

# Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

## December 2006

**Chairman:** Maurice Naftalin, chair@eljc.org  
**Secretary:** Catherine Lyons, secretary@eljc.org  
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**Treasurer:** Jonathan Brodie, treasurer@eljc.org  
**Membership:** Gillian Raab, membership@eljc.org

**Phone:** 0131 777 8024  
**www.eljc.org**

### EVENTS & SERVICES

**Date**            **Friday 1st December**  
**Event**           **Erev Shabbat Service**  
**Venue**           **Columcille Centre**  
**Time**            **7pm**

Chanukah Candles will be available to buy (small ones at £1 and larger ones at £3).

**Date**            **Friday 15th December**  
**Event**           **Chanukah Party**  
**Venue**           **Columcille Centre**  
**Time**           **6.30pm**

Everyone is invited! It will be a festive occasion with latkes for all to enjoy, and we are looking forward to having lots of children. Please bring along your chanukiah. Offers to help Phil with organising to [secretary@eljc.org](mailto:secretary@eljc.org) or leave a message on the community phone 0131 777 8024.

**Date**            **Saturday 16th December**  
**Event**           **Shabbat Service**  
**Venue**           **Columcille Centre**  
**Time**           **11am**

Rabbi Mark is with us this weekend and will be taking the service. Kiddush and some doughnuts will follow, as it is Chanukah.

**NB** *There is no lunch after the service but we will be returning to Columcille at 3pm for the Talmud Reading Group.*

**Date**            **Saturday 16th December**  
**Event**           **Talmud Reading Group led by**  
                         **Rabbi Mark**  
**Venue**           **Columcille Centre**  
**Time**           **3-5pm**

Tea and coffee will be provided  
NB This is our new regular time for this group. Rabbi Mark makes Talmud and Midrash very accessible, interesting and even funny. Do feel free to join us.

**Date**            **Saturday 16th December**  
**Event**           **Havdalah and second**  
                         **Chanukah candle lighting**  
**Venue**           **Columcille Centre**  
**Time**           **5pm**

**NB** *You do not have to attend the reading group to come along at 5pm, and if you are coming and would like to bring your chanukiah, please do so – the more the merrier!*

**Date**            **Sunday 17th December**  
**Event**           **Introduction to Judaism class**  
**Venue**           **Raab's house**  
**Time**           **10am**

**Date**            **Sunday 17th December**  
**Event**           **Chanukah Cheder**  
**Venue**           **Raab's house**  
**Time**           **2pm**

The Kabbalat Torah group will also be meeting over the course of the weekend; please contact Nick for further details

**Date**            **Friday 5th January 2007**  
**Event**           **Erev Shabbat Service**  
**Venue**           **TBC**  
**Time**           **7pm**

The **ELJC AGM** be held on the **4th February**. Put the date in your diary now. More details will be provided in the January Newsletter regarding the time, venue and format.

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**ELJC Welfare Support Line**  
**07904 813162.**

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"There never was a good war or a bad peace".  
*Benjamin Franklin*

## A word from the Chairman

It's strange how an issue suddenly becomes "news". The word on climate change has been out for years now, but only in the last few weeks has it suddenly become a respectable talking point rather than an activists' issue. And the reasons that kept it that way could easily send it back again. One such reason is that, for most of us, it just feels too big. We're overwhelmed by the menace of the problem and the size of the changes needed to handle it. You can't avoid thinking "What difference can I make"? But we also know that if everyone acts on that thought the world is heading for catastrophe.

And yet, the thought is reasonable enough. We all know that we have very little influence on the really important issues of how we live. That's sometimes a matter of numbers—of course we are each just one among many—but even when we have the numbers, as now, it's also a matter of finding a voice. Power addresses us as consumers, workers, voters. To go beyond these roles we need to feel part of some kind of community in which relationships are based on other values besides mere economics..

Robert Jensen, an American social activist, recently explained (<http://tinyurl.com/yzdmyh>) his decision to join a Christian church, though he declares that he doesn't "believe in God". In this piece, he explains that he wants to be part of a community in which people "expect to engage fundamental questions about what it means to be human and the obligations we owe each other." I liked that description. Being part of such a community can alter your view of what can be changed in the world—can be, in a word, empowering. Empowerment and a sense of being connected could be just what we need, in order to face—and maybe even to gain from—the hard choices that we will shortly have to make, when we resolve that, after all, we really are going to save the world.

