

Sukkat Shalom

April 2011

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 1 April**

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Venue Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road
Time 6:15pm

Date **Friday 8 April**

Event Erev Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre,
2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 7pm

Date **Friday 15 April**

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service led
by Rabbi Mark Solomon
Venue Marchmont St Giles,
1a Kilgraston Road
Time 6:15pm

Date **Saturday 16 April**

Event Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Mark Solomon
Venue St Columba's by the Castle,
14 Johnstone Terrace
Time 11am
Event **Tea & Talmud**
Venue St Columba's by the Castle,
14 Johnstone Terrace
Time 3pm

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 17 April**

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 **Saturday 23 April**

Event Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle
Terrace
Time 11am

We plan to have provision for young children at this service (see page 2).

Date **Friday 29 April**

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Venue Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road
Time 6:15pm

Monday 18 April

Community first Night Seder

Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road 7pm

We need final numbers very soon.

Details and a booking form can be accessed at

<http://www.eljc.org/index.php?id=101>

Contents

- Page 2 *Future dates, provision for children at services. Yom Hashoah, Chairman's word*
- Page 3 *Purim celebrations*
- Page 4 *Liberal Judaism, SCoJeC*
- Page 5 *Tribute to Stephen Moon, Interfaith*
- Page 6 *Community matters*
- Page 7 *Events and announcements, including two events in first week of April*

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.**

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|------------|---|
| Fri 6 May | Kabbalat Shabbat Service |
| Fri 13 May | Erev Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Mark Solomon |
| Sat 14 May | Shabbaton in Glasgow. Service followed by lunch and activities, discussions Full details next month |
| Sun 15 May | Choosing Judaism, Cantillation, Spinoza |
| Fri 20 May | Kabbalat Shabbat Service |
| Sat 28 May | Shabbat Service |

Jewish Calendar

| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Yom HaShoah | 1 May 2011 (see below) |
| Yom HaAtzmaut | 10 May 2011 |
| Shavuot | 8 June 2011 |
| Rosh Hashanah | 5772 29 September 2011 |
| Yom Kippur | 8 October 2011 |

Yom HaShoah Service

The Yom Hashoah service will take place on Monday 2nd May at 6.45pm in the Peace Park of Princes Street Gardens. Disabled access to the gardens can be arranged. Email chair@eljc.org if you require it.

Provision for children at services

We know that our regular shabbat services are not well suited to young children, Friday night they are too tired and a Shabbat morning service lasts longer than the attention span of almost any child under 10 or so.

We have had various attempts to provide some opportunity for younger ones to participate in Shabbat morning services but none have worked out.

But it looks like we may be on the way to solving this. Saul Aryeh-Kohn, a student at Edinburgh University, who is also an experienced Cheder teacher, has offered to run some sessions for young ones during selected Shabbat morning services. **We are planning the first one for Shabbat 23rd April when the service will be at Columcille.** Plans are still being

finalised, but it would be very helpful to us to let us know if you would plan to bring your children that day. All members with young children will be circulated with details nearer the time. Your ideas on how it should be organised and/or experience with other communities would be most welcome. Please email chair@eljc.org to let us know.

Chairman's Word

Thanks to the generosity and energy of our members a few things I have long wished we could provide for the community may finally be happening.

We have long hoped to have a library of books that could be shared between members of the community and those interested in becoming Jews by Choice. We discussed doing it in the virtual world by having book links on the web site, but it has never taken off. Most people felt we would need to be able to look through and smell a book, so we needed a book case and a place to keep it. We now have just what we need and two bookcases are installed next to our cupboard at our storage space in Columcille. Over the next weeks we will be working with our librarian (Lisa Barcan) to organise everything for borrowing and we will let you know when the GRAND OPENING of the bookcases will take place. In the same week we have also received a donation of a library bookcase suitable for displaying books for young children which is being used by the Cheder. **See page 4 for how you can contribute any books (for adults or children).**

Another thing we have long hoped to provide is some way in which young children can come to services. And again this looks as though it will be happening, see column to the left, though we may need to experiment a bit to get it right.

