

Sukkat Shalom July 2010

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

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Events and Services

Date Friday 2 July 2010

Event Erev Shabbat Service

Time 7pm

Date Saturday 17 July 2010

Event Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Mark Solomon
Bicentenary commemoration service
that will include readings from the
first progressive service held 200 years
ago on this date. see p.3

Time 11am

Event Tea & Talmud

Time 3pm

Event Cantillation

Time 4.30pm

Date Sunday 18 July 2010

Event Stone-setting for Ida Skubiejska

Venue Piershill Cemetery

Time 11am

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 the community phone and we will respond as soon as possible.

Date Friday 6 August 2010

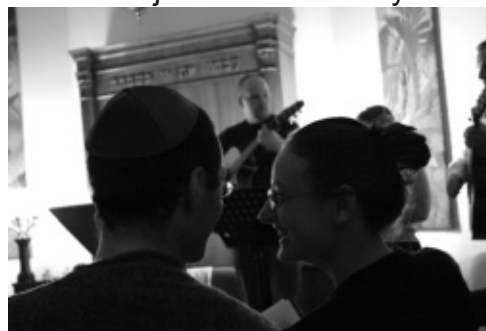
Event Erev Shabbat Service with 'tent'

Venue St Mark's, 7 Castle Terrace, EH1 2DP

Time 7pm

Thank God it's Friday!

'tent: the meeting place' with edinburgh liberal
jewish community



an uplifting musical kabbalat shabbat service
with a thought-provoking discussion
followed by dinner out in a local restaurant
for people in their 20s and 30s
for details contact avivit katzil
a.katzil@liberaljudaism.org or 07866 501787



'Tent'
link on 

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CONTRIBUTIONS: The editor welcomes comments, letters or other contributions to the newsletter. Submit by emailing to newsletter@eljc.org

Future Dates

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

August 2010

Fri 13	Very Special Erev Shabbat Service with Shabbat Resouled, see below
Fri 20	Chavurah supper, with Rabbi Mark (tbc.)
Sat 21	Shabbat service led by Rabbi Mark Tea & Talmud
Sun 22	Choosing Judaism Cantillation Spinoza discussion group
Fri 27	Kabbalat Shabbat service

September 2010

Fri 3	Erev Shabbat Service
Wed 8	Erev Rosh Hashanah
Thurs 9	Rosh Hashanah
Fri 17	Kol Nidre
Sat 18	Yom Kippur

Edinburgh Festival Erev Shabbat Service 13th August

We are delighted that the folk-rock group Shabbat Resouled will be with us for a Service during the Festival. We are hoping that many visitors to the Festival will be able to come too.

"People flock to be part of this service, like no other in the whole of Europe. A participative, musical Friday night service that revives the soul at the end of the working week. Shabbat Resouled is about spirit (ruach) and enjoyment, עונג שבת (Oneg Shabbat) of the Friday Night service. "

For more information visit their web page <http://shabbatresouled.org> where you will find links to other places where you can follow them on the web.

Please tell any Jewish people who are coming to the Festival all about this event. **Also, we are looking for people to help with publicity and to provide accommodation for members of the band. Please contact us if you could help.**



Making waves

Rabbi Pete Tobias on the Flotilla Incident

Pete Tobias is rabbi of The Liberal Synagogue Elstree and chairman of Liberal Judaism's Rabbinic Conference

The Israeli assault on the Gaza flotilla will make waves that extend far beyond the Mediterranean coastline where the bloody events took place. And those waves will reach me, my community and then all of us.

The first wave will touch me as a Jew (and a rabbi to boot) because there is an assumption that I am totally supportive of all the actions of the Israeli government and the forces that purportedly operate on its behalf. If I dare to say otherwise, I am condemned by my own community as a self-hating Jew, a sympathiser with Muslim terrorists whose only wish is to see the destruction of the state of Israel.

The second wave will reach me for precisely the same reason. My synagogue, my community, my religious heritage no less, will also come under attack, as the behaviour and the attitude of the Israeli government are somehow equated with the Judaism we practise, believe and represent.

