

# Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

## August 2009

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### EVENTS & SERVICES

**Date** Friday 7th August  
**Event** Erev Shabbat Service  
**Venue** Columcille Centre  
Newbattle Terrace  
**Time** 7 pm

#### Informal Kabbalat Shabbat Services

**Dates** 28th August  
**Venue** Marchmont - St Giles  
1a Kilgraston Road  
**Time** 6:15 pm

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

**Date** Saturday 15th August  
**Event** Shabbat Service  
**Venue** St Mark's Unitarian  
Castle Terrace  
**Time** 11 am



This marks the occasion when Sarah will be Bat Mitzvah with Rabbi Mark Solomon. After the service, Sarah's family invite all members of the community to join them in Kiddush at the Caledonian Hotel.

**Choosing Judaism Class:** Sunday 16th August - 10.30 at the usual location.

**Date** Saturday, 22 August  
**Event** Shabbat Service  
**Venue** Columcille Centre,  
Newbattle Terrace  
**Time** 11 am

#### **Forthcoming Events for Sukkat Shalom**

Friday 4th September, Erev Shabbat Service with Rabbi Mark followed by our non-meat family supper.

### EVENTS & SERVICES

#### High Holyday Days

**Stop Press:** Rabbi Mark Solomon will now be leading our HHD's due to a change of circumstances. (See page 6). Rabbi Alan Mann will be helping LJ elsewhere.

**Erev Rosh Hashanah:** 7pm, 18th Sept. '09 at St Cuthbert's, King's Stables/ Lothian Rd.

**Rosh Hashanah:** 11am, 19th Sept. '09 at St Cuthbert's, Kings Stables/Lothian Rd.

**Erev Shabbat Shuvah:** 6:15pm, 25 Sept. 09 at the David Hume Tower, Edinburgh University - for students and community.

**Kol Nidrei:** 7pm, 27 September '09 at St Mark's Unitarian.

**Yom Kippur:** 11am, 28th September '09 at St Mark's Unitarian. Concluding at 7pm we will go to a restaurant. For further details please contact Nancy Warren on [secretary@eljic.org.uk](mailto:secretary@eljic.org.uk).

**Members will receive details and tickets in HHD mailing. Non-members wishing to attend should contact us.**

**Jewish Calendar - August 2009**  
11th Av to 11th Elul 5769



**ELJC's August LBC Diary Meditation**  
"Draw from the past, live in the present, work for the future" A Geiger

15th August - Blessing of Elul  
18th August - Rabbi Hugo Gryn zt"l. 1996  
20/21st August - Rosh Chodesh

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### **Madam Chairman's Word**

#### **Board of Deputies Report on Women**

One of the aspects of being the chairman that has taken me rather by surprise is the number of reports and articles that pass over my desk, or more often my electronic desktop. They do not all make for gripping reading. But a remarkable exception is the recent report by the Board of Deputies "Connection, Continuity and Community - British Women Speak Out". In a previous report published in 1994 a series of recommendations had been made and this report was supposed to be an attempt to revisit these and see what had happened to them. Some of us attended a local meeting organised by ScoJec, to discuss them. At the time many of the recommendations seemed to me to be irrelevant to anyone who was not an orthodox woman living in London. And many of us told the organisers this.

The new report, recently published, is based on an online survey where the respondents added their own comments and ideas. As one would expect from this type of survey the respondents were younger than the Jewish population as a whole. The report makes extensive use of quotations from respondents' comments, including several (anonymous of course) from members of Sukkat Shalom. Their conclusions are very different from those of the earlier report. A major theme is the need for Jewish organisations to respond to

changes in social and family life, the need to be inclusive in the broadest sense and to give women satisfying roles both socially and spiritually to match those they fulfil in the secular world. It was interesting that some of the strongest views on this came from women with orthodox affiliations. In many ways the wish-lists of many respondents are what we try to aspire to in Sukkat Shalom. But there is a lot to think about, for example as to whether we do enough to make single people feel included. Rebekah Gronowski touches on this in the next item. And a lot of what is said is equally relevant to men. I recommend it to you highly and will be happy to provide a copy to any one who does not have Internet access. Everyone else can download it from:

