitors to the Music Department of the National Library of Scotland.

Ruzena was particularly interested in Czech music, culture, and language; she learned Czech, and in 1981 she translated and published a collection of Czech Folk Tales, *The Palace of the Moon and other Tales from Czechoslovakia*, which she had illustrated by the artist Krystyna Turska.

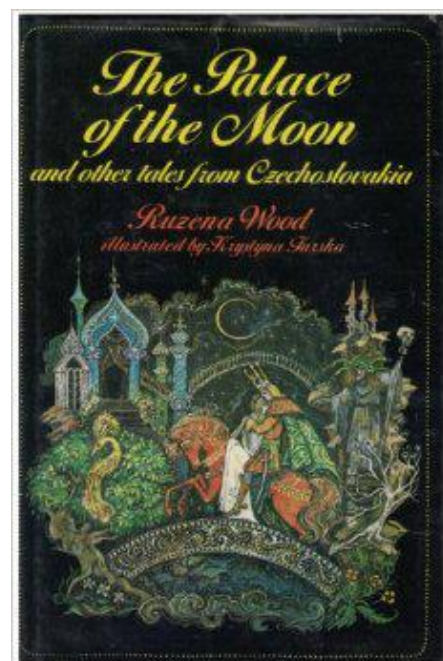
Ruzena also composed music herself and was best known for editing the John Hebden (1712-1765) "Six Concertos for Strings" in her capacity as Musical Researcher for the 1980s Scottish Cantilena String Quartet. These Concerti had not been played for two hundred years. Ruzena had been searching for new repertoire for the Quartet when she discovered the "Hebden" (as they came to be known) in the British Museum Library.

Ruzena was a very colourful character and was a great *raconteuse*. She had a wealth of interesting stories to tell and could regale one with many a musical tale and anecdote from her long and fascinating life. Ruzena had been born in Macclesfield, Cheshire, in the neighbouring county to where I was born, Lancashire: this was one of the reasons we shared a unique "Northern" sense of humour!

We will miss Ruzena as she has been part of our Community from the beginning. Our condolences go to her family by whom she will be sadly missed. May they all have Long Life.



Ruzena, right, with Rebekah Gronowski, left, and Chaya Abramovitz between them: at a dinner hosted by the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation in 2005 (Many thanks to Judy Gilbert of EHC for taking the photo and archiving it.)



*The Palace of the Moon and Other Tales from Czechoslovakia*, Ruzena Wood, 1981



'The Hebden: Six Concertos for Strings', ed., Ruzena Wood, Chandos Recording

## Welcome to Natalie!

*Our latest new member, Natalie Hurwitz, introduces herself:*

I have recently come to live in Edinburgh to be closer to my son and his young family. I lived in Scotland many years ago. I graduated in medicine from St Andrews University in 1958 and worked in hospitals in Dundee and Aberdeen before moving to London, where I worked in several hospitals.

I met my husband there, and we moved to Belfast, where he was a consultant neurologist. I worked for the World Health Organisation. I have three children. My husband died in 1971, when my children were 5, 7, and 9, at the time of civil strife in Northern Ireland. In 1972 I moved to Leeds, where my father and brother lived, and became a GP and worked full time for 28 years, until I retired 18 years ago.

I left Leeds to live in the weekend cottage in the Yorkshire Dales that I had had for many years, where I have enjoyed walking in the countryside with my dogs and being with old friends. My children are all settled in their careers with their families. I have five grandchildren.

Over the years, facilities in remote Dales villages have been reduced, so it seemed sensible to move. I am enjoying the novelty of public transport, shops, theatres, cinemas, art galleries, etc. Above all, it is lovely having family popping in to see me regularly instead of being 200 miles away.



## Celebrating Edinburgh Pride

Pride Edinburgh takes place this year on Saturday **20 June**, and it would be great if Sukkat Shalom took part, celebrating LGBT rights and protesting inequality. The Kabbalat Shabbat service, Friday **19 June**, at 6.15 at Marchmont St Giles, will include prayers and readings for Pride.

On the one hand we have seen the historic referendum in favour of Equal Marriage in Ireland, the first time a whole population has had a democratic vote and overwhelmingly supported LGBT equality. At the other, horrific, extreme, we see pictures of allegedly gay men being thrown to their deaths from high buildings in areas conquered by ISIS. Last year a group from Sukkat Shalom marched under our banner proclaiming support for LGBT rights and Equal Marriage, and it would be lovely if we do so again.

