

# Sukkat Shalom February 2012

## Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

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## Events and Services

### Date **Friday 3 February 2012**

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Venue Marchmont St. Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road

Time 6:15pm

### Date **Friday 10 February 2012**

Event Erev Shabbat Service and Tu B'Shevat seder - the seder includes a communal supper so please bring a non-meat dish to share, and some fruits, too!

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

Time 7pm

### Date **Friday 17 February 2012**

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Venue Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road

Time 6:15pm

### Date **Sunday 19 February 2012**

Event AGM - see page 4

Venue To be confirmed and circulated shortly

Time 3.30pm

### Date **Saturday 25 February 2012**

Event Interfaith Shabbat Morning Service led by Rabbi Mark Solomon

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

Time 11am

### Date **Saturday 25 February 2012**

Event Tea & Talmud

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

Time 3pm

### Date **Sunday 26 February 2012**

Event Choosing Judaism

Venue Usual location

Time 10:30am

Event Spinoza Reading Group

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

Time 4pm

Tu B'Shevat seder  
Feb 10th  
see p3 for details

**Deadline for copy for March 2012  
newsletter: 24 February 2012**

## ELJC support line

**0131 208 1447**



Use this number if you have an emergency and really need to speak to someone. It goes to three of our members one of whom should be able to organise help for you. For non-urgent matters 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.**

## Jewish Calendar

Festivals begin on the evening before the day listed.

Tu B'Shevat	8.2.2012
Purim	8.3.2012
Pesach	7-14.4.2012
Shavuot	27-28.5.2012
9 Av	29.7.2012
Rosh Hashanah 5773	17-18.9.2012
Yom Kippur	26.9.2012



A reminder to anyone wishing to attend the LJ Biennial Conference that the Early Bird Discount only runs until 6th February!

Any adult signing up before that date will pay £295, a saving of £55 on the full fee for Liberal Judaism's Biennial Weekend.

The cost includes full access to the Biennial's programme of events, two nights' accommodation at the beautiful Tortworth Court Hotel and all meals.

Taking place near Bristol between the 20th and 22nd of April the weekend is promised to be a weekend of sharing interesting discussion, lively debate and plenty of food, fun and prayer.

To book and for more information visit the Liberal Judaism [website](#).

## Chairman's Word

We will be celebrating New Year for Trees (Tu B'Shevat) in early February, see p3. Searching the web to find an illustration for this article, I found that all the Tu B'Shevat images showed trees with verdant green leaves, very different from what we see around us just now. So I found this other illustration that seemed more appropriate. But if you look carefully at tree branches at this time of year you will see signs of life, unless of course they have been felled by our recent storms.



Each hard brown bud conceals a new growth ready to burst out in a few weeks. This bare tree seems a better image for the festival in this Northern climate than the overblown green ones.

Along with the bulbs and green shoots, that are arriving early this year, it holds the promise that spring will be here soon. After I had written this I noticed that the booklet we will be using for our Tu B'Shevat seder, produced by our Rabbi, uses similar illustrations.

Another event that happens at this time of year is Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD). It was held on 27th January, the anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. It is not a Jewish festival, but a recently established date, first marked in the UK 2001, with the aim of educating future generations about the Holocaust. More recently it has widened its view of holocausts to other more recent events. This has not been without controversy as some of these conflicts are still very active (see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holocaust\\_Memorial\\_Day\\_%28UK%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holocaust_Memorial_Day_%28UK%29) ).

There were a number of events in Scotland during the week (23-27 January) to mark HMD, most with the participation of school children (see <http://hmd.org.uk/about/timeline/uk-event/scotland> ). I attended one such event on Monday evening, a screening of the film "Inside Hana's Suitcase". It is the story of how a Japanese Holocaust Museum obtained a

suitcase that had belonged to a Czech girl who had been transported to Auschwitz. The Museum directory, along with a group of Japanese children, researched her history and made contact with her brother, George, who now lives in Canada. You can learn more about the story at the web site <http://www.hanassuitcase.ca/>.

