

Sukkat Shalom August 2010

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

Chair: Gillian Raab, chair@eljc.org
Secretary: Nancy Warren, secretary@eljc.org
Newsletter: Hannah Holtschneider, newsletter@eljc.org
Treasurer: Jonathan Broadie, treasurer@eljc.org
Membership: Maureen McKinnon, membership@eljc.org

Community Phone: 0131 777 8024 Email info@eljc.org Web www.eljc.org

Events and Services

Date Friday 6 August 2010

Event Erev Shabbat Service with 'Tent'

Time 7pm

Especially for young-ish adults, but young at heart of any age are welcome. Followed by a meal at a local restaurant. Please email a.katzil@liberaljudaism.org if you are planning to come to the restaurant.

Date Sunday 8 August 2010

Afternoon theatre outing, see page 4.

Date Friday 13 August 2010

Event Erev Shabbat Service with Shabbat Resouled

Venue Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road

Time 6.15pm



facebook

Date Sunday 15th August 2010

Bereaved families forum event for Jewish Community at 8pm, see page 5 for details.

Date Saturday 21 August 2010

Event Shabbat Service, led by Rabbi Mark

Time 11am

Event Tea & Talmud

Time 3pm

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 Sunday 22 August 2010

Event Choosing Judaism

Venue Usual Location

Time 11am

Event Cantillation

Time 2.30pm

Event Spinoza Discussion Group

Time 4pm

Date Friday 27 August 2010

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Time 6.15pm

Special service for Human Rights day see page 4

HIGH HOLIDAYS 2010/5771

led by Rabbi Mark Solomon

Rosh Hashanah (8/9 September 2010)

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service, 7pm, 8.9.2010.

Rosh Hashanah Service, 11am, 9.9.2010

Yom Kippur (17/18 September 2010)

Kol Nidre Service, 7pm, 17.9.2010

Yom Kippur Services, 11am, 18.9.2010

See page 2 for tickets for non-members.

Contents

Page 2 Future dates, Liberal Judaism

Page 3 From the chairman, interfaith

Page 4 Community matters

Page 5 Bereaved families forum

Page 6 Pride Scotia report

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

September 2010

Fri 3	Erev Shabbat Service
Wed 8	Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
Thur 9	Rosh Hashanah Service
Fri 10	Erev Shabbat Shuvah Service - tbc.
Fri 17	Kol Nidrei Service
Sat 18	Yom Kippur Services
Sat 25	Sucloth Service
Wed 29	Simchat Torah Service

High Holy day tickets

Members will be receiving their tickets by post in the next few weeks. If you are interested in joining we offer a reduced price membership for the rest of the year. Email membership@eljc.org for details.

Non-members are welcome to attend but, for security reasons we ask that they contact us to obtain tickets by leaving a message on the community phone or emailing info@eljc.org.

Jewish Calendar

Rosh Chodesh Ellul	9/10 August
Chanukkah	2-9 December 2010
Tu Bishvat	20 January 2011
Purim	20 March 2011
Pesach	19-25 April 2011
Yom HaShoah	1 May 2011
Yom HaAtzmaut	10 May 2011
Shavuot	8 June 2011

Rosh Hashanah 5772 29 September 2011

Yom Kippur 8 October 2011



Conversion Bill Stalled

Thanks to the actions of Progressive Jews from around the world, MK Rotem's Conversion Bill has now been shelved until after the High Holidays. When the Knesset reconvenes in the New Year, we will all

need to renew our efforts to ensure that the Bill is permanently quashed. The IRAC website is a good source of information on the Conversion Bill and other issues related to religious pluralism in Israel.

<http://www.irac.org/>

Women of the Wall Solidarity in London



A group of 30 women (and two men) from across the Jewish community gathered by the Israeli embassy in London to pray together on Rosh Chodesh Av in solidarity with Nashkot HaKotel (Women of the Wall). The group, which included eight rabbis, celebrated a musical and contemplative 'tent'-style Rosh Chodesh service, led by Liberal Judaism's Young Adult Worker, Avivit Katzil, and Leo Baeck College's Student Rabbi Anna Gerrard. Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, the group's leader, Anat Hoffman, was arrested at the Kotel for carrying a Sefer Torah. If you would like to join the next Rosh Chodesh solidarity prayer service, please email Avivit on a.katzil@liberaljudaism.org. Men and women of all ages warmly welcome.

