



## From the Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

### September 2015

Elul 5775 – Tishrei 5776

<b>11</b>	Erev Shabbat CC	7.00
<b>13</b>	Erev Rosh Hashanah*	7.00
<b>14</b>	Rosh Hashanah*	11.00
<b>18</b>	Erev Shabbat Shuvah MSG	6.15
<b>22</b>	Kol Nidre*	7.00
<b>23</b>	Yom Kippur*	11.00
<b>26</b>	Shabbat Morning Service CC Tea and Talmud CC	11.00 3.00
<b>27</b>	Sukkah Decorating Bring greenery and fruit CCM	2.00
	Erev Succot CCM	7.15

### October

<b>3</b>	Shabbat Sukkot CCM	11.00
	<i>Please help afterwards with dismantling the sukkah.</i>	
<b>4</b>	Erev Simchat Torah CC	6.30
<b>9</b>	Erev Shabbat CC	7.00

\* Message the Contact Team if you need High Holiday info.

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### Venues

<b>CC</b>	Columcille Centre 2 Newbattle Terrace	<b>CCM</b>	Christ Church, Morningside 6a Morningside Road
<b>MSG</b>	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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## Word from the Chair

We are made constantly aware, and quite rightly so, of the Syrian refugee crisis. Our hearts have been touched by pictures and reports of the suffering of many people. As we sit in prayer and contemplation as a Jewish Community during the Yamim Noraim, the Days of Awe, let us be moved to act in whatever way is open to us to help alleviate this suffering. I commend to you the statement issued by Rabbi Danny Rich, Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism (see p. 3).

Ordinary affairs of course go on; from time to time we hold services away from Edinburgh. This summer we have held services in Dundee as we did two and four years ago. The Tayside and Fife Community, as it is now called, reflects rather better the geographical spread of its members than did its former designation of the Dundee Community. The community originally possessed a building in the centre of Dundee. This building was compulsorily purchased by the Council as part of its development of the centre of Dundee. The Council was obliged to provide a replacement building, hence the present building, a little way out of the centre of Dundee. The building is small, but possesses a certain charm.

Although most of us are content enough for the time being with our current arrangements and our current hosts, it felt different and a bit special to pray and study in a building designed for the purpose. Although nominally Orthodox, the community is happy to hold services of any Jewish denomination, as their numbers are very small and it is impossible for them to hold services very often. So we feel it is an important mitzvah to help by visiting Dundee occasionally when Rabbi Mark is with us. Unfortunately, it looks as if we are up against a law of diminishing returns. Four years ago the synagogue was full. Two years ago on the occasion of our next visit it was roughly half full. This year both communities together numbered just short of twenty. Nevertheless the occasion was a significant one for at least one person. For the first time in her life a lady from the host community was called up to the Torah and was moved and thrilled by the experience.

For the members of the Tayside and Fife Community it must have felt like waiting for a bus. After a long wait, not one, but two, rabbis turned up. Apart from Rabbi Mark, who took the service, Rabbi David Hulbert of the Barkingside Progressive Community, together with his wife, Fiona, attended. He is one of Mark's colleagues and they are close friends. The Hulberts were visiting Edinburgh and when they learned Mark was taking a service in Dundee they decided to attend, happy, as Rabbi Hulbert said, to follow Mark to the end of the earth. For the two rabbis it was a joyous meeting.

Mark invited Rabbi Hulbert to make kiddush after the service. This was followed by a chavurah lunch provided by members of the two communities. Because of its origins as an Orthodox community the kitchen in Dundee is fully kosher, with complete separation of meat and milk. Lunch was followed by a study session conducted by Rabbi Mark on the subject of the shofar. It was as usual both entertaining and instructive. The session was punctuated by expert demonstration of shofar blowing, which rounded off an engaging shabbat experience.

As I reflect on the experience I am given pause for thought. The community is kept going by the valiant efforts of one or two individuals. Is this the best way to support an outlying community, a visit from Sukkat Shalom every two years? This is in the light of dwindling support for the occasion and the undoubted disruption to our own pattern of prayer and study. I am particularly aware that we are depriving our own members and friends in Edinburgh of the regular and valued input to our community made by Rabbi Mark. I extended a general invitation to all those involved in any way with the Tayside and Fife Community to visit us whenever they wish. It struck me, though, that something less open ended and more organised might be a better way forward. I intend to propose to Council that we invite the community for the same shabbat as we invite members of Glasgow Reform Synagogue to visit us, which we do periodically as and when diaries permit.

