

Sukkat Shalom February 2011

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

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Events and Services

Date Friday 4 February 2011

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Venue Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road

Time 6:15pm

**AGM
followed by refreshments**

**Sunday 6 February 2011, 3pm
Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace**

Date Friday 11 February 2011

Event Erev Shabbat Service

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

Time 7pm

Date Friday 18 February 2011

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Venue Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road

Time 6:15pm

Friday 25 February 2011, Chavurah Supper, 7pm

led by Rabbi Mark Solomon &
talk by Miri Weingarten of *Physicians for Human
Rights*.

Please bring a non-meat dish to share.

**St Columba's by the Castle, 14 Johnstone
Terrace** (there are 2 St Columba's on Johnstone Terrace;
come to the one further down the hill).

Date Saturday 26 February 2011

Event Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Mark Solomon
with **guest-preacher Shaikha Halima
Krausen** (see p.3 for more information)

Venue St Mark's, 7 Castle Terrace

Time 11am

Event Tea & Talmud

Venue St Mark's, 7 Castle Terrace

Time 3pm

Date Sunday 27 February 2011

Event Choosing Judaism

Venue Usual Location

Time 10:30am

Event Cantillation

Venue St Mark's, 7 Castle Terrace

Time 3pm

Event Spinoza

Venue St Mark's, 7 Castle Terrace

Time 4pm

Date Friday 4 March 2011

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

Time 6:15pm

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:

Our **Erev Shabbat service** will be on the **SECOND** Friday of each calendar month and our **Shabbat morning service** on the Saturday after the **FOURTH** Friday.

These services take place in the **Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace.**

Fri 11 March Erev Shabbat Service
 Fri 18 March Erev Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Mark Solomon

Jewish Calendar

Purim	20 March 2011
Pesach	19-25 April 2011
Yom HaShoah	1 May 2011
Yom HaAtzmaut	10 May 2011
Shavuot	8 June 2011
Rosh Hashanah	5772 29 September 2011
Yom Kippur	8 October 2011

Parent & Baby/Toddler Group

in the community hall at Salisbury Road Synagogue, 10.30am till around 12pm.

Sunday 20 March (Purim)

Sunday 10 April (Pesach)

As it's Purim and Pesach there will be related activities and songs as well as tea, coffee and snacks, and of course toys.



Kabbalat Torah in Woodford on BBC World Service

In a great coup for Liberal Judaism and Woodford Liberal Synagogue, the BBC World Service featured a Kabbalat Torah service at WLS as part of an international series on coming of age. The piece, broadcast on Monday, can be heard again by visiting this link or emailing alexandra@liberaljudaism.org for an mp3 file:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/news/2011/01/110103_coming_of_age_nh_sl.shtml

Chairman's words - Death and the AGM

Many of you will have read in the press over the past weeks that the orthodox chief Rabbi, Lord Jonathan Sacks, reported that the Beth Din of the United Synagogue had ruled that the removal of organs from a person who was on a respirator, but declared brain-stem dead, was not acceptable under Jewish law. This ruling would prevent those following it from becoming organ donors in the UK. Unsurprisingly progressive authorities take a different view, as more surprisingly, does the chief rabbinate in Israel. They argue that that the mizvah of *pikuach nefesh* (giving back life) overrides all other concerns.

Liberal Judaism has long advocated the holding of donor cards. Rabbi Danny Rich has gone further by arguing that permission to use organs for transplantation after death should be assumed to be granted unless the person had expressed a wish that this should NOT be done - an opt-out approach. This view is one that is shared by many people in the medical world who have argued forcibly that this policy is the only one that could alleviate the chronic shortage of donor organs and prevent the deaths of so many patients while they wait in vain for an organ that could save their lives.

So what has this got to do with the AGM? Members of Sukkat Shalom will shortly be receiving a notice about the AGM in the post, Along with it will be a letter from Eva, our membership secretary, asking

Members you to check and correct the
Please return your details we hold about you.
information to Eva Some members have also
promptly by mail or registered their wishes for
email their funerals with us, but

many others have not done so perhaps not wishing to contemplate their own mortality. This is very understandable and probably lies behind the problem with getting people to register as organ donors.

