

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

liberal judaism

December 2009

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Events & Services

Date Friday December 4th

Event Erev Shabbat Service

Venue Columcille Centre
3 Newbattle Terrace

Time 7 pm

Our regular monthly Erev Shabbat Service.

Date Friday December 11th

Venue: Columcille Centre

Time 6.00--9.00pm



Everyone, young and old, is invited!

A festive occasion for all to enjoy, and we are looking forward to seeing lots of children. Please bring along your hanukkiah and dreidels. Phil will take his traditional turn as latke cook. As usual for our family suppers, please bring along a non-meat dish to share.

Come early (from 5.30pm) to help make some decorations for the party.

Date Thursday 17th December

Venue St Andrews Square

Time 6pm

Event Edinburgh's Largest Menorah is lit.
Music, Doughnuts, Latkes etc.
Organized by Chabad Lubavitch

Date Weekend 18/20th December

Rabbi Mark Solomon will be visiting this weekend. If you would like to speak to him about anything please email info@eljc.org or leave a message on the community phone.

See next column for activities that will be led by Rabbi Mark this weekend.

Events & Services

Date Friday December 18th

Time 7pm

Event Friday night chavurah supper

Venue Columcille Centre

Join Rabbi Mark to light the last candle of Hanukkah and share a meal (please bring your hanukkiah and a non-meat dish to share).

Date Saturday December 19th

Event Shabbat morning service

Venue Columcille Centre

Time 11am

Event Tea and Talmud

Venue Columcille Centre

Time 3pm

Date Sunday December 20th

Event Choosing Judaism class

Time 10.30 am

Event Torah Cantillation

Time 2.30 - 3.30 pm

Contact Kristi Long (kristilong66@yahoo.com)

Event Spinoza Discussion Group

Time 4.00-5.30 pm

Contact Maurice (maurice@morninglight.co.uk)

Date 25th December

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Venue Marchmont - St Giles Centre

Time 6:15 pm

Date Friday 1st January 2010

Event Erev Shabbat Service

Venue Columcille Centre

3 Newbattle Terrace

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Jewish Calendar for December 2009

Hanukkah

Friday 11th	1st candle and party
Saturday 12th	1st day
Friday 18th	8th candle
Saturday 19th	8th day

Need candles for Hanukkah?

Boxes of multicoloured ones will be for sale at all services or email chair@eljc.org

£1 small size £3 larger size.



Saturday 12th
Blessing for Tevet

Friday 18th
Rosh Chodesh Tevet

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

Sunday 13th December

Synagogue Hall, Salisbury Road at 7.30pm with tea and refreshments from 7pm

Eyal Poleg

From Warriors to Martyrs and Back Again: The Maccabees in Medieval Judaism and Christianity

After lighting the third candle of Chanukah we will follow the story of the Maccabees from their origins to unexpected places in Christian theology, Jewish lamentations and medieval manuscripts.

See last month's newsletter for a more detailed Synopsis. Many of us will have met Eyal and family at recent services.

Inaugural Lecture by Prof. Hugh Goddard.

So what is the relationship between the World of Islam and the West?

where: David Hume Tower, George Sq
when: Wednesday 2nd December
time: 5.15 pm

Synopsis

In recent years a number of obvious incidents have seemed to demonstrate a relationship of hostility between the World of Islam and the

West. Earlier history too offers many examples of antagonism. Other incidents, however, offer a very different model of the relationship between the communities. This lecture will examine the various models available for the relationship between the World of Islam and the West, and attempt to outline a programme for the development of a positive relationship between them in the future. It will also examine the particular contribution of Scotland to the relationship, in both the past and the present, and outline a programme to promote better mutual understanding in the local context.

Films

Je Veux Voir (I want to see) Filmhouse 1st to 3rd December

Documentary about Beirut with veteran French actress Catherine Deneuve. A fascinating and intensely intimate film in which Deneuve's disorientation comes to stand for that distance we all feel in the West when forced to think about the reality behind the headlines and news reports.