It was a very moving film and I doubt if there was a dry eye in the cinema as we witnessed the final scenes. The director, Larry Weinstein, skillfully blended real archive footage with reconstructions, scenes from survivors as they are today and the story told by children in Japan and Canada. An ironic twist at the end of the film was the realisation that Hana's suitcase was not the original but a replica. The original had been destroyed in a fire in Birmingham, UK, in 1983 where it was being lent to an exhibition. The fire appears to have been started by an arson attack that was racially motivated.

Later in the week I attended the HMD event for Edinburgh that was held this year in Portobello High School. Each year the Holocaust Memorial Trust organises a visit to Auschwitz for young people who then become ambassadors to tell others about their visit. The two who spoke at this event did a wonderful job of describing their reactions to the visit. The theme for HMD this year was 'Speak up Speak out', reminding us of that we should raise our voices against all sorts of injustices. HMD remembers the past, but its real focus is on the future, to ensure that such things should never happen again.

## Tu B'Shevat service and seder

Tu B'Shevat, the fifteenth day of the month of Shevat, falls this year on Wednesday February 8th. This minor festival, the New Year for Trees, has its origins in Talmudic times relating to the payments of tithes for the land. Like other festivals with agricultural origins it falls in the middle of the month when the moon is full. Over the centuries other observances became associated with this festival, including eating fruits of many different trees. In the 16th Century the Kabbalist circle of Rabbi Isaac Luria introduced a Tu B'Shevat seder where fruits and wine were associated with various mystical ideas. In modern times the festival has become associated with ecological ideas of maintaining and caring for the world (Tikkun Olam). You can read more about the history and meanings associated with the festival in an article that our Rabbi wrote explaining it in the January 2010 newsletter that you can access via the newsletter pages of our web site.

But, better still, come along to our very own Tu B'Shevat seder, which will be our third such seder. It will be celebrated at our Erev Shabbat service on 10th February (erev of the 18th of Shevat).

You can learn about the symbolism of the three kinds of fruits :-

- 1) Hard outside and soft inside – e.g. oranges, bananas
- 2) Soft outside, hard inside – e.g. olives, plums, peaches
- 3) Soft all the way through – e.g. strawberries, grapes.



Like the Pesach seder you will also get 4 cups of wine (or grape juice if you prefer). The first is white, the second white blushed with a touch of red, the third pink and the fourth all red. Their symbolism and relation to nature will also be explained.

Do come and bring along more examples of different kinds of fruit and/or a contribution to a communal supper. We had a wonderful spread at last year's Tu B'Shevat seder (illustrated). Children will be especially welcome.

## Annual General Meeting

As you will see from page 1, our AGM will be held on 19th February this year. Members will receive their papers seven days before then, as we stipulate in the constitution. We don't expect the meeting to run for very long, but it will include a couple of important items that we explain below.

Firstly, we need to change the wording of two of the clauses in our existing constitution to clarify our auditing procedures.

Secondly, we will propose to you that we become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). This will involve asking you to agree to our dissolving Sukkat Shalom as we now exist, but then for a new SCIO with essentially all the same functions to rise like a phoenix from our ashes. This change is recommended by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Our registration as a charity with OSCR allows us to reclaim tax on all donations we receive from UK tax payers. The main difference between our existing status and a SCIO is that it gives the trustees of the organisation protection against personal liability should any person or organisation have a claim against us. Happily we have never had such an incident so far, and we hope we will not have one in future. But there appears to be no downside to becoming a SCIO. It doesn't even cost anything, so it does seem worth jumping through the bureaucratic hurdles to have this protection. You can see further details about SCIOs on the SCR web site (<http://www.oscr.org.uk/>).

The details of the proposals we will ask you to agree to will be on the agendas that we will be circulating to members and our current constitution and its proposed replacements can be accessed from the 'organisation' section of our web site. Please be in touch (email [chair@eljic.org](mailto:chair@eljic.org), or leave a message on the community phone) if you have any questions about this, so we may finish the AGM in time to enjoy the refreshments that will follow.

## Purim

Once again, Sukkat Shalom will be teaming up with the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation for our Purimspiel, on the evening of **Wednesday 7 March**---save the date in your calendar. But it will only happen with your help! If you'd like to act in the Purimspiel, help us to refine our script, or have a talent to contribute, please get in touch.

Contact Philip Wadler, [wadler@inf.ed.ac.uk](mailto:wadler@inf.ed.ac.uk), 07976 507543.