Looking at my own letter reminded me that, although I had always meant to register as an organ donor, I had never got round to it. If I mentioned it on the shul form it might help to make sure that it happened when the time comes. So I went to the UK transplant web site (<http://www.uktransplant.org.uk>) and joined. It took me exactly 3 minutes. You can also do it by calling 0300-123-23-23, a 24 hour service. If you feel as I do about organ donation, perhaps you might do so too, if you have not already, and let us know on your forms even if you don't want to think about what sort of funeral you want.

Tu b'Shevat Seder 5771/2011

Our exhortations in last month's newsletter for you to attend our Tu b'Shevat seder certainly seem to have borne fruit. The fact that our Rabbi Mark Solomon was leading it and that it was followed by a communal meal may also have contributed to our good attendance. Or perhaps it was the mystical call of the beautiful harvest moon that had been shining out of the cold clear sky in last few days that reminded us that it was the New Year for Trees. Our only slight regret was that more families with young children were not able to attend this fairly early-evening event since Marchmont St Giles is such a good place for children who can just disappear round the corner into the playhouse when they need a break.



We all fulfilled the mitzvah of drinking the four cups of wine - first all white - then white with a blush of red - then half red and half white - and finally all red. We partook of many different kinds of fruit in the three different classes - hard outside and soft and edible inside, including nuts, citrus fruits and pomegranates - soft outside with a hard stone in the centre, such as nectarines or dates - and finally soft through and through which you eat in its entirety like strawberries apples or grapes. You may be able to pick them out on the the picture of some of the tables.

For all of these symbols and rituals there are meanings on various levels, from the more down-to-earth (e.g. the seasons for the four cups of wine) to the spiritual interpretations of the four different worlds we inhabit.

The modern interpretation of Tu b'Shevat focuses very strongly on ecology and on sustaining the plants and animals on our planet. So we were pleased that most of the wine we used to fill the four cups and our fruits were from fair trade sources.

Our members outdid themselves in their contributions to the meal that followed, a wonderful feast, as you can see here.



Muslim guest-preacher on 26 February

Shaikha Halima Krausen was born in Aachen, Germany into a Catholic/Protestant family. She became Muslim in her early teens, eventually learning Arabic and studying with visiting Muslim scholars and travelling extensively in the Muslim world. In 1992, she completed her studies in Hamburg that included Islamic Law and Theology with Imam Razvi, the leading scholar in Hamburg's Muslim Community, as well as Islamic studies, Christian Theology and Comparative Religion at the university. Shaikha Halima is currently the Imam for the German speaking Muslims in Hamburg Mosque.

From 1984-1988 she was part of a team that produced a German translation of the Qur'an with commentary notes, and afterwards was involved in translating some volumes of Hadith and Islamic law as well. In 1985, Shaikha Halima became a founding member of the Inter-Religious Dialogue Circle at the Department of Theology at Hamburg University. Finally, in 1993 she helped found the educational institute Initiative for Islamic Studies and succeeded Imam Razvi as the head of the German-speaking community when he retired from active service. She contributed to several books on interfaith studies and wrote a number of articles on various Islamic and inter-religious subjects. She teaches regularly in London and across Europe and is particularly interested in inter-faith dialogue.

She will also be taking part in a discussion with Rabbi Mark Solomon later that day - see details on page 6.

Hola from Barcelona! - the beautiful city I find myself immersed in for a precious year, while at art school ...

... a letter from Sukkat Shalom member, Lauren Fox

I am studying full-time, doing a post-graduate diploma in Studio Arts - this basically means I have a year to create freely ... welding, drawing, painting, carving, thinking, learning, trying to understand more and more. It's challenging, fun, exciting, difficult, intense - I am learning so much, and realising once again how much more there is to learn. Part of the challenge has certainly been to find a place for myself in such an enormous, transient city - or even to accept a certain degree of impermanence and insecurity, and enjoy the fluidity of my life here. But these challenges are really incredible, and I am realising what a joy the luxury of this year is.

I've had work in a couple of exhibitions in the city so far, and also have some of my work on display in a bar in Sant Gervasi, an area in the north of the city. You can see more about all of this, and my current projects etc on my blog, should you wish to visit it: www.laurenffox.blogspot.com.

And since I have been here, I have also managed to find and join Atid - the Catalanian Liberal Jewish community, for the High Holy Days as well as various Shabbat services. It's a really lovely, and welcoming community, who have their own building just outside of the centre of the city. There are some differences, of course, but it is remarkably familiar at the same time - they share various tunes that we also use, the set-up, of community members leading parts or all of the services is a bit like ours, and the general vibe and community spirit makes me feel not so far from home after all!