Pesach is coming up soon and it looks now as though we will have enough space to fit everyone who wants to come in to our Communal Seder - but please book now if you want to come and have not done so already. We have set a firm limit this year.

Looking ahead we are planning a Shabbaton with Glasgow Reform Synagogue on Saturday 14th May. We will have the treat of having two Rabbis present (Rabbi Nancy Morris of Glasgow Reform and our own Rabbi Mark Solomon). Strictly speaking a shabbaton should, I think, involve a whole Shabbat starting on Friday night, but we will be starting at 11am on Saturday. We hope to organise car sharing so that everyone has a chance to attend. Plans are being finalised. The topic of the environment has been suggested but other possibilities are still open. Final details will be in the May newsletter.

Happy Passover to one and all. Gillian

Purim 2011



"Our best Purim ever and the most fun!" several members have commented, no doubt because we had our own Rabbi Mark Solomon with us. The strange person on the left, could he be a sushi chef? judged the Fancy Dress Competition (prizes for all - see below). This was followed by a Megillah reading from a hand written scroll, kindly lent by Bill Zachs for the occasion, when the strange person showed that he could chant from the scroll with all the right melodies and members of the congregation acted as narrators for or as characters in the story.

Purim is a time when we should give gifts to the poor, known as mishloach manot (משלוח מנות), and this year several dreadful events have created much poverty that we should try to do something to alleviate. After the Megillah reading we had a collection for World Jewish Relief's work for the surviving children of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan that raised over £100. We would like to encourage more of you to make individual donations to this appeal. See page 7 for details.

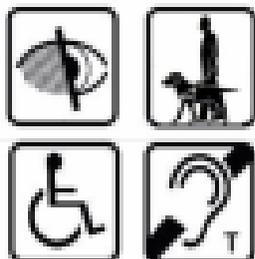


After the Megillah reading and Havdalah many of us tramped down to join the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation for another Havdalah and another kiddush followed by our joint Purimspiel written by Nancy Lynner and Rohan Green and directed by Nancy, Phil Wadler with music arranged by Stephanie Brickman and played by Norma Brodie and Avery Meiksin. As well as the usual characters the cast included Nick Clegg, David Cameron, Prince William, Kate Middleton and Meshuggenah the palace elf, shown below in the middle holding up a chess board for Col. Qaddafi Haman so he could let King Ahaseuros beat him. Undoubtedly the highlight of the production was the beauty competition (below left) where the modest Esther was upstaged by four Shushan beauties - soon to become gallant runners up. Congratulations to the cast and to everyone else who helped with the production. It is our third joint Purimspiel with EHC and our best yet.





Kulanu Inclusion Seminar



Liberal Judaism's Kulanu - All of Us! forum is holding a seminar at NPLS (London) on Sunday 10th April, 10.30am to 4.00pm for all disabled people within Liberal Judaism, all who care for a disabled person, and all who

are responsible for ensuring access and inclusion in communal activities. For more info or to book, please email Jess Nyman jess@liberaljudaism.org or call 020 7580 1663. For those who are coming from a distance (i.e. Scotland/North of England) there may be subsidies available to assist with costs. For more information contact Leon Charikar, Social Action Officer, leoncharikar@yahoo.co.uk

Daily Telephone Minyan

Minyan Meirahok is a daily evening telephone minyan designed for those who would like to say Kaddish or who would appreciate a brief moment of prayer at bedtime. Open to all. Find out more from Rabbi Marcia Plumb on 020 8445 3400.



Leo Baeck College Rabbinical Open Day

Learn what it takes to be a rabbi by joining Leo Baeck College students for a day at rabbinical school, with a chance to tour the campus, meet the faculty and find out about the rabbinic programme at Leo Baeck College. Wednesday 13th April. Email Rabbinic Admissions Advisor Rabbi Judith Levitt



(judith.levitt@lbc.ac.uk) or call her on 07580 130 506 for more information.

