



Jewel set in Gold

CALDERWOOD LODGE JUBILEE

Calderwood Lodge Jewish Primary School is often referred to as the "jewel in the crown of the community", and there was much excitement amongst the pupils as they prepared to celebrate the end of their Jubilee year.

One of the highlights of the celebrations was the creation of a stunning



mosaic on the theme of "Togetherness" ("yachad") as a visual representation of the school, and the diversity of its pupils. The four quarters depict a Sefer Torah and yad (pointer) picked out in gold-leaf, self portraits by Primary 1 pupils, the original school building, and a selection of the modern technology and the sporting activities the school enjoys. All pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7 worked on this project, with the help of local artist, Fiona Fleming. The mosaic took two weeks to complete, and it now has pride of place in the pupil entrance foyer.

Jubilee activities included a photograph of all pupils and staff, a family fun day planned by the pupils of Primary 5, a balloon launch, an open afternoon where parents were able to join pupils in the classroom, and to see banners made by each class that depict aspects of each decade from the swinging 60's right up to the present, and an exhibition of artwork inspired by a project on the values and ethos of the school. In addition, former Head Teachers Dianna Wolfson and Ruth Levy prepared an exhibition about the school's history that has been displayed at various communal events during the year.

The school was originally established in a detached house, Calderwood Lodge, in the Newlands area of Glasgow, and an extension was built as the school roll increased. Initially it was run by the Glasgow Board of Jewish Education (which was based in a wooden shed in the garden), but it was taken over by Strathclyde Region, and then Glasgow City Council, after the community received legal advice from James Mackay QC, who shortly after became Lord Chancellor, that the Jewish Community was entitled to the same denominational educational facilities as the Roman Catholic Church. It was later transferred to East Renfrewshire Council, although the school remains in Newlands. While it remains the only Jewish denominational school in Scotland, it now has about 150 pupils of Jewish, Muslim, and Christian backgrounds, and there is also an on-site nursery.



ISSUE 39 · SEP 2013 · ROSH HASHANAH 5774



The
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of Jewish
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THE UMBRELLA REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATION
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TRENDS IN Religious Hate Crime

When the statistics for hate crime in Scotland in 2012 were published in June, there were two headline stories: that the overall figures were down, and that crimes against Islam were significantly up. That latter increase, from 19 to 80 charges, was mainly explained by no fewer than 57 arrests at a single Scottish Defence League rally in Glasgow. However, there was no obvious common element to explain the doubling of charges for antisemitic conduct from 14 to 27, except that a majority of the offences were committed on the internet.

Although the numbers themselves are very small in comparison with the 587 charges relating to intra-Christian sectarianism, this increase in antisemitism is a matter of concern. A recent parliamentary answer indicated that relative to the sizes of the different communities, Muslims are almost 10 times, and Jews more than 20 times, as likely as Christians to be the victim of religious hatred. Indeed, discounting the one anti-Muslim rally, Judaism is almost 8 times more likely than Islam to be the subject of religious hatred.

Sadly, these hard facts confirm the impressions that people shared with us during our *Being Jewish in Scotland* project: "There is strong hidden hatred and racism in Scotland, and I live in a place where being different or somehow other than local people is not acceptable." As a result, the respondent who told us that "I am afraid to admit to my Jewish background nowadays unless I know the company very well" was far from alone.

On the other hand, the CST reported that the number of incidents reported to them halved from 20 to 10 in the same period. There are a number of possible explanations: the Government's figures are for charges, not incidents, so the antisemitic Facebook page called "Welcome to Israel, only kidding you're in Giffnock" was one incident that led to 5 charges. Alternatively, the apparent increase might be the result of more victims being prepared to report incidents, or the police being more prepared to act even when there is no specific victim, or incidents where the victim was not Jewish.

The Scottish Government, however, is treating this state of affairs very seriously. Roseanna Cunningham, the Community Safety Minister, phoned SCoJeC and other minority community organisations as soon as the figures were published, and the First Minister arranged a series of urgent meetings to reassure us of the Government's zero tolerance of hate crime in general. He said he would expect the figures to rise as more police resources are directed to investigating the expression of hatred on the internet, where Scots Law is breaking new ground. He drew an analogy with banning smoking and drinking in public places – "Enforcement of the law does not itself change society, but it sets the norms of acceptable behaviour" – and pledged Scottish Government support for "education for demystification".