I really recommend a visit - to both the city and Atid, the Liberal Jewish community - if anyone is coming this way in the next few months do be in touch - I'd be glad to share what I know and help if I can! My number here is +34 622 695 498, and my email is laurenfox@hotmail.com.

Tribute to a Fine Jewish Musician - D. Friedman by Rebekah Gronowski



It is with great sadness that we learned last week of the death of the fine Jewish musician, singer and songwriter, Debbie Friedman, at the age of 59 years on 9th January 2011 from pneumonia complications.

Debbie wrote many fine pieces and songs for worship, many of which we have used ourselves over the years. Her music was prayerful, inspiring and spiritually uplifting and she completely changed the culture of Jewish worship in the Reform tradition and in others also. She was also an award-winning singer and guitarist. She wrote music which she wanted to be accessible to everyone and which was readily-learned by small groups, students and congregations alike. In her earlier years she wrote music for the Jewish Youth Camps (Kadimah)? Debbie used ancient texts and set them to music which was modern yet reverent whilst also using more modern texts. Her music instilled a deep spirituality in the hearts of many people who had never experienced a spiritual awakening - she evoked a deep love of prayer and new ways of expression in worship.

"Songs of the Spirit: Debbie Friedman Anthology" may be found on many websites either to purchase as a CD or to download as MP3 tracks. She wrote settings of Lecha Dodi, Mi Chamocha, Birchot Havdalah, Sh'ma Koleinu, Ma Tov, Shelter of Peace (Hashkiveinu) Yism'chu, and Sim Shalom have all been set to music by Debbie - many of these we know well. Many of Debbie's songs were used in healing Services and were used by many synagogues and at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). She was much loved at JTS and you can see their tributes to her on their website here - <http://www.jtsa.edu/x15123.xml>. There is also a very moving tribute to Debbie and her work on the Jerusalem Post website here -

<http://www.jpost.com/ArtsAndCulture/Music/Article.aspx?id=202864>

Among her songs were "Light These Lights" for Chanukah, "Water in the Well" and "Miriam's Song" which is probably one of the songs for which she will be remembered best - the song about Miriam and the Women dancing with their timbrels. "Lechi Lach" ("And You Shall Be a Blessing") was also one of Debbie's best-known songs.

May Her Life Be for a Blessing also!

Community Matters

Re-arranged Boy's Night Out

Saturday 12 February, 8 o'clock at Il Castello (36 Castle Terrace).

The meeting place will be at the Blue Blazer (corner of Bread and Spittal Street) for 7pm, if you can't make it here first, you can meet us at the venue for 8pm.

The menu can be viewed at <http://www.ilcastellorestaurant.co.uk/menu.php>

PLEASE if you are interested then call asap....Contact Ricky (Rickyhogg7@aol.com) Mobile 07962076017

Security at our services

We have recently been having debates in the council as to whether we might have some relaxation of our current practice of not advertising the venues where we hold our services. This that this can be a barrier to some people finding us, but Jews generally expect there to be safeguards and this proposed change change will diminish them. We are now having almost all of our services at the two venues where we have storage space (the Columcille Centre and Marchmont St Giles Church Centre) both of which are covered by the same police district, Sgt Normal Towler, head of Community Policing for Lothian and Borders attended a recent council meeting to discuss this with us. What we are proposing is that we should make the venues where we have our services available on our web site, without the need to be a registered user. We would still request that people contact us before they arrive so we know to expect them. Sgt Towler told us that this change in policy would still mean that we are at very low risk of any incident. He has offered to get the local community police to brief Marjory, who takes the lead in precautions to keep us safe, and to go over the details of our premises and to give us advice. Marjory already keeps the police informed of our services and they keep us well briefed on any incidents.

What do you think about this? Would it give you any concern if we changed our policy? Please send a message to info@eljc.org or leave a message on the community phone so we may consider issues you raise.

Kol Nidre Appeal 2010.

Thank you to all who contributed to the 2010 Kol Nidre Appeal. This time we raised a total of £4771 for our 5 nominated charities, the highest amount ever. Thank you as always for your wonderful and unfailing generosity.

Members' Announcements.

Mazal tov to James Bianco, our relatively new member from Moffat, and his wife Marita on the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Mariella on 13 November. We must apologise to James for not having noted him as a new member when he joined in the autumn. We hope that we will get to meet the family again soon.

