

Sukkat Shalom May 2010

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

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Community Phone: 0131 777 8024 Email info@eljc.org Web www.eljc.org

Events and Services

Date Friday 7 May

Event Erev Shabbat Service

Time 7pm

Date Friday 14 May

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Time 6.15pm

Date Tuesday 18 May

Event Erev Shavuot Service led by Rabbi Mark followed by cheesecake and discussion contributions of dairy foods welcome

Time 7pm

Date Saturday 22 May

Event Shabbat morning service led by Rabbi Mark followed by lunch and visit to a Roman camp

Venue Newstead Scottish Borders

Time 11 am

PLEASE TELL US IF YOU PLAN TO COME - page 5

Date Sunday 23 May

Event Choosing Judaism

Venue Usual Location

Time 10.30am

Event Cantillation class

Time 3.00 - 4.00 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.

Date Sunday 23 May (ctd)

Event Spinoza discussion group

Time 4.30 - 6.00 pm

Date Friday 28 May

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Time 6.15pm

Date Friday 4 June

Event Erev Shabbat Service

Time 7pm

Subscription reminder

Members should have received their membership renewal letters, with subs held at same modest level as last year (only £200). Please send yours in.

Not a member?

Interested in joining? Please contact Maureen at membership@eljc.org. If for any reason you are not in a position to join or do not wish to you might like to send us a donation. For details please contact Jonathan at treasurer@eljc.org.

NOTE: It is our policy that nobody should be prevented from being a member from inability to pay. Our treasurer is happy to discuss any problems.

Special events

Tuesday 18 May Shavuot service with cheesecake and discussion. See left and p 3.

Saturday 22 May Rabbi Mark will lead a Shabbat service in the Scottish Borders. See left and page 5, and tell us if you are coming.

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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

June 2010

Fri 11	Kabbalat Shabbat Service, Rabbi Aaron Goldstein visiting (watch out for further events)
Fri 18	Chavurah supper with Rabbi Mark
Sat 19	Shabbat Service & Ben Naftalin Bar Mitzvah led by Rabbi Mark
Sun 20	Choosing Judaism Frederick Broadie stone setting

July 2010

Fri 2	Erev Shabbat Service
Sun 18	Choosing Judaism Cantillation Spinoza discussion group

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 Hashanah
Fri 17	Kol Nidre
Sat 18	Yom Kippur

Cheder dates

May	8th and 29th
June	12th and 26th

Tots group

Rebecca Wober (mother of Solly aged one) is going to be organising a tots group. If you are a member with pre-cheder aged kids you will hear from her soon. Email: rebwob@yahoo.co.uk.

We also hope to organize a tots service when Rabbi Aaron Goldstein visits in June.

See also WIZO tea announcement on page 6.



The European Region for Progressive Judaism is now the European Union for Progressive Judaism. They have a new website: www.eupj.org, where you can find the latest newsletter.

Travelling in Europe and wanting to attend a service or otherwise make contact with a Progressive Jewish Community? The EUPJ can help. For information about Progressive Communities across Europe, contact Kathryn Michael at kathrynmichael@eupj.org

Bookings are now being taken for the **Leo Baeck College Summer Institute**, which will be held 6th-8th of July in London. The Summer Institute offers a three day intensive development course for Jewish leaders. A flyer with booking information is available here:

http://www.lbc.ac.uk/images/stories/events/leo_baeck_flyer_cropped.pdf

Leo Baeck College is on You Tube! LBC has commissioned a series of clips featuring rabbis at their work while being interviewed about their roles. The clips, which have been launched independently beginning in February, feature Rabbis Pete Tobias, David Mitchell, Debbie Young-Somers, Marian Berger and student Rabbi Sandra Kviat. Check them out at

www.youtube.com/leobaeckcollege

Action by Progressive Jews Delays New Conversion Law in Israel

Following a concerted effort by the World Union in partnership and consultation with the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism and the Israel Religious Action Center, as well as by Reform and Conservative bodies and leading North American and world Jewish organisations, (including Liberal Judaism), the Knesset has delayed action on a highly controversial bill that would have an impact on converts wishing to become Israelis under the Law of Return. For more information see WUPJ News: <http://www.wupj.org/Publications/Newsletter.asp?ContentID=292#ACTION>.