We will meet outside the Scottish Parliament at 11.30. The march will leave at noon prompt, going up the Royal Mile. We stop outside the City Chambers for speeches at 12.30, then continue to Teviot Row and Potterow for live entertainment and a health and community fair.

Wear happy clothes and sturdy shoes, and bring water and a sun hat!

*To let me know you plan to come or to find out more, please get in touch through the Contact Team.*

*Rabbi Mark Solomon*



### Erratum: Would you make a Good Mentor?

Last month *Lulav*, May 2015, we reported on our collaboration with LINKnet Mentoring. We erroneously reported that Big Lottery funding ceased last year. In fact that funding stream dried up in 2009.

## Volunteers are looking for school placements

A number of Jewish volunteers from Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Dundee took part in a training course on how to run enjoyable, memorable, and educational sessions about Judaism in schools, youth groups, and interfaith groups. They have now completed the course, but need to practise their skills in front of real people! This placement section of the training means they go into schools four times with a mentor (a senior member of the volunteering team) and have a go at running sessions. While I have various contacts in Glasgow, I have fewer in Edinburgh, so wondered if there were any primary school teachers in the community, or people who knew primary school teachers, who might be willing to have a free (and brilliant!) session on Judaism. Please get in touch ([zoe@scojec.org](mailto:zoe@scojec.org)). Thanks!



Nancy Lynner and Dan Hershon participating in a SCoJeC training session for presenting Judaism in schools

Zoe Jacobs, SCoJeC

## The Annual Sukkat Shalom BBQ approaches

As we said last year, "Our much-loved community BBQ returns to Kate and Nick's". This year, the party takes place on **Sunday 21 June**, from 12.30 onwards.

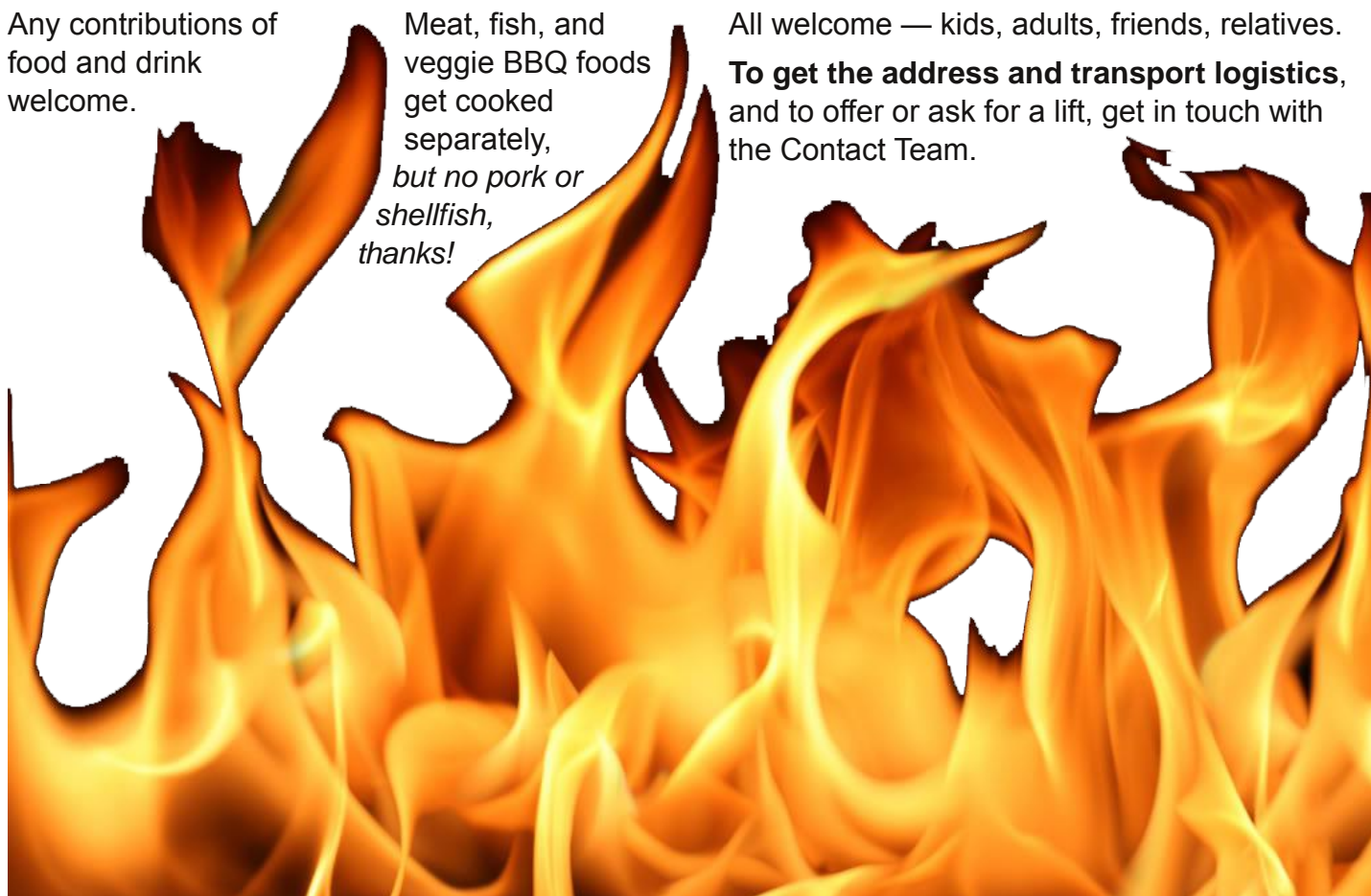
You are welcome to come earlier and build up a thirst. **Rosh HaShanah Singing Practice** will take place before the BBQ at 11.00.