A very big thank you to all those at Sukkat Shalom for the visits and phone calls, as well as the cards, emails and messages which you sent me while I was recently unwell. These were very much appreciated. Jonathan Broadie.

Do you have a spare bookcase?

We are planning to have our library of books available for borrowing at Collumcille, so we need a bookcase to put them in. Do you have anything we could use - maximum height 1.64m and maximum width 1.72m? A member already kindly donated the cupboard where we store other things - so we hope we may be lucky again. If not we will head for Ikea - so Ikea assembly skills will be the next talent we are after. Please let us know if you could help either with a bookcase or with assembling one.

Events and Announcements

Edinburgh Interfaith Association

www.eifa.org.uk



Community Meal: 1st Monday evening of each month.

Next: Monday 7 February.

Time: Cooking from 5pm, eating around 6:15pm

Location: Hall of St John's Church, Princes Street.

RSVP please even if it is just one word long (email Katherine:

katherine@eifa.org.uk). Feel free to bring a friend but let's us know for cooking purposes.

Edinburgh International Festival of

MESP

Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace

www.mesp.org.uk

Events from 10 February through to 26 March 2011. Please check the website for information.

SERVAS PEACE MEAL

Thursday 24 February

7pm for 7.30pm £16/£10 concession

Double Dutch Bistro, 27-29 Marshall Street

servasedinburgh@hotmail.com 0131 228 2186

'Taught by the Pen' Festival

Saturday 26 February: THINKERS of GOLDEN AGE OF ISLAM

Shaika Halima Krausen and Rabbi Mark Solomon

Appleton Tower, Edinburgh University 6:30pm to 9pm

For details of all events in this Festival see: <http://www.radioramadanedinburgh.com/>

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

Sunday 6 February, 8.00pm, Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road

Nathan Abrams: Remote Jews? Small Jewish communities Dr Nathan Abrams is a historian at Bangor University, having previously been at Aberdeen. Some years ago he spoke to us on one of his interests, Jewish Film, and now he returns to address us on another of his particular interest, small Jewish communities. This is of course a theme of great interest to the Edinburgh communities, and with Dr Abrams having spent considerable time in those outposts of the Jewish Empire, Aberdeen and Bangor, he is particularly well placed to talk to the Lit about such matters.

Pesach plans and a free offer for students

We are making plans for Pesach and Rabbi Mark Solomon is going to be with us again for the **first seder night on Monday 18th April**. Last year we had so many late bookings that we expanded into two halls. This put a great strain on the catering staff and the Rabbi and we have decided that this year we must limit the numbers to the capacity of one hall. Booking information will be in our March newsletter with a priority booking date for members. But we hate to have to turn people away, especially visitors to the city. So we are appealing to those of you who are planning to have seders at home to get in touch with us to offer to welcome some visitors to your seder. Please be in touch with us soon to let us know if you would be prepared to do this. so we can explain what might be involved.

Liberal Judaism's Student Worker, Yszi Hawkings, is arranging for fabulous Pesach packs to be sent out to Liberal Jewish students around the country but she can only do so if she knows where to find them! Please email her as soon as possible on yszi@liberaljudaism.org with your details or details of students you know. The pack includes a copy of the new LJ Haggadah along with other items for Pesach.

Judaica Europeana opens access to Jewish heritage

The Judaica Europeana network of Jewish museums, libraries and archives which have joined Judaica Europeana has more than doubled since the launch of this project. Twenty-three institutions in 17 cities have joined forces to provide an integrated online access to Jewish collections under the single digital roof of Europeana. We can confidently predict that the network will continue to expand as the project develops and more Jewish content is digitized. Twenty events were held over the last 12 months in various European cities and in Israel to raise awareness of Judaica Europeana among its target audiences.

More about Judaica Europeana at http://www.judaica-europeana.eu/JE_newsletter2_je.html

Zionism: A Jewish Communal Response

A pamphlet written by leading Rabbis and thinkers on behalf of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. The pamphlet seeks to address a growing concern amongst the UK Jewish community that Christians are too ready to dismiss Zionism as “a political movement” of “only incidental importance” to Judaism, rather than a central facet of Jewish identity.

The pamphlet entitled Zionism: a Jewish Communal Response from the UK, follows the publication almost exactly a year ago by Palestinian Christian leaders of a document named Kairos Palestine, which is perceived as dismissive of Jewish connections with the land of Israel. Kairos Palestine was extensively quoted in the subsequent decision by UK Methodists to support a boycott of Israeli goods.