## Pesach 2012/5772 Communal Seder

We will be holding our communal seder, as usual, on the first night of Passover, which this year falls on Friday April 6th. We are delighted that Rabbi Mark Solomon will again be leading the seder and we will be holding it at Marchmont St Giles Church Centre. We are presently finalising the details with the caterer.

Members will receive a booking form along with their papers for the AGM which will be posted out in the next week. At the same time non-members will be able access it from the web site. Please book early to help us with planning.

We will be using the Liberal Haggadah B'Chol Dor Va'Dor. Many of you may have a copy already. If you don't have one can order your own copy by calling Liberal Judaism on 020 7580 1661 or by visiting <http://www.liberaljudaism.org/written-word-resources/shop.html>.

Price: £8.50 plus postage.

We will also have some available for loan at the seder for a small sum.

***Do you have a favourite Pesach recipe? Send yours in before the end of February to include them in the March newsletter!***

## ELJC Israel Human Rights Trip update by **Maurice Naftalin**



We've had to reset the date on the trip, as there was no date this spring that suited enough people, and making bookings was going to be very difficult so late in the day. But the prospects of a trip in the autumn are good; lots more people can make it then, and it's far enough out for bookings to be relatively inexpensive. So I'm very optimistic that it is still going to happen, and that it will still be a useful (and enjoyable!) thing to do.

We're going to fix a definite date soon, but most likely it will be straight after the High Holy Days, so shortly after Simchat Torah on October 9th. If you're interested, at the kind of prices that I outlined in the last newsletter article, let me know ([webmaster@eljc.org](mailto:webmaster@eljc.org) or use the website contact form)

which dates in October would be good for you. You don't have to make the same accommodation or travel arrangements as everyone else; the central part of our trip will be the contact with the NGOs and the experiences that they offer us. I know that some people will be checking out super-cheap hostel accommodation so as to minimise the cost of the trip.

I'll put a page on the website soon to record progress with arrangements. Meanwhile, I look forward to hearing from you! Email **Maurice** for further info and/or to express your interest: [webmaster@eljc.org](mailto:webmaster@eljc.org)

## Community matters

### **Mazal Tov**

To Alex Guilherme on his new position as a post-doctoral fellow in Education at Liverpool Hope University. We are even more pleased that he will still be based in Edinburgh some of the time so we can benefit from his informed contributions to the Spinoza discussion group.



### **Would you like to join the Shul Council?**

At the AGM on the 19th of April we will be re-electing the members of our council. We expect to have vacancies for new members as some existing members will be standing down. Do let us know if you would like to join us. Meetings are held at intervals of around 6 to 8 weeks, depending on the time of year. They start at 7.30pm and we try, and usually succeed, to finish by 9pm so as to allow a chance for some informal discussion over refreshments. It is your chance to have an influence on how we do things. If you are interested please approach any council member before the AGM to let us know.

### **Arrest for Menorah destruction**

On 20th January the Edinburgh Evening News reported:

'A man has been arrested in connection with the destruction of a menorah in St Andrew Square during the Chanukah Jewish holiday last year. The 25-year-old appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday on charges of "vandalism aggravated by hate", according to police. The 15ft lantern was destroyed on 19 December but was rebuilt.'

### **A big thank you to**

Kat Angus for acting as editor for this issue while Hannah is on maternity leave. Hannah and George's baby is due any day but has not arrived in time for us to announce it. **BUT SEE STOP PRESS ON PAGE 10**

### **And a final Mazal Tov**

To Adam, Leora and Catherine Wadler on their successes in a Judo competition in Germany. Catherine won a gold medal and Adam and Leora each won bronze, in Adam's case despite being somewhat lame from having injured his leg just the week before.

## Events and announcements

### The Ernest Levy Archive

Edinburgh Central Library is a repository for a great many historic "Special Collections" as well as up-to-date reading material. These collections focus on Edinburgh, the nation of Scotland and Scots abroad. The library is a safe haven to donate important documents and images and a place where these will be made available to the public at large.