<http://www.boardofdeputies.org.uk/file/ConnectionContinuityCommunity.pdf>

Gillian Raab

### **The Pastoral Patch**



A new and hopefully regular column to the Newsletter, the Pastoral Patch is aimed at filling a bit of the gap we have as a community in not having a permanent rabbi. The emphasis will be spiritual support to our community from a distance with a focus on ethics and Liberal Jewish life. Various rabbis or other people will be invited, held at gunpoint or bribed to contribute! Our own **Rebekah Gronowski** provides the first Pastoral Patch in August's newsletter from her sermon delivered on the 3rd July 2009. (No gun/bribe required!)

What does the Lord require of us, even though we live alone? He has told you O man, what is good. And what the Lord requires of you: Only to do justice, And to love goodness, And to walk modestly with your God, Then will your name achieve wisdom. Micah – Chapter 6:8-9

(I have added the first line of verse 9 as it is actually the end of the sentence.)

### **Solitude**

Today I have chosen the theme of Solitude. What does solitude mean to you? What does it mean to me? Does it mean a time and place for a bit of peace and quiet away from the hustle and bustle of daily life? Does it mean a time for reflection and looking inward to find one's inner person or spiritual self?

Or does it mean loneliness, living alone or in solitary state – in a world which seems to be dominated by couples?

For many people it does mean loneliness, especially as we get older and become less active. It can mean social isolation in many cases – visits from friends and family become fewer and fewer until, all too often, they stop altogether. Many people who have no family see no-one and speak to no-one for days at a time – they feel as if they no longer belong to a community or to a family until, eventually, they give up and become reclusive. Sadly, we sometimes hear of people who have died and are not found for many weeks later.

These are not imaginary situations – they are real life situations. How should we be reacting to this? Is this something which we should be addressing? Should we be acting as individuals? As a community? Maybe we should be asking ourselves – how do people who live alone celebrate when they are on their own? Do they bother to observe the lighting of Shabbat candles and welcoming

in the Sabbath? Do they bother with making a special Shabbat meal or getting a challah? Do they celebrate the Festivals with others or alone? Maybe we need to give this some thought as a community and as individuals.

Well – yes, some of us do kindle the Shabbat lights, some of us do make a special Shabbat meal. But there are times when, maybe, we feel too tired or lack the incentive or energy to do this – then Shabbat comes and goes without being marked in any special way, it becomes just another day.

Perhaps we need to re-visit what Shabbat means to us – and to others. Maybe we need to look at how we could share Shabbat with those who are living alone ..... maybe just a thought for the forthcoming week.

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**ELJC SUPPORT LINE:  
07904 813162**



If you or your family are stuck in a hole or are in a bad place, dealing with illness etc and need a bit of Jewish support then **"Phone me"**.

**An answer when you need help from your Scottish fully inclusive Jewish Community**

**CUT ME OUT AND PUT ME BY THE PHONE**



Remember, the ordinary community information line is 0131 777 8024.

## Festivals

### Edinburgh International Book Festival

Charlotte Square Gardens  
15 - 31 August 2009  
Garden entry free

To book tickets, go to  
[www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk)  
Or call 0845 373 5888

Lots of broad event categories for adults and children with workshops and talks including authors.

### At the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

**Jewish Chronicles** By Daniel Cainer  
Sweet Grassmarket, Apex City Hotel, 61  
Grassmarket. Tel: 0870 241 0136  
6-16, 18-31. August at 2pm (50 mins)  
£8.00 (£7.00 concession)

Beautiful songs, much laughter, some tears.  
A song writers timely exploration of race,  
religion and identity. Quirky, catchy, classy,  
clever and kosher!

Every song tells a story, touching the heart.  
"Very funny and moving." (Daily Mail)

**Jordy Pordy: Taking the Bull by the Horns**  
6-30 August, £8.00 (£7.00 concession)  
Discounted

Group tickets for opening week of £6.00.