Shavuot and Megillat Ruth

by Catherine Lyons illustration by Tamar Messer from her edition of Ruth (<http://www.tamarsgallery.co.il/>)

A classic biblical drama of love and loss, kindness and courage. What better excuse for talking well into the night? If reading the Book of Ruth isn't enough, there's cheesecake too.

We're more than half way through Omer counting, and Shavuot is upon us. Shavuot is the festival of first fruits, and in particular of the wheat harvest, when the first wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates to ripen were brought to the Temple, and farmers would recount our history from Jacob, the wandering Aramean, down into Egypt, and through liberation to the land of milk and honey. Do we eat dairy at Shavuot because Torah is like milk and honey? Or because milk was plentiful in the Spring on those farms so long ago, or because Moses brought us the laws of kashrut and we realised we had no fleishig cookware? The threads are hard to disentangle, but the giving and receiving of the Torah is the transformative pivot in our understanding of the story.

An old friend of mine used to say that Jewish festivals have a common theme: they tried to kill us; we survived; let's eat! But after freedom from slavery, from oppression, and from violence, comes freedom to choose, to make a commitment, to take a risk.

Shavuot tells a universal story and a personal story. Just as we were all Israelite slaves in Egypt and were freed, we were all present at Sinai and together became the Jewish people. A midrash tells that God rejected the offer of the elders and prophets as guarantors of the Covenant, and accepted only the children as guarantors. And so it is that all generations were present at Sinai, even we who were yet unborn.

The Covenant at Sinai is a climax and a new beginning. The Great Jewish Journey through that point of transformation is paralleled by the story we read at Shavuot, in the book of Ruth, of the Moabite widow who becomes the great-grandmother of King David. Ruth forsakes all that she knows and, in binding herself to Naomi, embarks upon a new life. In this story, God is not revealed to a leader on a mountain top, but in intimate relationships, in personal commitment, and in mutual support. Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz: their vivid story compels interpretation.

There is a midrash that our ancestors overslept on the morning the Torah was to be given, and Moses had to wake them up. The Kabbalists decided it would be better therefore not to go to bed at all, and fix the night of Shavuot by staying up all night studying, hence tikkun leil shavuot. Personally, I'm not expecting to be very alert on Shavuot morning, having studied into the night, but I am looking forward to our reading Ruth together and being kept awake by stimulating discussion. And of course the cheesecake.

Sue's Mum's Cheesecake

This is simplicity itself, as well as being the best recipe (I would say that, wouldn't I?).

You need:

- An 8-inch or so shallow tin with a detachable base, greased.
- A digestive biscuit base for the cake (about 8 or 9 crushed digestive biscuits, mixed with melted butter and pressed evenly into the base of the tin)
- 1 lb curd cheese
- 2 eggs
- Half teaspoon vanilla essence
- 4 oz double cream cheese
- 4 oz caster sugar
- Carton of sour cream

Mix the eggs, cheeses, sugar and vanilla well (but not too stiff). Pour into tin. Bake gas 3 or 4 (175 degrees centigrade) for half an hour. Leave to cool for 5 minutes. Mix the sour cream with 1.5 oz of caster sugar and a few drops of vanilla essence. Spread on the cake and put back in the oven for 10 minutes. Voilà! (ctd on p 4)

Erev Shavuot Service

followed by cheesecake and discussion led by Rabbi Mark

Tuesday 18 May
Columille Centre
7pm



Notes

Sorry about the imperial measurements. I'm sure you can cope. If you can't get curd cheese you can substitute variations: eg:

- sieved cottage cheese
- a Polish equivalent called Twarog (comes in a block, also needs sieving to get it the right consistency)
- ricotta (but it's difficult to get this fresh nowadays, and I personally don't like the stuff that comes in cartons)
- fromage frais
- I haven't tried using Crowdie myself, but I'm sure it would work fine

The double cream cheese is best got fresh if you can. If you have political reservations about using Philadelphia, try mascarpone. Obviously, your choice of cheese is going to affect the flavour. Experiment.

Hannah's Cheesecake

You need a round cake tin with a detachable base.

Ingredients

- 3 eggs
- 750g Quark (*Goldenacre*, available from Scotmid or Waitrose)
- 150g butter or margarine
- 250g sugar
- 6 tbsp. semolina
- a drop of vanilla essence
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- juice of one lemon

Mix ingredients together until smooth. Pour into cake tin and bake at 160°C for c.60min until golden brown on top. Let the cake cool in the tin!