So there is reason to be positive: Scotland in general is by no means hostile to Jewish people, but the kinds of incidents reported to us show that much of the hostility is not just random. There are patterns connected with Christian theology, medieval stereotypes, and mid-east geopolitics that need to be acknowledged and challenged more directly by Government, the media, the churches, the trades unions, and others.

	NUMBER OF CHARGES 2012-13	NUMBER OF CHARGES 2011-12	SIZE OF COMMUNITY (2001 CENSUS*)	CHARGES PER 10 000 MEMBERS (2012-13)	CHARGES PER 10 000 MEMBERS (2011-12)
Church of Scotland	199	353	2 146 251	0.9	1.6
Roman Catholic	388	509	803 732	4.8	6.3
All Christian	587	862	3 294 545	1.8	2.6
Islam	80	19	42 557	18.8	4.5
Judaism	27	14	6,448	41.9	21.7

* 2011 CENSUS FIGURES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL LATER THIS YEAR.



ASSOCIATION OF Jewish Refugees

"A History in Pictures", presented by Wiener Library Archivist, Howard Falksohn attracted a large crowd to the AJR's latest Regional Gathering in Edinburgh, and our other guests, Klezmer players Gica Loening and son Fin, soon had everyone on their feet dancing.

These annual get-togethers offer lively discussion groups, a superb three course lunch, and a chance to mix and make new friends. Our membership is growing, and Holocaust survivors and their families travel from all over Scotland and northern England to attend.

The local Glasgow and Edinburgh groups also meet regularly to enjoy a varied programme that includes a Book Club, outings, and interesting speakers, and a new group is starting in Dundee this month. First, second, and third generation survivors and their families are all welcome!

For more information about AJR events and activities, contact Agnes: agnes@ajr.org.uk

Israeli Dancing IN DUNDEE

The Tayside and Fife Jewish community is providing its own members and the wider community with an opportunity to discover Israeli folk dancing. The course was advertised on posters and in local newspapers, attracting 10 participants, all female. In the first 5 sessions, the group mastered 12 different dances, and is having great fun (and lots of coffee!), with lots of laughs while trying to get their feet around the steps and work out which direction is right!



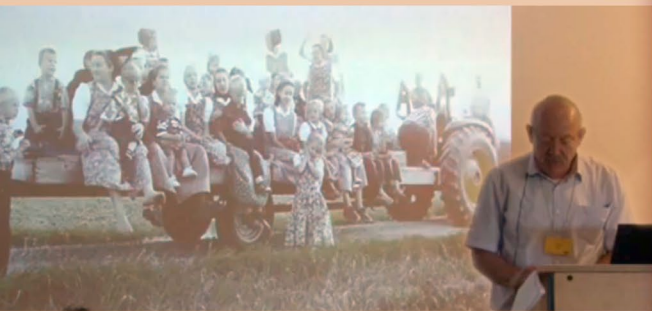
REDUCING ISOLATION WITH JEWISH INTER-LINKS

We are now seeking funding to involve more volunteers, to enable us to work with larger numbers of older people throughout Scotland. We hope that our new interactive discussion site, SCoJeC CoNNeCT, which will be up and running in the next few months, will provide an impetus for Jewish people all over Scotland to engage with each other even more via the Internet. Watch this space!



For more information or to join us on 2 October, please contact Janet Mundy (mundy.janet@gmail.com) or Jane Ansell (jansell@fastmail.fm)





Kibbutzim IN SCOTLAND

THE TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION (ICSA) WAS HELD THIS YEAR IN FINDHORN. PROF YOSHI KATZ OF BAR ILAN UNIVERSITY (ABOVE) WAS ONE OF THE SPEAKERS:

It's not every day that a large group of Israelis spend over a week in remote Findhorn, but that's where, we found ourselves last month.

The ICSA was founded in the 1980s with two aims: to promote research on collective communities, and to bring people from communes around the world together to discuss common issues. Three years ago, we met in Israel to mark the centenary of the first kibbutz, Degania, and this year in the Findhorn Community Cooperative in northern Scotland.

The Findhorn conference was the largest conference the Association has held, and was attended by several hundred people from all continents. It turns out that while the capitalist western world stresses individualism, there are those who prefer to live in collectives that emphasise common goals – social, religious, ecological, and others. The communities vary considerably in size, and the extent of private property also differs. Some permit private property alongside full partnership in the commune's economy, while others do not, and equality is absolute. We also heard about moves in most kibbutzim towards differential wages and much looser collectivism.