200th Anniversary of Progressive Judaism

Rabbis and lay members from Europe and across the Atlantic flocked to Seesen in Germany this weekend to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the first ever Progressive Jewish service. In paying homage to the founders of our movement, attendees also celebrated the revival of German Jewry. Rabbi Danny Rich said the anniversary reminded all participants of "the very real pioneering efforts of our founders who, in the face of increasing Jewish assimilation stood up for the possibility that Jews could be full citizens of the emerging European nation states without compromising their commitment to Judaism or their loyalty to their new countries."

Ba'alei Tefillah Programme

We have already received the first few applications for this programme, and several more enquiries. Please do not delay if you have members who might wish to participate. Full details are available from Alex Wakely on 020 7631 9830 or a.wakely@liberaljudaism.org.

From the chairman

After a relatively quiet month in July, at least by our standards, we have a huge number of events to look forward to in August. We have a Tent service on Friday 6th August and the opportunity to join Rabbi Nancy Morris and members of Glasgow Reform Synagogue for a theatre trip on the 8th.

For the following Erev Shabbat (13th August) we are delighted to have received support from ScoJec (Scottish Council of Jewish Communities) to bring the group Shabbat Resouled to lead an Edinburgh Festival Erev Shabbat service. As you may know we do not usually advertise the venues for our services. But we are making an exception on this occasion in order to reach Jewish visitors to the Festivals, and we have prepared some posters and flyers for the event. **If you could help by distributing some flyers or putting up posters** in places where Jewish Festival visitors might see them then please get in touch with info@eljc.org or leave a message on the community phone.

Later that weekend (Sunday 15th) we are privileged that the Bereaved Families forum has agreed to put on a special event for Sukkat Shalom and the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation. And if all that is not enough for you there are many other events of Jewish interest during the Festivals, some of which were listed in our July newsletter. If you no longer have your July copy to hand you can access it at <http://www.eljc.org/newsletter/Jul10NLpublic.pdf>. Enjoy.

Gillian Raab



www.interfaithconnect.org

An online interfaith discussion forum is being launched by the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS). The Interfaith web forum is the first of its kind to be used by police forces and partnership agencies across Scotland to gather opinions from young people of all faiths.

Masharef: Photographs from Palestine

7th August - 25th September, Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43 High Street, Edinburgh

In October/November last year, a small group from Edinburgh visited Palestine to meet Palestinian people and organisations. During their trip, they met and walked with the Shat-ha walking group in the hills around Ramallah, inspired by Rajah Shehadeh's book "Palestinian Walks". For them this was a great way to appreciate the beauty of the countryside, so different from their own; to get to know the walkers and something about their lives by walking and talking; to join them in asserting their right to walk in their disappearing land. The exhibition is of photographs taken by Shat-ha members during their weekly walks.

"Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia"

Friday 13th August, 2.00pm - 3.00pm, St John's Church Princes Street

Martin Bright, political editor of the Jewish Chronicle (and formerly of the New Statesman) discusses Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia - and other expressions of discrimination or hate crime - with members of the Jewish and Muslim communities.

Archbishop Elias Chacour

Elias Chacour, a Palestinian-born Christian and Israeli citizen is noted for his efforts to promote reconciliation between Arabs and Israelis. Named 'Man of the Year' in Israel in 2001, his advocacy of non-violence and his inspirational work and teaching give grounds for believing that if we can live the Golden Rule, common to all faiths, we can reach the promised land of peace.

Blood Brothers

Friday 20th August, 10:30am - 12:30pm, St John's Church Princes Street

He discusses with Kathy Galloway, head of Christian Aid Scotland his struggle to be a light in the darkness and to model the ways of peace.

The promise of the promised land

Friday 20th August, 7.30 - 9.00pm St Mary's RC Cathedral, near Picardy Place

Community Matters

Mazal Tov

To **Rebekah Gronowski** on the birth of her great-grandson Finley.

To **Leslie Mutch** and Sarah Meek on their acceptance by the Rabbinic Board of Liberal Judaism. We welcome them as members of Sukkat Shalom.

To **Stav Sadat-Poleg** on having two of her poems published in Brand Literary Magazine. You can read them at <http://www.brandliterarymagazine.co.uk/>.

To **Julia Merrick** on the publication of "Sir Herbert Seddon and the book he nearly didn't write" about the famous orthopaedic surgeon and his patients.

Condolences

To **Sue Lieberman** on the death of her mother Evelyn Leigh (Chava bat Jacob), born 1920. We wish her long life.

Festival Outing

Underneath the Lintel (see Fringe Brochure Page 301)

Sunday 8th August, 2.15pm at Assembly on the Mound, Venue 35.