New Member

We are delighted to welcome Ellen Galford as a member of Sukkat Shalom. Ellen is a writer and editor, well known to the Edinburgh Jewish community. One of her short stories appeared recently in a collection called "The Sea of Azov" which is sold on behalf for World Jewish Relief and can be ordered from Five Leaves Publications <http://www.fiveleaves.co.uk/jewish.html>.

Community seder(s)

Not just one seder, but two with the smaller one led by Lauren and Mark the larger by Nick and Mark. There were too many of us (over 100) to fit into one hall. Rabbi Mark managed



to be in both places with his usual flexibility. On the left he is just outside the shot leading "One is Hashem" and on the right in active discussion during the meal with the larger group. It was a great chance to use both ends of the new Haggadah Dor v'Dor.



Chairman's non-word

Your chairman is lost for words this month as she recovers from contributing to the organisation of Rabbi Mark's induction service. This was a wonderful occasion with about a hundred people present including many distinguished guests and representatives of Jewish and non-Jewish organisations. A full report with pictures and the texts of the addresses from Rabbi Rich and Rabbi Solomon will appear next month.

Service in the Borders

SATURDAY 22ND MAY – 11am Shabbat Morning Service in Newstead Village Hall, TD6 9DX, near Melrose

LED BY RABBI MARK SOLOMON

followed by soup, bread and cheese courtesy of Isobel King and by a

VISIT TO NEWSTEAD AND THE ROMAN CAMP OF TRIMONTIUM

please bring walking shoes if you plan to go on the visit

Tell us if you are coming

We need to provide Isobel with an idea of numbers for lunch. If you plan to come please email details of how many you will be to Sue Lieberman (sue.lieberman@mayfieldconsulting.co.uk) or leave a message on the community phone (0131 777 8024) if possible before Wednesday the 19th. At the same time you could mention if you could offer lifts or if you would like a lift either from Edinburgh or from the Earlston bus stop (see below).

How to get there and back

BY BUS: Munros Service No. 52 to Jedburgh leaves Waterloo Place at 9.10am and will take you to Earlston for 10.29 where you can be collected by car. Alternatively stay on to Leaderfoot (10.35) from where it is a 1.5 mile walk to the Hall. There are buses back hourly until 17.42 see timetable at

http://www.munrosfjedburgh.co.uk/pdf/51ptt5_1109.pdf and later options from Melrose.

BY CAR: take the A68 from Edinburgh (beware speed cameras) and follow the signs towards Jedburgh through Dalkeith, Pathhead, Lauder and Earlston. At the Leaderfoot roundabout after Earlston take the A6091 signed to Melrose. After 1 mile take the first turn right to Newstead. Follow the slip road from the main road down to the village. The Health Board Offices are situated on the right as you enter the village. Cars can be parked in these grounds, or in the closed road along side. Please do not park in the Rushbank Circle and it is not advisable to try and park in Main Street, Newstead – as it is too narrow and such spaces as are available are used by residents (Newstead was built before the days of the motorcar)! Walk down through the village past some new houses. The Village Hall is on the left just past the War Memorial (on the right). For **disabled parking only**, there is a small layby immediately opposite the Hall (for one car only).

Any problems on the day: Isobel's phone is 01896 823233 or mobile 07976 276 796

Newstead is thought to be the oldest continuously inhabited village in Scotland and is home to the Roman Fort of Trimontium – “the place of The Three Hills”. This was the nickname the Roman soldiers gave to their fort in the lee of one of the most familiar landmarks in Southern Scotland – the Eildon Hills. After coming to Britain in earnest in 43 CE the Romans took about 40 years to conquer what is now England and Wales. They arrived in Southern Scotland under their governor Agricola in 79 CE and by 83 CE had reached the North of Scotland. Roman politics dictated that they leave Scotland in 105 CE and then brought them back again at the time of the Walls – Hadrian's (Tyne to Solway) in 120s and Antonine's (Forth to Clyde) in 140s. They finally withdrew from Scotland by 200 CE, apart from visits to pay off the tribes or make punitive raids if the province was threatened.