An autobiographical one-man show written  
and performed by Jordan Herskowitz. The  
play tells the story of Herskowitz's life as a  
Jewish individual growing up in Texas, per-  
forming as a professional mascot, and being  
the middle child of two brothers diagnosed

with cystic fibrosis. Jordy Pordy is having its  
debut at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

An opportunity for the Jewish community to  
see an autobiographical play that offers both  
comedic and dramatic elements with Jewish  
themes. [www.jordypordy.com](http://www.jordypordy.com)

Please call the Edinburgh Fringe Office on  
0131 226 0000 to book your tickets early.

### Yiddish Song Project

The Lot (Venue 24), 4, The Grassmarket  
Wednesday 26th August at 9pm

ELJC's Festival outing to hear the Yiddish  
Song Project's latest gig at the Lot in the  
Grassmarket. <http://www.yiddishsong.co.uk/>  
Full price tickets are £12, but if we have a  
group of 10 or more we will get a substantial  
discount. To reserve your ticket send your  
contact details and the number of tickets you  
would like to Eva [havelew@yahoo.fr](mailto:havelew@yahoo.fr) or 0753  
159 8257.

### At the Usher Hall

**Elias (Elijah)** by Felix Mendelssohn  
18 August, 8pm; (2hrs 45 mins)

To book tickets online go to [www.eif.co.uk](http://www.eif.co.uk)

Or telephone 0131 473 2000

Tickets £10, £12, £14, £17, £20, £24, £27,  
£34 & £39.

Mendelssohn's final oratorio is an extremely  
dramatic and vivid portrait of the Biblical  
prophet Elijah. The energy of the music, the  
inspired orchestration and sheer beauty of  
many of the arias make it one of classical  
musics most popular works. Often sung in  
English, this performance is sung in its lan-  
guage of composition - German.

## Festival of Spirituality and Peace

August 2009

[www.festivalofspirituality.org.uk](http://www.festivalofspirituality.org.uk)

Tickets: Tel - 0131 473 2000

Or online: <http://www.hubtickets.co.uk/>

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### Islam Festival Edinburgh

1-31st August, Central Mosque

<http://www.islamfestival.com/>

#### Islam, Beyond Misconceptions

*Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 3.30 – 5.00 pm (Free)*

It is one of the world's most populous religions, yet perhaps the most misunderstood.

**Abdu'r-Raheem Green** discusses and clarifies various misconceptions and stereotypes about Islam in our society, often amplified by the media.

*Abdu'r-Raheem Green is a British convert to Islam and a world-famous lecturer. He runs a consultancy, Green and Chambers Consulting, as well as making regular appearances on digital television.*

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#### Waverley Care Presents:

#### THE ARMED MAN: A MASS FOR PEACE

£10 (£8)

Conducted by Christopher Bell, pianist Stephen Doughty. Soloists: Alison Beck, Morag Campbell, Mike Towers

Sunday 23 August, 6pm at the Erskine Stewart's Melville Performing Arts Centre

Christopher Bell conducts a massed choir of 300 singers for this one-off performance of Karl Jenkins' compelling work. Initially dedicated to the victims of the Kosovo conflict, "The Armed Man" combines text from the Latin mass; a muezzin's 'call to prayer'; a fifteenth century French song and words by Tennyson and Kipling.

To join the chorus as a singer (afternoon rehearsal) please contact Waverley Care directly on 0131 226 2206 ([admin@waverleycare.org](mailto:admin@waverleycare.org)).

## Silver Screen

Society has changed much over the last century. One thing that has developed in that time is ageism rather than respect for the elderly. Britain has an ageing population, and given the thread running through this month, whatever the gender, people are increasingly finding themselves living alone when a partner dies.

Unwittingly, we probably all have done it, whether in our view of parents or grandparents - we often do not want to think that they had/have an intimate and personal life and unfairly expect dignified solitude.

The need for companionship and love does not fade and this month's film choice reflects that though is not about living alone per say but deals with an affair in older age. Life does not stop when you are old!

