

Sukkat Shalom March 2010

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

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Events and Services

Date **Friday 5th March**

Event Erev Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre, Newbattle Terrace
Time 7.00 pm

Date **Sunday 7th March**

Event AGM and refreshments
Venue Quaker Meeting House, Victoria Terrace
Time 3pm

Come along to hear what we are planning and to discuss formally or informally what you would like us to do for the coming year. Members should all have received the agenda and will receive reports shortly by email or post, rather than from the web site as stated in the letter.

Date **Friday 12th March**

Event Short Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Venue Marchmont St Giles Church Centre
Time 6:15pm

Date **Thursday 18th March**

Event Rabbi Pete Tobias introduces the new LJ Haggadah
Venue Quaker Meeting House, Victoria Terrace
Time 7.30 pm

We look forward to a chance to hear Pete, who conducted our first 10 seders, to give a short presentation and answer any questions.

Date **Saturday 20th March**

Event Shabbat Morning Service
Venue St Mark's Unitarian Church, Castle Terrace
Time 11am

Event Girl's night out - see page 7 for details
Time 7pm (or join us later)

Date **Friday 26th March**

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Venue 6:15pm, Marchmont St Giles
Rabbi Mark is visiting this weekend and will be attending this service.

Date **Saturday 27th March**

Event Choosing Judaism
Venue Usual location
Time 10.30 am
NOTE Saturday not Sunday this month
Event Tea & Talmud
Venue Not yet confirmed. Regulars will be informed. Others should contact Lindsay (lindsay.levy@googlemail.com).
Time 3.00 pm

Date **Sunday 28th March**

Event Stone setting for Steve Engleman
Venue Dean Cemetery, Queensferry Road
Time 2.30 pm
Kathie Engleman invites those who knew Steve to join her and the family for refreshments at her home after the stone setting.

Other classes weekend of 26/28th March

Final details still to be decided. Regulars will be informed. contact Kristi (kristilong66@yahoo.com) for cantillation or Maurice (maurice@morninglight.co.uk) for Spinoza.

Date **Monday 29th March**

Event Communal Seder
Venue Marchmont St Giles Church Centre
Time 6.45 for 7.15 pm
See page 3 for details.

Date **Friday 2nd April**

Event Erev Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre, Newbattle Terrace
Time 7.00 pm

ELJC support line

07904 813162



Use this number if you have an emergency and really need to speak to someone. It goes to one of our members. Otherwise please leave a message on the community phone and we will respond as soon as possible.

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Future Dates

Our regular schedule is as follows:

First Friday of each Calendar month

Erev shabbat service

The shabbat morning 2 weeks after this

Shabbat morning service

Weekends when no other service

Short kabbalat shabbat service

April 2010

Sat 17 Shabbat morning service
 16th-18 LJ Biennial Conference (see p 2)
 W/end 23/25 Rabbi visiting
 Fri 23 Erev Shabbat service and meal
 Sun 25 pm Induction of Rabbi Mark Solomon

May 2010

Fri 7 Erev Shabbat
 Tues 18 Erev Shavuot
 W/end 21/23 Rabbi visiting
 Sat 22 Shabbat morning service at Newstead,
 Scottish Borders

June 2010

Fri 4 Erev Shabbat
 W/end 18/20 Rabbi visiting

July 2010

Fri 2 Erev Shabbat
 W/end 16/18 Rabbi visiting (to be confirmed)

August 2010

Fri 6 Erev Shabbat TENT service
 W/end 20/23 Rabbi visiting

September 2010

Fri 3 Erev Shabbat service
 Wed 8 Erev Rosh Hashanah
 Thurs 9 Rosh Hahanah
 Fri 17 Kol Nidre
 Sat 18 Yom Kippur

Cheder dates

Parents please note the change of date for the second cheder in March.

March 13th and 20th
 April 24th
 May 8th and 29th
 June 12th and 26th



BIENNIAL WEEKEND

Liberal Judaism: With You Every Step of the Way – is there more to it than hatching, matching and dispatching?