When the Roman army crossed the Cheviots and looked into the Tweed valley, they could see the undulating landscape with the triple-peaked Eildon Hills as the most noticeable feature. Eildon Hill North was a Bronze Age landmark where the Votadini gathered for their festivals. There are 297 roundhouse platforms, but by the time the Romans arrived this activity had ceased.

The Latin ‘Tri-montium’ became the official title covering the 370-acre complex of a huge fort with four settlements (‘annexes’) around it, a military amphitheatre (the most northerly known Roman amphitheatre in the world), a field system and a bridge carrying the Roman road, later called Dere Street, from York northwards. The history is interesting; the views superb. However, you need to have a good imagination – because after the ‘digs’ in 1905-10, 1947 and again in 1987-97 the remains were re-covered to conserve them. It is possible, though, with expert assistance, to see the size and outline structure of the Fort and to learn about the life style of the Romans and their supporters!

Donald Gordon, Trimontium Trust Secretary (<http://www.trimontium.org.uk/wb>) will be on hand to tell us at lunch time about the Roman occupation and then to take a group around the site in the afternoon to see how each successive occupation used Trimontium as the pivot of Roman defences in southern Caledonia. The main garrison comprised 500 or more mounted troops and this rapid reaction force could quickly respond to armed threat from any direction. Add the necessary supply and back up troops and there was a formidable force within the fort. Donald is hoping to join us for the service in the Village Hall in the morning.

Events and Announcements

Lag B'Omer BBQ Sunday 2nd May, The bbq site is booked from 1p.m. on Sunday 2nd May at Muiravonside Country Park. We look forward to as many people as possible joining us. This is now the 6th year this successful gathering for all Scottish Jews has taken place. Please come and bring your friends with your own food and disposable barbeque and hope for good weather! Easily reached from Edinburgh by car (Google maps) or by train to Linlithgow and a walk along the canal, or all the way from Edinburgh by bike via the canal towpath. Contact: annehyman@hotmail.com, mobile on the day 07792 821823



Ladies Lunch, 17 May, 12.30pm, (£12) at the home of Sylvia Donne, 11/4 The Steils, Glenlockhart, Edinburgh EH10 5XD. Building next to the clock tower!

Traditional Afternoon Tea at the home of Kate and Ronnie Goodwin, 2 Mayfield Gardens at **3.00 pm on Sunday 23rd May 2010**. Ticket price is £10 (children half price). This event is intended to be very suitable for children; they will have a room to play in and access to the garden. For catering purposes please respond to Mrs S Donne, 11/4 The Steils, Glenlockhart, Edinburgh EH10 5XD (Please make cheques payable to WIZO.uk).



Interfaith

Exhibition and Conference, Friday 21 May - Sunday 23 May 2010

Nonviolence Within, Peace for All, Barceló Carlton Hotel, North Bridge, Edinburgh

www.nonviolence-edinburgh.com



Edinburgh Women's Inter-Faith Group (EWIG)

“Sustaining Diversity” Inter Faith Networking Seminar, Sunday 16th May,

12 noon - 4.45 pm (with lunch) Beveridge Park Hotel, 6 Abbotshall Road, Kirkcaldy KY2 6PQ *Working together as people of faith to sustain our communities and the environment.*

If you are interested in going by minibus, please reply to Maureen Sier as quickly as possible so that she has an idea of numbers. faithawareness@yahoo.co.uk

Film

The Infidel (Josh Appignanesi, 2010)

Synopsis provided by the Cameo website:

Meet Mahmud Nasir, loving husband, doting father and something of a 'relaxed' Muslim. Does the 'F' word occasionally pass his lips? It's hardly worth mentioning. Does he say his prayers five times a day? Of course! Well, usually... Does he fast every day of Ramadan? Who's counting anyway? Mahmud may not be the most observant, but in his heart he is as Muslim as it gets. But after his mother's death a discovery turns his world upside down. He finds his birth certificate, which reveals that not only was he adopted at birth ... but he's Jewish, and his real name is Solly Shimshillewitz! As Mahmud tumbles headlong into a full-scale identity crisis, the only person he can turn to is Lenny, a drunken Jewish cabbie who agrees to give him lessons in Jewishness, which start with how to dance like Topol. Oy vey.