### Cloud 9

#### 31st July to 3rd August - Filmhouse

Andreas Dresen, Germany, 2008 - 100 mins

German with English subtitles

Grandparental guidance rating -(sort of 15)

Ursula Werner, Horst Renberg, Horst Westphal, Steffi Kuhnert.

Beautifully and bravely played by its three leads, this study of a hitherto happily married housewife who, in her mid 60s suddenly finds she has fallen for a man in his mid 70s, is a gem.

It is admirably frank and matter of fact, but it's the honesty with which the director treats the emotional and ethical dimensions of an increasingly complicated situation that is most impressive.

A film of great discretion and sharp observation.

## liberal judaism

### LJ Appoints Interfaith Consultant Rabbi Mark Solomon

Liberal Judaism has appointed Rabbi Mark Solomon as its first Interfaith Consultant

Australian-born Rabbi Mark Solomon, as well as being our current foster rabbi, has served as rabbi to the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, St John's Wood, London since 2000. He has served Watford United and also the West Central Synagogue at the Montagu Centre. He also lectures in Talmud at Leo Baeck College.

He has wide interfaith experience. He is the Jewish co-chairman of the London Society of Jews and Christians, a trustee of the Interfaith Alliance UK which aims to contribute a liberal voice to interfaith dialogue, co-convener of the Westminster branch of the Scriptural Reasoning Society, a governor of the Ammerdown Centre in Somerset, and a trustee of the London Ecumenical Aids Trust.

Mark participates and leads in interfaith conferences including annual Jewish-Christian-Muslim conferences and the Jewish-Christian Bible Week in Germany. He gives talks and concerts for the CCJ and Jewish-Muslim text study sessions at limmud conferences. He is an honorary member of the Tariqa as-Safina, a sufi group based in Bonn, and has a lifelong academic and personal interest in deep theological dialogue between religions. He has written on Jews in the Koran and the influence of Islam on Judaism, and published a lengthy article on "Christ through Jewish Eyes".

Rabbi Danny Rich, commented "Both local constituents and the national movement are involved in important interfaith initiatives.

*(continued on next column)*

## liberal judaism

It has long been my desire to engage a resource at the Mongu Centre. I am delighted that Mark, with his lengthy and impressive record in interfaith dialogue, has chosen to work for Liberal Judaism in this special field. I am sure Mark will help Liberal Judaism create a centre of interfaith excellence."

Rabbi Mark is leaving the Liberal Jewish Synagogue at St John's Wood. While we do not know how this will impact on us, all at ELJC wish him well in this new and exciting opportunity.

### Gilad Shalit



### House of Commons Early Day Motion

#### Write to your MP -

Please take a few minutes to write to your MP urging them to sign [Early Day Motion 1757](#), which calls on the Government to redouble its efforts to secure the release from captivity of Gilad Shalit and of other Israeli service personnel who are being held as hostages. To write to your MP online simply visit [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com) and follow the instructions (making sure you check your email afterwards and click on the confirmation link). 25th June 2009 was the third anniversary of the kidnap of Gilad Shalit, who is being held a hostage, incommunicado, and is neither permitted to send or receive messages from his family, nor receive visits from the Red Cross or similar organisations.

## Community & Members' News

### Birth

We are delighted to announce the arrival on 5th May of Zachary (Zak) James Brodie, a first son for Hannah and Andrew Brodie .

### Deaths

We are saddened to have to report the deaths in the last month of our two oldest members.

Frederick Broadie passed away in St Andrews on 2nd July at the age of 95. Our condolences go to his wife Sarah as well as Jonathan, Marjory and family.

Then on 15th July we lost Ida Skubiejska aged 94, a founder member of Sukkat Shalom and one of our most memorable characters. At an informal event to celebrate her life her nephew Marcel expressed his deep gratitude to members of Sukkat Shalom and of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation for supporting Ida over the years and particularly in the last few weeks of her illness.