Join the Biennial Weekend from 16th to 18th April 2010 and explore how our Liberal Jewish values influence our lifestyle choices and how those choices should be mirrored in Liberal Judaism's policies, endorsed by the movement's members, lay leaders and Rabbis.

Places are selling out fast. Don't miss this great opportunity to meet and mingle with Liberal Jewish friends old and new, and to enjoy an exciting programme of events in the beautiful setting of the Tortworth Court Hotel. For full programme details, and to book, see www.liberaljudaism.org/biennial.

Leo Baeck College on YouTube!

A unique insight and intimate perspective into the world of five Progressive rabbis on You Tube. the first one is Pete Tobias.

www.youtube.com/leobaeckcollege

Northern Seminar for Jewish Educators

will be held on Sunday 11 April 2010 at Menorah Synagogue in Manchester. The theme is "Building a Lifelong Learning Community". The Brochure can be accessed at

http://www.lbc.ac.uk/images/stories/events/brochure.northern_seminar.2010.pdf

Link to Education newsletter

The link to view the latest edition of Meh Chadash, the newsletter of the Department of Jewish Education at Leo Baeck College is

<http://www.lbc.ac.uk/images/stories/publications/Meh%20Chadash/issue.10.02.01.pdf>

Ha – Hagga – Haggad – Haggadah

Rabbi Mark L. Solomon

Lots of things on Seder night come in fours – four children, four questions, four cups of wine. It shouldn't be a surprise, then, that Liberal Judaism is producing a new haggadah that is really four haggadot in one. It is the brain-child of Rabbis Pete Tobias and Andrew Goldstein, and Edinburgh may well remember some of Pete's earlier experiments in haggadah creation. The text we shall inaugurate together on 29th March is called Haggadah B'chol Dor Va-Dor: A Haggadah for all Generations. The four-in-one means that you can open the book from either side, the Hebrew way for adults and left to right for a children's version. The basic adult haggadah is on the right-hand pages, with the left-hand pages giving extra readings and customs to choose from. At the kids' end, the left-hand pages give a short version for families with very young children, while the facing pages provide material for slightly older children. There are great pictures too.

It has been a privilege for me to be involved in creating this haggadah, in a small way from the start and much more when it came to final stages of proof reading. As well as countless minor corrections to the Hebrew text (though there's bound to be the typo that got away!) there's one whole paragraph I contributed to the explanatory material on the left-hand pages. Here it is in slightly expanded form.

When the Mishnah lays down how parents should tell the Passover story to their children, it prescribes that the narrative of the Haggadah should "begin with degradation and end with glory." (Pesachim 10:4) The Babylonian Talmud asks, "What degradation?" – in other words, where is the real beginning of the story? (Pesachim 116a) Two great Babylonian sages of the 3rd century offer different answers. The more obvious one is given by Mar Sh'muel, renowned for his expertise in practical, financial and political matters. He sees the Pesach story, too, in political terms: the degradation is "We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt." True degradation is physical slavery, so true glory is physical liberation: "And God brought us out from there to freedom." His colleague and frequent rabbinic sparring-partner, Rav, whose renown was in matters ritual and spiritual, places the beginning of the story earlier: "In the beginning our ancestors were idol worshippers." Real degradation, for him, is the spiritual darkness of idolatry, a sort of inner slavery. Real glory, then, is found in the inner freedom of enlightenment and faith in one God: "And now the Holy One has brought us to the worship of God." Jewish tradition, always respectful of different opinions, includes both these versions in the Haggadah – which is one reason it got to be so long!



Sukkat Shalom Community Seder 2010

We will be using the new LJ Haggadah (see cover page on the left) at our seder on Monday 29th March, led by Rabbi Mark and you can order copies at the introductory price of only £6 per copy. Booking forms for the seder and the Haggadah have been posted to all members along with the notice of the AGM. An electronic copy was sent with the last mid-month reminder. If you still need one then you can find it and directions to the venue at <http://eljic.org/5770seder.html>

We need to receive seder bookings by 20th March at the very latest and for Haggadah orders it would be very helpful if we could have them sooner.

