

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

June 2009

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EVENTS & SERVICES

Date Friday 5th June
Event Chavurah Supper
Venue Columcille Centre,
Newbattle Terrace
Time 7 pm

Rabbi Mark is visiting us this weekend, and our chavurah supper will take the normal format i.e., there won't be a formal service so we'll start at 7pm with a few prayers and some songs/hymns, after which we'll eat and sing some more songs and say a few more prayers. As usual, please bring along a (non-meat) dish to share.

Date Saturday 6th June
Event Shabbat Service
Venue St Marks,
Castle Terrace
Time 11 am

This is an 'additional' service to our usual schedule of mid-month Shabbat morning services. However as Rabbi Mark is visiting us, and we are having the informal chavurah supper on Erev Shabbat, we wanted Rabbi Mark to lead a more formal service.

The service will be followed by the **Tea & Talmud** at 2.30pm, also at **St Marks**.

Choosing Judaism Class: Sunday 7th June - 10am at the usual location.

Informal Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Dates 12th, 26th June
Venue Marchmont - St Giles
1a Kilgraston Road
Time 6:15 pm

Join us for a short, informal service to welcome Shabbat.

Date Saturday 20th June
Event Shabbat Service
Venue Quaker Meeting House
7 Victoria Terrace
Time 11 am

Date Friday 3rd July
Event Erev Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre,
Newbattle Terrace
Time 7 pm

EVENTS & SERVICES

Forthcoming Events for Sukkat Shalom

Annual BBQ - Sunday 14th June at Kate and Nick's, 18 Grange Knowe, Linlithgow. Tel. 01506 845325.

"The Come Rain or Shine/ Indoors or Out - community event"! Food and drink contributions welcome but no forbidden foods please!!.

All are welcome, kids, adults, friends & relatives. Be Jewish; be Scottish and know you are still allowed to have fun!

Anyone needing a lift from Linlithgow station let us know in good time beforehand so that those collecting are drink drive compliant. By car, leave junction 3 of the M9, turn left for Linlithgow. Passing the "Sun" factory turn into Grange View on the left, and left at the roundabout into Grange View then 1st cul-de-sac on the right.

New editor and thanks

We are delighted that Jamie Shearman-Bromfield is taking over as the editor of this newsletter. Many thanks to Kristi for her excellent work over the past 2 years .

Jewish Calendar for June 2009

20 June - Blessing for Tammuz

22/23 June - Rosh Chodesh

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From the Council

Subscriptions reminder

Subscriptions for the new year are now due. Please return all forms with payment to Jonathan Brodie. Remember that all cheques must be made payable to "Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh". If you did not receive a subscription renewal form, contact Jonathan at treasurer@eljc.org or call the community phone.

New Erev Shabbat Service Book

As I am sure you will have noticed the booklets we usually use for the Erev Shabbat service are becoming increasingly tatty and need replacing. They were originally put together by Rabbi Pete Tobias from Glasgow Reform at the dawn of our congregation over 12 years ago.

The Council has recently agreed to replace them with a booklet that will reflect our new status. The text will be based very closely on our Siddur Lev Chadash and will include transliteration, as well as some zimrot for Friday night meals. We are fortunate to have the expertise in publishing of Catherine Lyons to lead this initiative. If you would like to be involved in the planning of this please contact Catherine (newbooklet@eljc.org).



Meditation from the LBC Diary

It is not your duty to finish the work, but you are not free to neglect it. Pirkei Avot 2:21

Many thanks to all who contributed this month. Items for publication are welcomed, as are responses to items published. The deadline for the July newsletter will be Friday 19 June. Please email all contributions to newsletter@eljc.org.

From Madam Chairman

Small is beautiful

I have recently been reading a book about Jewish adult education (Jewish Lives, Jewish Learning by Diane Tickton Schuster) that is available from our library. It uses case studies of adults' successes and failures to find meaning in their engagements with Judaism. The setting in which the book was written is very different from ours. It is set in the USA of course and most of the case studies from settings where there is a kosher deli round the corner and a choice of Jewish adult education classes or singles groups to help the aspiring learner. But it is not these resources that have worked for the case studies. Instead the things that worked are private initiatives, often along with a single teacher's guidance or cooperation between friends studying together that have provided the best results.