One such collection is the Ernest Levy Archive which was gifted in 2010 by his daughter Judy Russell. Ernest was a Holocaust survivor who after the war settled in Scotland. Originally from Bratislava, he spent 48 years in Glasgow, where he became a leading figure in the Scottish Jewish community. He spoke out about his experiences throughout his life, knowing that his testimony would help future generations remember this terrible time in history. The Ernest Levy Archive consists of a large collection of books, manuscripts and music and the library is currently cataloguing the material and undertaking a programme of developing resources for the public so they can access information about Ernest's experiences and his message of tolerance and respect. The first part of this programme is an exhibition that will be held in the Central Library from January 23rd – March 15th 2012. This will use photographs and text from Ernest's collection to present the story of his life. A related exhibition of material relating to the Jewish experience during World War II will be on display in the Reference Library.

### Waltz with Bashir

The acclaimed Israeli animated documentary about the war in Lebanon is being screened by the **Traverse Theatre** as part of their "Manipulate" visual theatre festival. It will be shown at **9.15pm on Wednesday 1st February** (certificate 18).

### The De-legitimising of Israel - Who Cares?

Reception Area, Giffnock Synagogue, 222 Fenwick Road Glasgow, G46 6UE **Sunday 12th February 2012, 2pm**. Speakers include: · Lorna Fitzsimons, Chief Executive of BICOM and former MP, · Jeremy Newmark, Chief Executive of the Jewish Leadership Council · Michael Brodsky, Director of Public Affairs, Embassy of Israel, · Steven Jaffe, Co-Chair, Northern Ireland Friends of Israel

For further information please email Luke Akehurst at [conference@webelieveinisrael.org.uk](mailto:conference@webelieveinisrael.org.uk) or call him on 020 7636 5500.

### How to Solve the Israel-Palestine Conflict

**Tuesday 7th February, 7pm**, George Square Lecture Theatre. 7.30pm. Edinburgh Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) host renowned author, speaker and academic Norman Finkelstein. The main talk on the Israel-Palestine Conflict will be followed by an audience Q&A, a chance to put your questions to the man himself. Open to all. £3/£5 tickets can be booked at <http://www.edinburghsjp.bigcartel.com/>, booking advised.

### When Abel Met Cain

**Tuesday 21 February and Wednesday 22 February 2012, 7.30pm** – Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR. as part of the Middle East Festival of Spirituality and Peace.

'... an intense and gripping performance of myth, wonder tale and real life stories. A powerful portrayal of the Israel/Palestine conflict. This is a turbulent and vivid storytelling journey. In their quest, storyteller and musician join powers to probe into the darker side of the human psyche and find light. The audience is guided through cobblestone paths, paved with memories, love, fears, melodies, battles, tenderness, laughter and tears, that stretch from despair to redemption.' Age: 14+

(events and announcements continued next page)

## Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre

### Film Evening - Sarah's Key

(See page 8 for review)

**Sunday 4th March 2012** Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road 7.00pm

Recommended minimum donation: £12 adults / students/children £8

Light buffet supper included (prior to film screening) and tea/coffee/biscuits afterwards.

If you or anyone you know needs a lift contact Steven Hyams on 445 3740 to arrange.

Please help them to plan catering - If you are hoping to attend please phone Steven (above) or Joyce on 666 1425 or [j.sperber@yahoo.com](mailto:j.sperber@yahoo.com)

Oscar nominee Kristin Scott Thomas (I've Loved You So Long, The English Patient) stars in this incredibly moving drama. In Paris, July 1942 Sarah, a ten-year old girl, is taken with her parents by the French police as they go door-to-door arresting Jewish families in the middle of the night. Desperate to protect her younger brother, Sarah locks him in a bedroom cupboard – their secret hiding place – and promises to come back for him as soon as they are released. Sixty seven years later: Sarah's story intertwines with that of Julia Jarmond, an American journalist investigating the roundup. In her research, Julia stumbles onto a trail of secrets that link her to Sarah, and to questions about her family's future. (View rating 12).