Rabbi Nancy Morris has invited us to join her and a group from Glasgow Reform Synagogue on this theatre trip. Her friend, the director Joshua Edelman, has brought this exciting play to the Fringe.

He promises that the play is truly special and of great Jewish interest: He writes that it is a *"mythically-tinged treasure hunt that centres on the legend of the Wandering Jew,"..... and the writer, Glen Berger, is one of the most exciting young American Jewish writers out there - his latest project is the massive Spider Man musical with Julie Taymor and U2.* "Part detective story, part history lesson, part philosophical reflection on the meaning of life, this clever, quirky and "astonishingly beautiful" play is also deeply affecting. Variety called Underneath the Lintel "a cosmic puzzle that makes the Da Vinci Code look like a game of hide and seek."

Nancy Morris has arranged a block booking for a performance followed by a special question and answer session with the actor and director. If you would like to join the trip please email Rabbi Nancy (rabbincymorris@googlemail.com) as soon as possible to reserve a place. They can then arrange to have the tickets for us at the venue to pick up and pay for on the day (£14, concessions £12).

The press have called this production: 'It is a brilliant vehicle for a lone performer, and Philip O'Sullivan takes it for the ride of his life' **** (The Guardian)

'provocative, mournful and extremely funny... it really is unmissable' ***** (The Irish Times)

'a startlingly beautiful play' (Sunday Independent) 'a simply brilliant performance' (Irish Examiner)

Human Rights Shabbat,

Friday 27th August 2010 at the Kabbalat Shabbat service at 6.15

Did you know that one of the principal authors of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was a French Jew, René Cassin? The Declaration, the first global expression of the rights to which all human beings are entitled, was his response to the experience of the Holocaust. In a way, we should see it as a response of Judaism itself, since universal human rights are integral to Judaism. The beliefs that every single person is created in the divine image, that the human family is one, and that we are all obliged to deal justly with each other, are fundamental to Judaism. ReneCassin is a Jewish organisation founded on his ideas, with the aim of drawing upon the experiences and values of Jewish people to promote the universal rights of all people. One of their initiatives is for communities to celebrate a Human Rights Shabbat to increase awareness of human rights in Jewish communities and focus on the Jewish connection.

To mark the International Day of Human Rights, we will be holding a human rights Shabbat on Friday 27th August. The evening will be a little different from a normal Friday night service, and apart from a few key prayers to welcome and mark Shabbat, will mainly be an informal, structured discussion session, focussing on human rights within Jewish texts, and related discussion questions.

Please join us for what we hope will be a valuable exploration of and reflection on the universality of human rights, within a Jewish context. **Lauren Fox and Maurice Naftalin**

Robi Damelin and Seham Ikhlayel
of the
BEREAVED FAMILIES FORUM
at the communal hall of the **Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation**
6 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh
Sunday 15 August 2010 8pm

Robi Damelin lost her son and Seham Ikhlayel lost her brother in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They are amongst 500 bereaved Israeli Jews and Palestinians who meet together as part of a grass-roots organisation called Parents Circle-Families Forum. This is an organisation dedicated to promoting reconciliation in the hope that if the process of reconciliation is initiated by those whose hurt is greatest, then others may follow. You can read more about this organisation at www.theparentscircle.org and have the opportunity to support them there.

In the UK, this organisation is supported by the UK based Friends of the Bereaved Families Forum. If you look at its website, <http://www.familiesforum.co.uk/index.html>, you will see that it has eight patrons, including Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, Rabbi Lionel Blue, Lord Janner and the Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks, who pays a moving tribute to the work of the organisation at <http://www.familiesforum.co.uk/page4/page4.html>.

Robi and Seham have been invited by the Edinburgh Festival of Spirituality and Peace to speak about the work of the organisation at a public meeting on Thursday 12th August, at St. Johns Church, at noon. **However, they would also like to speak to the Edinburgh Jewish community(ies) at a separate event.** You are therefore invited, as members of Sukkat Shalom, to hear them on Sunday 15th August at 8pm, at the communal hall of the Salisbury Road synagogue.

At the meeting, Robi and Seham will talk about their experience of loss and pain, their own participation in the process of reconciliation, the work of the Parents Circle-Families Forum more generally and how we, as members of the Jewish community in Edinburgh, may support and help the Forum's efforts. Robi and Seham will also show us a DVD that illustrates the work of the Forum and they have said that they will be happy to answer questions both in public and more informally after their presentation. Those who have already heard the Forum's speakers at Limmud and elsewhere tell us that it was, indeed, a privilege.

