

Sukkat Shalom November 2010

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

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Events and Services

Date Friday 5 November

Event Erev Shabbat Service

Time 7pm

Date Friday 12 November

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Time 6:15pm

Date Friday 19 November

Event Chavurah Supper with Rabbi Mark Solomon, followed by talk & discussion with a speaker from 'Physicians for Human Rights'

Time 7pm

Date Saturday 20 November

Event Shabbat morning service led by Rabbi Mark Solomon

Time 11 am

Event Tea & Talmud

Time 3pm

Date Sunday 21 November

Event Choosing Judaism

Venue Usual Location

Time 10:30am

Event Cantillation

Time 2:30pm

Event Spinoza

Time 4pm



Chanukah is early this year.
First candle lighting Wednesday
1st December.

Candles will be on sale at services
during November

MitzvahDay
make your mark

Sunday 21st November
or Tuesday 23rd
or Wednesday 24th

Are you signed up for Mitzvah day? See page 4.

Date Friday 26 November

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Time 6:15pm

Date Friday 3 December

Event Erev Shabbat Service with Rabbi Mark Solomon

Time 7pm

Date Saturday 4 December

Event Interfaith Service, on the theme of light, with the Unitarians and Buddhists, with Rabbi Mark Solomon

Time 3pm



followed by our **Chanukah party**
with Phil Wadler's famous latkes,
also at **St Marks at 6pm**

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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

BUT SEE BELOW FOR 2011

3 Dec Erev Shabbat service led by Rabbi Mark;

4 Dec Interfaith service with Unitarians and Buddhists, and Rabbi Mark; followed by Chanukah Party

5 Dec Choosing Judaism
Cantillation
Spinoza

10 Dec Kabbalat Shabbat service

18 Dec Shabbat morning service

24 Dec Kabbalat Shabbat service

31 Dec Kabbalat Shabbat service

Please note that from January 2011 we will be changing our regular service times so that our Erev Shabbat service will be on the SECOND Friday of each calendar month and our Shabbat morning service on the Saturday after the FOURTH Friday.

This will enable us to hold all, or almost all, our regular Shabbat services at the Columcille Centre, where we have storage space. See Stew Green's article in the last newsletter for detailed reasons. We are hoping that, in time, this may make it possible to have our library of Jewish books, including children's books available there for members to borrow.

Jewish Calendar

Rosh Chodesh Kislev	7/8 Novemebr 2010
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

Northwood and Pinner Liberal SynagogueTots Shabbat on BBC Radio

Northwood and Pinner's phenomenally successful Tots Shabbat service was featured in a fascinating item on BBC Radio on Sunday. Many of you will recognize the rabbi who leads it, Aaron Goldstein, our former foster rabbi who also

brought a tots service to Edinburgh on "Pulpit swap weekend" earlier this year.

The radio program focuses on ways in which families bring a religious dimension to their children's upbringing and gives a glowing portrait of Liberal Judaism's unique contribution to families' spiritual wellbeing. You can listen again to the programme by clicking on the link below (the item starts at around 1 hr and 15 minutes so you will need to fast forward). If you have trouble with the link please email Alexandra@liberaljudaism.org for an mp3 file.

www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p00b8md2/Julia_Booth_03_10_2010/

Jewish Literary Society

The Lit season is about to start with the following talks for the rest of 2010.

All meetings at 8pm on Sunday evenings at the Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road. Join or pay at the first meeting. Further details from Micheline Brannan (MICHELINEHBRANNAN@talktalk.net).

Oct. 31st Alex Goldberg

Chief Executive of the London Jewish Forum
Interfaith

Nov. 21st Dr Emily Michelson

School of History, St Andrews University
Conversionary Preaching to Jews in the Roman Ghetto

Nov. 28th Professor Alan Shenkin

Professor of Clinical Chemistry, University of Liverpool
Primo Levi's Periodic Table –
Chemistry or Literature?

Dec. 12th Film Evening

The Band's Visit or Bikur Ha-Tizmoret (2007)

From the chairman

Is there ever a right time for an Erev Shabbat Service?

At a recent council meeting the issue arose, yet again, of the timing of our Erev Shabbat services and what we might be able to do to improve attendances. At present our Erev Shabbat services are at 7pm.

Should they be earlier so people can go home to their Shabbat dinners? This might have worked in the shtetl when everyone lived round the shul and men could nip out for a quick daven to return to the Shabbat table set by their wives. The closest we come to this in our community is our 6.15pm Kabbalat Shabbat services on weekends when we don't have anything else on, though in my case there is a gender role reversal in who prepares the dinner. For others it can be a way to celebrate the arrival of Shabbat with fellow Jews before going on to something else. But many people in the community would find it difficult to get to a service at such an early hour if all our services were held at that time.