A Serious Man, currently showing at the Cameo Cinema



A Jewish masterpiece. The Coen Brothers bring their infinite and original sense of humour to focus on an every day sort of man who witnesses the world turning against him. This dark comedy, set in 1967, tells the story of Larry Gopnik, a physics professor in a quiet mid west American town. When his wife Judith informs him that she is leaving him for one of his colleagues this is only part of the downhill slide since his brother is sleeping on their couch, his son has behavioural problems and their daughter is stealing money from his wallet in order to save up for a nose job! At this point Larry Gopnik consults not one but three rabbis on his quest to become 'a serious man'. The Coen Brothers excel at this darkly humorous genre.

Synopsis from Jewish Film Festival

Some of us are planning to go to the 3.50pm screening on Sunday 6th December. Feel free to join us. Meet in the foyer at about 3.40 pm

Chairman's word

I am delighted that my few words this month appear on the same page as the report about our cheder. Nothing has given me more pleasure than to see how this has grown over the few years since we started. We have always had terrific teachers, starting with Rachel Savage and with contributions from many others including dedicated parents. Other members and of course our supporting rabbis have given invaluable support to prepare young people for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. But it was not until we started having classes in a more formal setting, though still a friendly one, that cheder has really come to life.

A Cheder Challenge grant from Leo Baeck College was the motivation for us to seek premises to hold the cheder rather than meeting in people's homes. The money from the grant helped us to directly. But what helped us even more was the opportunity that applying for the grant gave us to set ourselves goals and to articulate our aspirations. Thanks to everyone who has helped to make this happen - parents, teachers, children and the staff at Marchmont St Giles for making us so welcome.

Sukkat Shalom Cheder

We are delighted that our cheder has grown substantially recently and we now have 14 children aged 4 to 11 enrolled and participating. Classes are held in the very attractive premises of Marchmont St Giles Church Centre fortnightly from 3.30 to 5.30pm on a Shabbat afternoon.



The teachers (Back row, Nancy, Norman, Saul and Lauren) with a few of the pupils at a recent snack time

We are extremely fortunate in having a wonderful team of dedicated teachers. The cheder teaching is coordinated by Norman Crane, who has had extensive experience of cheder teaching in his

previous shul in Manchester and who also takes occasional sessions. Nancy Lynner, who has taught Jewish pre-school in the USA, takes class Aleph; Lauren Fox, who many of you will know from her contributions to Sukkat Shalom, takes class Bet (7-9 year olds) and Saul Aryeh Kohn, a student of astrophysics who has taught cheder at Kingston Liberal Shul, takes class Gimmel (10-12 year olds).

The three classes run simultaneously with a break for snack in the middle. Snack is organised by a rota of parents. During the winter months each session finishes with a Havdalah ceremony led by Lauren in which the whole cheder participates together with parents.

Class Aleph (4-6 years old) do a variety of activities within the two blocks of time. The first block includes activities about Hebrew and the Aleph Bet. These activities include manipulating playdoh into the shapes of the letters, writing in worksheets, playing letter-match games and sounding out and comparing letters. One new letter is practised each week - sometimes two. And this is just before snack! After snack the class reads books together, acts out stories, dances, sing songs and plays games and rhythm instruments. Every class is a special and unique experience. Ask any of the students and you will find that they don't want to miss one. They thrive on being together and learning the building blocks of Hebrew and Jewish stories.

Class Bet (7-9) is continuing to learn all the Hebrew letters using the textbook Z'man Likro (Time to Read) with the games and activities that go with it and associated written work. The objective is to go on to an introductory text book to the Prayer Book and on to the Siddur itself. The class is currently involved in an ongoing project which looks at those values you might need to build a Jewish community from scratch.