*Maurice Naftalin*

## Get Well Soon

To **Liz Goring**. Best wishes for a speedy recovery from all the Community—you are missed!

## Hospitality

If you would like to host Rabbi Mark for a Shabbat meal, or indeed any other meal, please contact Nick for details of Rabbi Mark's visits in 2007. This would be a great way to meet Rabbi Mark, to show our hospitality and to make opportunities, if you wish, to share a meal with other members of the community.

## Kol Nidre Appeal Final Reminder

A last round up! Any one wishing to contribute to the appeal should send cheques made payable to Sukkat Shalom, to **Jonathan Broadie, 26 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3HP**. Our four charities this year are the **Jewish Blind Society (Scotland); Maggie's Centres**, for support of cancer patients and their families; **Mercatz Ruth**, a programme of the Leo Baeck Education Centre to serve underprivileged children in Haifa); and **World Jewish Aid**, which channels aid to development programmes all over the world. Please give as generously as you can to these good causes.

## Hebrew Lessons

The first meeting for Hebrew Classes will take place on Sunday 3rd December at the Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace in the café area from 3pm (prompt!) onwards. This will be a preliminary meeting to sort out groups, levels and each class which we will need to run. We hope to run classes in Beginners/Early/Intermediate Biblical Hebrew (Hebrew 1), Advanced Biblical Hebrew reading (Hebrew 2) and possibly Modern Hebrew (Hebrew 3). Hebrew 1 & Hebrew 2 will be centred around the Hebrew of the Siddur Lev Chadash - if you have your own copy, please bring it with you on the day. We look forward to working with you!

## Mazel Tov

To **Ida** who was recognised recently by the **Ministry of Defence** as part of the 60 years anniversary of the end of World War II. In common with all surviving veterans, she has received a gold officer's Veteran's Badge in recognition of her services. The community would like to acknowledge the significance of what Ida, and all who served during the war, have done for us. We are very proud of her!

## Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

The Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society was founded in 1888 with the purpose of bringing British culture to the Jewish immigrant population of Edinburgh. In the 118 years since then it has broadened its aims and become a discussion forum for a wide variety of topics covering every area of culture and history with a Jewish connection.

**Dec 3 Filmhouse Event: "The Believer"**, followed by a discussion led by Rabbi David Rose. Inspired by real events, "The Believer" chronicles the story of a young religious Jewish man in New York City who develops a fiercely anti-semitic worldview and ultimately becomes a leading member of a local neo-fascist group. Subsequently exposed as a Jew, the plot follows a morally confused young adult struggling with the conflict between his beliefs and his heritage. "The Believer" examines themes of religion, family, and self-loathing. It was the winner of the 2001 Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize. Tickets cost £5.90 and the usual concessions apply. 8.00 PM start, Edinburgh Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Road. **(NB - Tickets must be bought personally)**  
**Warning:** The film contains disturbing scenes of violence and sexual imagery

**Dec 10 Dr. Hannah Holtschneider**, Lecturer in Jewish Studies at the University of Edinburgh School of Divinity, ***Turning towards Jerusalem? Jews and the Holocaust in German Protestant Theology***  
Hannah Holtschneider came to Jewish Studies through her interests in the study of the Holocaust and Jewish-Christian relations. Her main research interests are in religion, culture and identity, focusing on Jewish-non-Jewish relations, in particular in Germany, and Holocaust remembrance in the Western world.  
**8pm sharp, Marian Oppenheim Hall, The Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road**

### For Sale

Rebekah has a brand new Talmud Bavli Tractate Berachot (Artscroll - Schottenstein Daf Yomi Edition) which she wishes to sell. The only reason she has to sell it is because the print is too small and she will have to purchase a larger print version. Cost £20 (no offers) - it is unused, hard cover & leatherette-bound.

## liberal judaism

This week the Israeli Chief Rabbinate submitted a proposal to the Knesset which would deny Jewish converts of any denomination the automatic right of return to Israel that is afforded to those born of a Jewish mother.

