



July 2015 Tammuz—Av 5775

10	Erev Shabbat CC	7.00
17	Kabbalat Shabbat MSG	6.15
25	Shabbat Morning Service CC	11.00
	Tea and Talmud CC	3.00
26	Tisha b'Av Service CC	11.00
	Rosh Hashanah Singing Practice CC	3.00
	Philosophy Reading Group CC	4.00
31	Kabbalat Shabbat MSG	6.15

August

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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<i>Lulav Editor</i>	Catherine Lyons	<i>Membership</i>	Sharon Goldwater



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This month, I am taking a summer break. I am pleased to offer my usual space to one of our Ba'al Tefilah students. This course is evidently providing a fine opportunity for them to hone their skills.

Norman Crane

Bromsgrove Shabbat: the Ba'al Tefilah residential weekend

Last weekend, 3 – 5 July, Catherine Lyons and I, and participants from various Liberal congregations, took ourselves off to a retreat centre near Birmingham. I have to admit to getting a little antsy as we got more and more rural. Let us say I have a longstanding distrust of all things non-urban. We finally turned into a worrying amount of green with a large house in the middle of it. The rural surroundings, it has to be said, seemed to be enjoyed by everyone else, who even on Shabbat afternoon ventured on a long expedition. Curmudgeon that I am, I concede that the surroundings were attractive (from the safety of the house) and, notwithstanding the reassuring sounds of the distant motorway, added to the experience: an extended Shabbat, a feeling of being outside time, but with something I think we all found very precious to take back into the normal world when we finally rejoined that waiting motorway.

The residential weekend is seen as crucial to the course. We were told at the beginning that we would not be the same after the experience; a big claim, but one which became easier to understand as the weekend unfolded. In the style of the course so far, we were not taught so much as provided with experiences and opportunities for learning, as well as opportunities for getting to know each other, and indulge for example in silly word games late into the night [in which your author was the star player — *Ed.*].

The focus of the weekend was presentation, including, the delivery of a *d'var Torah*, which we had previously prepared. We did this in small groups, which gave time for constructive feedback — two stars and a wish — which was the style of critique for the whole weekend, and not too daunting.

Three sessions in particular stand out, given by Robin Samson, a former course participant and now a course tutor. Robin is a professional actor. In one session he gave a 'sermon', in which, interspersed with a lot of interesting but half-digested research, he managed to make all the mistakes a nervous learner can: lack of eye contact, losing his place as he read his notes, stumbling over bits he could not remember writing, dropping his papers, *et cetera*. Then we all had to comment, with 'two stars and a wish'. This was a strange and uncomfortable experience. Though the mistakes as described sound glaring, and one might have thought we would immediately have had the courage to voice what we had been suspecting — that it was a spoof — the acting was so good that we took a long time to suggest tentatively that spoof it was. With hindsight this was very funny, but we were left with a lot to think about.

Robin's second contribution involved a warm-up session, where we all jiggled about and made funny faces and noises, which is very effective, though it certainly takes me out of my comfort zone. And then we went on to a session where we each had to read a randomly chosen previously unseen piece, being allowed to glance at the book and, initially, remember three words only, which we then had to present, looking up and making eye contact with the audience/congregation. As another course leader commented, we all looked like chickens bobbing our heads up and down, but this was amazingly effective, even if best modified eventually.

As this small taster shows, the weekend stimulated all kinds of emotions, anxiety, relief, humour, puzzlement, surprise at what we could achieve, the feeling of completeness which comes from observing and sharing Shabbat, all within the peace of our green oasis. Most of all was the growing sense of community and support in our little group, a feeling that we hope will sustain us as we put what we have learnt into practice.

Wendy Crane

High Holiday Help Wanted

Following the New Directions consultation, lots of people have come forward to help with service logistics and challah baking. But there is still room for more people to volunteer, especially at this time of year, so many and varied are the tasks that Nick has been responsible for over the years.

The 5776 High Holydays are comparatively early this (2015) year. Rosh Hashanah is on Monday **14 September** and Yom Kippur is on Wednesday **23 September**. So, advance notice that members will be receiving their High Holyday tickets in the coming weeks, most likely towards the end of July. Full details of our High Holydays services will be with your tickets and in future editions of Lulav.