Class Gimmel (10 - 12) is reading Hebrew from the Chumash concentrating on stories from the Book of Genesis which involve the Patriarchs and Matriarchs. The stories are also used to draw out ethical values. This usually done by involving the students in activities. For example, the story of Jacob and Esau led the students to cooperate in building a structure using newspaper. This contrasts with Jacob and Esau who failed to cooperate. The class is also to become familiar with the structure of the Chumash and the idea of the weekly Parashah and the division into chapters and verses.

New members

Sukkat Shalom warmly welcomes three new members. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew and Mr Rachel Montague and Ami Bender have recently joined our community. The Montagues are the parents of four wonderful children (Samuel, Sacha, Elianna and Layla). Andrew and Rachel are delighted that their family are joining Sukkat Shalom and they said "We have met many people in Edinburgh over the years who feel cut off from their faith and community and therefore, we love the opportunity to enter into a warm, friendly environment." Ami Bender is a professional in the information technology (IT) field and says that he is looking forward to being a member of Sukkat Shalom and participating in our rapidly growing liberal Jewish community in Edinburgh and beyond.

Members News

Mazel Tov to Laurence Broadie and Kay Marshall on their wedding.

Our condolences to Miriam Vickers whose beloved mother (Sarah Hayah Landeck nee Czarnes) passed away in Chicago on 10th November.

Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group

<http://www.edinwig.org.uk>

Wednesday December 9th 7.00 p.m. in the Roberston Hall (undercroft cafe) Nicolson Square Methodist Church
Please bring finger food to share (vegetarian) *'An Evening of Celebration'* when we will be sharing our favourite poem or song from our different faith Traditions.

Other related Activities

Friday 4th December 10.00 am - 4.30 pm
South Complex, Pollock Halls Edinburgh
Seminar: *"Domestic Abuse & Black Minority Ethnic Children and Young People"*

For more information download the flyer from the events list at <http://www.edinwig.org.uk>.

Wednesday, 9th December 9.30 am - 1.00 pm
28 York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3EP

Women's Hate Crime Event: Make your community a safer place

followed by a free vegetarian and halal lunch; creche and interpreters available

To register ring Amina at the Muslim Women's Resource Centre on 0141 585 8026 or [e-mail Amina samina@mwr.org.uk](mailto:aminasamina@mwr.org.uk)

Other Scottish Interfaith Links

Edinburgh Inter-faith Association
www.eifa.org.uk

Scottish Inter Faith Council
www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org

Jacob's Pottage

Looking at Genesis XXV the other way round, Jacob buys Esau's birthright for a mess of pottage. How dumb is that?! Should have sold him the recipe instead (intellectual property). Here it is (serves 4 – Jacob, Esau, Isaac and Rebekah):

8 oz. red lentils, washed
6 oz. onion, finely chopped
3 oz. carrots, finely chopped
6 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 inch root ginger, finely chopped
8 chillies (optional, if using chilli powder)
½ tsp. chilli powder (or more, if you like)
1 teaspoon cumin seed
2 pints water
juice of 1 lemon
1 tbsp. vegetable oil
black pepper to taste

Boil water in large saucepan. Add the lentils, half the chillies (or chilli powder), half the ginger, black pepper. Bring back to boil and simmer for 1 hour. In a pan, fry the onion, carrot, garlic, and the rest of the ginger until golden. Add cumin, chilli powder (or rest of chillies), fry 3 minutes. Add to lentil pot and simmer 15 minutes. Add lemon juice.

This is good served with a dollop of yoghurt, chopped flat-leaf parsley and a sprinkling of the following seed mixture:

50 g. sunflower seeds
½ tsp. fennel seeds
1 tsp. caster sugar
pinch of salt

Dry-fry in non-stick pan over high heat, stirring with spatula for 3 or 4 minutes until sunflower seeds start to take colour and the sugar is liquefied. Remove from heat, stir to break up clusters, let cool.