Liberal Judaism's Chief Executive Rabbi Danny Rich was quoted on the front page of the JC, saying that the move by the Chief Rabbinate was: *"further evidence of why its holders ought to be made redundant immediately. This proposal, which would provoke a crisis between Israel and the Diaspora, is as mean as it is provocative and undermines the ancient principle of accepting as part of the Jewish community anyone who identifies with it in faith and practice"*.

Rabbi Danny Rich was the first Rabbi to be quoted on this matter, testifying to Liberal Judaism's reputation as a movement committed to promoting equality for all.

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### **Why should my children tell me about Israel? What can I tell them?**

*Find out...* at a five week course at the Montagu Centre, London  
Mon 15 Jan – Mon 12 Feb 2007  
7 - 9pm

Speakers from the media, Israeli Embassy, Bar Ilan University and more.....

Cost: £40 for full course or £10 per session  
Optional seminar in Israel 14 - 22 April '07  
Cost: £799 half - board

For further information contact:  
Noa Marom – Shlichah to Liberal Judaism  
[shlichah@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:shlichah@liberaljudaism.org)  
020 7631 9834

### Annual Communities' Shabbaton

Oxford Jewish Congregation.  
December 9th from 10 am till 5 pm  
Includes Torah breakfast, lunch and tea.  
**Janet Berenson-Perkins**  
MA Consultant in Family and Teenage Education Leo Baeck College  
Please contact Clare if you would like a brochure and an application form.

## LJ Today **Social Action Conference 12.11.06**

As an individual, I have long been involved in social action, in varying forms, ranging from long-term voluntary commitments within various organisations, to fundraising for one-off events and occasions that contribute to social action in some way. As a Jew however, I have not explicitly been involved in social action in recent times, primarily because I was not an involved member of a specific community. I have recently become one however, at Sukkat Shalom, Edinburgh's intimate but expanding Liberal Jewish community. It was on behalf of Sukkat Shalom that I attended LJ's Social Action Conference in London on Sunday, 12 November.

As well as being keen to represent our community, the issues on the agenda seemed relevant and important, and I was interested to see LJ's take on these things as my own approach has always been from a more humanitarian, rather than religious standpoint.

Three speakers were scheduled for the afternoon, followed by an appeal from Help Argentina for consideration in LJ's charitable framework for the coming year. The speakers arranged represented Tropical Foods, a fair-trade importer, straddling the often unfair gap between local producers in poorer countries and market-driven suppliers and consumers in the UK; TraidCraft, a fair trade producer of consumable goods, clothes and living; and SACCA, a project in Rwanda working with street-kids to empower and nurture them as children, to give them the chance of fulfilling their potential as adults.

All three speakers were engaging and informing, providing valuable insights into the work carried out by their organisations, and increasing awareness of the importance of the work that they do.

Due to time constraints, the following discussion was fairly brief (it may have extended longer than I realise but I had to leave to catch my train back to Edinburgh...) but again it was clear that the communities represented were concerned to contribute positively to social action where possible.

In my personal view, it perhaps would be more useful for LJ to use its influence as a national organisation to contribute to social action within the UK as a whole. Not to say that the efforts of individual communities are not

useful – far from it. In my experience however, the majority of Jews that I know already contribute to social action in some way or another, but this is more often outside of their religious involvement than through their Jewish community. This is perhaps because the increasing awareness and understanding of humanitarian issues persuades us to act as individuals, members of a larger community of human beings as a whole, to help our fellow people, regardless of race, religion, nationality or creed. Jewish communities are of course able to do this as well, but, I suggest, primarily because we are people, and secondarily because we are Jews.

As a movement LJ wields a fair amount of influential power, and this can potentially be channeled to contributing to the achievement of important social action effects. One example is the current issue of human trafficking within the UK: a panel has been formed to pressurize the government to sign and ratify the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings. Liberal Judaism is one among many large organisations within the UK that could show solidarity and support with this campaign, to protect victims and to resolve the human rights issues surrounding the problem.