New President for WUPJ

The World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) is delighted to announce the appointment of Rabbi Stephen Lewis Fuchs as President. Read more: <http://www.wupj.org/News/NewsItem.asp?ContentID=413>

New Principal for Leo Baeck College

The Board of Governors of Leo Baeck College (LBC) voted on Monday night to appoint Rabbi Deborah Kahn-Harris as the new Principal. Following the completion of his five year term, Rabbi Professor Marc Saperstein will remain at the College in an academic role as Professor of Jewish History and Homiletics. Read more: <http://www.lbc.ac.uk/201103281449/News/news-release-leo-baeck-college-appoints-rabbi-deborah-kahn-harris-as-new-principal.html>

Day of Celebration for Liberal Judaism

Online booking for the Day of Celebration for Liberal Judaism on 22nd May at the LJS is now open. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/ljdocform>. For more information, click here. Speakers include Daniel Finkelstein OBE, Jo Coburn and Lee Montagu. Cost: £6 for adults, £1 for under-18s or full-time students.

Fourth international seminar for Progressive Jewish young adults

The EUPJ together with JuJ Germany and 'tent' UK invites you to the 4th international seminar for Progressive Jewish young adults: Jewish Journeys, in Berlin, Germany 3 – 6 November, 2011. For more information visit <http://www.jewish-journeys.org>. Interested in helping us shape this year's programme? Email info@jewish-journeys.org

LJ Today

Copies of the award winning bi-monthly magazine from Liberal Judaism are available at our services. If you are unable to get yours, you can access the latest edition and previous ones from <http://www.liberaljudaism.org/publications-and-resources/lj-today.html>. If you would like a copy and can't manage to collect it then please leave a message on the community phone and we will arrange to post you one.



SCoJeC

As many of you will know SCoJeC (Scottish Council of Jewish Communities) is the representative body for all Jewish Communities in Scotland. Copies of their newsletter (Four Corners) are available to collect at our services and can be accessed on their web site (<http://www.scojec.org>) . The latest edition includes some photos of our events as well as a caption competition for your chance to win a voucher for goods from Mark's Deli.

In Memory of Stephen Charles Faraday Moon

23/12/1967 to 18/03/2011

by Rebekah Gronowski

On Friday 18th March 2011 my younger son, Steve, passed away at the tragically young age of 43. He was surrounded by all his family and four very close friends and slipped away peacefully just as Shabbat was coming in and the full moon was rising heralding the approach of the Festival of Purim. Steve always remembered my Jewish Festivals and always wished me "Happy Hanukkah" or whatever the Festival was - he never forgot. (His guttural pronunciation of "h" and "ch" were something to be proud of, considering the fact that he didn't speak Hebrew - he had a good ear and this always gave me a warm feeling).



Steve lived for his family - he lived for his two daughters, Steph and Charlie, and for his three grandchildren, James, Faith & Finley. Everything he did, he did for them - he supported them throughout all their trials and tribulations during their young ages, their teenage years and beyond into their twenties. His whole life was his girls and his grandchildren and he worked very hard for them - not an easy thing bringing up two girls on his own.

Steve had been unwell for some time - it probably started several years ago - but, more latterly, his health took a nose-dive and his body finally said, "Enough, already!" He worked right up until three days before being admitted to hospital with severe illness from which he could not have recovered.

He was highly respected in the business world and by all his colleagues and the company for whom he worked. He always took great pride in ethical business dealings with his clients and work colleagues. This can be borne out by the hundreds of messages which have been received from clients and colleagues alike, not only from his current work place but from his previous employers.

He had a tremendous sense of humour and kept his colleagues regaled with his funny stories, jokes and anecdotes. I always found it amusing that he would tell my Mum jokes which he wouldn't tell me - he could be so hilarious.

