



September – October 2019

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**Sukkat
Shalom**
Edinburgh Liberal
Jewish Community

**Scottish Charity
Number
SC 035678**

Community phone

0131 777 8024

Diary

September 2019			
Fri 6	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	Marchmont St Giles
Fri 13	7:00 pm	Erev Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Mark Solomon	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Sat 14	1:30 pm	Tea and Talmud (please note non-standard start time)	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Sun 15	4:00 pm	Discussion Group	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Fri 20	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	Marchmont St Giles
Sat 28	11:00 am	Shabbat service	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Sun 29	7:00 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah service	For details of all our High Holyday services see article below.
Mon 30	11:00 am	Rosh Hashanah service	
October 2019			
Fri 4	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	Marchmont St Giles
Tue 8	7:00 pm	Kol Nidre service	For details of all our High Holyday services see article below.
Wed 9	11:00 am	Yom Kippur service	
Fri 11	7:00 pm	Erev Shabbat service	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Sun 13	3:30 pm	Build sukkah and make kiddush	Christ Church Morningside
Sat 19	11:00 am	Shabbat Sukkot service, led by Rabbi Mark Solomon	Christ Church Morningside
Sat 19	3:00 pm	Discussion Group, led by Prof Sarah Broadie	Christ Church Morningside
Sun 20	3:00 pm	Tea & Talmud	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Sun 20	6:30 pm	Erev Simchat Torah service, led by Rabbi Mark Solomon	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Sat 26	11:00 am	Shabbat service	St. Marks Unitarian Church

Word from the Chair

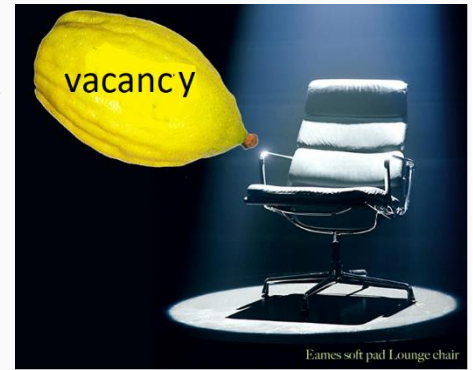
This month, I'm going to return to a topic I've mentioned before, and it's very much about me in as much as I have said ever since I became Chair that I was going to stand for three years. My three-year stint will come to an end at the next AGM in early 2020, at which point we will need to elect a new Chair.

The election of a new Chair is always something of a double-edged sword in the sense that it always feels like it is the right thing to have someone 'lined up' to take over, but in so doing we are always open to the charge that 'the whole thing is a stitch-up'. Furthermore, since the new Chair is often someone who has been previously involved, it could be said that the 'stitch-up' is the old guard continuing to run our community. I don't really want to debate the merits of this, other than to say that it feels highly probable that anyone who stands for election as Chair is likely to have been involved with the community in one way or another. In that sense you can't have it both ways; if you want someone with some experience of the community as Chair, they will by definition already have been involved.

However, as I say, I don't want to discuss the merits of how we elect our Chair other than to confirm that at the next AGM we will be looking to appoint a new Chair and at the moment neither I nor the Council are aware that anyone intends to stand for the position. That being the case, there are three points I would like to make.

The first is to note that any member can stand for election as Chair. Following on from my comments above, it has always been the case that previous nominees have had some experience of the running of our community, but as with any position you are looking to fill, you can draw up a list of criteria for the ideal candidate. And pretty much every time, the candidate appointed has some but not all of the qualities. I would suggest that is certainly the case for the current Chair, and – no offence intended Maurice, Gillian & Norman – has been the case for all those who have been Chair of our community. So, if you have ever considered becoming Chair, or indeed becoming more involved in the general running of the shul – we elect Council members at the AGM too – maybe now is the time to consider it. We are a hardworking and enthusiastic group of people, and while I'd be fibbing if I didn't say that sometimes I think we can all feel that it does involve a reasonable amount of work, we do it for the love of our community and of Judaism. For me the personal satisfaction I get when I think that I have been instrumental in the running of our community is the reward.

The second point to make is that we as the Council, both collectively and individually, will continue to see if we can identify anyone who would like to become Chair. Or indeed co-Chair; our constitution currently identifies the position of Chair, but that's not to say that it can't be changed and I for one would be very much in favour of such a change if we did have members who were willing to be co-Chairs.



The last point to make is that, given that we are not aware that anyone is going to stand for Chair at the next AGM, we have started discussing options for what we will do if no-one does indeed stand. Our preferred option at this stage is that we will allocate the various duties of the Chair between Council members. It is certainly the case that there wouldn't be a 'nominated figurehead' as there is with the Chair, but there are advantages in 'spreading the load' and I know that everyone who is on Council will pull together and do their bit.