What about having it later at, say 8pm, as used to be the case for all the (then) Glasgow Reform Synagogue services, making it possible for people to have a meal before and/or for those from further afield to get there after work? But this would make it a very late evening, especially on these dark winter nights. But the 7pm start does make it difficult to fit in something to eat before the service and we know that more people like to come when there is a Chavurah supper after the service. But we feel it would be too much to have one after EVERY Shabbat service. So, instead, we are proposing to offer people an opportunity to get together for a restaurant meal after some Friday night services. We plan to do this for the first time this month (Erev Shabbat Service 5th November) and we have a provisional booking at Nonna's Kitchen (Italian home cooking) close to Columcille. Please email chair@eljc.org by **Monday 1st November** at the latest, if you have not done so already, if you would like to come.

Moving on..... but not down South, Rebekah Gronowski

I will be staying up here in Scotland after all. I am in the middle of moving to a purpose-built wheelchair-designed bungalow which is much more suitable to my needs. The offer came suddenly and I had to make a quick decision so, in the absence of any other offers, I took on this tenancy which is nearer to the coast and closer to Edinburgh. So I will be staying at Sukkat Shalom, hopefully for good.

During the week of Mitzvah day on 21st November, if there are one or two people (not more than three because of space) who want something to do indoors instead of the Holyrood Park Project and don't mind really dirty jobs, I would very much appreciate some help in the cleaning of my present place once the removal men have taken everything out. There will also be some paintwork touching-up needing to be done for the DIY decorators among you.

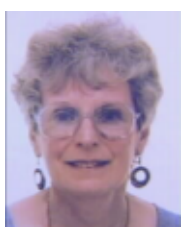
I would suggest that maybe two different days and two different teams of no more than two might like to come over? This will be in my present bungalow at Gifford and not at the new one. Obviously if you have a car it would be an advantage and would make it easier for you.

Tuesday 23rd November - Cleaning Team (it is very dusty so please don't offer if you suffer from asthma)

Wednesday 24th November - Painting/touching up paintwork - paint & brushes provided

I am open to offers for either/or as the two types of jobs cannot be done at the same time because of the dust. A tall person among you would be an advantage for dealing with light bulbs and lampshades which I can never reach!

If you are willing to give me a wee hand, please email rebekah.gronowski@googlemail.com - many thanks!



Note from the chairman:

We are delighted that Rebekah will be staying on in Scotland. She has done so much for the community since she arrived here in 1994 (see left and more as we know here now on the right). She still contributes a huge amount despite her increasing mobility problems - not least the Herculean task of keeping us in tune at services.



Community Matters

Boys' Night Out , Ricky Hogg in charge

The Council has bestowed on me the honour (again) of organising the next BNO (boys' night out) I must remember to put myself forward for Council next time round to have a veto vote.

We will be gathering on Saturday the 11th December 8 o'clock at Il Castello (36 Castle Terrace).

The meeting place will be at the Blue Blazer (corner of Bread and Spittal Street) for 7pm, if you can't make it here first, you can meet us at the venue for 8pm.

The menu can be viewed at <http://www.ilcastellorestaurant.co.uk/menu.php>

PLEASE if you are interested then call asap....Contact Ricky (Rickyhogg7@aol.com) Mobile 07962076017

PS Women with false beards need not apply.

Children's tea party



Many thanks to Rebecca Wober, Gordon and Solly (aged 1.5), for hosting our first children's tea party last weekend. That's her with her back to you in the photo of the afternoon below. We thought you would like to see the invitation Gordon designed for it showing their living room at The Press. The afternoon was a great success with 7 families coming over her doorstep. We hope this will lead to more "tots group" events.

The next chance for tots and parents to get together will be our **Chanukah party** on 4th December (see page 1).



Cross-Community Toddler group

And there will be yet another chance for little ones to meet up the next day when there will be a joint meeting of Sukkat Shalom with the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation toddlers, grandly named as above. The plan is to meet up at the the Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road **10.30 to noon on Sunday 5th December** for play, toys, chat and snacks with a vaguely Chanukah theme. Susie Shenkin is the contact at Salisbury Road, but Rebecca Wober (rebwob@yahoo.co.uk) can be contacted if you have any queries.

Become a lay service leader ?

During 2010 we have had many lay readers who help lead our services, and we'd like to continue with this in 2011. In 2011, as well as having a list of those who will be leading our erev Shabbat and Shabbat services, we'd also like to organise in advance those who will lead the Kabbalat Shabbat services. So, if you would like to lead one of our services, be it on your own or with someone else, please let me know. If you've never lead a service before but would just like to know what's involved, please get in touch as I'd be happy to discuss it with you. Kabbalat Shabbat services, with a smaller supportive group of us, would be good way to start. However much or little you'd like to help, there will something you can do!