Steve was a gentle, peace-loving man with a gregarious side to him which was much appreciated by all his friends and family. He was a very clever and highly intelligent man with whom I spent many hours in deep discussions on philosophy, religion and a wide range of very meaty topics.

He will be sadly missed by all his family but, most of all, I will miss him and his daily phone calls when he came home from work. I am consoled by the fact that he is now at peace and with his fourth grandchild, Lucy and is no longer suffering.

May his Memory be for a Blessing!



Interfaith

Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group

On Wednesday 20th April 7.00 to 9.00pm, beginning with a shared meal (note it is during Pesach), Rosie Mellor from the Alwaleed Centre for the study of Islam will be the speaker. This meeting will be held in the Edinburgh Central Mosque. Web site: <http://www.edinwig.org.uk>

Belief in Dialogue:

Religion and Belief Relations in Scotland: Good Practice Guide. This Scottish Government publication is intended for individuals, faith communities, belief groups, inter-faith groups, local authority equality officers as well as for statutory and voluntary organisations. It contains many interesting practical suggestions for interfaith activities and education. It can be accessed at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/03/22143221/0> and we have been sent a hard copy that will shortly be available in our library.

Community matters

Condolences

Our sincere condolences go to two Sukkat Shalom members on the recent loss of close family members. Rebekah Gronowski on the loss of her son Steve, aged 43. Rebekah's tribute to him is on page 5. Lionel Naftalin, father of our founding chairman Maurice and grandfather of Isaac, Daniel, Joe and Ben, passed away on 29th March aged 96. We send our best wishes to get through these difficult times to Rebekah and her family and to Maurice, Ruth and all of the Naftalin family.

New members

We are delighted to welcome Abigaël Candelas and Elad Schreiber as new members this month. Many of you will know Abigaël, a postgraduate research student of linguistics who has been a regular at our services for some time now. Elad, originally from Montreal, is new to Edinburgh and to the UK.



Mazal Tov

To Hannah and Andrew Brodie on the safe arrival of Blake Charles Brodie by planned section at 10.04 on 16th March and weighing 6lb5oz, a wee brother for Zak. He's doing really well and is already well past his birth weight. Doesn't he look a sweetie here? We hope to meet him soon.

Subscriptions and donations

Thanks to members who have paid their subscriptions in response to our recent letter and especially to those of you who have given additional donations to help us maintain the Community. But **those members who have not yet replied are reminded that subscriptions are now due**, and should be sent to Jonathan Brodie, 26 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh EH9 3HP. Cheques should be payable to Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh. Donations to help us with our ever increasing costs would also be most welcome. Any queries about subscriptions, donations or methods of payment should be directed to Jonathan (treasurer@eljc.org or leave a message on the community phone for him to get back to you).

Provisions for Pesach

We believe that Sainsbury's at Cameron Toll now has kosher l'Pesach Matzos and Matzo meal in stock and Matzos are half price; but, be warned, supplies often run out. A much wider selection is available from Mark's Deli in Glasgow who will be delivering to Edinburgh on the evening of Thursday 14th April. Items will need to be collected from the Synagogue in Salisbury Road. For your convenience we have put a list of items and prices on our web site (<http://www.eljc.org/newsletter/pesach2011.pdf>). If you would like to have items delivered to Salisbury Road please contact Mark as soon as possible on info@marksdeli.co.uk or 0141 638 8947.

Cross-Community Parent & Toddler Group

Joint meeting of Sukkat Shalom with the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation toddlers, will be meeting at the the Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road 10.30 to noon on Sunday 10th April for play, toys, chat and snacks.. Susie Shenkin is the contact at Salisbury Road, but Rebecca Wober (rebwob@yahoo.co.uk) can be contacted if you have any queries.