If you would like to know any more about the duties of the Chair, being a Council member, or indeed any of the other aspects of running our community, I'd be happy to discuss them with you.

Nick Silk

High Holy Days are coming

We are now in the month of Elul and the High Holidays will be with us soon.

Rosh Hashanah: Sun, 29 September/ Monday 30th September

Yom Kippur: Tuesday 8th October / Wednesday 9th October

Rabbi Andrew Goldstein will be leading our Rosh Hashanah services and our own Rabbi Mark Solomon will be leading services on Yom Kippur. Members and associate members will be receiving their tickets in the post shortly. Please bring your ticket to all High Holy Day services.



Non-members who would like to attend should reply to this email contact@eljc.org or leave a message on the community phone for details and how to get tickets.

Sukkot

All Sukkot events are at the Church Centre, Christ Church (Scottish Episcopal Church), 6a Morningside Rd, Edinburgh EH10 4DD, UK

Sunday, 13 October 3.30pm Building and decorating the Sukkah

We will be erecting and decorating the sukkah, and making kiddush to celebrate the holiday. Please come along and help, and bring greenery and fruits for the decorations.

Saturday 19 October 11.00am Shabbat Sukkot service

The service will be led by Rabbi Mark Solomon

Simchat Torah

Sunday 22 October 6.30 pm Erev Simchat Torah Service, St Marks Unitarian Church, Castle Terrace

Break-fast meal following Yom Kippur

Wednesday 9 October, arrive 7.45pm for 8.00pm. Zucca, 15 – 17 Grindlay St. EH3 9AX

After the last service on Yom Kippur, we have arranged a booking at Zucca, a friendly Italian restaurant. There is a meat-free and seafood-free menu with choices for each course at only £23.50p per head, payable on the night. Zucca is next to the Lyceum Theatre, just a few minutes walk from St Mark's and is accessible both from the street and (if you need lift access to the first floor, where we will be) directly from the Lyceum. This restaurant is fully wheelchair-accessible.

To book your place please leave a message on our community phone: 0131 777 8024 or email contact@eljic.org as soon as possible and at the latest **by Wednesday 2 October**. Don't forget to book – there were some disappointed people last year!

Kol Nidre Appeal Charities

Every year, before Yom Kippur, we select a set of charities for our members to support via our Kol Nidre Appeal. This is our selection this year. Our members are usually very generous in supporting the appeal. We are proud of our communal generosity. We hope that you will continue this tradition this year. More details, including how to donate, will be given at the Kol Nidre service but if you wish to donate now you can contact our treasurer at treasurer@eljic.org.

PF Counselling Service <https://www.pfcounselling.org.uk/>

A local charity giving counselling and psychotherapy for people facing the difficulties of everyday life. They provide a professional service to people in need, regardless of ability to pay, with clients contributing what they can afford.

Leket Israel <https://www.leket.org/en/>

Leket Israel, the National Food Bank, is the leading food rescue organization in Israel. Unique among food banks worldwide, Leket Israel's sole focus is rescuing healthy, surplus food and delivering it to those in need through partner non-profit organizations.

Hand in Hand schools <https://handinhandk12.org/about/>

Hand in Hand is building inclusion and equality between Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel through a growing network of bilingual, integrated schools and communities.

World Jewish Relief <https://www.worldjewishrelief.org/>

The British Jewish community's international humanitarian agency. This year they are asking synagogues to support a vital project that changes the lives of the most vulnerable older Jews across Eastern Europe. Many of them are impoverished and living in dilapidated and dangerous homes without the means to pay for repairs.

Limmud Scotland 2019

Edinburgh Sunday 24 November

BOOK NOW at early bird

rates <https://events.limmud.org/limmud-scotland-2019/apply/>

A day of celebration and Jewish learning with a dazzling array of sessions, including an all-day music strand, for people of all ages and interests. There will be a dedicated, well-equipped and relaxing child and family-friendly space. Watch out for other related events over the weekend, including a Saturday night concert and Klezmer Ceilidh as well as communal Shabbat lunches at Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation and at Sukkat Shalom.

Consult <https://limmud.org/event/limmud-scotland> for the continually updated programme.



Limmud in partnership with Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre

New Year, New Learning

Each New Year holds the excitement of new learning, and of particular relevance to those of us living in small and far-flung communities are the new live, interactive on-line courses offered by Leo Baeck College's adult Jewish learning programme, the Lehrhaus. Having participated in two such courses in the last six months, I can vouch for the quality of the content and the technology. The experience approximates as far as is possible an interactive physical seminar. Numbers are kept low (so if you're interested, book now); the technology, using the Zoom platform, is more or less seamless, and thought has been put into how to adapt teaching methods to this medium.

Of immediate interest is:

On the Way to the High Holy Days with Rabbi Dr Rene Pfertzel

Thursday 7.30-9.00pm Dates: 5-26 September 2019

All sessions will be recorded and available to students for seven days after each session. Book early – spaces are limited.