Thanks to Charles Raab for this



Class Aleph contributes to Blue Peter 'Send a Smile' Project

Operation Smile is a charity that provides free surgeries to repair cleft lip, cleft palate and other facial deformities for children around the globe. More than 200,000 children are born with a severe cleft condition each year — often unable to eat, speak, socialize or smile. In some places these children are shunned and rejected. A 45 minute operation can change their lives. Before mitzvah day cheder class Aleph (4-6 year olds) made gowns which have now been dispatched to the charity. These gowns originated as tee shirts, which the children and teachers adapted, according to Blue Peter's suggestions.

ELJC Liberates Trees in Holyrood Park

*Report by Kristi Long
Photos by Lauren Fox*

Mitzvah Day, Sunday, 15th November was a beautiful, sunny, mild day in Edinburgh, a perfect day for members of Sukkat Shalom to roll up their sleeves and do some grounds work in Holyrood Park. Holyrood Park is both a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its archaeology, geology and wildlife. The park is managed by Historic Scotland, and depends heavily on volunteers.

The challenge



And how to do it



Today's mission: clear gorse! Although gorse is a lovely blooming bush (and, in the spring, smells like coconut), it tends to crowd out other plants. It's also highly flammable, and an overgrown stand of course was posing a fire hazard to some young trees, as well as choking them out. Our goal was to build a firebreak between the gorse and the trees. Seven of our members, guided by Historic Scotland Rangers Adam and Stuart, learned to cut down gorse with saws and 'loppers', while avoiding – for the most part—the sharp thorns. At the end of the day, we'd cleared a substantial firebreak and liberated at least 10 young trees that had been hidden in the overgrown gorse. Adults and young people all agreed that it was fun and satisfying – so much that we are already making plans to go back in three months.

Holyrood Park is a real jewel, a wonderful place for both people and wildlife. We were proud to have contributed a bit to the upkeep of this park, which has meant so much to so many people.

The team by Dunsapie Loch



**Next Year
Mitzvah Day 2010
Sunday 21st November**



liberal judaism

LJ Biennial

If you have never been to a LJ Biennial Conference before, please do consider going to our next one in April 2010. We have a very exciting programme of Workshops and Discussion sessions around the main theme 'Liberal Judaism: With You Every Step of the Way'. We will be looking at all the different aspects of life-cycle events and how we celebrate them. Tortworth Court Hotel (just outside Bristol) is a lovely hotel set in beautiful grounds and is an ideal venue for a relaxing and stimulating weekend. Two of us went last time and I can personally recommend it - and the food is good too!

If you have not yet picked up your Booking Form - look out for it in the LJ 'corporate colours' - pick one up at our next Service and get booking! A very generous Early Bird discount is available until the end of January - after that it will be more expensive. A £50 deposit will secure your place - bookings are already rolling in. It would be really nice if we could get a good representation from our community to go this time.

JFS Case

Writing about the JFS appeal case in the Guardian, Rabbi Danny Rich, Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism, said, "The Jewish community of Britain has frequently made history, and its appearance in the first ever case in Britain's new Supreme Court is a further, albeit hardly auspicious, example." The case is currently being heard in the Supreme Court.

Is being a Jew a matter of bloodline or religious practice? Should parents have to "prove" an adequate level of religious observance to get their children into a Jewish school, or should it be decided by matrilineal descent? Liberal Judaism and the Liberal Synagogue Elstree and Rabbi Pete Tobias featured on [Newsnight](#) and BBC Radio 2 in programmes looking at the issue of Jewish identity.

**Rabbi Dr Sidney Brichto Publications Fund
Plans for new Haggadah**

Liberal Judaism is delighted to announce the establishment of a new publications fund, set up in memory of Rabbi Dr Sidney Brichto z"l, the first ever Executive Director of the Union of Liberal and Reform Synagogues (now Liberal Judaism). The fund's first project will be Liberal Judaism's new haggadah (scheduled for publication in February 2010) and donations are invited for this purpose. **Donations received before the end of January will be marked by a dedication in the haggadah's frontispiece.** Any profits from the sale of the haggadah will be ploughed back into the fund to provide for future publications.

