

# GLASGOW JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL



October 2021

## WELCOME TO OUR AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

The Rep Council is heavily involved in COP26, either arranging or participating in a large number of events. Among the highlights are:

**This Sunday at 4.30pm** – The Talanoa Dialogue at Gartnethill Synagogue, where Chief Rabbi Mirvis will welcome participants from around the world. Talanoa Dialogues were developed by the indigenous people of Fiji as a means of solving problems.

Earlier that day we will be represented at the COP26 vigil on George Square organised by Interfaith Glasgow and Interfaith Scotland.

**Monday, November 1 from 10am** – Jewish Commonwealth, Board of Deputies and the Rep Council will host a Jewish Delegates' Bagel Brunch: An informal kosher and vegan brunch at Garnethill Synagogue for Jewish delegates from around the world.

**Friday, November 5**– EcoShabbat services and dinners at Garnethill and Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation. Please contact them for details and reservations.

**Saturday November 6** – EcoShabbat services at Garnethill and Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation and throughout the UK. Please contact them for details and reservations.

**Sunday November 7 at 7.30pm** – Interfaith discussion about the benefits of early education on positive multi-faith relationships. The event, at Giffnock Shul's Banqueting Suite, will be chaired by Baroness Mobarik CBE.

The speakers will be Anne Marie Absolom, Head Teacher, St Clare's Primary School and Andy Robson, Deputy Head teacher, Calderwood Lodge. Please contact us if you wish to attend this event as we will be operating a social distancing policy in line with Government guidelines.

Full details of these and all other COP26 events involving Jewish organisations can be found on our website.



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – IT'S UP TO US NOW SAYS MONTY

The Annual AJEX Remembrance Sunday March and Parade is taking place on 14 November this year.

Assembling at 10.15am in the Fairweather Hall car park, our local AJEX and Newton Mearns Branch British Legion members, together with members of the 5<sup>th</sup> Giffnock Guides and the community, will march to the Cenotaph at Mearns Cross where the wreath-laying ceremony will take place at 11am.

Thereafter, the parade will be dismissed and attendees should make their own way to Newton Mearns Shul for a memorial service.

Local AJEX Brigade Commander Monty Cowen (left) said: “I would urge as many members of the community to take part as possible.

“There are now very few ex-servicemen left or able to attend and it is vitally important that we take the places of our parents, grandparents and others to honour the memories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.”

## Jewish Care Scotland launch Welcome Wednesday

It's been a busy few months at JCS with the launch of our annual Rosh Hashanah Appeal and introduction of a new service! We have been overwhelmed by the generous response to the Appeal - thank you to everyone who has donated.

At the start of October, a group of volunteers launched the first drop-in session of Welcome Wednesdays at The Walton Community Care Centre.

Over 40 members of our community came together to enjoy some refreshments and to socialise, a welcome occasion after such a difficult 18 months. Welcome Wednesdays will run every week, and anyone is welcome to drop in between 1 and 4pm.

Now our team are looking ahead to Chanukah and planning various ways to celebrate together. Once again, we will be working in collaboration with Calderwood Lodge Primary School on a Chanukah card competition as well as preparing for a special Chanukah meal for our clients in person, thanks to support from the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust.

With restrictions eased we are also increasing our fundraising activity to help fund our work. In 2022, we are hosting a number of events including our Business Breakfast, a Golf Day at Turnberry and our Burns Night Firewalk on Sunday 23 January.

If you'd like to support us by fundraising, you can find out more about our events on our website [www.jcarescot.org.uk](http://www.jcarescot.org.uk) or by following us on social media.

# Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre opens at last

The Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre officially opened on 27 of July 2021, with the launch of our website [www.sjhc.org.uk](http://www.sjhc.org.uk).

The culmination of many years of hard work and planning, this joint initiative by the Garnethill Synagogue Preservation Trust and the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre has now begun to welcome visitors.

The weekly guided tour service, led by a team of volunteer guides, began running in mid-August, with tours bookable on the new website.

Our team of volunteers have been enjoying sharing our beautiful Synagogue with visitors and highlighting our new displays and Study Centre.

## IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK IN THE OLD ROUTINE

With the new school year and new Jewish year, everything seems to be going back to routine. Jewish Assemblies are back on at Mearns Castle and will be returning soon to Hutchie.

In October, Mearns Castle students in S1-4 gathered for donuts and schmoozing, while picking up the wisdom of our sages through the study of Pirkei Avot.

Assemblies were facilitated by our amazing students in S4 and S5 who did a great job of including the younger students and making them feel at home.

UJIA's Israel Bar Bat Mitzvah programme is back, with 20 students in P7 and S1 getting together to talk about what it means to become Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

Our new Jewish Journeys programme launched as well, with S5 and six students coming together to explore narratives of the Holocaust.

And of course, we're still high from the Holidays, where we supported Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot programming at synagogues in both Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The Matana Club was also involved as 180 Jewish children across Scotland received High Holiday packs in the post and gathered for a Rosh Hashanah celebration on Zoom.

In October, three teens from Glasgow attended BBYO's Chapter Leadership Training Course in London, where they learnt practical leadership skills, and are gearing up for the launch of a new Glasgow BBYO chapter.

With the Matana Club celebrating COP26. Members can expect a special pack full of ideas for how to help the world, laced through with Jewish ideas and blessings.

And we're excited for 'A Walk on the Wild Side', a nature-based art workshop for children, on November 7, celebrating COP26 and Scottish Interfaith Week.

For details on all upcoming programmes, please contact [sydney.switzer@ujia.org](mailto:sydney.switzer@ujia.org).

**Sydney Switzer**  
Scotland Senior Educator



**Above: the three Glasgow teenagers who attended BBYO's Chapter Leadership Training Course in London, with Sydney on the extreme right.**

**Below: Exhibits in the new Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre.**



**For further information, contact us on 0141 577 8200  
or [office@glasgowjewishrepcouncil.org](mailto:office@glasgowjewishrepcouncil.org)  
or visit our website at [www.jewishglasgow.org](http://www.jewishglasgow.org)**

**The Glasgow Jewish Representative Council is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) No SCO47108**