And the third wave will extend to me, my community, and all of us, no matter what our belief system or religious (or non-religious) affiliation. We live in a world in which there are people who cower in abject poverty behind a blockade that separates them from their sworn enemies. Those enemies hurl hatred at one another, regard one another as less than human, and perpetuate that hatred through persecution and indoctrination in the name of religion.

As long as such hatred exists in the world, all of humankind is denigrated. The Hebrew word shalom, understood to mean peace, actually comes from a root that means 'complete'. When there is conflict and hatred, intolerance and violence between human beings anywhere, humanity is incomplete. Thus we are all touched by waves from what happened in the Mediterranean Sea, by the events that prompted the flotilla, the actions that were directed against it, and the angry threats of revenge

that follow.

And now there will be more waves: recriminations, accusation and counter-accusation, as the brutalised humanity of which we are all part diminishes its stature further still. Lowering commandos onto a purportedly peaceful flotilla is just the latest manifestation of human folly of which there are countless examples in recent decades in the Middle East. And humankind's inability to live in peace with itself is not limited to that bloodied stage. Oppression and injustice, cruelty and intolerance are rife on our troubled planet.

And now the Jewish community in this country, members of my synagogue and I must take steps to protect ourselves against it. It is well documented that threats to synagogues and other Jewish institutions and individuals increase when Israel's actions are greeted with hostility. These waves of violence dehumanise us all. Yet my community prays for peace, regularly incorporating the following words in its prayers:

'It is not enough to *pray* for peace. We have to *work* for it: to challenge those who foster conflict, and refute their propaganda; to ascertain and make known the truth, both when it confirms and runs counter to conventional views; to denounce injustice, not only when it is committed against us but also when it is committed against others; to defend human rights, not only our own but also theirs; to insist that peace requires sacrifice – of pride, or wealth, or territory... and to build bridges of respect and understanding, trust and friendship, across the chasms that divide humanity.'

Belief in those principles, that human task, and a desire to promote them, influenced my decision to become a rabbi. I believe that such ideals reside at the heart of Judaism, indeed at the heart of any religion worthy of calling itself such. Their absence from the actions and attitudes that currently prevail in the ancient birthplace of my faith devalue religion, as do responses to them. Therefore, as a Jew and a rabbi, I cannot possibly condone any actions – by anyone – that inflict violence and perpetuate conflict and the inhuman treatment of other human beings.

And so I wait, Canute-like, for the waves from the Mediterranean to wash over me. My words, my beliefs are unlikely to be able to hold them at bay. But I hope they will have some influence in saving me, my community, my Liberal Judaism and our world from being drowned by them.

Liberal Jews who will Define the Future of Anglo-Jewry

LJY-Netzer's Oved Kehilot, **Ben Baginsky**, and Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue's Senior Rabbi, **Aaron Goldstein**, have been named by The Jewish News as two of the most influential under-40s in the Anglo-Jewish community. According to the paper, Aaron is "a genuine creative force as a rabbi" and Ben "has emerged as one of the most charismatic and influential figures involved in building the community's next generation."

Leo Baeck College Diary/Filofax



The Leo Baeck College Diary/Filofax will be in stock to purchase from 20 July 2010. But we are offering a small reduction on the cost if you order before 20 July 2010. Diary £10.99 (Reduction £10.50) or Filofax £9.99 (Reduction £9.50).

An order form can be found at http://www.lbc.ac.uk/images/stories/publications/diary_order_form_final_2010.pdf

or leave a message on the community phone with your postal address if you would like a copy sent to you.

Bicentenary service Collumcille Centre 17th July

We often think of Liberal and Reform Judaism as 20th or even 21st century movements, but they have roots that go back much further. Our service on 17th July will mark the bicentenary of the first progressive Jewish service. On that date in 1810 the first service was held in the beautiful, newly built temple in the grounds of a school in Seesen, Lower Saxony which had been founded by Israel Jacobsen. Jacobsen was a successful business man, a philanthropist and a Hebrew scholar. He was an advocate of egalitarianism and religious pluralism and in his school Jewish and Christian boys were educated together.