## WJC Press release



**Press  
Release**



**16 January 2012**

WJC President Lauder and LAJC President Terpins hope for Middle East progress

### **Jewish and Palestinian Diaspora communities have role to play in fostering better understanding, WJC leaders tell Abbas**

**LONDON – The presidents of the World Jewish Congress (WJC), Ronald S. Lauder, and Latin American Jewish Congress (LAJC), Jack Terpins, on Sunday expressed hope for progress in the Middle East. At a meeting with the president of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and chairman of the PLO, Mahmoud Abbas, in London, the Jewish leaders emphasized the urgent need for a permanent solution to the conflict in the region and underlined the role Jewish and Palestinian communities in the Diaspora can play in this respect.**

"Reaching peace with one's neighbors is part of Jewish yearning, and I am convinced that better cooperation between Jewish and Palestinian communities around the world can help to build the peaceful future both our peoples want", WJC President Lauder declared.

LAJC President Jack Terpins informed Abbas about the positive experience of Arab and Jewish communities' coexistence in Latin America, where they often live side by side harmoniously. He said that this was a model that should be replicated everywhere in order to lower tensions.

## Sarah's Key (2011):

*Review by Sue Lieberman*

**Please note that this film review does contain spoilers for the plot of the film.**

There is an inherent problem with many films 'about' the Holocaust. Films which purport to depict the Holocaust directly (I include Schindler's List in this) are bound to fail a primary aim: for how can the complex awfulness of this event be realistically represented? Simply at a prosaic level, while actors often put on weight for certain parts (de Niro in Raging Bull, Renee Zellweger in Bridget Jones's Diary), it is impractical and unethical to expect them to starve themselves to the near-skeletal conditions camp inmates would have been in, and still be able to function as actors. What we are often invited to watch in the name of a film 'about' the Holocaust is a kind of romanticised fiction; but while we can live with the limited ability of Dickens dramatisations to 'show' the horribleness of Victorian London, the Holocaust is another matter. Fiction it is not.

To me, the only films that can succeed in any measure in communicating something meaningful about the Holocaust are those which make no attempt to dramatise the camps or ghettos directly (an impossibility) but which focus on something which does potentially fall within the bounds of our own actual and imagined experience. Claud Lanzmann's Shoah does not 'depict' the Holocaust but 'remembers' how it happened through the words of eye-witnesses and participants. Who can turn away from the agony in Filip Mueller's face as he recalled his enforced work as a Sonderkommando? Polanski's The Pianist is another which succeeds better than most: the physical ghetto and deportation scenes are background gestures, not central. What drives the film is its focus on how one man managed to survive six years of Nazi occupation. There is some honesty in Polanski's implicit assertion that, like Szpilman, we are better off staying outside the ghetto.

Sarah's Key is one of a new generation of Holocaust-related films: films which look not simply at the events of the Holocaust itself but at their impact through time. I have seen a lot of Holocaust films and it's not often I come out of one too stunned to speak. On that basis alone, I have to take this film seriously.

Like many Holocaust films, Sarah's Key is based on a true story. The central story takes place in Paris at the time of the German occupation, but there are almost no Germans depicted in the film. This part of the film's message concerns the way that the French authorities (including the police) colluded with the Nazis in their willingness to round up and deport thousands of French-resident (if not French national) and refugee Jews. Sarah is the daughter of a Polish-French-Jewish family. When the French police arrive at their apartment in Le Marais on the infamous 16th/17th July 1942, she persuades her small brother Michel to hide in a cupboard, which she then locks. She pockets the key, confident that she will be able to return in a few hours and let him out. She is quickly disabused of this by her parents' terrible reactions, and her traumatised realisation of what she has unwittingly done forms the core of the film.

But this is not a simple story simply told. The events which follow the roundup of Jews – their incarceration in the notorious Vel d'Hiv on the outskirts of Paris, their deportation to a holding camp on the border, Sarah's escape and return to Paris after a few weeks where, predictably, she finds her brother's decayed remains still in the cupboard – all this is interwoven with a later story of an American journalist, married to a Parisian, who has become deeply interested in this part of French history and to her horror finds it tangled up with the family she has married into. Julia's efforts to find out what happened to Sarah and her parents, and what part her husband's parents and grandparents played, is partly a story of trying to redeem something from the terrible events that took place in the Paris apartment in July 1942, but there is a layered (and not always obvious) symbolic exchange between past and present.