*Norman Crane*

## Rabbi Danny Rich responds to the Refugee Crisis

Children are drowning in the sea, people are dying in lorries. If you put your children on a dingy when you know that many of these are lost at sea, then you must be pretty desperate.

Interviewed by the BBC on 6 September, Liberal Judaism's chief executive called on the UK Government for immediate action to accept 20,000 refugees for permanent resettlement. He also called for a coordinated Europe-wide response.

"If you're facing an emergency, then I believe the goodwill, skills and resources of Britain will find a way through", said Danny. " It does require a real effort from David Cameron and his Cabinet, local authorities and all of us as individuals. I am appealing particularly, as a faith leader, to the faith communities, who have been working hard to make this a practical reality rather than simply a statement. I accept there needs to be proper planning and that there is pressure put on schools, housing and the medical services — but I don't think we can continue to simply say that this is not our problem."



Syrians fleeing to the Kurdistan border (Photo: UNHCR)

### What can we do to help right now?

According to the UN High Commission for Refugees, half of the population of Syria will be in need of aid by the end of the year. There will be 3.45 million Syrian refugees, and 6.8 million Syrians inside the country will be in need.

Recently we have had two little boys with no clothes or shoes, a woman with just a pair of flip flops in November, many individuals with only the clothing they had on and several babies with no bedding or cots. Some of the atrocities these people have suffered is beyond heartbreaking. We are told that the impact of our support goes far further than keeping people clothed and has a profound impact on their morale.

*Jewish Council for Racial Equality, SOS Emergency Appeal*

The **Jewish Council for Racial Equality (JCORE)** is running several projects you can donate to:

#### **SOS Emergency Appeal**

**JUMP** provides befriending for unaccompanied young asylum seekers

**Refugee Doctors** provides mentoring by doctors of refugee doctors

JCORE also urges us to write to contact our MP to discuss the government's response to the crisis. JCORE's **No Way to Live petition** urges government action to end destitution among asylum seekers in the UK. Find out more from [JCORE](#).

**World Jewish Relief** has launched a Refugee Crisis Appeal, inspired by the success of the Kindertransport. Find out more from [WJR](#).

**JCORE SOS  
Emergency Appeal  
Donate now**

**WJR Refugee  
Crisis Appeal  
Donate now**



## Paintbrushes to the Granite City

The Aberdeen Hebrew Congregation has been worshipping in the Dee Street synagogue building for over 100 years. Recently, the president of the congregation asked for help in refurbishing the historic building. Several members from Sukkat Shalom answered the call and travelled to the most northern Synagogue in the UK to invest over 100 human hours in scraping, patching, sanding and painting this lovely place of worship on Sunday 2 August. See the before and after photos below.



Other Sukkat Shalom members included Des Shanko, Nancy Lynner, Daniel, Isak and Elkan Hershon (who travelled all the way from northern England). At the end of the day, Mark Taylor, president of the Aberdeen Hebrew Congregation, surveyed the work and said "Our synagogue has never looked this good in a long, long time thanks to all of you!"

The congregation requires additional donations to continue its restoration. Please send your gift to:

Aberdeen Hebrew Congregation, Synagogue Building, 74 Dee Street, Aberdeen, AB11 6DS

*Joe Goldblatt*

## Lauren's Octopus visits Portobello

Lauren Fox's huge manta ray is well travelled in these parts. Her latest impressive sea creature has wrapped its tentacles round a pole on one of the groynes at Portobello. Catch it a low tide, or it might be submerged. *Tidal Octopus* was one of the artworks on show at Art Walk Party. The Art Walk has finished but the octopus is still enjoying being installed in the sea; catch it while you can.

*Lauren Fox, currently resident in Glasgow, is a member of Sukkat Shalom and the designer of the doors of our ark.*



Photo: Rosy Naylor

## Wartime Letters inspire Great Grandson's Film

*Micha Cooper, 14, is the son of Gica Loening, queen of Celtic Klezmer. A longtime friend of our community, Gica is now one of our newest members. Micha's film is an accomplished documentary featuring his grandparents, Francesca and Ulrich, who retell how their fathers were interned during the Second World War, under suspicion for being German, despite being Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany.*



For my bar mitzvah year, I decided to make a documentary film about my great grandfathers' internment in World War Two. Based on a fascinating series of letters written in 1940, *My Dearest* tells the story of both my great grandparents' experience of Second World War Britain and internment on the Isle of Man.

The film took two years to make and you can now find it on [my Vimeo channel](#) along with my other films.