It was great to read in June's *Lulav* Sue Lieberman's piece about the follow-on from 'New Directions' and our discussions at the AGM, and also Sue Gutteridge's piece about the challah baking. These articles prompted me to write this short article as you may remember that I had asked for help with some of the tasks that go with the running of services.

I'm pleased to report that I have had plenty of help. Joe Goldblatt has taken on the task of co-ordinating volunteers to help set up and clear away after services, and we now have a schedule of helpers for the rest of the year. Thanks, Joe, and also to everyone who has already helped or who has volunteered to help later in the year.

As Sue Gutteridge noted in her article on challah baking, we now have a rota of people who have volunteered to make a challah for our services. Thanks to Helen Zollinger for co-ordinating this, and to everyone who has signed up. I know there are some services where we still don't have a volunteer baker, and also it is traditional to have two challahs so there's always space for anyone else who would like to bake a challah for our services.

Having said all that, I'm sure you'd be surprised if I didn't note that there are more opportunities available to help out. We have the High Holydays coming up soon, and I don't have any volunteers to help with activities such as helping with tickets for visitors. If you have some time to help out in the run up to the High Holydays, please do let me know, as I'd really appreciate some help.

Nick is planning to get the tickets out soon, given that the High Holidays come early this year. You can reach Nick through the Contact Team if you don't get a chance to talk to him in person.

Nick Silk

Clive Lawton to consult the Jews of Edinburgh

Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue has secured the services of Clive Lawton, who spoke so eloquently at one of our meetings last year and who has an incomparable history of supporting Jewish communities to widen their reach. Clive has been engaged by us to carry out a feasibility study into the possibility of setting up a Jewish cultural centre in Edinburgh and to identify the type of activities that would best meet the interests of all concerned. He will be engaging with as many people as possible with an interest in Judaism in Edinburgh during visits to the city over the next few months. His first two visits will take place on **20–21 August** and **10–11 September** and he would like to meet with small groups and/or individuals. More details will follow.



*Janet Mundy,
Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue and Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation*

The Iron Wall and the Shifting Sands: Israel in Charlotte Square

Jen Underwood and Sue Gutteridge are co-ordinating an outing to this year's Book Festival — as always, in Charlotte Square — on Friday **21 August**.

Sue Gutteridge

We have bought eleven tickets for each of two Book Festival events:

- [Why Israel's problems remain real](#)
- [How can we think about the Middle East?](#)

(Tickets were going fast. We have the last 11 for the second of these; tickets are no longer available for it through the Festival box office.)

At 4.00, in 'Why Israel's problems remain real', Avi Shlaim, professor emeritus of international relations at Oxford University, will introduce the new edition of his book, *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World*.

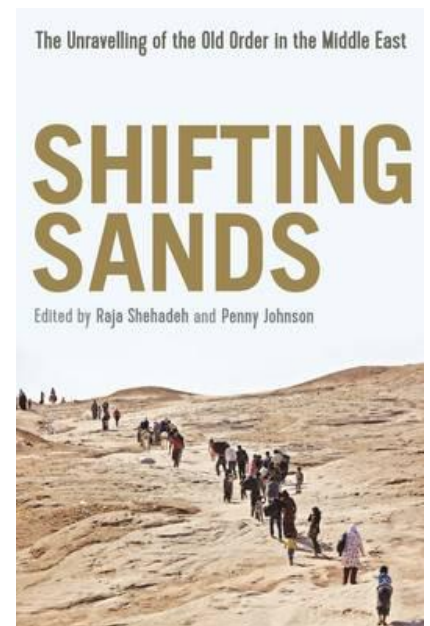
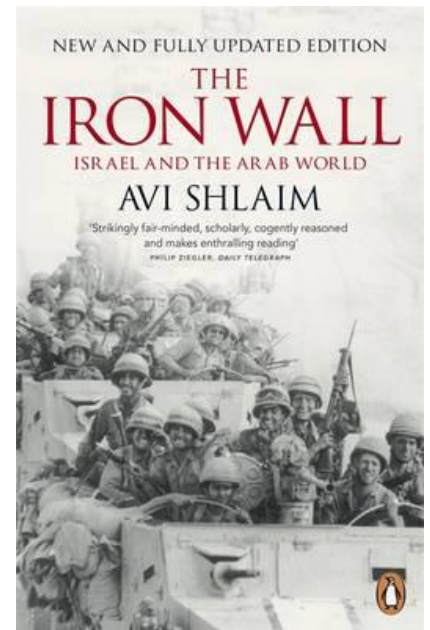
At 7.30, 'How can we think about the Middle East?' follows last year's series of debates curated and presented by the Palestinian lawyer, Raja Shehadeh. This event launches *Shifting Sands*, based on those debates. Joining Raja Shehadeh in discussion are Avi Shlaim, Egyptian historian Khaled Fahmy, and Kuwaiti novelist Mai Al-Nakib.