Come to the shabbat morning service on 17th July, which will include extracts from the first service, to learn more about the history of progressive Judaism.

From the Chairman

It has been a busy month. Every month seems to be full of shul activities these days, but as I write this we are not much beyond the middle of June and we have already had two Rabbinic visits and a very special Bar Mitzvah.

Our first Rabbinic visit was not from Rabbi Mark, but from Rabbi Aaron Goldstein from Northwood and Pinner Synagogue in London. As many of you will know Rabbi Aaron was our foster Rabbi when we first affiliated with Liberal Judaism. His visit was part of Liberal Judaism's pulpit-swap scheme where all the Liberal Rabbis who volunteer to take part in the scheme are shuffled between their congregations. It was thanks to Rabbi Mark's generosity that we were able to have Aaron. As part of the swap Mark took services in Leicester and Nottingham on what was not his usual weekend to come here. Aaron brought his guitar and led a Friday night service and a special Tots Shabbat on the following morning which was hugely enjoyed by many of our little ones.

The following shabbat Rabbi Mark was back with us for all our usual weekend activities but especially for Ben Naftalin's Bar Mitzvah, which Maurice introduced in our last newsletter. We were all a little anxious, not knowing how it would work out, but as soon as we saw the look of utter astonishment and pleasure on Ben's face as he came in to the service with his brothers just before the Torah reading we knew it would all go well. The brothers were all resplendent in matching blue waistcoats. For months Ben had been practising holding the Torah scroll with a mock scroll covered with our Torah mantle. He managed this on the day as Maurice passed the scroll to him, but at the same time giving his

Some of the tots (and not so tots) getting a blessing under a tallit



Dad a big hug. And Ben made the Torah blessings happen by pressing a button on a computer that set off a recording of his twin brother Joe reading the appropriate blessings. Older brother Daniel read from the scroll and the whole family paraded the scroll round the large congregation. After the service everyone was invited to an excellent lunch.

In the afternoon the energetic members of the party climbed Caerketton, the nearest of the Pentlands to Edinburgh, and most of us continued through the evening with ceilidh dancing to music

provided by members of Celtica Shmeltica. As Maurice said in his talk about Ben at the service the four stone that Ben has put on since his 13th birthday had some downsides, especially for those who danced round with him up on a chair. But his brothers have grown in these years too and were well able to support him in this as they do so well in many other ways. Thanks to the whole family for giving us such a wonderful day.

Looking forward to future months, things may be a little quieter in July, though our Shabbat morning service will be special in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the first progressive Jewish service (see page 3). In August there will be yet more exciting events to look forward to, a Tent service on the 6th and on the 13th a very special

service with six musicians from the group Shabbat Resouled based in North Finchley. **If you could help by giving one or more of them a bed for the night of the 13th please contact us.**

After that it will be no time until the High Holy Days, which are early this year, and we are delighted that Rabbi Mark will be leading all of the services again this year. Wishing you all a wonderful summer. Gillian

Four Naftalin brothers with Ruth



and Ben sharing some cheese with Isaac



Who is the intrepid person on top of the climbing wall?



answer on page 5

Community Matters

Stone-setting for Frederick Broadie

Thank you very much to all those from Sukkat Shalom who attended the Stone-Setting for my father on 20th June. This was enormously appreciated by our family. The more so because most of those present had never known my father, but were there to support our family. It's a long-standing tradition to support one another within Jewish communities at times like these, and I feel heart-warmed to see this in Sukkat Shalom. Thank you also to those who sent messages. Jonathan Broadie.

Stone-setting for Ida Skubiejska

The Stone setting for Ida Skubiejska will take place in Piershill cemetery (Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation) at 11am on Sunday 18th July.

Condolences

To Kristi Long on the death of her grandmother Ruth Pegues Walker who has passed away in Texas, aged 88.