Both had full lives; newsletter obituaries cannot provide space to do them justice! In due course a virtual House of Life on the ELJC web page will contain their eulogies/histories.

### Professor Frederick Broadie z"l

1913 to 2 July 2009

*The following eulogy was given by Professor Sarah Broadie at Frederick's funeral.*

Frederick was born in Manchester to Jewish Eastern European immigrants; his parents Isaac and Sheyndal separated before he was born. His early years were not of the easiest. His mother's family had been killed in one of the Odessa Pogroms.

His first language was Yiddish. Things got a little easier when his mother remarried when Frederick was about 8.

He began his long love with the violin and later in life became a flautist and played the 'cello - with a focus on classical repertoire with a bit of Tzigeuner music thrown in and mainly all self-taught.

Frederick left school at fourteen and then did a lot of different jobs, a lot of them playing and teaching the violin, still living mainly in Manchester, and getting deep into Marxist theory and its background in the Hegelian dialectic. One night on the spur of the moment he joined a friend en route to a New Year's Eve dance - a crucial event in a life picked out by crucial events, for it was there and then that he identified, and identified for himself, the most beautiful girl in the hall. She was Eda Shuel, who became his wife and the mother of Barry, Alexander, and Jonathan.

With the advent of World War II, Frederick joined R. A. F. Bomber Command as a navigator. That role ended when he was grounded by a crash that left him needing significant facial reconstruction. But he continued to work as a radio operator until the end of the war.

Now came another crucial turn. Philosophy had been in Frederick's life for almost as long as he could remember: at four years old in a Manchester street he was gripped by the puzzle of how the hoardings on the other side of the road could also be on this side of the road - in him, or in his head! Only narrowly escaping from being trampled by a dray horse, the philosophical tot was preserved for a long and rich intellectual career. Decades later, from an airfield in Gloucestershire, as the war was winding down, Frederick threw a feeler out into the blue: he posted a lengthy handwritten essay on the Jewish philosopher Spinoza to the University of Oxford, addressed simply

'To Whom It May Concern'. And concern someone it did; the act of chutzpah paid off against all the odds. Somehow the missive found its way to the right place in Oxford, namely the desk of A. D. Lindsay, later Lord Lindsay, the Master of Balliol College and himself a philosopher. Frederick's potential was recognised, and without an O Level to his name – i.e. without a School Certificate – Frederick was welcomed to Balliol with a scholarship. From there he moved on to an academic career in the Philosophy department at Edinburgh.

Frederick was an inspiring teacher of philosophy, regaling many generations of students with his intellectual vitality and his seriousness. Mastery of the English language was allied with what can only be described as a volcanic philosophical imagination. He taught himself Latin in order to write a book on Descartes' philosophy, but the last fifteen or so years of his working life, including most of the time in America, were absorbed in a multi-faceted study of divine creation. One of his Oxford teachers had told him that he would have to choose whether to be a philosopher or a poet. But Frederick never did make that choice: he remained both through and through. He was for many years a prolific poet, and a high proportion of his poetry is wonderful. Some of it was published by Chatto and Windus under the auspices of Cecil Day Lewis, the poet laureate at that time. Chatto also brought out two of Frederick's novels, based partly on the Manchester of his beginnings.

Frederick was profound, passionate, generous, and courageous, and he threw himself into love, friendship and fun.

Many of his nearest and dearest have never known life without him; others of us have shared in his life during the greater part of their own. His aspirations for us, and his personality, have shaped us indelibly, reaching on into the lives of his

grandchildren and even his great-grandchildren. In the last years his multiple lights burned low as his powers became more and more restricted; but right to the end he was full of love for his visitors and his carers. Even when only a thread of himself, he retained his delight in interaction and repartee.

Our thoughts here today are very much with those who have been unable to join us in saying the formal goodbye: with Barry, Jonathan, Marjory, Lawrence, and Oliver and Karl Broadie. But in spirit we are all together, with each other and with Frederick.

To all of us, may his memory be for a blessing.