We are also planning to book somewhere to eat near Charlotte Square between the two events, which you can come to whether you're going to both or either of the events. So please let Sue know when you email/text whether you want to be included in the meal too.

To book your ticket(s), please contact Sue via the Contact Team or text her on 07811 409914. If demand exceeds supply, it'll be first come first served. If you have any access difficulties (sight, hearing, mobility) please phone the Book Festival on 0845 373 5888 to discuss your requirements, quoting booking reference 131279 Gutteridge.

The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World,
Avi Shlaim, Penguin, 2014, £14.99.

Shifting Sands: The Unravelling of the Old Order in the Middle East,
Raja Shehadeh, Penguin, 2015, £9.99.



Sukkat Shalom needs you[r data]: Membership Database and Directory

This week, letters have gone out to all current members asking them to review their details stored on the membership database and those they would like to be shared in a published directory that all members have access to.

It is really important that details are kept up to date, so please do send any amendments or additions to Sharon Goldwater, as instructed in your letter. If you have any questions about this, please contact Sharon using the details found on your letter.

Helen Zollinger

The Sukkat Shalom Rainbow at Pride Edinburgh

Rebekah Gronowski

What an exciting, joyful day we had! Members of our Community joined about 2000 others at the Scottish Parliament at this year's Pride Edinburgh, previously known as Pride Scotia. It was a day for celebrating many things: freedom to be LGBTQI people in a free country (not something which all people in the world have, sadly); the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014, and celebration of the same-sex marriages that have taken place since its passing into law.

There was a large and varied collection of banners, (many new since last year), behind which all the LGBTQI organisations march joyfully and with great excitement. I joined the march part way up the Royal Mile, at Canongate (due to the lack of any parking available for people with disabilities) and had a good vantage point from which to see the Pride March coming up the hill from the Scottish Parliament. What a sight that was! It was like observing hundreds of soldiers marching up a hill into battle behind their standards!

As well as being a march of celebration, it was indeed a march or protest — protest against the persecution suffered by those in other less liberal and enlightened countries and in support of all those who are still struggling to gain their basic human rights as LGBTQI people. With our support in this country, many will be encouraged to carry on the fight, just as they have done in the Republic of Ireland — *and won!*

The march was accompanied by two drumming bands which gave great rhythms and a joyful beat for the marchers to keep in step, really enhancing the atmosphere. We followed many groups with their banners — Gay Men's Chorus, Stonewall, LGBT Health & Wellbeing, St Augustine's Church, Gay Scots, the Equality Network, and many others. Of course, we marched behind our very own banner which was designed by Rabbi Mark for last year's Pride Scotia, held proudly with many of our Community marching behind it (and me under it) showing the flag for LGBTQI Jews in Scotland!



Not only did the Republic of Ireland win the battle for Equal Marriage, they won it by 62% in a referendum, the first such vote in the world! I was pleased to have been part of that campaign, albeit from a distance, but I was a supporter throughout their long fight for the right to Marriage Equality.

our banner, for the High School which was marching in support of LGBTQI pupils and against bullying in schools. These were all met with great applause and cheering. There were congratulations for the Republic of Ireland for the passing of their Marriage Equality Act, again met with loud cheers, blowing of whistles etc. in support of Ireland "Well Done Ireland" was the call at that point. One speaker said that this was the most joyful Pride March which she had so far attended.

We were also remembering all those who have suffered and died in other countries due to persecution for for being LGBTQI people. A minute's silence was held (as is our custom) to remember all those LGBTQI people who died during the last year either as a result of persecution or from illness.