You will have noticed on page 1 that Rabbi Pete Tobias, who many of you will know was very important in the establishment of this community, is including us in his country-wide Haggadah tour. Come along on 18th March to learn more about it. It will be a fairly short presentation and, we hope, will leave some time to catch up with Pete socially afterwards.

Devastation by arsonists in the Etz Hayyim Synagogue, Hania, Crete

Some of you will remember my "Letter from Crete" in 2003. Disaster has hit this beautifully-restored mediaeval Synagogue. The library of 2,500 books and texts, along with all the Synagogue records in the office have been destroyed. You can read about it at <http://blog.etz-hayyim-hania.org> and contribute to the rebuilding. Nothing can possibly replace the lost books and archives. You will be impressed by the determination of this community led by the only Jew on the island Nikolas Stavroulakis - the most amazing [yet humble] man I have had the privilege to meet.

Rebekah Gronowski

From the Chairman

Last weekend I went to the Limmud day in Glasgow and attended some fantastically interesting sessions including Rabbi Mark's session on Einstein. Of the other sessions I attended there were two that I thought were particularly relevant for us.

The first was one led by Kinneret Shiryon who became Israel's first woman Rabbi in 1983. She talked about how, starting in 1997, she founded and developed the community "Yozma" (initiative in Hebrew) in Israel's newest city of Modi'in. It didn't start as a shul, but as a Jewish pre-school that involved teaching parents and children about their Jewish heritage. She argued that most Israelis are secular and because all Jewish holidays are secular holidays they don't feel they have to do anything special to celebrate them. So many are ignorant of Jewish history and traditions. By involving parents with the Jewish education of their children the barriers to Jewish religious learning were broken down. The community grew and developed and started holding Shabbat and Holyday services in the school buildings, moving out the little chairs and bringing in adult ones.

Every new housing development in Israel has land and a budget allocated to provide a 'local' orthodox synagogue within walking distance of the homes. Until now there has been no land or funding available for 'regional' progressive synagogues. Rabbi Shiryon described how she and others managed to get this changed by tireless campaigning, astute political moves and influencing those who made the decisions. The synagogue building came into being after Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) of the Movement for Progressive Judaism in Israel, funded by New Israel Fund, petitioned Israel's Supreme Court. Finally in 2007 Kehillat Yozma made ground-breaking history when the first government-funded, synagogue structure to be given to a non-Orthodox community was placed on the land allocated to Yozma. The community now has six pre-school programs and a state-funded progressive day school.

The second session that I want to describe was lead by Rabbi Steven Greenberg and entitled "Wow! That's a shul?: Reinventing the synagogue" - a "must" for a chairman of a Jewish community, I thought, and I was not disappointed. Rabbi

Greenberg is best known for being the first openly gay orthodox rabbi; but that was not the topic of this session. He was such an engaging and charismatic speaker that I just listened and failed to take any notes, so I hope I am not misrepresenting him.

He challenged the audience to think about what they wanted from a synagogue and argued that for many the formal synagogue services might not be meeting these needs. Prayer is no longer grabbing people and cultural offerings available outside the community are increasingly more attractive. Shuls have changed their functions over history, starting from the earliest times where they were a combination of study houses where the Torah was read and studied and hostels for travellers. The function of a



Kehillat YOZMA's synagogue in Modi'in

synagogue can be thought of under three headings:

Bet Midrash: A house of study

Bet Tefillah: A house of prayer

Bet Knesset: A house of meeting

and we were challenged to thin which of these mattered most for today's shuls and how we could make them attractive to other Jews. Did we make study fun and accessible to all at every level? Did our prayers speak to everyone? Was the spirit of camaraderie, which is a motivation for many to attend shul, extend only to a few regulars?