There is an endless flow of other social action issues to be tackled, within the UK alone. Judaism teaches us that *úé÷ãí òãí* is a series of concentric circles, at the centre of which lie our own lives. To repair others, we must first repair ourselves – *Tikkun Atzmi*. This is already in place as many communities are prioritising membership of the Fairtrade Synagogue movement, as well as other community-based social action initiatives. From the achievement of this we can move out to *Tikkun Kehilah*, repairing one's community, the UK as a whole - whom the Jewish people are an important part of -and from there we can attempt the repair of the world: the ultimate goal.

As Hadassah Lieberman stated, "***The ultimate purpose of any government, organization, or individual should be tikkun olam, the repair of the world.***" – and this applies no less to LJ than to anyone else.

I look forward to being a part of LJ's continuing involvement in Social Action in 2007, and hope the ethical goals that we aspire towards may become increasingly within our reach.

Lauren Fox

## Interfaith Matters – 1 Sikhism – (Part One)

Recently, as you will all know from the media, a young fifteen year-old Sikh teenager was attacked in Pilrig Park. He was severely beaten by a group of youths and, when he was defenceless, his hair was cut off using a knife. This, for a Sikh, was a severe insult to his Faith as their religion forbids the trimming of the hair.

This incident caused considerable distress to the boy and to his family but, in addition, it caused distress and outrage to the Sikh Community in Edinburgh and throughout the whole of the UK. It was regarded as not only a racial attack but an attack on the religion itself and its principles.

The wider Faith Communities in Edinburgh and throughout Scotland were angered by this senseless attack on the Sikh boy and insult to the Sikh Community and rallied round to offer their support, comfort and solidarity. This was very clearly demonstrated by the massive turn-out at the Sikh Peace Vigil which was held on Sunday 19th November. Members of the Edinburgh Interfaith Association (EIFA) had galvanised into action to gain support for one of our member Faith Communities in their need and distress.

I would like to explain, at this point, that a Peace Vigil is **exactly** what it says, that is – a **peaceful gathering of people** of all Faiths and of none to unite in a common cause for justice and the eradication of oppression and religious intolerance. This is similar to the Peace Vigil held in September when the crisis in the Lebanon broke out and people met to show their concern and solidarity with the suffering people at that time.

To return to the Sikh Peace Vigil. Along with others from the wider Jewish Community in Edinburgh, I was privileged to be present at the Vigil. We met at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Leith where the Sikhs hold their normal Sunday Service and extend hospitality to all who come there. Members from all the Faith Communities in Edinburgh, Glasgow, the wider Scottish community gathered to join the several hundred Sikhs who had arrived in buses, coaches and car loads from all over the UK from the major cities in England and further afield. We then made our way - all together with all Faiths mingling together, talking to each other and learning from each other – to Pilrig Park where the teenager had been attacked. We were

accompanied by Edinburgh City Council leader, Ewan Aitken, the MP for Leith, Mark Lazarowicz and the MSP for Communities, Malcolm Chisholm, all of whom spoke at the gathering. The Leaders of the Sikh Communities in Edinburgh, Scotland and the UK addressed those present, as did Rev. Professor Frank Whaling, the President of the EIFA. Other Faith Leaders spoke, including Dianne Wolfson as Chair of the Scottish Interfaith Association on behalf of the Jewish Communities of Scotland. All expressed their dismay at what had happened and offered their sympathy, comfort and support to the boy's and his family and to the Sikh Community. Peace candles were lit and held by those around the area – Sikh prayers were said and chants were sung in Punjabi 'The Lord is wonderful, his name is true' praising our Creator and it was said that 'We are all one people with one Creator'.

The whole event, which took four hours, was extremely well-organised and conducted with dignity and respect. The members of the Lothian and Borders Police Force were superb and ensured that everyone was safe and secure – they were extremely helpful and good-natured throughout whilst remaining vigilant on our behalf.

On a personal note – I cannot praise highly enough the amazing hospitality, kindness and consideration shown to me by the members of the Sikh community and of other Faiths who helped me personally by seeing to my needs and pushing me round in the wheelchair – this was quite difficult when we reached the park as the ground was rather soggy. I was seen safely back to the Gurdwara and my car. The atmosphere throughout the event was very warm and supportive and it sent a very poignant message out to the wider community in Edinburgh – many of the people who were in cars and who had been stopped by the Police for the duration of the march to the park were interested in what was happening and added their support. For me it was a very moving and humbling experience.