Any contributions of food and drink welcome.

Meat, fish, and veggie BBQ foods get cooked separately, but no pork or shellfish, thanks!

All welcome — kids, adults, friends, relatives.

**To get the address and transport logistics**, and to offer or ask for a lift, get in touch with the Contact Team.



## Cuba Libre: this Year in Havana

Sukkat Shalom member Sue Lieberman spent three weeks in Cuba during April on a holiday organised through Traidcraft. Sue will give an illustrated talk about her visit — whom she met and what she learned — including her experience of a Cuban Seder. Sue's presentation will be on Wednesday **17 June**, at 8.00, at Marchmont St Giles.

Refreshments: you are welcome to bring Cuban-style drinks, snacks, and nibbles to share. There are some good appetisers on: [www.tasteofcuba.com](http://www.tasteofcuba.com).



The Sancti Spiritus Jewish Community, where Sue attended a Seder this year (Photo: cubanjewishcommunity.org)

## A new beginning for the Edinburgh Interfaith Association, and for its General Secretary

*Stew Green,  
EIFA Jewish Community Representative*

On 4 May, Edinburgh Interfaith Association (EIFA) held the official opening of their new office at the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church in Nicholson Square. This was a very happy event and well-supported by a number of ELJC members. Those present were treated to a nourishing diverse blend of music and dance followed by an (equally nourishing) tasty meal. One of the highlights of the evening was the performance of the Zawadi Alba Choir (pictured). Zawadi Alba is a group which welcomes women from different ethnic backgrounds. It has been operating since 2009 and is based in Edinburgh.



The Zawadi Alba Choir, with members of Edinburgh Interfaith Association.

## Iain and Umutesi

Everyone who knows Iain Stewart, General Secretary of EIFA, knows of his friendliness, helpfulness, love of music, and of his commitment to Interfaith, equality, human rights and peace-building. However, not everyone may yet know that in September last year Iain flew to Kigali in Rwanda — to get married! After several months of stressful difficulty, I am delighted to tell you that last week his wife was granted her visa and she has just arrived in Edinburgh to be with him. We wish Iain and Umutesi all the very best as they start their married life together in Edinburgh.

*See p. 8 for forthcoming events from the Edinburgh Interfaith Association*

## Transparent: Reviewing the Jewish Transgender Series

Michael Hornsby

Michael is a former ELJC member, now living in Berlin. A [longer version](#) of Michael's article can be read at [ritualreconstructed.com](http://ritualreconstructed.com).

When I first heard about the TV series *Transparent* through a friend, I was initially a little nonplussed by the title. It soon turned out that it was a series about the changing family relationships of a transgender parent who begins to transition. The title of the series should actually be read “Trans Parent”.

The story revolves around five members of the Pfefferman family: Maura (previously Morton), who finally opens up about always identifying as a woman; Sarah, the oldest sibling, who is cheating on her husband and discovering her bisexuality; Josh, the middle sibling who has troubled relationships with women; Ali, the youngest of the three grown-up children, who is often in conflict with her two older siblings; and Shelly, Maura's ex-wife and the mother of Sarah, Josh and Ali. This wonderfully dysfunctional family have real trouble communicating. It is hard to actually like any one character, in the way that we expect to identify with fictional characters on television these days. This perhaps gives the series an “edgy feel”.

There is a growing number of fictional transgender characters in entertainment media, but I felt I was watching something new. Yes, it was educational to engage with the process of transitioning, but it also got me to reflect on my own attitudes toward transgender people in general, which apparently was one of the aims of the producer, Jilly Soloway.