The meeting will be chaired by Rabbi David Rose of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation. The meeting is also supported by Rabbi Mark Solomon of Sukkat Shalom who, because of conflicting communal duties, is unable to attend.

Refreshments will follow.

“Cartoons in Conflict” exhibition

by the **Bereaved Families Forum**

sponsored by the Scottish Palestinian Forum and Christian Aid Scotland

World Cafe @ St John's Church Princes Street, 8th - 15th August,

10.00am - 10.30pm daily

The Israeli Palestinian Bereaved Families Forum created an exhibition of international cartoons dealing with the subject of conflict and its consequences, conveying the Forum's message of reconciliation rather than revenge, dialogue and hope rather than violence. Forum's members Robi Damelin and Seham Ikhlayel, who have lost members of their immediate family, will accompany this exhibition. The Bereaved Families Forum is a grassroots organization of over 500 bereaved Palestinians and Israelis families. They promote reconciliation as an alternative to hatred and revenge through joint educational and artistic projects.



“Is there any place for reconciliation in the midst of violent conflict?”

Thursday 12th August, 12noon - 1.00pm, St John's Church Princes Street

Robi Damelin and Seham Ikhlayel will speak about how the Parents Circle-Families Forum promotes reconciliation and non-violence as an alternative to hatred and revenge.

Pride Scotia

Several members of Sukkat Shalom marched in the Pride Scotia March on 26th June joining with members of Quakers in Scotland, the Scottish Unitarian Association, the Interbeing Buddhist Community and the Metropolitan Community Church to show their support for the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community of Scotland, and support their bid called for equality in Scottish law.



Earlier this year an amendment was made to the Equality Act which, once implemented, will have the effect of allowing religious organisations, who wish to do so, to hold their civil partnerships in their premises. In particular this means that Liberal Jews in England to hold them in a Synagogue using the liturgy developed by Rabbi Mark Solomon (see http://www.liberaljudaism.org/lifeevents_samesex.htm). In Scotland the law on civil partnerships remains unchanged; Scottish law bans civil partnership ceremonies from taking place on religious premises or from using religious language. Members of our religious affairs group and Rabbi Mark Solomon have already been in contact with the Scottish Executive about this and we were pleased to join the other Faith Communities in the March to draw people's attention to this issue.

Lauren Fox, Sukkat Shalom member and Community Development Worker for the LGBT Centre for Health and Wellbeing writes about her experience on the March:-

Once upon a time, in a land far far away, there was perfect equality and respect, where mutual understanding and peace pervaded the whole of society.....

No one has found the directions to this perfect place yet, so in the mean time, Pride events are not only fun, colourful, and celebratory events, but also hugely important – to individuals past present and future, and our world as a whole! Pride is always an emotive event – it's a beautiful thing to see so many people supporting each other and celebrating all of our diversities, to be proud, to be joyous, making ourselves heard and standing up for our human rights, and the human rights of all rainbow souls everywhere. It's a space where you can safely walk hand in hand with your girlfriend or boyfriend, and for once are not in the minority as a same sex couple, or as queer, trans, or just different! No one will question who you are, or give you strange looks for being different. Instead, the unaccepting are in the minority for a (all too brief) change!

The emotion is sometimes most felt when you have the opportunity to realise once again why our pride and our voices are so important. Whilst I walked to the start of the march with a handmade banner and t-shirt, my girlfriend on my arm, and my wonderful friends in tow, within a mere 10 minute journey overheard no less than 2 abusive comments – no details needed but suffice to say, our job's not over yet. Which was why it felt even more powerful to arrive at the gathering point for the start of the march – one of the first banners I read was 'Faith Communities support Same Sex Marriage', bordered with logos from all the supporting interfaith groups.

Ministers and politicians, social workers and artists – people from every part of the community gathering to celebrate. There were leather clad bikers, barely-clad dancers, extravagant headdresses and rainbow pets – anything goes at Pride, and Pride Scotia is no exception! The march led the vibrant, noisy, colourful and exuberant crowd down the Royal Mile, past the Scottish Parliament, and we all waved to the biggest Queen of all as we went by the palace.

Pride is about being PROUD, and all the way it was very hard not be brimming with communal pride, joy, and freedom. So – until we find the directions to that place I've heard of, somewhere over the rainbow, we'll keep on marching, celebrating, and making our voices heard – Happy Pride!!!