I gave a talk about the status of women among the Hutterites, an Anabaptist religious community in North America. To escape the secular world, they live in isolated communes in which equality and cooperative living is total. There is no private property – everything is owned by the community – but unlike the Amish, they use advanced technology, so that the internet penetrates their geographical isolation.

We had two surprises in Findhorn. There was a protest against the Israeli delegation from a Scottish pro-Palestinian organisation, but the conference organisers and local police made sure it didn't get out of hand. And we were greeted by torrential rain and cold. Israelis are not used to this, and we didn't believe that it would be necessary to heat the houses in June! But my wife and I were grateful for the warm reception we received from the Glasgow and Edinburgh communities, and we will always be happy to return the hospitality in Kfar Tavor in the Galilee.

for the Sake of Heaven

EPHRAIM BOROWSKI

A few years ago I spent Rosh HaShanah for the first time in Venice. I found it extremely interesting: I recognised it as a Rosh HaShanah service, but yet I didn't! There was, for example, almost none of the medieval poetry (*piyyutim*) that keeps us riveted in our seats for hours during a standard Ashkenazi service. In particular, *Unetane Tokef*, the long evocative prayer that most of us probably regard as the centrepiece of both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur was unknown to them. When the rabbi spoke about it in his sermon, even I, with no Italian to speak of, could tell he was explaining something completely foreign.

According to tradition, this prayer was composed by the 11th-century Rabbi Amnon of Mainz during his martyrdom, and later revealed to his colleague Rabbi Kalonymus in a dream. It contains many the images we associate with Rosh Hashanah: these are "days of awe", when the book of records is open and the shofar is sounded, when

"All humanity passes before You like a flock of sheep. Like a shepherd tending his flock, passing sheep under his rod, so You pass, count, calculate, and assess the soul of all the living..."

"On Rosh Hashanah it is recorded and on Yom Kippur it is sealed ... But Repentance, Prayer, and Charity can avert an unfavourable Decree! ...

"A person comes from dust and goes back to dust, ... like a broken pot, withered grass, a faded flower, a momentary shadow, a fleeting cloud, a blowing wind, flying dust, and a passing dream."

The following year I spent Rosh Hashanah in Paris. We visited two communities with yet other different rituals. Neither recited many of our *piyyutim*, but both had ways of extending the service: one called up all the men to the Torah, reading the same passage over and over and over again, as we do on Simchat Torah; the other held an auction, not just for that day's honours, but for the whole year!

But amidst all this strangeness, there was still the familiar. The unrecognisable was recognisable! I am reminded of the saying in *Pirkei Avot* (The Ethics of the Fathers) that

"Any dispute which is for the sake of Heaven will ultimately endure, and one which is not for the sake of Heaven will not ultimately endure. What is a dispute for the sake of Heaven? This is a debate between Hillel and Shammai. What is a dispute not for the sake of Heaven? This is the dispute of Korach and his assembly."

Many commentators note that it takes two to argue, and infer that when Korach rebelled against Moses, he and his followers were squabbling amongst themselves. I would venture to suggest an alternative interpretation: The great sages, Hillel and Shammai, debated together, to and fro, considering both sides, weighing the pros and cons, trying to reach a joint conclusion, even though in the end they could not agree; but Korach and his mob did not – they saw only one side, they refused to engage with the opposing arguments, they resorted to name-calling and violence, not reason and evidence, and they were swallowed up.

The various forms of prayer that we will use in these coming weeks are like the views of Hillel and Shammai – they may be different, but they are recognisably all for the same purpose, "for the sake of heaven". May our prayers all be answered, for a good, sweet, pleasant, and successful year for us individually, for our communities, and for the whole Jewish People.

YOM TOV CALENDAR

Rosh HaShanah:

Wed Sept 4 evening, Thu 5 & Fri 6 Sept

Fast of Gedaliah: Sun 8 Sept

Kol Nidre: Fri 13 Sept evening

Yom Kippur: Shabbat 14 Sept

Succot: Wed 18 Sept evening,
Thu 19 & Fri 20 Sept

Chol haMoed: Shabbat 21 to
Tue 24 Sept

Hoshannah Rabbah: Wed 25 Sept

Shemini Atzeret:

Wed 25 Sept evening, Thu 26 Sept

Simchat Torah: Thu 26 Sept
evening, Fri 27 Sept

Becoming Jewish

MELVIN DAVIES

All my life I have connected with Israel, the Jewish people and the Jewish faith, and it has always seemed a natural love and interest. The



most interesting area for me personally within Judaism is the wisdom within the texts and Jewish ethics, and these have contributed so much to the success I've achieved in both my professional and personal life.