From the Naftalin family

Ben's family want to thank everyone who helped to make his Bar Mitzvah a success. Your presence, your presents, and most of all your support, were all very much appreciated. We had a wonderful day, and we hope that you enjoyed it too. Sukkat Shalom - what a great community, and Rabbi Mark - what a great rabbi! Thank you! (Thanks for the pictures too: the best of them are collected at <http://tinyurl.com/36vnmw>).

Announcements

Walking group

Interested in Sunday walks in the country? If so you could join the JETS Jewish walking group. For information contact Carol Levstein (levsteinc@aol.com). The next walk will be in the Peebles area on Sunday July 4th.

Friends of bereaved families

As part of the 2010 Festival of Spirituality <http://www.festivalofspirituality.org.uk/> the UK Friends of Bereaved Families will be mounting an exhibition of cartoons about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by world-

famous cartoonists and associated events. This group consists of Israelis and Palestinians who have lost family members in the conflict. Members of the Bereaved Families Forum (over 1500 in number) work together to build a framework for peace and reconciliation in the region.

Edinburgh Festival of Spirituality and Peace are hosting two members of the Forum, Robi Damelin and the sister of Ali Abu Awwadan. They will be in Edinburgh between August 11th and 16th, and speaking in various venues including (we hope) an event especially for the Jewish Communities. More details will be available in our August newsletter.

Interfaith

The next Women's Inter-Faith meeting is on 15th September. Details will be in a later newsletter.



Could you help with research?

Marina Vons: marina@vons.fr studying for an MSc Ecological Economics, University of Edinburgh (School of Geoscience) is looking for religious participants (from any congregation) to interview. The theme of her dissertation is the extent to which religious leaders are able to exert influence over the consideration of issues surrounding Climate Change. Interviews of around 30 mins can be conducted by phone, or in person.

Context: Even before Copenhagen's failure to provide a tangible policy-based solution to Climate Change, many believed there was more hope in building a civil movement. That is to say: in order to reduce our environmental footprint, a change of behaviour from the bottom-up is necessary. Religion has the potential to mobilise a large proportion of the population. The aim of this project will be to establish how receptive the religious community would be to an environmental message propagated by their leaders.

Research questions: Do religious leaders have the responsibility to take action? What position on Climate Change are religious leaders expected to have?

- What is the religious leaders' level of influence on their congregations. Can leaders send a strong enough signal to mobilise the population, would they be heard?

- Should there be a limit to their engagement? How far can they go?

- Would there be a conflict between what is preached and what is practiced?

Answer to the photo riddle in Chairman's Word: No it is not Ben! It is Rabbi Aaron Goldstein taking a little exercise in Princes Street gardens after the tots service.

Moving on.....

a personal message from Rebekah Gronowski

Dear Members and Friends of Sukkat Shalom,
This will come as a surprise to most of you so I thought I would tell everyone at this stage so that there will be no conjecture about what is happening.

After much thought and consideration, along with discussions with my family, I have decided to move back to England where all my family members are. I have now been in Scotland for sixteen years and have really loved living up here. I originally came up to study at the University of Edinburgh and stayed - I will be extremely sorry to leave but I have to be practical and pragmatic. I want to see my great-grandchildren growing up, having missed my four grandchildren growing up. I have two great-grandchildren (soon to be three) and now have a step-family of four grandchildren and a great-grandchild so, as you will all appreciate, I have a great support network down there. None of my family lives up here and I now have to look at my own needs and put them first.



Rebekah with Lucian Hudson, chair of Liberal Judaism, at the Biennial conference

My care needs are becoming greater at a much more rapid rate than I would have liked to happen so I need to relocate while I am still well enough and able to do so. I do not yet know what the time scale will be - I am waiting for the result of housing searches for appropriate properties from which to choose. I will be living in the Wellingborough (Northamptonshire) area or the Rushden/Higham Ferrers (East Northamptonshire) area. The majority of my family is in Wellingborough but some are in Rushden and Northampton. I need to be within easy distance of the Peterborough Liberal Jewish Community where I will be a Member and also within easy reach of London, Oxford, Cambridge and Milton Keynes where I will have musical and academic interests. I will also be within reach of Liberal Judaism's headquarters at the Montagu Centre where I will be involved with a project on Disability. As I am becoming less able to drive long distances this has now become critical and is a priority.