I had previously thought that the size of our small congregation was a barrier to the provision of good adult education. But recently I have realised that this is far from the case and this book has underlined this. The initiative to get more members involved in taking services has seen some members come forward to work at this with excellent results. Congratulations to all. Thanks to Norman Crane we can provide elementary Hebrew for any member who would like help with getting on to the first rung of the ladder.

Do you have a personal goal for your Jewish education? Maybe to learn to say and understand the blessings for the torah reading? Or any other goal? Just ask us and we will do what we can to help.

You may have noticed that the Chair's Word is from the Chairman! Gillian Raab would rather not be an inanimate object such as "the Chair", and prefers the designation Chairman, but if pushed will accept Madam Chair rather than Chairperson. I hope all will respect her valid perspective.

Beinn Ghlas and Ben Lawers

A group of 18 members of Sukkat Shalom and Glasgow Reform Synagogue and one dog set off to scale these two Munros on what turned out to be a beautiful if chilly May day. Most of us made it to the top of Beinn Ghlas, or very close to it. But only three, including the youngest in the party seen here on the summit, braved the snow and winds to reach the second summit. Congratulations to Rabbi Nancy on her second Munro and to Kong for almost making his first.



Who is the mystery man on the left? Answer on page 4 if you cannot guess!



Could you organize another hike?

Rabbi Nancy has been bitten by the hillwalking bug and would like to do another on 28th June, perhaps to Ben Ledi. The usual organizer is not free. Email info@eljic.org if you could help. It is not a hard task.

Interfaith

The next meetings of the Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group will be:

Wed, 17th June, topic TBA

Wed, 15th July, Trishna Singh will be coming to talk about the Sikh tradition.

All meetings take place at Nicolson Square Methodist Church, starting with finger food at 7pm.

The launch of *Beyond Tolerance*, an interfaith documentary and education resource pack will take place at the Fore Hall, Glasgow University, 2nd June, 11 am – 1pm.

Beyond Tolerance is an educational documentary which includes interviews with young people, clerics, scholars, activists, youth workers, organisations and individuals working to promote good interfaith relations. It is an inspirational record of both past and current learning bringing in themes of identity, values, conflict, dialogue, social action, belief, citizenship, the media and much more. With young people at its core it highlights individual stories, diverse opinions and brings difficult ideas to the fore and accounts of real life to light.

There is also an education pack which works alongside the documentary. The pack is well researched and is both useful and relevant to educators. It includes lessons, activities, games, debates, facts, stories and other learning tools to help any teacher or facilitator who is interested in promoting a tolerant, peaceful and open relationship between people of differing faiths and no faith.

If you would like to attend the event, contact Dr Maureen Sier, 20 Beaufort Gardens, Glasgow, G64 2DJ or email faithawareness@yahoo.co.uk by May 29th.

Edinburgh Film Festival

Surrogate

Tali Shalom Ezer, Israel 2008. 57 mins

Amir Wolf, Lana Etinger, Rosina Kambus, Liat Glick, Lasha Shimshoni, Michal Kalman, Yonatan Swirski

A startling vision of human damage and connectedness. This concise, brave and original short feature from Israel explores the delicate relationship between a troubled young man and the woman employed to provide him with sexual therapy. Hagar, a warm and dynamic woman, offers her services to men who have trouble connecting physically. Boundaries are crucial; but Eli, a deeply troubled new client, threatens to break through them.

[21 June](#), 16:30 at [Filmhouse 2](#)

Tickets available 8 May

£8.50/£7.50

[27 June](#), 18:45 at [Filmhouse 2](#)

Tickets available 8 May

£8.50/£7.50

Pomegranates and Myrrh (Al Mor wa al Rumman)

Najwa Najjar, Palestine 2009. 95 mins

Yasmine Al Massri, Ashraf Farah, Ali Suliman, Samia Kuzmoz Bakri, Yussef Abu Warda, Lotuf Neusser, Wardeh Dukwar

An intense love story set in Palestine: the Arab break-out hit of 2009.

Najwa Najjar's debut feature combines a stellar cast, a set of remarkable locations within the Palestinian territories, and a powerful story of love under pressure. With the politics left in the background. Opening with a brilliant ensemble scene – the joyous wedding of olive farmer Zaid (newcomer Ashraf Farah) and dancer Kamar (the stunning Al Masri), the moment before their lives unravel...