After the speeches we moved off toward George IV Bridge, down the Bridge and onward to Potterrow and Bristo Square. At the end of the march, the Health & Wellbeing Fair, Tea Dance, Pride Ceilidh, and other activities were held at Teviot House.



Rebekah Gronowski with Rabbi Mark Solomon (r) and your Lulav editor (l).

Some people remained to carry on with their celebrations but I left as it was now about 1.30 p.m. and I was running out of energy. It was such a buzz, taking part and a great booster! This was my fifth Pride March in Scotland although I have been a strong supporter of LGBTQI Rights for most of my life. This was the march in which I truly felt I could be myself — it was very liberating and gave me a great sense of freedom and relief.

My thanks go to Rabbi Mark, Mike Elam, and others who stoically pushed me along — not an easy feat — the atmosphere would not have been the same in the accessible mini-bus provided. Also, many thanks to Lobo Chan, who took some amazing photos, some of which are shown here.



Rabbi Mark Solomon (r) and his partner, Lobo Chan (l), who took the photos.

How Others See Us: Judah Passow in West Lothian

Judah Passow's documentary photography about Scotland's Jews is on display at Linlithgow Burgh Halls, until **2 August**, under the title, '[Identity, Belonging and The Future](#)'. According to the programme for the Burgh Halls, we are fascinating and not often seen!

Award winning photojournalist Judah Passow explores the daily lives of Scottish Jews today. A part of contemporary culture not often seen, this is a fascinating look into their rituals, traditions and contributions to the wider society.



BBQ Photo Album



Gathering the Voices of Survivors in Scotland

[Gathering the Voices](#) brings together oral testimony from men and women who escaped the Shoah and sought sanctuary in Scotland. Some came on the Kindertransport, others survived concentration camps.

The project includes a mobile exhibition, which is on display at the Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow during August, and a website where personal testimonies and documents have been published. There are interview transcripts and audio files.

Steven Anson from Glasgow Reform Synagogue is one of the organisers. Steven has written to recommend the project to us. His parents' testimonies feature in the exhibition. [Many in our community remember Steven's parents, Martin and Pat, with great affection — Ed.]

Also featured is extensive testimony from our own Marianne Lazlo (More in the next issue of *Lulav*)
Kelvingrove Museum & Art Gallery (First Floor East Gallery), Sunday 2 August — Monday 31 August



First Minister Nicola Sturgeon visits Gathering the Vocies, with Steven Anson (r) and Howard Singerman (l) (Photo: South Ayrshire Council)

Women's Interfaith Trip to Rosslyn

Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group (EWIG) is planning a coach trip to Rosslyn Chapel, followed by a picnic in Peebles, on Monday **27 July**.

The coach will depart from the Methodist Church in Nicolson Square at 10.00. It will return at 5.30. There are forty places, and priority will be given to women who attend EWIG meetings.

There will be a visit to Peebles in the morning, and a picnic lunch (please bring your own lunch). In the afternoon, there will be a guided tour of Rosslyn Chapel.

The trip is funded by the Edinburgh Interfaith Association. (Note that EWIG events are not covered by liability insurance; those attending are responsible for their own safety and wellbeing.)

To book, phone Meta Mackintosh (07504 133231) or Nila Joshi (07754 515488).

The Wizard of Oz comes to Columcille

Our regular hosts, the Columcille Centre, will present their summer production, *The Wizard of Oz*, on 14 July at 2.00. Doors open (with tea and coffee) at 1.45.

If you plan to go, contact the Columcille office on Monday 13 July (0131 447 7404).

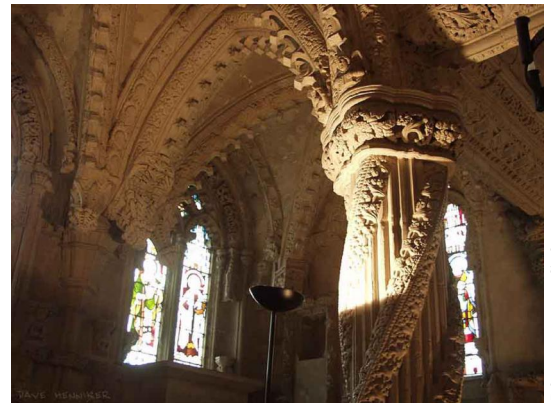


Photo: crystalinks.com