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*Jonathan Broadie writes:*

Sukkat Shalom did a most fantastic job of organising and conducting my father's funeral, and in supporting Sarah, Lawrence and Lewis, and all of the family. I also want to thank those who were able to attend the funeral, and the many people who have sent messages, cards, and e mails of condolence to us and the family. These are much appreciated, and of great comfort at this time.



The Holy Ark in the wooden shul of Khodorov in Lvov, Ukraine. Built circa 1752 it was destroyed during WW2.

## Obituary

### Ida Skubiejska z"l.

21 November 1914 -15 July 2009



Ida was born in Bedzin in Lower Silesia, Poland the eldest of three sisters to affluent parents where her father was the director of a zinc exporting factory employing 6000 people. Privately educated she went on to study Geography and Zoology at Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Her life was to become a remarkable journey of giving and survival.

Active in the student protest movement against Hitler, Ida also became an officer in the International Red Cross. She left immediately for Rumania with her younger sister, when Ida learnt a fellow student had joined the Gestapo and was about to denounce her.

They never saw their parents, sister or extended family again; all of them were to perish in Auschwitz.

En route to Rumania they were captured in Lvov, Ukraine, by the occupying Russian army and ended up in a prison camp in the Taiga forest sub Arctic region of north Russia where for a year they worked in freezing temperatures as prison labour, logging. They supplemented their meagre

diet with berries and mushrooms from the forest. Following the Nazi invasion of Russia, Stalin joined the Allies and a treaty signed included the release of Polish prisoners and the creation of a Polish Army.

With new papers like many, Ida and her sister were sent to Polish Army HQ in Buzuluk in the south Urals. Separated from her sister by accident she enrolled in the medical service and worked in Buzulak, Uzbekistan and on the Afghan border where with few medications Ida and her colleagues contained epidemics of typhus, typhoid and dysentery in the released prisoners. Then ordered to the Caspian Sea they oversaw the transfer of Polish troops to Pahlevi in modern day Iran. While there Ida needed surgery and ended being operated on in Tehran, She stayed there on recovery working in the Polish section of the British Army hospital.

She helped arrange transport to Palestine for 1230 Jewish refugees from Russia and army dependents via rail journeys and ship through the Suez because Iraq would not permit them to travel through Iraq.

After a short break in Tel Aviv, Ida rejoined the army working at the Royal Commonwealth Military hospital which had a small Polish section.

On D-day she was travelling by ship heading towards Gibraltar; her ship arriving in Scotland on 4th July 1944. She was soon working at a military hospital at Bridge of Earn, and later at Carnoustie working with limbless servicemen. It was while she was here she learnt the fate of her family.

After the war she married a Polish officer and they settled in London resuming an academic career and taught for a spell in Italy and Sydney, Australia. In London Ida became active in LJS.

Returning to Scotland in 1989, she was widowed 10 years later and settled in

Edinburgh and until relatively recently was a very active member of the congregation.

Ida once commented at a workshop on prayer that "prayer saved my life once. I was standing in a river, up to my neck in water. The Nazis were on one side and the Russian troops were on the other and I said the Shema..." Nobody spoke for a while afterwards as people realised how few of us experience a fraction of the things she has seen.

May her memory be for a blessing.

*This obituary is based on material originally printed in the Edinburgh Star, reprinted with kind permission.*

### **In Your Prayers**

Of your compassion, please remember the family of Frederick Broadie; and the very small remnant of Ida Skubiejska's family.

Please remember the sick.

### **Hill Walking Group**

Ben Ledi Glasgow -1 Edinburgh - nil

Our intrepid progressive hill walking group set off on a misty morning with the weather forecast promising that the low cloud would lift to reveal beautiful sunshine. It never did. The small Edinburgh group of 4 were outnumbered by the Glasgow contingent and we missed our organiser (Phil Wadler) who had been struck down by backache. After failing to take Phil's excellent instructions with us the Edinburgh party ended up doing the walk in reverse and never managed to rendezvous with the Glasgow party after the initial stop in the excellent deli.