In the final part of the session we were divided into groups to think what our ideal shul would be under each of these headings with no constraint on resources. Time was short and we hardly expected to come up with a solution. But the examples that people had experienced were the most interesting part. Some involved a more fluid structure of services where study and discussion were integrated into the service. And of course, providing food was thought to be an important aspect. Throughout the discussions it was assumed that the synagogue was a building. But for a community like ours, without one, the discussion is perhaps even more relevant when we try to think about the function of our activities and how the places where we meet may help us to fulfil what Rabbi Greenberg saw as the ultimate goals of a shul; "to help us to maintain the Covenant and for the synagogue to be the most exciting thing to make Jews feel good about themselves".

Sermon given by Stew Green at the Erev Shabbat Service, February 5th 2010

The Parsha for this week is YITRO – Exodus Chap 18.1 to chap 20.23, Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, hears of the great miracles which G-d performed for the people of Israel, and comes from Midian to the Israelite camp, bringing with him Moses' wife and two sons. Jethro advises Moses to appoint a hierarchy of magistrates and judges to assist him in governing and administering justice. The Children of Israel camp opposite Mount Sinai, where they are told that G-d has chosen them to be His "kingdom of priests" and "holy nation." They respond by proclaiming, "All that G-d has spoken, we shall do". On the sixth day of the third month (Sivan), seven weeks after the Exodus, the entire nation of Israel assembles at the foot of Mount Sinai. G-d descends on the mountain amidst thunder, lightning, billows of smoke and the blast of the shofar, and summons Moses to ascend. There G-d proclaims the Ten Commandments to Moses who goes down and tells them to the people.

I have been pondering the importance of the Ten Commandments this week but before I make the link, I need to tell you that quite a few of my odd moments this week were filled - very unusually for me - with thoughts of things to do with football. And not just any old football but very specifically, Chelsea Football Club! Now our son Rohan is an ardent supporter of Chelsea (always one to be on the winning side, our Rohan!). So far he has only ever been to one match and so it was with great surprise and pleasure that I discovered that an FA cup 5th round tie with Cardiff City has been scheduled for next Saturday when he and I will be in London visiting my dad. After a battle with on-line booking we are now proud owners of tickets for the family enclosure.

Now important as the FA cup is for committed fans like Rohan, it is not really the fixture with Cardiff City that has thrust Chelsea into the limelight in the last week. Rather it's the off-pitch antics of their captain John Terry. There can't be many people who don't know about the John Terry story. However, just in case there is anyone else here whom all the fuss has passed by, it seems that JT - who is married - had an affair with the partner of former team-mate and friend Wayne Bridge, while Bridge was still at Chelsea. Bringing up issues of infidelity, betrayal etc If not bad enough for John Terry, his family and of course Chelsea, what has been particularly exercising all the pundits and papers is that John Terry also happens to be Captain of England, and Captain in a year when the World Cup will take place in the summer. A particular problem since it seems very likely that Bridge will himself be part of the squad and he and Terry may be playing together.

The key question therefore is whether Terry should retain the captaincy or be made to resign. This afternoon it has just been resolved and he has been given the sack. Over the course of the week however, I have heard a number of interesting radio articles and discussions on this topic. At least a couple of people made quite strong arguments that a) none of us are perfect – obviously true - and b) there are many examples of prominent leaders who have been embroiled in intimate scandals but have continued in their roles. However, one of the most telling comments for me came from a sports journalist who suggested that whether or not John Terry would retain his job depended purely and simply on whether Fabio Capello (the England Manager) considers he would still be able to "carry the dressing room". In other words, whether he would retain the necessary trust and confidence of his team-mates to give him the required authority on and off the field.

And this goes to the heart of what real leadership is about. And we are all leaders in some capacity, whether at work, in an executive role in our organisation or as parents to our children. One of the things I've learnt over the years in my work world is the importance of 'trust' in determining whether or not people will voluntarily follow a leader. And when you unpack what it is that makes people trust a leader, it seems two characteristics are paramount – and just like Chelsea they both begin with a 'C'. It appears to be the perceived 'competence' and the perceived 'character' of the leader which determines how trusted he or she will be. It's not good enough to be a really decent human being if you're not good enough at what you need to do. Equally, if you are fantastic at your job but not respected for who and how you are, then people will in time lose faith in you.