[19 June](#), 21:00 at [Cineworld 10](#)

Tickets available 8 May

£8.50/£7.50

[22 June](#), 17:00 at [Cineworld 10](#)

Tickets available 8 May

£8.50/£7.50

Challah Recipe

Falko's is no longer making kosher challah, but we asked Ricky Hogg to share his recipe with us.

I thought I would share with you the wonderful recipe for Challah that we have been using for our Shabbat, we picked it up from Claudia Roden's The Book of Jewish Food and with a little tweak here and a little more/less there you have a delicious Challah to grace your table for Shabbat. Enjoy.

Makes 4 Loaves

- 2 tablespoons dry yeast
- 2¼ cups (500 ml) lukewarm water
- ½ cup (100g) sugar (I also like to add a good helping of Honey)
- 4 eggs, beaten, plus 2 yolks or 1 whole egg for glazing
- 1 tablespoon salt
- ½ cup (125 ml) vegetable oil
- About 9 ¼ cups (1 1/3 kg) flour (strong)
- Poppy seeds

Dissolve the yeast in the water with 1 teaspoon of the sugar. Beat well and leave 10 minutes, until it froths.

In a very large bowl, lightly beat the eggs. Then add the salt, sugar, and oil and beat again. Add the frothy yeast mixture and beat well. Now add the flour gradually, and just enough to make a soft dough that holds together, mixing well, first with a large spoon, then working it in with your hands. Knead vigorously for about 15 minutes, until it is very smooth and elastic, adding flour if the dough is too sticky. Pour a little oil in the bowl and turn the dough, so that it is greased all over. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and put it in a warm place to rise for 2-3 hours, or until it has doubled in bulk. Punch the dough down and knead again, then divide into four pieces to make 4 loaves.

The answer to the mystery man picture. Well, if you did not guess it was Ricky Hogg.



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ISRAEL AND THE ISSUE OF PROGRESSIVE CONVERSION

Landmark Israel High Court Ruling: Israel to fund Progressive Conversion Schools

On Tuesday 19th May the Israeli High Court's long overdue decision ruled that the State must fund private conversion classes operated by the Reform and Conservative movements, in addition to the regular funding of private Orthodox institutions. Rabbi Danny Rich, Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism, said: "This is excellent news for the Israeli Movement for Progressive Judaism, for Liberal Jews around the world and indeed for Israel itself. It is the first of many steps needed to fulfill the ideal of an Israel which treats all its Jewish citizens, as well as all its other citizens, equally." Details at <http://www.irac.org/NewsDetails.aspx?ID=168>

Presidential Speech: - Liberal Judaism's Rabbi Julia Neuberger's Keynote Speech at WUPJ Connections

"...our youth movements must review their wholly Zionist approach. Not because they shouldn't be Zionist, but because our communities are not going away – We will have Jewish grandchildren. In Europe. In Germany. In Italy. In France. In the Czech Republic. So we need leaders and teachers and rabbis – and our youth movements need to provide them." Read the [keynote speech](http://www.liberaljudaism.org/WUPJ_09_Neuberger-Speech.htm) (http://www.liberaljudaism.org/WUPJ_09_Neuberger-Speech.htm) given by LJ's President, Rabbi Julia Neuberger, at this year's World Union for Progressive Judaism (C) Connections conference in Israel.

IRAC, The Israel Religious Action Center
- New Website

The Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) campaigns for religious pluralism and civic equality in Israel and infuses social justice advocacy with the spiritual energy and humane worldview of Progressive Judaism. IRAC has a new website at www.irac.org.



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Rabbis for Human Rights

Demand New Site for the Wiesenthal Museum

Over two hundred rabbis in the Diaspora have written to the Simon Wiesenthal Center requesting that the new Museum for Tolerance be moved to an alternative site. The museum, planned by the architect Frank Gehry, is being constructed on a site that for centuries served as a Muslim cemetery. Prior to construction, the area had been used as a parking lot and it was assumed that the area had never been an active part of the cemetery. The press release is available online at http://www.liberaljudaism.org/pdf/RHR_Wiesenthal_Site_May09.pdf



Just Love Limmud! There's so much going on!