Course Description:

During the month of Elul, we will prepare ourselves for the Grand Rendezvous with ourselves and the Divine that are the High Holy Days. This class is based on the reading of some High Holy Days prayers, such as U'netane Tokef, Vidui, and Al Cheyt, and some reflective passages from our tradition. Most importantly, it is the contributions of the students of this Torah that will increase our readiness. We will discuss remembrance, renewal, teshuva, forgiveness, and we will attempt to map our soul two days before Rosh Hashanah to get ready for a new year, a

year of blessings and fulfillment, a year of strength and resilience, and a year of growth.

Other on-line courses in the Autumn semester are:

Maimonides' Radical Judaism: An Enduring Intellectual Heritage, with Rabbi Mark Solomon – eight-week course.

Jewish Education course: The Route to Roots with Dr Jo-Ann Myers – four-week course

Ulpan: Modern Hebrew with Liat Aharonovich – eight-week course

To find out more and to book any of these courses see:

<https://lbc.ac.uk/study-with-us/additional-learning-opportunities/lehrhaus/>

Sue Bard

Learning for All at the Virtual Jewish Cultural Centre

Thursday 19 September 7.30 – 9.15 Who wrote the Torah? An Islamic Perspective, with Rabbi Natan Levy

Thursday 17 October 7.30 – 9.15 Torah Queeries: Leviticus Revisited, with Rabbi Mark Solomon

To reserve a place email jansell@fastmail.fm or phone 0131 667 6687.

Sessions take place at 52 Granby Road EH16 5PZ Refreshments are served

Lily's Legacy: a call for interviewees

Lily's Legacy is a project to document the radical history and heritage of Liberal Judaism in the UK, taking its name from Lily Montagu, one of the movement's founders. It is creating a touring exhibition, educational resources, archives and events, including a symposium. As well as recording the past, the project is creating 'history in progress' – a snapshot view of Liberal Judaism today.

The project wants to capture Liberal Jewish voices from all walks of life, ages and backgrounds and is keen to hear from Liberal Jewish members, friends and associates. **If you would like to be interviewed, just contact project manager Shaan Knan at the Montagu Centre on +44 (0) 20 7580 1663 or at lilylegacyproject@liberaljudaism.org by 26 September 2019.**

Partners and associates of the project, which has been awarded Heritage Lottery funding, include London Metropolitan Archives, the Wiener Library, the Parkes Institute at the University of Southampton, the Woolf Institute at the University of Cambridge and the Jewish Museum, London. To find out more, see www.lilyslegacyproject.com

Interfaith Matters

Thursday 19 September 6 – 7.30pm

Interfaith Peace Service at the Edinburgh Annandale Mosque, 43-45 Annandale St, Edinburgh EH7 4AZ

Sukkat Shalom has been invited to contribute a prayer at this service. If anyone would like to do this, either alone or with another person, please contact us to let us know.



Monday 7 October 6pm

Community Meal: a Taste of Faith

Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria St, Edinburgh EH1 2JL

This event is free but please RSVP to reserve your place:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-meal-a-taste-of-faith-at-the-quaker-meeting-house-tickets-56553511074>

Shabbat in the Scottish Borders

Once again, in what has become a highlight of the Sukkat Shalom calendar, longstanding member Isobel King invited us to celebrate Shabbat in her home village of Newstead. Reputedly the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in Scotland, including by the Romans in the 1st and 2nd centuries CE, it was interesting to reflect on the twists and turns of history that found our community celebrating Shabbat in Newstead's intimate and welcoming village hall in 2019 CE.



Rabbi Mark Solomon led a service that was full of meaning and relevance to its surroundings, preaching a sermon inspired by words from the Haftarah (Micah 6: 1-8) *'Humans tell you what is good, but what does the Eternal One require of you'* and ending with a rendition of Adon Olam to the tune of Robert Burns' *'Ye banks and braes o'bonnie Doon'*.

A lovingly prepared lunch followed in Isobel's welcoming and beautiful home and garden, Dove Cottage. A wonderful day! **Sue Bard**

High Holy Days Hospitality

Every year we attract many visitors to our High Holy Day services and events. They include new students, families and individuals on holiday, people on business trips—the reasons are varied. While our visitors are always invited to come to our communal Rosh Hashanah lunch and our Yom Kippur break-fast meal, there are also people, particularly lone travellers, who would appreciate an invitation to someone's home for a meal after the erev Rosh Hashanah service or before the Kol Nidrei service on Yom Kippur. The warmth of hospitality is what counts. You don't need to produce an elaborate meal—it's just an opportunity for us to make visitors and newcomers to Edinburgh and Sukkat Shalom feel welcome in a time-honoured Jewish way.