What is more the Glasgow party reached the top, while we gave up defeated by mist and midgies.

## **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](mailto:newsletter@eljc.org).

### **Calling Yiddish Speakers**

I have recently moved back up to Scotland and I'm looking to find other Yiddish speakers. Message below is transliterated Yiddish [YIVO standard] because I wasn't sure if your newsletter takes Hebrew script) Thanks.

Sholem Aleichem! Redt ir Yidish? Ikh heys Tsipoyre un ikh bin a Yidish-studenke. Ikh bin anustn gekumen ahaim fun England, vil ikh gefinen andere yidish-redners in Schotland - oych Edinburgh un oych Glasgow. Oyb ir redt Yidish, zayt azoy gut un shikt mir a blitzbriv oder klingt mir afn telefon. Afile kenen mir etablirn a Yidish-Svive! A sheynem dank, Tsipoyre.

[tzipporahfeiga@googlemail.com](mailto:tzipporahfeiga@googlemail.com)

07754057860

### **ELJC on Facebook**

ELJC now has a Facebook Group of its own: <http://tinyurl.com/lk6mqe>

And there is also an Interfaith Jewish Communities Facebook group for ELJC and the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation:

<http://tinyurl.com/kwch7l>

**Many thanks to all those who contibuted this month. Items for consideration for publication are welcomed, as are responses to items published. The deadline for the September newsletter will be Friday 21st August. Please email all contibutions to [newsletter@eljc.org](mailto:newsletter@eljc.org).**

### **Anticipated Newsletter deadlines**

October - 25th September  
November - 23rd October

## Our Crowd

by Joe Goldblatt

This month we shine the Sukkat Shalom spotlight on our cheder teacher, Nancy Lynner.

*What is your favorite Jewish holiday?* Rosh Hashanah. I chose this holiday among all others because I like apples and the start of a new year.

*What is your favorite Jewish food?* My favourite Jewish food is chocolate covered matzoh. It is such a surprising combination of tastes and textures.

*What is your favorite Jewish memory?* My favourite Jewish memory is the night my husband Joe asked me if I wanted to become Jewish and I realized that I had been wanting to, but had not really thought that I could belong to the Jewish people.

*What do you like best about Sukkat Shalom?* I especially like the people. Especially the ones under thirteen years old!

*What is the one thing most Sukkat Shalom community members may not know about you?* My first career was being a professional mime.

*What is your favorite Jewish song?* My favorite Jewish song is *The Mitzvah Song*. If you ask me, I will teach it to you.

Who are your favorite Jewish artists? My favorite Jewish composers, artists, entertainers or authors include Arnold Saltzman, a symphonic composer, cantor, rabbi and personal friend. I admire the work of Marc Chagall. I admire the educational research of Dr. Howard Gardner. My favorite festival producer is Sam Goldblatt, our son.

My favorite Jewish actor is Max Darwin, our other son.

*If you could have dinner with some Jewish celebrities who would you invite?* I was lucky to have dinner with Dr. Jonas Salk once, so I took him off my list. That leaves my three favorite Jews Joe, Max, and Sam.

*What are your favorite travel destinations?* Now that I am permanently living in the UK, I love visiting family and friends in the US. I love to visit my aunt in Italy. Destinations for me are cultural events. I love to attend theatre and opera.

*Please describe your personal journey to Judaism?* Is best described as an exciting personal decision that crept up on me. As I began to experience life within the Jewish communities in each city we lived in, I found more and more areas of interest within the scope of Judaism. As our son Max worked toward his Bar Mitzvah event, I began to study with Rabbi Beth Davidson for my conversion. I have been studying Judaism ever since.

*When you think of Sukkat Shalom, what comes to mind?* To paraphrase the American humorist, Garrison Keillor, when I think of Sukkat Shalom I think of a place where the women are intellectuals, the men are very thoughtful, and all the children are way above average.



If you would like to be featured please contact Joe Goldblatt at [jgoldblatt@gmu.ac.uk](mailto:jgoldblatt@gmu.ac.uk)