*Micha Cooper*

## Charities named for our Kol Nidre Appeal

It is our minhag to donate money to a range of causes at this time of year: two local charities, one Jewish and one not; a non-profit organisation working for peace and justice in Israel and Palestine, and another one working for international development. We like to select projects that embody Jewish values of justice and dignity, projects that our community has some connection with, and small-scale grassroots projects where, as a small community ourselves, we know our donation will make a difference. This year, Council has nominated Windows for Peace, Mary's Meals, Cosgrove House, and LINKnet Mentoring.



Windows for Peace facilitates dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian youth. Its Channels for Communication project allows young people from Israel and Palestine to listen to each other.

Mary's Meals works to ensure that every child receives a nutritious daily meal in a place of education. It is a Scottish organisation operating in twelve countries, especially in Malawi, where 25% of primary-school children eat Mary's Meals.

Cosgrove Care specialises in providing personalised support and services for children and adults who have learning disabilities, autistic spectrum disorders, and mental health issues living in Scotland's central belt.

LINKnet provides mentoring for education and employment, and language and cultural help, for minority ethnic communities, including people recently arrived in Edinburgh, the Lothians, Scottish Borders and Fife. Some of our members are volunteer LINKnet mentors.

We will be hearing more about these organisations at our Kol Nidre service, and in these pages over the next few months.



## Walk the World's Religions across the City: for our Bodies, our Souls, our Community, our World

Stew Green of our community and Iain Stewart of the Edinburgh Interfaith Association have paced out every step from the shul in Salisbury Road to the Hindu mandir in Leith. The EIFA Peace Walk will take place on Sunday **20 September**. (Stew has checked the forecast and promises that it will be pleasantly warm and dry!)

Between the shul and the mandir, the walk will visit all of these places of worship: St Andrew's Orthodox Church, the Central Mosque, St Mark's Unitarian Church, St John's Episcopal Church, the Kagyu Samy Dzong Buddhist Centre, St Mary's RC Cathedral, the Baha'i Community, the Annandale St Mosque, and the Sikh Gurdwara.

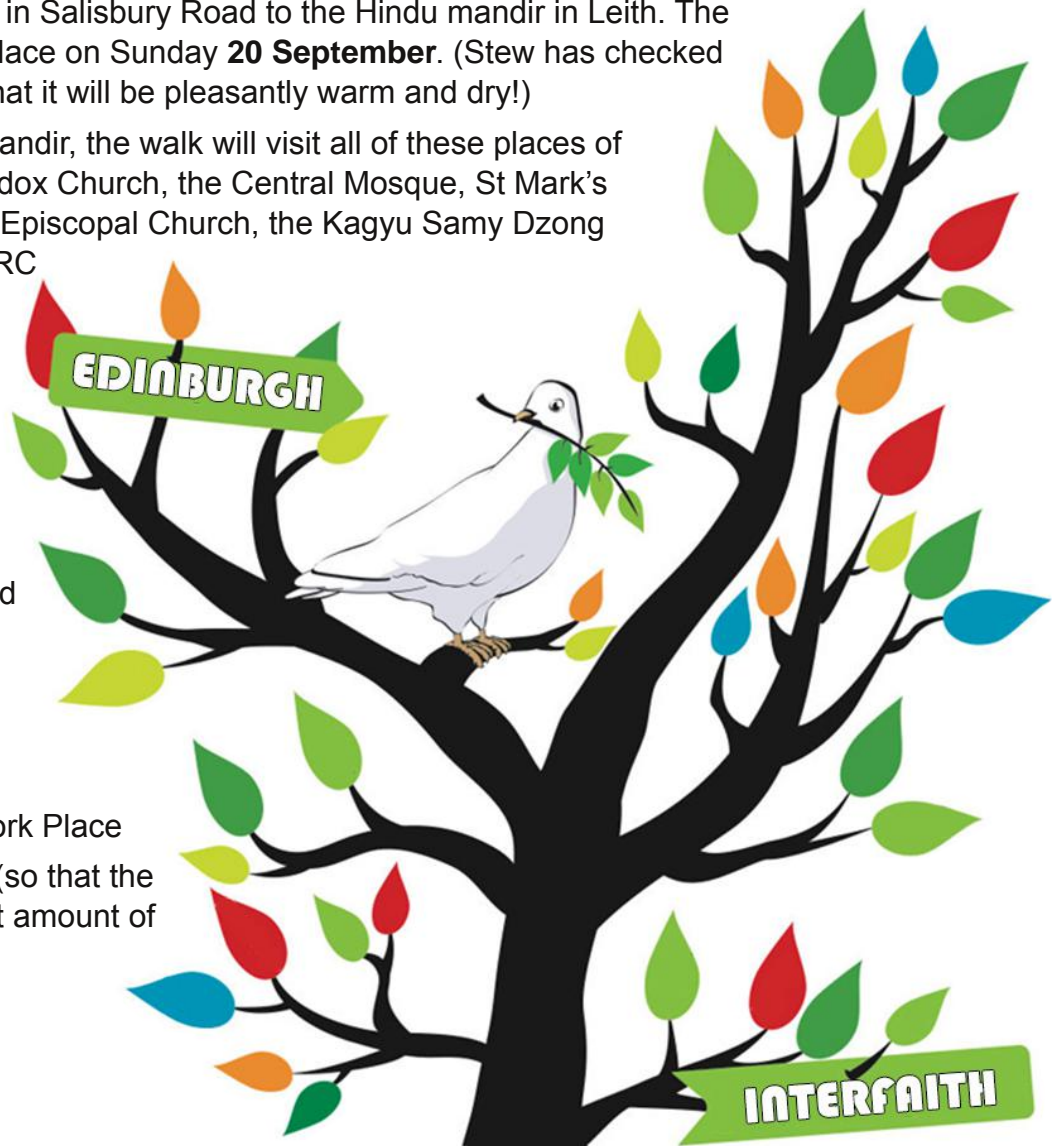
The walk will take place in three stages, and walkers can drop in and out. It starts at 1.45 and finishes with food at the mandir at 5.40.