I have been actively involved with Dundee Synagogue since I moved to Scotland in 2009, and, since 2011, have also been attending the "Choosing Judaism" classes and Shabbat services at Sukkat Shalom, the Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community, which totally fitted my views and lifestyle. That meant a lot of early morning commuting, but the passion for both communities kept me going.

Since March I have also been serving with Sarel, an overseas volunteer program which enables people to serve in General Force and Logistics (non-combat) sections of the Israel Defense Forces, where I have gained much experience and insight working on medical supply bases from Central to Southern Israel. These placements were important to me personally because of my love and support for the state of Israel, and I felt it was my duty to make a contribution.

In July I attended a Beth Din and Mikvah appointment in London, after which I headed back up to Scotland for my official acceptance ceremony at Dundee Synagogue.

The service was fantastic; I wore my Sarel uniform, and over 50 people attended from Dundee, Tayside and Fife, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. I was so moved that so many people gave me a big "mazal tov!" both for having chosen Judaism and for my service to Israel.

Klezmer in a Kilt!

London has its annual "Klezmer in the Park" festival, but Scotland, too, has a flourishing and lively Klezmer music and dance scene!

Klezmer dance specialist Erik Bendix recently spent a week at the Findhorn Foundation teaching complicated couples bulgars, hypnotic horas, energetic hongas and freyleckhs, and romantic waltzes to more than 100 people, as part of a week-long dance festival. Erik was joined for the closing event of the week-long festival by Michael Alpert, when they led a Friday night candle lighting ceremony for around 150 dancers. Michael, who has recently moved to Fife, is the lead singer for *Brave Old World*, and one of the main researchers of Yiddish songs, who has been responsible for keeping this music alive.

There are also a number of regular klezmer events throughout Scotland, including a fortnightly session in Edinburgh, led by the band *Beyond the Rale*. This is open to musicians of any standard – email Andrew at gardiner43@btinternet.com for information.

If you'd like to help us promote a Klezmer dance or Yiddish song event in your area please contact, SCOJeC's Projects and Outreach Officer Fiona Frank (see p6 for contact details).



LinkUp: Israelis Together IN SCOTLAND



יח"ס

ישראלים בחיבור בסקוטלנד

Coming hard on the heels of our Lottery grant to pursue the SCOJeC CoNNECT project that we announced in the last *Four Corners*, we are delighted to report that we have now also been awarded a grant of £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to pilot a range of activities for Israelis and people of Israeli heritage living in Scotland. We're calling this project "YaChAS", which is an abbreviation for "*Yisraelim b'Chibbur b'Scotland*" – Israelis linked up in Scotland – and also means "relationship" in Hebrew. The census tells us that there are Israelis all over Scotland, with the largest numbers in Edinburgh. We will work with Israelis throughout the country to address some of the needs we were told about in our *Being Jewish in Scotland* project.

Israelis told us that they wanted to come together to celebrate their culture, food, literature and language, and that they needed support in navigating bureaucracy, including housing and immigration issues. We plan to produce a newsletter in Ivrit with information on Jewish activities around the country, and will run activities to provide opportunities for Israeli families to come together. The first of these will be a Succot event with children's games and activities, on Sunday 22 September in Chatelherault Country Park in Hamilton. Transport will be available from Edinburgh and Glasgow. We would like to thank the Forestry Commission who are providing additional support for this event.

We hope that Israelis, and people of Israeli heritage will volunteer to help run project activities, helping us to build a foundation for future work. If you'd like to get involved, would like to join our mailing list, or would like details of the Succot event, please contact scojec@scojec.org or 0141 638 6411 (in English or Hebrew).



The full findings of SCoJeC's *Being Jewish in Scotland* project, which explored the variety of experience of Jewish people in Scotland, have now been published on the SCoJeC website.

The project was, as far as we know, the first comprehensive study of what matters to Jewish people in Scotland, and we are grateful to the Scottish Government's Community Safety Unit for funding it. "Community Safety" is a strange term – the very mention of it can make people feel less safe – but in fact it embodies the Government's commitment to "helping communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer places to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life" – an aspiration we share for our own community.