One of the things that I have increasingly come to value about religions is that whatever one thinks about notions of G-d and spirituality, or the legitimacy of the stories, they do provide a framework and a compass for us to set our sights on – even if we often stray from the path that we're shown. Some people may feel that not all of the Ten Commandments are totally relevant any more. Many would probably think that they only start to scratch the surface in terms of providing a values guide to what's important in modern life. And yet what seems

really important to me is that we all, young people especially, should inhabit an environment that provides appropriate moral and ethical expectations of ourselves and each other. And it is in this that I feel our community, our services, our cheder make their most important contribution – just as the equivalents do every bit as well in other religions. In an increasingly, materialistic, competitive and in many ways dare I say it, amoral, self-centred world, they provide a constant reminder of who and how we should be if we are truly to earn the respect and ‘follow-ship’ of those around us and especially of those we seek to lead. They help us figure out who and how we should be and what we need to do when, on occasion, we mess up. I like to think that keeping in touch with our own and other faiths helps me act somewhat better in the world. I hope too they help me be a better husband, father and friend.

John Terry is clearly an outstanding player. He has also by all accounts been an extremely competent and effective captain. Clearly, and sadly for him, however the view has just been reached that he can no longer retain that position. Presumably, Capello thinks Terry will not retain sufficient trust in his leadership to carry the dressing room. I wonder whether as he ponders his future, JT has ever come across the old joke about Moses addressing the people following his descent from Mount Sinai with the 10 commandments. In the joke, Moses says to the people of Israel “I’ve got some good news and some bad news. First the good news: I’ve managed to keep him down to ten! And now the bad news: Adultery is still in!” .

Passover Recipies from Rebecca Wober Haleg

Haleg is a natural syrup made from dates, tradition and a bit of alchemy. To my mind it is spectacularly delicious, vastly sweet and thoroughly exotic and all this with no added sugar. It comes to me via my granny who was from an Iraqi family who settled in Calcutta for the century between the 1850s and 1950s. Haleg may be replaced with Charoseth in communities without indigenous date palms or easy access to such a supply (as goes for the other half of my Jewish ancestry). It is a runny syrup but easier to manage on matzoh when mixed with chopped nuts.

Here is the recipe from memory:

Get dates (the cheaper ones in a block are fine I think), simmer down with water, strain through a muslin overnight and chuck out the pulp. Simmer the clear juice down again. When the bubbles become smaller and cling to the edge of the dutchy take it off the heat and bottle it. Practically black in colour is perfectly correct.

Cinnamon balls

These should be hard but sticky on the outside and definitely chewy on the inside, it's trial and error not to overcook these. Too hard and they could act as ammunition.

12 oz ground almonds
6 oz caster sugar
2 tbsp ground cinnamon
4 egg whites
oil and icing sugar

Preheat the oven to 180 °C. Whisk the egg whites till standing in tall peaks. Mix up the dry stuff together in a bowl and carefully fold it into the whites. Wet your hands and pick out a tablespoon or so of mixture at a time, rolling it into a ball and placing the balls on an oiled baking tray. If your hands are getting clogged up with the mixture scrape or wash it off and carry on again with wet hands, this should help. Bake for 15 minutes. Yum.

Community News

Mazal tov to Jane and Jonathan Staal on the birth of their daughter Maia on 15 January 2010.

Exhibition

Miriam Vickers is exhibiting her watercolour of woodlands in the West of Scotland in the Society of Scottish Artists at the Royal Scottish Academy which opens to the public until 14th March 2010.

Girls' night out

Girls of any age are invited to join us on the evening of Saturday 20th March. We plan to meet for a drink from around 7pm at [le-di-vin Wine bar, 9 Randolph Place](#) at the West End and then to a restaurant as yet to be decided. Let Nancy Warren know if you plan to join us (nancymwarren2@gmail.com or leave her a message on the community phone). Restaurant suggestions are also welcome.