The Limmud Scotland Team, chaired by GRS member Fiona Brodie, is preparing for its 5th Scotland Limmud Day on Sunday 14th February 2010 at Hutchesons' Grammar School in Glasgow, when a packed programme of events and activities for all ages will be taking place. The previous Limmud Scotland Day, in 2008, received its usual high acclaim: "It was a fantastic buzz, but do you have any advice on how to cope with wanting to be in 3 places at once?" and "Excellent – the whole day was well organised and the quality of the presenters was high." So, be sure to make a note in your diary and be part of the buzz in 2010!

Meanwhile, Limmud's summer festival of learning and culture - Limmud Fest - will

take place in Derbyshire, within the Peak District National Park, from 27 to 31 August 2009. Communal spaces, kosher food, somewhere to camp, washing facilities and other essentials, as well as indoor accommodation, if preferred, will be available. There will be a varied and accessible programme - or you can take one of the sessions-in-a-bag and create your own programme with a friend, in a small group, or even by yourself!

If you are moderately fit, you can join the traditional Tikkun Trek – an overnight expedition which will leave on Thursday, 27th August. Trekkers spend the day cycling or hiking in small supervised groups, accompanied by an educator. Under 18's are very welcome to take part, but will have to be accompanied by a willing parent or guardian. All the trekking groups will meet up and camp together overnight, returning to the Fest site on Friday, in time for the beginning of Fest proper.

If you're very fit and more adventurous, then you might be interested in this year's innovation – Extreme Trek! Extreme Trek will lead you into the wilder parts of the Peak District - you will be expected to backpack, carrying your tent and food – and if there is enough interest, it could begin on Wednesday 26th August and be away for two days to include some really exciting excursions, like caving in the tradition of Bar Kochba!

Limmud provides financial assistance to ensure that no-one is prevented from attending Limmud events because they cannot afford to. You can apply for a bursary in the strictest confidence, using the online booking form at www.limmud.org or you can email fest09@limmud.org for a paper form and further information.

There is also a Young Adult Development (YAD) scheme - be a YAD for 5 Days and go to Fest for just £99 by helping for 3 hours of your Fest stay. The deadline for applications for financial assistance is

Friday 24 July 2009. In addition, Limmud Scotland has funding to provide a contribution towards the costs of travelling to LimmudFest from Scotland. Anyone interested should contact scotland@limmud.org

One last date for your diary: the main Limmud Conference - 5 action packed days at Warwick University - will take place from 27 to 31 December 2009, with Shabbat Limmud on 25 and 26 December 2009. For more information on all local, national and international Limmud events you can visit www.limmud.org

Leo Baeck College

The Leo Baeck College's annual Summer Institute will take place from Tuesday 30th June to Thursday 2nd July 2009 at Avenue House in Finchley.

This is an amazing opportunity for the leadership of our synagogues and communities to consider the roles that we play as leaders and reflect on the future of our Jewish community life. We have brought together two of the most talented teachers, community leaders and innovators to be our guides over this three day experience: We would particularly like to invite synagogue teams of rabbi, chairman, council member, educator or community organiser to come together because we know that shared leadership is the key to implementing new developments. This year all sessions will take place during the day time, with a late start on day one and an early finish on day three for those who will be traveling. The participant's fee has not been increased this year, due to generous funding from two sponsors and there is a discount for those coming from the same synagogue or organisation. However we would not want anyone to be precluded from attending due to financial reasons and invite you to apply for a scholarship should this be needed. Please contact me direct in confidence on michael.shire@lbc.ac.uk.

The Exchange

Do you have something you'd like to buy, sell, trade? Want to announce an achievement, or just share a bit of news with others in the community? Send contributions for the Members' Exchange to the editor at newsletter@eljc.org.

Jewish Couple from USA Looking for House Swap in Edinburgh

We recently received a query from Dr David Block. He and his wife, Marti, recently visited Edinburgh and would be interested in returning for a longer stay. They are looking for house swap opportunities. David can be reached by email at david.block@gmail.com. **Please note that we have not checked references, and encourage you to do so if you're interested.**

David writes:

I have a lovely small home (1200 square feet; one bedroom) on Saint Simons Island in Georgia. Saint Simons is on the coast, midway between Savannah, Georgia, and Jacksonville, Florida - about 70 miles to each. It is an easy drive to Orlando, Florida, and 6 hours to Atlanta. The nearby town is Brunswick, Georgia - just over the bridge - where there is an active Reform Jewish Community. Thus, there is plenty of conversation. There is also wonderful golf, cycling, and walking 12 months a year. I live on the Great Marsh, about 10 minutes to the beach. I have a gourmet kitchen and a laundry. It is my home - so there is artwork and a small library (eclectic). It is a perfect place to write. (I use an AirCard for Internet connection).