I will be around for some time yet but, when the time comes, I may have to move quickly. I hope to be able to hold a Service and a day out here in Gifford where I live (similar to our visits to Newstead to Isobel) before I finally go South. There will be time for 'Au revours' before I go, so nothing is imminent.

Best wishes and thanks to you all,

Rebekah

NOTE: Sukkat Shalom will certainly miss Rebekah when she leaves Scotland. She has been a stalwart of the community from our very beginnings and has done many more things for us than there is room to list here.

The Jewish Fringe

The Diary of Anne Frank

August 5th-27th at 5 pm at St Columba's by the Castle

The true story of a 13-year-old living in hiding during WWII. Interwoven with beautiful live music, *Patch of Blue* introduce you to a girl whose dreams and words illuminated her dark and dusty world. Patch of Blue Theatre in Association With Hartshorn-Hook Productions www.patchofbluetheatre.co.uk.

Stop me if I'm kvetching

August 15th-26th at 10:45 pm in C too at the Carlton Hotel North Bridge

Award-winning American art-pop songstress Rachael Sage returns to the Fringe with her acclaimed mix of vaudevillian shtick, 'Yiddishkeit', and her signature pianistic flair. Rachael Sage & The Sequins www.rachaelsage.com.

Yiddish Song Project

August 26th and 29th August only at 9 pm in the Lot Grassmarket

From klezmer to jazz, experience the raucous joy and melancholy beauty of Jewish musical tradition and hear new Yiddish music too. Performed by vocalist Stephanie Brickman, Phil Alexander on piano/accordion and Gavin Marwick on fiddle.

Jewish Chronicles – Daniel

Carrier

August 5th-19th at 7.30 pm in Roman Eagle Lodge, Johnstone Terrace

One man, one piano; a solo tour de force. Epic stories set to music that take you on a journey through an ancient, influential yet much misunderstood culture.

She's Black, He's Jewish, They're Still Married, Oy Vey

23rd-29th August at 00:10am at Laughing Horse at Jekyll and Hyde, 112 Hanover Street

Epstein and Hassan create an edgy, New York-style comedy that's provocative. Their take-no-prisoners approach will make you roar! Epstein and Hassan are

hilarious, with razor-sharp insights on race, sex, politics, relationships. It doesn't matter if you're politically to the left or the right, they can still make you laugh. They inject the spirit of Richard Pryor into a show that is unlike any you've ever seen. Plus, they've been married for 25 years. What's not to laugh about? Women love them, men can't get enough...

I never saw another butterfly

August 9-20th, times vary, at Churchill Theatre

Celebrates the indomitable human spirits of the children of Terezin, a ghetto under Nazi rule during WWII. Though few children survived, more than 5,000 poems and artwork live on, providing hope and healing. *American High School Theatre Festival*.

An Israeli and a Palestinian Walk into a Country... - Free

August 9th-27th at 4:15 pm at the Voodoo Rooms, West Register Street

Nidal Agha & Yariv Perelmutter/PBH's Free Fringe Stand-up comics Yariv Perelmutter and Nidal Agha journey through the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict - without mediators or passports - exposing the comedy within the acrimony. Safe territory? Just don't mention the wall.

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Romantic Comedy - Free

August 7th-25th at 5:15 pm at Whistlebinkies, 4-6 South Bridge

Vaguely Qualified Productions/PBH's Free Fringe 'The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Romantic Comedy' is an American musical that tracks the notorious Middle East conflict back to a botched one-night stand at the Geneva Convention. The newly formed country and aspiring territory totally had sex, then Israel didn't call, then Palestine went aggro, then Israel totally had a row with Palestine's friends and then some land was occupied ... But somewhere in the middle of all the chaos, in the middle of all the wars and embarrassing run-ins, rebound relationships and pint-after-pint of ice cream therapy, Palestine and Israel may just have found love.

www.IsraeliPalestinianConflictARomCom.com