*Rebekah Gronowski*

Edinburgh Interfaith Association Jewish Representative and member of the Edinburgh Religious Leaders and Rep Council.

*See next month for Sikhism - Part Two*

## Jews from all over Scotland converge on Edinburgh ...

... at the AGM of the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities**. Among them were Gillian and I for our community and Rebekah in relation to her interfaith activity. The AGM, Sunday 26 November, as this newsletter goes to press, is the first SCoJeC event we have attended, and our reception couldn't have been warmer. Despite a huge sheaf of papers, business was despatched efficiently, and a talk by guest speaker Finlay Macdonald, former moderator of the Church of Scotland, was a stimulus to a thoughtful exchange on the nature of multicultural society and authentic interfaith dialogue.

The men's withdrawal for Mincha was a great opportunity for the women to network. In particular I spent some time talking to Leah Granat, SCoJeC public affairs officer, about our representation on SCoJeC, and Lesley Danzig, long-time cheder teacher at the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation and SCoJeC's representative on an advisory committee on the Scottish curriculum for religious and moral education.

A relaxed and talkative lunch followed during which the various congregations were asked to talk about themselves; I was surprised to be the first to be asked to contribute.

SCoJec may sound like an organizational layer of of interest only to the well established orthodox shuls, and have not much to do with us. In fact, it has a vibrant heart and soul and brain in the work of Leah Granat, for whom I have developed a deep esteem. The breadth and depth of her parliamentary and voluntary-sector liaison, and her patient nurturing of the far-flung communities are not trivial accomplishments. It is clear that there is a way forward for much greater activity for ELJC within the broader community, if that is what we want. The next SCoJeC AGM will take place in June 2007 or thereabouts. This timing will provide a convenient retirement for John Cosgrove, the current chair, and will allow the AGM scheduling to catch up on its original annual cycle. It would also provide a good point at which ELJC could become formally involved.

*Catherine Lyons*  
Secretary

## Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre Chanukah Dinner

Singer Stephanie Brickman with Phil Alexander (Moishe's Bagel, Salsa Celtica) and Gica Loening will perform songs ranging from New York's lower East Side musical theatre to the traditional folk song and klezmer tunes of the shtetl.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2006**  
**Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road**  
**7.30pm**

£22 adults, students/children £12  
(£20 (£11 student/child) if purchased  
by 1st December)

Name -----  
Address -----  
Tel -----

No of tickets -----  
Amount enclosed -----

Please indicate if vegetarian alternative required

Complete this coupon and send with cheque made out to 'Jewish Community Centre' to Doreen Bowman, 24 Cammo Grove, Edinburgh, EH4 8EX by **8th December 2006**

## The 2007 Middle East Festival One World Peace Concert

The Queen's Hall, 87-89 Clerk St, Edinburgh.

Date/Time: **Saturday 10 February 2007**

6.30pm-10pm. Doors open 5.30pm.

Indian snacks served by Suruchi Indian Restaurant from 5.30pm-6.30pm in the bar.

Cost: £8/£6 (Concessions). A two-ticket offer of £14/£10 (Concessions).

Contact: Booking Hotline on 0131 668 2019, or in person at the Queen's Hall.

Queen's Hall Website:

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/index.php>

## Edinburgh Interfaith Association...

..... Has a new website. Go to  
<http://www.eifa.org.uk>



## Story When the Hanukkah Candle Met the Christmas Star

by Holly McDonough-Abunassar \*copyright  
1996 Child Care Provider Magazine

The cold winds were beginning to blow, nipping at the heels of shoppers filling the streets in search of the perfect gift. There seemed to be a certain joy in the air - the holiday season was here.

The clerk at the corner gift shop was putting the final touches on the window decorations. She placed a Hanukkah candle in the Menorah and lit the Christmas star atop the tree. She stood back for a moment, admiring her handiwork. Then she hurried off to tend to her chores.

All was quiet in the front window, but not for long. "Excuse me," said a voice. "Huh?" said another. "It's me - over here." It was the Hanukkah candle. "Why are you always here?" he asked the Christmas star. "I was just about to ask you the same question!" replied the star. "Every year it's the same thing. They unpack us from the box and put us in this window," continued the star. "Some stop to look at me and others admire you. But you can't hang from a tree like the other ornaments. You don't sparkle like tinsel. And I don't see how you could sit atop this tree - like me."