As we had intended, simply investigating what Jewish people think is important has served to strengthen networks and enhance relationships, increasing people's feeling of belonging and sense of security. But our work is not complete with the publication of the findings. We want our recommendations to lead to new partnerships, new dialogues, and new activities, and to a greater understanding of the experience of a minority that has been relatively invisible within Scotland.

So if, 20 years from now, a future Scottish Government were to commission a future SCoJeC to conduct a similar study, we would hope to be able to report a drop in levels of intolerance, a greater sense of mutual understanding between Jewish and non-Jewish people, and as much joy in 'Being Jewish in Scotland' as was expressed by most of the people we spoke to. As one focus group participant told us: "Scotland's a darn fine place to be a Jew".

To read the full findings see:
www.scojec.org/bjisfindings.pdf
 To find out more about the project see:
www.scojec.org/jewishinscotland.html

SOLIDARITY *with the* Muslim Community

SCoJeC issued this statement in response to a substantial increase in attacks on Muslims after the murder of Drummer Rigby in Woolwich:

The Jewish Community of Scotland is deeply concerned by the increasing number of hate crimes against Muslims since the appalling murder of Drummer Rigby in Woolwich. According to a recent UK parliamentary answer, there have been over 240 reported anti-Muslim incidents, mainly verbal abuse, much of it on the internet, but also attacks on individuals, arson, and even two improvised explosive devices outside mosques.

As ACPOS has pointed out, hate crime does not only affect its immediate victim, but all those who share the group identity that made the victim a target. We therefore stand with the Muslim community in condemning unreservedly the irrational hatred that holds entire communities responsible for the crimes of a tiny number of extremists. We deplore the message of hate of those who seek to stir up racial and religious tension, and express our solidarity with all those who are the target of their warped views. We once again reaffirm our belief in a diverse Scotland of many cultures, faiths, and traditions, and wish the Muslim community a Ramadan Mubarak, a month of blessings, security, and peace.

During the first fortnight that the statement was on our website, the page was visited nearly 1,000 times by readers from all over world, as well as being recirculated by many other organisations, and the following are a selection from the large number of welcoming and supportive comments that we received.

▶ "Although we have been extremely fortunate that no acts of significant violence have been perpetrated in Scotland, your statement gives us strength that only by standing together can we defeat the hatred that seeks to divide us. MCS has forwarded the statement to its database of Mosques, Muslim organisations and individuals in Scotland, as well as posting it on our website."

DR JAVED GILL, CONVENER OF THE MUSLIM COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND

▶ "Thank you to our Jewish brothers and sisters for their support."

FIYAZ MUGHAL, THE DIRECTOR OF TELL MAMA (THE MUSLIM EQUIVALENT OF CST)

▶ "I want to add my voice in support of [SCoJeC's] statement and echo their words of solidarity. ... If we are to be true to our beliefs, then our task is to build relationships, not create barriers. We get to know our neighbours by spending time with them and by listening to them. ... When we become neighbours who truly know each other, we rediscover a truth that is obscured all too often in our separated society: we have more that binds us together than the differences that separate us." REV SALLY FOSTER-FULTON, CONVENER OF THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY COUNCIL OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

▶ "Strong statement well done. Have tweeted to over 8700 followers!"

HUMZA YOUSAF MSP, MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

One member of the Jewish community in Edinburgh said "I am very moved by the reaction to SCoJeC's statement on behalf of the Jewish Community in Scotland, it gives me a stronger feeling of security, and lends credence to the saying 'united we stand, divided we fall'. Thank you SCoJeC."



SCoJeC

SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES
 JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE,
 222 FENWICK ROAD, GLASGOW G4 6UE

scojec@scojec.org 0141-638 6411 07887-488 100

OUTREACH & EVENTS	FIONA	07779-206 522 jewishinscotland@scojec.org
POLICY & RESEARCH	LEAH	0141-638 6411 info@scojec.org

Contacts in the Corners

GLASGOW	JULIA	0141-577 8200 office@glasgowjewishrepouncil.org
EDINBURGH	JACKIE	07734-291 836 secretary@ehcong.com
TAYSIDE & FIFE	ETTY	07707-490 232 taysideandfife@scojec.org
ABERDEEN	EHUD	07810-024 456 info@aberdeenhebrew.org.uk
SMALL COMMUNITIES	FRANK	01445-712 151 communities@scojec.org
STUDENTS	YOSSI & SARAH	07791-292 790 yossi@mychaplaincy.co.uk

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