When Ali, the youngest sibling, begins a relationship with Dale, a trans man, I felt I was exploring this new territory along with her. Gaby Hoffman, who plays Ali, points out that our own sense of being “other” can allow us to tap into the commonality of human experience.

The Jewish setting allowed me to relate to the series in another way. This liberal Jewish family, with loose connections to the local Reform temple, call upon the services of the Rabbi when Shelley's second husband, Ed Paskowitz, increasingly succumbs to dementia. Rabbi Raquel becomes embroiled in the family's dynamics. Shelley acts as shadchan between Rabbi Raquel and her unhappy son, Josh, who embarks on a troubled relationship with Raquel. In the shiva episode, “Why Do We Cover the Mirrors?” Soloway gets to do all her jokes about Jews and food. During the Mourner's Kaddish, one character whispers to her daughter, “Did you order the coleslaw — both kinds?”

The series was constructed around the principle of “transfirmative action,” with the result that there were 20 trans people among the cast and crew, and more than 60 more had been employed as extras. Soloway also hired two full-time transgender consultants.

I'd seen programmes and films featuring transgender people before, and this was the first example I've seen in a Jewish setting. *Transparent* succeeds in highlighting issues of transitioning among people who have no direct experience of it. It remains to be seen, however, whether the portrayal is seen as accurate by trans people themselves. The focus of the series is definitely on the issue of transgender, but can also speak to others, since, as Soloway points out: “My work privileges the Other, with a capital ‘O,’ meaning all kinds of other — Jewish, trans, gay, unattractive, weird, freaky, outsider, different, f—d up”.



Maura comes out to her daughter (Amazon Prime 2014; see also [the trailer on Youtube](#))

## Interfaith Diary Dates

*Events from the Edinburgh Interfaith Association (EIFA), Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Association (EWIG), Interfaith Scotland and the Just Festival, contributed by Stew Green and Rebekah Gronowski (Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group is an informal group, welcoming all women.)*

### Just Festival Programme Launch

*Wednesday 10 June 6.00*

Launch of the programme at St John's Church, Princes Street. The Festival takes place 7–31 August.

### EWIG Salisbury Centre: tour and a talk

*Wednesday 17 June 7.00*

Guided tour and a talk, followed by Q&A, at the Salisbury Centre, 2 Salisbury Road, EH16 5AB

### EIFA Community Meal and Civic Café

*Monday 6 July 6.00*

Monthly Community Meal and Civic Café (with food) at the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church. This meeting will be another on the theme of 'Spiritual Pathways' looking at the tools that help us on our Spiritual Journey.

### EIFA Annual General Meeting

*Monday 7 September 7.00*

Community meal followed by the EIFA AGM (approx 7.30/7.45). A good opportunity to meet folk and find out what is happening in and around the Interfaith community.

### EWIG A Dialogue on Health and Wellbeing for Body and Soul

*Wednesday 16 September*

Meeting at the Sikh Sanjog Café, hosted by Interfaith Scotland, who will be funding the supper kindly provided by the Café.

### Interfaith Peace Walk

*Sunday 20 September*

Interfaith 'Peace Walk' through the city, passing the houses of worship of various faith communities. This will be a meaningful opportunity for people of faith to walk together in peace and mutual solidarity with the opportunity to join in at different points in the route. Details to follow.

### EWIG Orthodox Church: tour and a talk

*Wednesday 21 October*

Guided tour and a talk, followed by Q&A, at the Orthodox Church, 2 Meadow Lane EH8 9NR

### EWIG Talk on Streetwork

*Wednesday 18 November*

Talk by Jan Williamson from Streetwork, a charity that helps people who are living on the street, at the Methodist Church, Nicholson Square.

### Scottish Interfaith Week: Care For Creation

*22–30 November*

Ahead of the Climate Change Summit in December, Scottish Interfaith Week will focus on Care for Creation: caring for the environment and protecting it for future generations

### Launch of Edinburgh Interfaith Week

*Monday 23 November*

Always a very stimulating and enjoyable week with a wide range of diverse activities. Details to follow.

## Patrick Geddes and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Dr. Diana Dolev teaches architecture at the Holon Institute in Israel and researches the relationship between national identity and architecture. Her forthcoming book about the development of the Hebrew University campus in Jerusalem will include a reassessment of the architectural collaboration between Patrick Geddes, Frank Mears, and Benjamin Chaikin, from 1925 to 1929.

*Hosted by the Sir Patrick Geddes Memorial Trust: Wednesday 10 June, 7.30, Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony Street*