For information about screenings see

http://www.picturehouses.co.uk/cinema/Cameo_Picturehouse/film/The_Infidel

Request for Information

I am currently conducting research on the history of Edinburgh's Jewish community for my Master's degree and hope to incorporate oral history into my research by interviewing members of the community about their experiences in the city. My research covers the dates 1816-1939 so I would like to interview anyone who has any memories of moving to the city in the very latter part of the period or who would be willing and able to discuss the experience of their parents, grandparents etc growing up in the city. Any help with this would be greatly appreciated. Thank you very much, Lesley Hyslop (lesleyhyslop@hotmail.com).

Liberal Judaism Biennial 16 -18 April 2010

Totworth Court Hotel, Wotton-under-Edge, South Gloucestershire

by Claudette Hudes

'Liberal Jews from across our movement, celebrating, learning, talking, singing and praying together.'

Friday afternoon was registration with tea & coffee afterwards. The Erev Shabbat Service was led by Shabbat Resouled, the Finchley Progressive Synagogue's musical format. It was a wonderful way to bring in the Shabbat and the weekend. We were officially welcomed and had a delicious dinner. Afterwards there was a Oneg Shabbat featuring Sef Townsend the story teller. For those still standing there was late night song celebrating Shabbat into the early hours.



It was lovely seeing familiar faces and renewing old acquaintances and of course meeting new people. There was a full programme as usual; it was difficult to

select workshops, there were so many good ones to choose from. Over 300 people attended and there were separate youth and children's programmes which allowed the whole family to participate.

We could attend four workshops over the weekend which were divided into topics and one could follow the same topic for each workshop or choose different topics.

- Living Liberal Judaism
- Spiritual Journeys
- 70 is the New 50
- Living in the Modern world
- Community and Identity
- Scholars and Leaders
- A Part of Society



We had a 50% increase in attendance from ELJC, 3 instead of 2 - Rebekah, Maureen and myself. Our own Rebekah led a workshop on Living in the Modern World - 'My mind is sharp and functions well, it's just my body that doesn't work properly - Perceptions, Assumptions, Attitudes and Presumptions'. Out of her workshop a group is being formed to look at making it easier for disabled people to be part of a Jewish community.

Early Saturday morning there was a shiur led by some student Rabbis. After that we had a Shabbat morning service. Of course then there was a break for tea & coffee and lots of good conversation before the sessions began. Both on Saturday and Sunday there were talks called 'In Conversation' about 'What Place for Faith in a Multicultural Society?' Saturday morning's was given by a guest speaker the Revd Dr Anthony Harvey. Before lunch we attended session 1 of the workshops. A free time was set aside after lunch so we could explore the beautiful hotel grounds or just relax. Most people could be found wandering around in the gorgeous weather before coming in for tea & coffee and to attend the second session of workshops.

Saturday evening brought a drinks reception which gave us a chance to catch up with friends old and new before dinner. Dinner was party time. A member of the Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue is a UK and American dance champion and member of the London Swing Dance Society. He and his partner showed us some very fancy swing dancing after which he had us up on the dance floor showing us some swing dancing. One doesn't automatically think of Jews and swing dancing but some of the audience were very good. The fun carried on into the night.

For Sunday morning's service we could choose from from a range of different formats:

- Student Rabbis
- Family service
- Tent
- Healing service
- Meditative service

The second 'In Conversation' took place after our chosen service. This one was in a panel form by rabbis from America, Israel and the UK. Both Saturday's and Sunday's speaker found that there is definitely a place for faith in a multicultural society albeit in different forms. Afterwards there was tea & coffee to further discuss the topics.

Workshop sessions three and four followed with a break for lunch and a chance to buy some things from the 'Market Place' in between. The 'Market Place' is an exhibition of craft people, Jewish organisations, books to purchase and other displays. This year there was even a stand in which you could buy Jewish Fair Trade articles. I picked up some Fair Trade Kippahs.

Every good thing does come to an end and so it was the same with the LJ Biennial. The last session was



'Liberal Judaism - With you Every Step of the Way - Today and Tomorrow'. Part of this session was a slide show of the various congregations 'doing their thing' in pictures. ELJC was well represented. The children and youth presented their songs poems etc. and the organisers were honoured. And so should they be. They did a wonderful job and I would recommend that in two years many more of you try to attend. It is a chance to totally surround yourself with all things Jewish and in today's world that is often difficult to find.

There was one last tea & coffee session where everyone continued discussing the wonderful weekend.