(cont. from page 8)

Sarah could not rescue her small brother, who died silently and whose body decayed for weeks in a cupboard; Julia can rescue the story and bring it back to life and daylight. Interwoven again is the gulf that grows up between Julia and her husband. She unexpectedly finds herself pregnant again after years of fruitless trying for another child. He no longer wants another child. It is a choice as to whether to allow new life to come into being when hopelessness has drowned something out; this is also Sarah's unliveable-with dilemma. There is a heartbreaking moment when the old farming couple who, despite their initial fears, have taken Sarah in and hidden her under a false identity for the duration of the Occupation, realise that their love for her can never bring her back to life: part of her, too, has been frozen in the cupboard.

This is a richly textured film. It eschews high Holocaust drama and becomes a story of what happens to ordinary people faced with impossible dilemmas and left to carry the emotional consequences for the remainder of their lives. There is a redemptive element to it but it does not prettify emotional devastation. People die, in horrible circumstances; innocence becomes corrupted; souls are walled up. Many survivors – like Primo Levi, like Sarah – found living too great a burden and chose to die. The beauty of this film is in its careful reflection: that while the past is always with us, it does not have to be at the cost of present or future. New life, like Julia's baby, will always strive to come into being; the responsibility of those whose task it is to nurture that future is to lift the shadows of the past so that the future can be free to live in its own way. See page 7 for where you can see Sarah's Key.

## LGBT History Month

Thursday 26th January saw the launch of the 7th LGBT History Month in Scotland at the Scottish Parliament, organised by LGBT Youth Scotland. February is LGBT History Month, for details of events go to <http://www.lgbthistory.org.uk> The Scottish Parliament is now considering the submissions of the Public Consultation on Equal Marriage. They will announce their findings in due

course. Watch this space for information.

You can read the sermon Rebekah Gronowski gave for LGBT History Month in the 'Articles and Talks' section of our web site <http://www.eljc.org>.

## Being Jewish in Scotland SCoJeC Survey



A reminder about this research project that was featured in our January newsletter. We hope you will participate to give the Progressive movement a presence in the final report.

Fiona Frank, the researcher would like to know your views on various topics. She would also like to meet some of you and may be able to arrange to come to where you are.

Do respond to her survey on the web site, [http://www.scojec.org/news/2011/11\\_bj/jewish\\_in\\_scotland.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2011/11_bj/jewish_in_scotland.html) or phone her on mobile: 07779 206 522 office: 0141 638 6411 or send her an email at [fiona@scojec.org](mailto:fiona@scojec.org) to let her know you would be interested.

## Interfaith



Middle East Festival 2012, organised by the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, takes place this year 6th Feb - 11 March 2012 and features a huge number of

events that may be of interest. See [www.eicsp.org](http://www.eicsp.org).

We expect to have some visitors to the festival at our Shabbat morning service on 25th February.

## Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group

The group meets from 7 - 9 p.m. usually on the third Wednesday of the month. In 2012 they will be trying to meet at the various faith communities.

In February the meeting will be at the Brahma Kumaris Centre on 15th February. See [www.ewig.org](http://www.ewig.org) for details.

## Making us more tuneful

### Choir Coordinator needed

#### **Rebekah Gronowski proposes:**

For some time it has been suggested that we might like to start a Sukkat Shalom Choir. Several members have approached me to ask about it. This will be a commitment as regular practices will be needed in order to learn the music properly. We will also be seeking someone who would be willing to coordinate and run the choir, working closely with Rabbi Mark as to choice of music etc. - much of the music is already available or can be sourced. I will be available as a resource or for consultation but will not be in charge of this venture. I think it is for younger members to take a lead in this. Many of us sing already but some standardisation of music and choral cohesion is really needed. We would like to have a choir "ready to go" for next High Holy Days in the Autumn. If you would be interested in forming such a Choir, please email me at [music@eljic.org](mailto:music@eljic.org) in order that any interest may be gauged. Please do think about this - I think we have massive potential in our community!

## Stop Press items

### New arrival



Hannah Holtschneider & George and Noa Wilkes are delighted to announce the birth of Yael Melanie Wilkes on 30 January 2012.

Everyone is doing fine.

### Rabbi Mark on Radio Scotland

On Bishop Richard Holloway's Sunday Morning Programme "Sunday morning with.." on 29/1/2012.

Richard will also discuss how major faiths define forgiveness, in the company of Rabbi Mark Solomon and theologian Elizabeth Templeton.

You can still catch it for a few more days via the BBC iPlayer.