"Of course not," chuckled the candle. "I don't belong on your tree. I am a candle - a symbol of hope. People sing songs and celebrate when they light me each evening. You see, many, many years ago, a frightening King ruled the land. He wouldn't allow the people to pray and he put out the candle burning in their temple. One family used the last of their oil - just one day's supply - to keep that light aglow. Much to everyone's surprise, the candle stayed lit for 8 days until more oil arrived.

Now people light me every year as a symbol of hope - remembering those who fought to keep me lit all throughout the year."



"I see," said the star. "And why do you sit perched on top of that tree year after year?" asked the candle. "As it turns out," replied the star in surprise, "I too am a symbol of hope to

all who light me. Many, many years ago, a baby was born and laid in a manger in a stable. This baby brought eternal hope to the people who traveled from far-off lands to visit him, bringing gifts. A star was shining bright in the sky, leading them to where the baby lay. Now, I am a symbol of hope, reminding people of the baby's birth. Every year, people place me on the tree and celebrate with songs and gifts and the most delicious smelling foods."

The two were quiet for a moment, both deep in thought. Just then, a man stopped to admire the Hanukkah candle and the Menorah. All at once the star stretched out its points as wide as he could to shine a little extra light on the candle. The man moved on. A few minutes later, a child ran to the window to point to the star perched on the tree. Without even thinking, the Hanukkah candle straightened up as tall as he could and cast a glow over the star.

From that day on, the star and the candle had a new understanding of each other. Different, but alike, each bring celebration to the season. Now when the candle and the star sit side by side in the gift shop window, each works hard to help the other shine a little brighter - bringing hope to all who stop to visit.





## Vegan fudge cake

Ingredients:

### **For the cake:**

200g (8oz) organic self raising flour  
 150g (6oz) organic caster sugar  
 25g (1oz) Fair Trade cocoa  
 1tsp baking powder  
 A pinch of salt  
 1tsp natural vanilla essence  
 1/4 tsp (a few drops!) white wine vinegar  
 100ml (4 fl oz) vegetable oil  
 225ml (9 fl oz) water

### **For the fudge icing:**

150g (6 oz) icing sugar  
 40g (1 1/2 oz) vegan margarine  
 100g (3.5 oz) Fair Trade dark chocolate  
 40ml soya milk

### **Method**

Put the self-raising flour, soya flour, baking powder, salt, sugar and cocoa in a bowl and mix well. Pour over vegetable oil, vanilla essence and vinegar, and then the water. Mix thoroughly with a wooden spoon or electric whisk. Pour the mixture into a shallow oblong tin (7"x11"), or two round sandwich tins, and cook for about 25 minutes at 200°C/400°F until cooked.

When the cake has cooled, make the icing. Put all the icing ingredients in a pan and slowly bring them to the boil, stirring. Boil for one minute, then pour it into a bowl. Beat the icing while it is cooling so that lumpy crystals don't form. You can add vanilla essence at this point if you like. Then spread it over the top of your cake and leave it to set.

## Boom Boom

### **Thank You for This Food**

A 4-year-old boy was asked to return thanks before a big dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the Cool Whip. Then he paused, and everyone waited--and waited. After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't he know that I'm lying?"

## Letters

**Support and solidarity from the Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community to Leader of the Sikh community. Our community was in fact represented at the Vigil by Rebekah Gronowski; there was also representation from the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation.**

Dear Ravinder Kaur Nijjar

We in the Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community were horrified to hear of the attack on a Sikh boy in Edinburgh. We would like to express our support for the Sikh community as it comes under attack from racism and intolerance. We agree that, as you say, "an attack on one is an attack on us all". We will not stay silent as minority communities are picked off in turn.

I'm sorry if we had little or no representation at the Prayer Vigil; most of us didn't receive the message until after it had started. Our support and sympathy is as strong as if we had been there.

Best wishes  
 Maurice Naftalin

**Many thanks to all who contributed this month. Items for publication are welcomed as are responses to items published. The deadline for the next newsletter will be Wednesday 20th December. Please email any contributions to [newsletter@elj.org](mailto:newsletter@elj.org)**