I would like to trade homes for a month or so, and I'm writing to see if you know anybody who would like to discuss this. The time frame is easy for us since we have two homes in Georgia. I know that the winter in Edinburgh can be a bit severe, with the days short, and it would be possible to give up my island home for December - January. We, however,

would really need to come to Scotland next year in either October-November or April-May. If people did come here in April, it might be possible to put them up at our home in central Georgia for a few days if they had tickets for the Masters: we are about 1 hour west of Augusta here.

Marti and I are in our 60's. Neither of our homes is childproof, so non-adult children would be out. A smallish dog might be possible; we have one of our own (mostly Corgi), and we're not sure what to do with her just as one of your folks might have the same kind of uncertainty. We love to cook (and eat), read and walk. Marti loves to garden. I like having access to a university (I used to teach). Marti was a regional manager for several law book publishers. I also consulted in health care management and compliance and practiced neurology.

Community & Members News

Mazel Tov!

To Joel Marks and Sam Foster Nathaniel Abraham, a brother for Oliver and Zachary. Baby Nathaniel Abraham was born on the 26th February.

Opportunity to learn Torah Chanting

Rabbi Nancy is organising a weekend on August 14-16 for those who wish to learn to chant Torah. Her invitation reads as follows :

We will commence on Friday evening, celebrate Shabbat together and undergo intensive learning of Torah trope (chanting) and hopefully enjoying some spiritual, lovely natural surroundings. The weekend is open for complete beginners, but we ask that you are already able to read Hebrew. We will do it in the beautiful countryside of Scotland - venue to be announced. We will be self-catering, so we hope to keep the weekend cost to a maximum of £100. In order to keep the learning effective, we are limiting numbers so call the rabbi to reserve your place as soon as possible! Please call Rabbi Nancy on 07812 088 329 to express your interest in joining us for the proposed weekend.

Our Crowd

By Joe Goldblatt

This month, we shine the Sukkat Shalom spotlight on Kate Lebow. Kate is the mum of Naomi and Jacob (members of the Sukkat Shalom Cheder) and is married to Andrew.

What is your favourite Jewish holiday?
My favourite Jewish holiday is Passover. I chose this holiday among all others because the seder is such a satisfying ritual. It combines food, storytelling, ethics, music, and fantasy.

What is your favourite Jewish food?
Smoked whitefish--because there's more to a bagel than lox.

What is your favourite Jewish memory?
Standing at the fish counter at Zabar's in New York City and watching the guys who work there interact with the customers. Once I overheard the following conversation: (Fish guy to woman:) "Your ex-husband was in here the other day asking about you. He wanted to know if you're still with that guy." (Woman:) "Really? He was?" The woman then turned to me to tell me that the fish guy at Zabar's was like a member of their family, and that when their son had been born, they came straight from the hospital to Zabar's to show the baby to him (and to buy fish, of course!). I never found out if the couple got back together in the end.

What do you like best about Sukkat Shalom?
That it's democratic and non-hierarchical.

Can you tell us a secret we may not know about you?
At one point I was serious about becoming a poet.

What is your favourite Jewish song?
"Papirosn," a Yiddish song about a young cigarette seller freezing to death on a street corner. It's a dire subject, but the tune is lovely.

Who are your favourite Jewish composers, artists, entertainers and authors?
I'll actually name some photographers: some of the great early photojournalists had East European Jewish roots, like Robert Capa, Gerta Taro, and "Chim."

Which Jewish celebrities would you like to have dinner with sometime?
Roman Polanski and Adrien Brody.

What are your favourite travel destinations?
Poland and South Africa.

How do you describe your personal journey to Judaism?
I would describe it as being bound up with my fascination for the past. My early exposure to Judaism came from family stories told by my grandparents, rather than from family practice. Since then, I've been convinced that without a Jewish dimension, my life would be missing a certain depth and perspective. Judaism adds to my understanding of how I got to be here and provides an alternative to the amnesia and present-mindedness of our culture.

How do you describe Sukkat Shalom?
Welcoming, do-it-yourself and one of the best things about having moved to Edinburgh!