If you'd like to get involved, email us at newsletter@eljic.org or leave a message on the community phone: 0131 777 8024

Keith Epps: Exhibition at the Open Eye Gallery

Keith Epps (husband of Sukkat Shalom member Colby Adams) is exhibiting his intriguing landscape oil paintings at the Open Eye Gallery, 34 Abercromby Place, EH3 6QE from 6 - 30 September. Keith originally trained as a painter at the Edinburgh College of Art in the 70's, and will be exhibiting alongside his tutor at the college, James Fairgrieve, who introduced him to oil painting,



For more about the exhibition: <https://www.openeyegallery.co.uk/exhibitions/future>, and more about his work: <http://keithepps.blogspot.com>

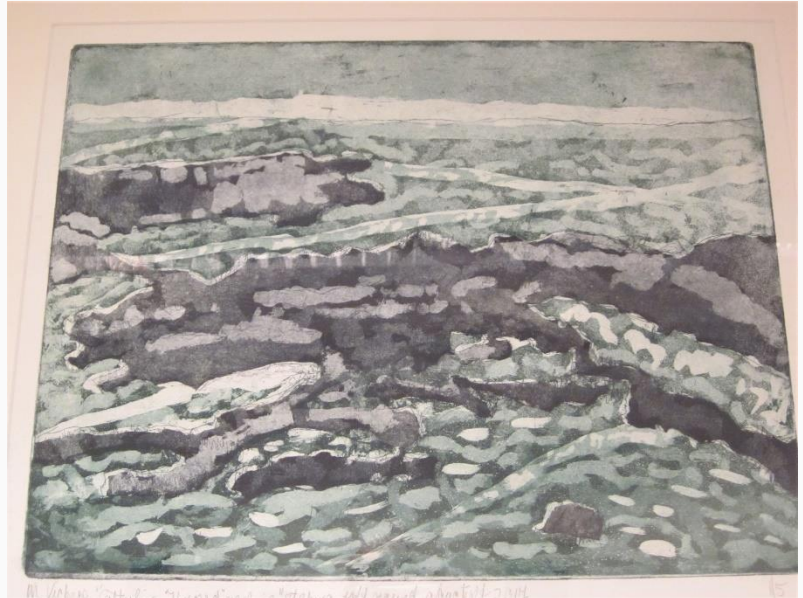


'Traces' Miriam Vickers

I had the pleasure of attending the opening night of the 'Traces' exhibition at St Margaret's House, London Road, where Sukkat Shalom member, friend and artist, Miriam Vickers was showing her triumphant copperplate etchings. It was a celebration of her accomplished skill to see this body of work brought together in one room.

For those new to Miriam's work,

she started working on etchings in 2011 at Edinburgh Printmakers, having previously concentrated on watercolours and oils. She went on to win the Scottish Arts Club award from the Scottish Society of Artists Exhibition, culminating in another great show at the Scottish Arts Club. She is influenced by Expressionism and Scottish landscapes are her main focus, rendered in colour with



great skill and patience, using the etching process. Thank you Miriam for a great opening and show, complete with jazz ensemble and accordion music from Sukkat Shalom's David Paton.

Lisa Barcan

(Note that this exhibition has now ended: if you didn't manage to make it, watch out for Miriam's next one.)

WIZO afternoon tea

Now affiliated to the Scottish WIZO Council the Edinburgh Group is currently active in raising funds for the Maoz Zion Project upgrading and providing a safe children's playground.

Our 2019 event is an afternoon tea at the home of Mr and Mrs Edward Green on Sunday 8th September from 3 to 6pm. Donation £15.

Guest speakers are Sammy and Vicci Stein founders of Glasgow Friends of Israel.

Please contact Kate Goodwin. 668 2113

Rabbi Mark and Morag Mylne dialogue

Last Erev Shabbat Rabbi Mark Solomon and Morag Mylne, a, Church of Scotland elder, discussed their experiences on a recent trip to Israel/Palestine.

They were fellow participants on a recent CCJ Leadership Study Tour. This was a very interesting evening, though not a very happy one since both the speakers were very pessimistic about any chance for a peaceful solution. But one very encouraging part of their report was an account of their visit to the Hand In Hand school in Jerusalem, which will be one of our charities for our Yom Kippur appeal this year. We have not had time to write up a full report yet, but one will follow in the next Etrog.

Sukkat Shalom Contacts

Community Phone – 0131 777 8024

This phone number sends voicemail to members of the Contact Team

To reach the Care Team, call the Community Phone or email care@eljc.org

Contact Team – contact@eljc.org

Etrog Team – newsletter@eljc.org

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Treasurer: and Membership: Stefano Giosi (membership@eljc.org)

Secretary: Gillian Raab (secretary@eljc.org)

Scottish Charity SC035678