Jewish books wanted

Do you have any books of Jewish interest that you would consider donating to our, soon to be established, library? We already have some donations. Books that might be of interest to members of the Choosing Judaism class would be particularly welcome, but we will consider any books with a Jewish theme. The plans are to have all of the books catalogued and available for borrowing to members of Sukkat Shalom and those attending Choosing Judaism classes. **Just bring any along to Collumcille when we are meeting there. Children's books** for the cheder bookcase would also be welcome. Please bring to Marchmont St Giles Church Centre.

Events and announcements

RENT the Musical - 5th to 9th April at the Churchhill Theatre

Kat Angus is performing in Edinburgh Music Theatre's production. She is mainly in the ensemble, but has solos as Mrs Cohen! Rent tells the story of a group of impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York's Lower East Side in the thriving days of Bohemian Alphabet City, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. Profits on Thursday, 7th April 2011 will be donated to Waverley Care, Scotland's leading charity providing care and support to people living with HIV and Hepatitis C.



Evening performances are at 7.30pm and Saturday matinee is at 2pm.

Ticket prices are from £8 to £12 and can be obtained from Usher Hall, Lothian Road, 0131 228 1155 or online at www.usherhall.co.uk, (booking fee applies), or contact Kat who can send you a flyer with details and keep tickets for you at the box office. Contact: kat@hummingalong.com Tel 0797 278 6263.

Children of Shatilla performance April 6th

Children from Shatila, a Palestinian Refugee Camp in Beirut, will perform Peter Mortimer's fable, Croak, the King and a Change in the Weather, on Wednesday 6 April at 3pm & 7pm at the Scottish Storytelling Centre on the Royal Mile (<http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk/>). The play tells the story of how a cruel and dictatorial monarch is brought down by the forces of nature using live music, dance and mime. Having already performed in Gateshead's The Sage and then set for Liverpool on the 8 April this is an experience quite different to the usual confines of their squalid refugee camp. Investment from Creative Scotland has helped bring the young performers to Scotland all of whom have never left the camp before. For more details about the play see http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2011/03/palestinian-children-to-perform-in-edinburgh/?wpmp_switcher=mobile.



World Jewish Relief Japan Earthquake Appeal

In keeping with the values of Tikkun Olam, WJR have just launched an emergency appeal for Japan and are calling on British Jewry's support as the country faces a growing humanitarian crisis. Following the devastating earthquake and tsunami there, more than five million homes are without power, water, or heat and hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced. The scale of need is almost incomprehensible with initial reports estimating that thousands of people have died in the disaster, with many more missing and injured.

WJR's support will seek to provide emergency relief, rehabilitation and recovery as well as potential longer term rebuilding, as deemed appropriate by partner agencies. To donate to WJR's Japan Tsunami Appeal: log on to <http://www.wjr.org.uk/japan> or call 020 8736 1250.

NEW JEWS

BBC World Service Focus on Faith programme. Why do people choose to take the difficult path to convert to Judaism, a religion that does not seek or encourage converts? The most straightforward reason is because of marriage, but there are people who convert for their own other potent reasons and in a forthcoming edition of Heart and Soul they talk about them to Judi Herman.

We hear from Agi, brought up in a family with no religion in a small town in Hungary, hungering for a spiritual dimension to her life. Then there's Theo, born to staunch Nazi parents in 1930s Berlin. His journey has taken him from being a member of the Hitler Youth, to marking the anniversary of Hitler's birthday by reading in synagogue. And Nigerian-born Elisha and Nkem were brought up in a "Jewish" tribe following Jewish customs, but as Messianic Jews they were taught that Jesus is the Son of God. Why have they chosen to convert to mainstream Judaism and bring up their two young children in the faith? All four talk frankly to Judi Herman about the unusual reasons that have led them to the Jewish faith. *Saturday 16 April at 11.32 GMT Sunday 17 April at 03.32, 08.32, 19.32 and 00.32 GMT*
Podcast available from 16 April on the BBC website.