SCoJeC

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. In furtherance of that end, it represents the Jewish community in Scotland to government and other statutory and official bodies, monitors the Scottish Parliament and liaises with MSPs and others on matters affecting the Jewish community. Copies of their newsletter (Four Corners) are available at our services.

The extract below is taken from a report of a recent meeting with the First Minister. To read a fuller account of this meeting and of all of SCoJeC's other activities, visit their web site.

<http://www.scojec.org>

A delegation from SCoJeC met the First Minister for a private meeting at his official residence, Bute House in Edinburgh. The initial reason for the meeting was the increase in antisemitic activity during the past year, and the First Minister expressed his horror at the abuse of the name of the SNP in extreme antisemitic graffiti at a Jewish cemetery, which he described as "deranged", and instructed his staff to ensure that the local authority concerned takes prompt and effective action in the event of a recurrence.

Mr Salmond was also very perturbed to learn of the increase in the number and range of antisemitic incidents, and pledged his support for strategies of both education to help prevent this, and prosecution to help deter it. In particular, the First Minister said he was pleased to hear of the recent prosecution of someone accused of posting vicious antisemitic messages on a newspaper website, and undertook to write to editors to remind them of their responsibility for what appears on their sites.

Dates for next 6 months

Our regular schedule is as follows:-

First Friday of each Calendar month

Erev shabbat service

The shabbat morning 2 weeks after this

Shabbat morning service

Weekends when no other service

Short kabbalat shabbat service

Plans as of December 2010

Later dates subject to confirmation

January 2010

W/end 15/17 Rabbi visiting Shabbat morning

Sat 29 Tu biShevat

February 2010

Fri 5 Erev Shabbat

Sun 14 Limmud Glasgow

W/end 20/22 Rabbi visiting Shabbat morning

Sat 27th from 6.30pm Megillah reading and Purimspiel. We are planning for another successful joint celebration with Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation

March 2010

Fri 5 Erev Shabbat

W/end 26/28 Rabbi visiting Shabbat morning

Mon 29 Communal Seder. This year at Marchmont St Giles Church Centre led by Rabbi Mark Solomon

April 2010

Fri 2nd Erev Shabbat

Sat 17th Shabbat morning service

16th-18th LJ Biennial Conference
(see page 6)

W/end 23/25 Rabbi visiting
change from usual schedule

May 2010

Fri 7th Erev Shabbat

W/end 21/22 Rabbi visiting Shabbat morning service

June 2010

Fri 4th Erev Shabbat

W/end 19/20 Rabbi visiting Shabbat morning service

July 2010

Fri 2nd Erev Shabbat

W/end 16/18 Rabbi visiting (to be confirmed) Shabbat morning service

Jokes Column

The Inland Revenue.

Rabbi Rabinovitz answers his phone.

"Hello?"

"Hello, is this Rabbi Rabinovitz?"

"It is."

"This is the Inland Revenue. Can you help us?"

"I'll try."

"Do you know Sam Cohen?"

"I do."

"Is he a member of your congregation?"

"He is."

"Did he donate £10,000 to the synagogue rebuilding fund last year?"

"He will!"

The school play

Yossi comes home from school and tells his mother he has been given a part in the school play. "Wonderful," says the mother, "What part is it?" Yossi says "I play the part of the Jewish husband!" The mother scowls and says: "Go back and tell your teacher you want a speaking part!!"

Jewish Marriage advice

"Don't marry a beautiful person. They may leave you. Of course, an ugly person may leave you too, but who cares?"

The heat wave

One hot summer's day in Golders Green, Jack Gold steps out of his shower and says to his wife, Hette, "It's just too hot to wear any clothes today, honey. What do you think the neighbours would say if I mowed the lawn without anything on?"

Hette replies, "That I married you for your money."

From our humour correspondent Ricky Hogg

ELJC SUPPORT LINE:

07904 813162



Use this number if you have an emergency and really need to speak to someone. It goes to one of our members. Otherwise please leave a message on our usual number (see page 1) and we will respond as soon as possible.