A home for the community – Can you help?? by Stew Green

As you know, the community currently uses a mix of accommodation to host our services and events. The primary venues being Columcille, St Marks and Marchmont St Giles. While each of these have some positives there are also some limitations both individually and collectively, which mean that overall we do not have a totally ideal solution. The primary weaknesses are: a lack of surety in bookings in that we occasionally get 'bounced' for other priority events that need dates we thought we had booked; a lack of secure permanent on-site storage for our Safer Torah; a need to keep moving all our other service items such as siddurim, wine glasses, kipot etc etc between Columcille where they currently reside and other venues; and last but by no means least, the absence of somewhere that if not our own actual home, at least feels like more of a home than the present arrangements.

A number of Council and other members have looked at the accommodation position in recent years with Joe Goldblatt recently taking a number of helpful initiatives. Currently, myself, Gillian Raab, Norman Crane and Maureen Mackinnon have taken the search on. The community finances do not run to purchasing anything outright at this time so we are looking at rental or hire options. We have started initially with reviewing church-related premises but are open to considering any venue that might meet our needs.

Clearly, we would like to find something that will be an improvement over what we currently have. That said, the current arrangements work reasonably well most of the time so the good thing is that we are not desperate at this stage. If we are to make a change therefore, there will need to be clear demonstrable benefits to any proposed change. The primary factors that are important in assessing potential suitability are listed below. Not all are vital, but some obviously are:

- *Appropriate capacity (minimum 60 to 80 theatre style)*
- *(Near) consistent availability for our monthly Erev Shabbat and Shabbat services*
- *A guarantee that any bookings made will be honoured*
- *Sufficiently private and quiet to ensure an appropriate level of security and decorum for services*
- *Sufficient storage to house our effects securely*
- *Permission to light candles and drink wine (at Kiddush)*
- *Venue to be fully accessible and have suitable disabled parking*
- *Access to a kitchen*
- *A suitably positive feel and ambiance*
- *Cost*

Please bear in mind what we are trying to do as you go around the town in the coming months. If you can identify anywhere that you think might fit the bill, please do let us know by emailing accommodation@eljc.org.

Announcements & Events

Film Night at the Jewish Community Centre (Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation)

Book your seat now to watch the fascinating story of 'The Mascot' unfold at the Jewish Community Centre, Sunday March 7th. A light supper will be served before the film and tea and coffee afterwards. Follow Alex as he travels from present day Australia back to his forgotten childhood in Belarus. To book e-mail mjgilroy@virginmedia.com

EDINBURGH WIZO fundraising lunch

Ladies lunch on Wednesday 17th March at the home of Sylvia Donne 12.30, (£12), 11/4 The Steils, Glenlockhart. Building next to clock tower! If you would like to attend please contact Sylvia on 0131 447 2947 or by email to j.s.donne@o2.co.uk. WIZO.uk is the largest Jewish women's organisation in Great Britain and Ireland. WIZO is a non-party political movement of Zionist women providing a powerful voice on human rights issues and concerns relating to the status of women.

Klezmer Keilidh and Workshop

Sunday 18th April 2010, The Voodoo Rooms ballroom, 19a West Register St , Edinburgh featuring **Celter Schmelter Quartet** and Yiddish dance caller **Sue Cooper**.

Workshop 2 - 3.30 pm. Keilidh 4 - 6.30pm All welcome, no experience necessary!

Workshop £5.00 (Concession £4.00, children under 12 £2.00), Keilidh £7.00 (concession £6.00, children under 12 £4.00), Discount for both events: £10, £6, children £3. Tickets from Usher Hall box office 0131 228 1155 or on the door. Book early to avoid disappointment!

More info on www.myspace.com/celterschmelter Ceilidh Culture event www.ceilidhculture.co.uk

Jewish Health Issues - Call for Volunteers

A new project - Jewish Health Issues - is being carried out at the DIPEX Health Experiences Research Unit based at the University of Oxford. We would like to interview people from the Jewish community who have experience of health issues that are often related to their ethnic background including some cancers, Gaucher's, Crohn's disease, cystic fibrosis and so on. The outcome of the project will be a site at www.healthtalkonline.org.uk.