The pamphlet comprises essays from Rabbi Dr Tony Bayfield, the Head of the Movement for Reform Judaism, Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, the Senior Rabbi of the Assembly of Masorti Synagogues, Rabbi Danny Rich, the Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism and leading Orthodox thinker, Dan Rickman, as well as a foreword by the President of the Board of Deputies, Vivian Wineman.

For more information see:

http://www.boardofdeputies.org.uk/page.php/Zionism:_A_Jewish_Communal_Response/387/103/3

The pamphlet is available online as a pdf file: http://www.bod.org.uk/zionism_a_communal_response/.
The community has a copy of it which will shortly be available for members to borrow.

London exhibitions with Jewish Interest

We don't usually list London events. It can be too annoying to see how many Jewish events one is missing. But there was such a rich choice of exhibitions this month we thought we would mention them in case anyone was planning to be in London in the coming weeks.

BEN URI Gallery: *The Land of Light and Promise*, 12 January to 24 April

50 Years Painting Jerusalem and Beyond - Ludwig Blum (1891-1974). This exhibition of 35 works traces the career of Czech-born Israeli topographical artist, Ludwig Blum, who emigrated to Palestine in 1923. Jerusalem was 'his' city and he never ceased to find inspiration in its architecture, holy places, markets and peoples.

108a Boundary Road, off Abbey Road, St Johns Wood NW8 ORH, www.benuri.org.uk, £5/£4

Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue: *Memories*, 18 January to 27 February

A remarkable art exhibition by Maria Tudosa coinciding with Holocaust Memorial Week. Oaklands Gate, Northwood, HA6 3AA, viewing by arrangement.

barfisher@btinternet.com, 01923 822592

HACKNEY MUSEUM: *East End Boxing Lives*, 27 January until end of April

Exhibition of the rich boxing history of the area including the great Jewish boxers.
1 Reading Ln, E8 1GQ, 020 8356 3500

JEWISH MUSEUM: *Portraits for Posterity*, 16 January to 10 February

Striking portraits of twenty survivors of the Holocaust now living in Britain.
3-5pm on weekdays, all day Sunday

Morocco, until March

Exhibition of photographs about Jewish life in Morocco in the 1940s and 50s. Events, talks and performances to accompany the exhibit - please check our listings for further details or visit the Jewish Museum website.

129-131 Albert Street Camden NW1, <http://www.jewishmuseum.org.uk>

MUSEUM OF LONDON DOCKLANDS: *London Under Siege: Churchill and the Anarchists*, until April

New exhibition to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the siege of Sidney Street and the Houndsditch murders. In partnership with the Jewish East End Celebration Society, the exhibition will set the murders and the siege in their historical and social context, exploring immigration at the time and the then-Home Secretary Winston Churchill's role at the siege.

West India Quay, Canary Wharf E14 4AL, www.museumindocklands.org.uk, free

Burns night



Last Sunday saw the culmination of several weeks of hard work by members of the Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre committee and our members when our joint Burns Supper was held in the Community Centre premises. The event was a huge success and both communities have had notes of appreciation from those who attended, especially for the excellent quality of the food. The evening was expertly chaired by Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation member David Neville. We were honoured to have the Immortal Memory proposed by Mr. Nat Edwards, director of the Robert Burns Birthplace and Museum in Ayrshire. The museum officially opened on 22, January 2011 so this was the first Immortal Memory address given by the director since the official opening. Nat is seen here with the Rabbis and Chairs of the two communities. Members of both communities contributed to the toasts and the recitations. But the highlight of the evening had to be the performance of Burns songs, including "My love is like a red, red rose" in Yiddish, by Rabbi Mark Solomon accompanied by Andrew Wilson on fiddle and Andrew Macintyre on bagpipes and penny whistle.

Purim 2011

For the last two years we have held a joint Purispiel with Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation and we are pleased that this is going to continue this year and Phil Wadler and Nan Lynner are well ahead with plans for the play. But there will be a slight difference in the arrangements this year to take account of the fact that our Rabbi will be visiting on the weekend of Purim. We will be holding our own megillah reading led by Rabbi Mark at Marchmont St Giles, where the cheder is held, at the earlier time of 6pm after which we will have some food and then make our way down Strathearn Road to join the Hebrew Congregation for the Purimspiel. Erev Purim is Saturday 19th March - so put the date in your diary.