**1.45** Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, Salisbury Rd

**3.00** St John's, Lothian Rd

**4.10** St Mary's Cathedral, York Place

RSVP to [info@eifa.org.uk](mailto:info@eifa.org.uk) (so that the mandir can prepare the right amount of food).



### Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue: a meeting with Clive Lawton

After hearing Jewish community experiences in Oxford, London and Sweden, we are now invited to offer our opinions and ideas regarding the future development of the wider Jewish community in Edinburgh, and the potential for a shared community centre.

Clive Lawton has been appointed as consultant, to listen to the community and make recommendations. Clive has extensive experience with this type of project and was part of the original development team for the London Jewish Community Centre, the JW3.

Clive will be meeting as many people as possible, and will be back in October for more meetings. Meanwhile, there will be a major gathering on **10 September** to which we are all invited. If you plan to attend, please get in touch with the Dialogue Project (Janet Mundy or Joe Goldblatt) via the Contact Team.

*Thursday 10 September, 7.00–9.00, at Godfrey Thomson Hall, at Thomson's Land St John Street off Holyrood Road Edinburgh, EH8 8AQ*

## First minister Nicola Sturgeon visits the Scottish Jewish Community

*Joe Goldblatt*

Over 270 persons attended an evening with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon at the Giffnock Synagogue in Glasgow on 31 August 2015. The talk was hosted by SCoJeC and the Glasgow Representative Council.

The First Minister began her talk by firmly stating her personal support for the Scottish Jewish community. "Scotland would be so much poorer without all of your historic contributions as well as the important work you are doing today." She then saluted the work of SCoJeC and the Scottish Jewish Archives.

There was no shortage of questions for the First Minister and many of them concerned her opinion about Israel and Palestine, the problem of hate speech, and the climate of anti-Semitism that many Jews have experienced. She stated that she would be happy to visit Israel and Palestine, if officially invited, but it would probably need to wait until after the May elections. She further stated that she would not tolerate hate speech in Scotland and that there is a fine line between the principles of free speech and the challenges that Jews face in their day-to-day lives. She vowed to work with Police Scotland and others to combat hate speech and anti-Semitism. Finally, Scotland's first female First Minister closed her remarks by wishing the audience "L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu, may you be inscribed in the book of life for a healthy and good year, when it comes and may your future lives be filled with peace."



First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Joe Goldblatt

## Henna and Origami, Drumming and Jiving

'Love Culture, Hate Racism' returns on **24 October**, hosted by Edinburgh United Against Fascism and the Muslim Women's Association of Edinburgh, and sponsored by Unite, the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership. There will, of course, be food from around the world. This year features a children's story teller and a children's choir, and Cypriot folk music, among many other activities.

*The event is free; 12.00–16.00, St Peters Hall, Lutton Place, EH8 9PE*



## Columcille Autumn Fair

Columcille's Autumn Fair, on **12 September**, will include an art and photography exhibition, and music and story telling (10.30–2.00).