People who are faced with difficult choices (e.g. where to find information, whether try different interventions) will be able to go to the Healthtalkonline website for this kind of help. The website will also be used as a teaching resource for medical and health care students. Taking part in the study will involve an interview at a time and location that is convenient to you. The interview usually last between 45 minutes and two hours. If you are aged 16 or over and would like to hear more information about the project, please contact Sara Ryan at sara.ryan@dphpc.ox.ac.uk or telephone 01865 289374.

Interfaith Events

Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group (EWIG)

<http://www.edinwig.org.uk/EWIG/Welcome.html>

March 3rd March - 7 p.m. Robertson Hall, Nicolson Square Methodist Church.

Meeting with Ms Hagit Ranaan, an Israeli woman who lost her husband in the conflict with Palestine but has devoted her life to peace activities including interfaith work.

24th March - 7 p.m. location to be decided - possibly Quaker Meeting House

Theme of 'Justice and Punishment' to be facilitated by Florence Grant.



International Women's Day - Monday 8th March

Women and Resistance to War, St Columba's by the Castle, 7.30 pm

Haifa Zangana, author of 'City of Widows: an Iraqi Woman's Account of War and Resistance', and founder of Women's Solidarity for and Independent and Unified Iraq will be speaking. Organised by Scottish PSC.

Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace - MESP 2010

Monday 15 March: Event: An Evening of Sacred Chant with Rabbi Shefa Gold.

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 7pm-7.30pm. Event: 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Event Description: Chanting, the repetition of a sacred phrase, is an ecstatic form of meditation that can open the doors of the heart, clear the mind of clutter, focus and refine intentions, and connect us to each other. The chant can attune us to ever-deepening levels of meaning, unlock the treasures of the heart, and give us an opportunity to generously serve each other. By entering into silence after a chant, we can receive both the Divine influx and the gifts that bubble up from within. In this evening of chant we will taste and experience the power and potential of this ecstatic practice.

Cost: £10/£8 (Concessions) on the door on the night.

Tuesday 16th March Event: Day Workshop: The Path of Love. Facilitator: Rabbi Shefa Gold.

Venue: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL.

Time: Registration: 9.30am-10am. Workshop: 10am-4.30pm.

Event Description: The Torah commands that you must love God "with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might." You are commanded to "love the stranger" and "to love your neighbour as your self." And you are asked to receive God's love in the form of Torah, community, history and the wonders of Nature. These commandments about love are at the heart of Torah. They constitute, at the same time, the most simple and the most complicated challenge of living a holy life.

Cost: £20/£15 (Concessions). For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2010@hotmail.co.uk This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it , 0131 331 4469.

Wednesday 17th March Event: Time for Reflection at the Scottish Parliament with Rabbi Shefa Gold.

Venue: The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh.

Time: 2.30pm.

Cost: Admission Free.

To Attend: Contact: Parliament's Visitor Services, 0131 348 5200.

18 March, 7:70pm: "The Nightingale and the Rose: Musical meeting points of Christianity, Judaism and Islam in medieval Spain and beyond"

St John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4BJ.

Doors open: 6.45pm. Concert: 7.30pm-9.30pm

£10, Booking: Tickets Scotland Ltd, 127 Rose Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3DT. 0131 220 3234. <http://www.tickets-scotland.com/> 9am-6pm (8pm Thursday), 11am-6pm Sundays.

Exhibition, 6 February – 20 March : Peacemakers of Israel/Palestine – Photographs by award-winning photojournalist Angela Catlin, with words by Billy Briggs

The Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR.

Opening times are Monday - Saturday, 10am-6pm.

Unique exhibition illustrating the work of peacemakers in Israel/Palestine who are working on a cross community basis. This has involved photojournalist Angela Catlin, and journalist Billy Briggs making a 10-day visit to Israel/Palestine to photograph and interview the peacemaker groups, resulting in an exhibition and feature articles. The development of the exhibition was made possible by an Awards for All grant. Admission Free.