Nick (nick_silk@btinternet.com)

Burns supper

Planning has just started for our Burns supper to be held on Sunday evening 23rd January. This time an event with Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation is being planned by a joint committee from the two communities. Rabbi Mark will be treating us to his rendition of Burns songs and I am sure that everyone who heard him at our last Burns Supper will want to come. If you would like to help in any way, planning, performing or just lending a hand with preparations, please contact Gillian (chair@eljc.org).



Kol Nidre Appeal

Last chance. We will be sending off the cheques this month. If you have forgotten to send in your donation put it in the post now (payable to Sukkat Shalom, Edinburgh) to Jonathan Broadie, 26 Charterhall Road, EH9 3HP.

Mitzvah day

Just one day when we will get together as a group and do something for the community or for other people. We will be repeating last year's very successful activity where a group cleared trees and bushes in Holyrood park under the instruction of one of the Park Rangers. This has been confirmed for this year. Come and get the T-shirt. To sign up email Phil Wadler at wadler@inf.ed.ac.uk.

We had originally planned to organise a decorating activity with another organisation, but this has not worked out this year. But we have a chance to do a Mitzvah within our own community. Rebekah Gronowski is moving house around Mitzvah day and you can do a Mitzvah by offering to help her. See page 3.

Shechita in Jeopardy - WRITE TO YOUR MEP NOW!!!

With time running short, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, together with Shechita UK, urge those members of the community who have not yet written to their MEP, to help protect and preserve the practice of Shechita in the UK, which is under serious threat from a proposed amendment to the EU food labelling legislations.

The vote on Amendment #205 by the EU's Council of Ministers will be held towards the end of the year, which is why we are asking that every member of the community ensures that they have written to their MEP and to Caroline Spelman, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, either using the postcards that have been distributed around local kosher butchers and synagogues, or in a personal letter using the suggested content on Shechita UK's website: www.shechitauk.org.

Interfaith Events

Community Meal next Monday 1st November, 6:15pm. Hall of St John's Church, Princes Street. Cooking from 5pm, eating around 6:15pm (arrive whenever you please). It is a good chance to make new friends and catch up with old ones. Plus you get a free delicious meal which is lovingly made. It is also a fantastic chance to hear about what exciting events are taking place in Inter-Faith Week which takes place from 23rd November to the 1st December. For more information please get in touch or visit www.eifa.org.uk.



Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group <http://www.edinwig.org.uk>

Wednesday 17th November 2010 at 7.00 p.m. in the Roberston Hall (undercroft cafe) Nicolson Square Methodist Church. Topic - tba.

Please bring simple vegetarian finger food to share before the meeting.

Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre Committee

COMMUNITY QUIZ Sunday 7th November 2010 at 7 p.m.

Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road

£12, students/children £6 (£11/£5 if purchased by 24th October)

A light supper will be served.

Please indicate with which team/table you want to be placed (otherwise we will be happy to arrange a place for you), and send with cheque made out to 'Jewish Community Centre' to Melissa Gilroy, 6 Gamekeepers Road, Edinburgh EH4 6LX by **29th October 2010**.

Chanukah Dinner, Saturday 4th December 2010

With Ewan Wilson (Psychic Illusionist)

For further information on how to get involved in helping out, contact one of the following people:

Steven Hyams on 445 3740 or bonaly2@tiscali.co.uk

Joyce Sperber on 666 1425 or j.sperber@yahoo.com

Lesley Danzig on 229 3054 or Lesley_danzig@yahoo.co.uk

If you require transport to any of our events, please contact Steven Hyams as above.

A Succah in Lochgelly

"Rattle rattle, pitter patter. Can you hear what the lulav sounds like when you shake it?" I was addressing a group of impassive faces, 14-16 year old students at Lochgelly North Special School, during morning assembly. Eventually one of the adults in the circle provided the answer. Rain.

Caroline Gallacher, who does arts and crafts with the students three days a week, had built a Succah with them and had emailed our congregation to ask if someone could come and talk to them about Succot. So here I was early one Wednesday morning, having driven over the Bridge in the fog, together with the congregation's lulav and etrog.



I have quite a lot of experience in teaching non-Jewish children about various aspects of Judaism and usually, knowing the age group and prompted by the children's reactions I can decide what approach to take. I asked what season of the year it was. Silence. I was going to have to answer my own questions. My usual approach of asking a lot of questions and tailoring what I say according to the answers clearly did not work here.

These students all have particular special needs which make it difficult for them to communicate and for teachers and other adults to assess the impact of what they are saying to them. The teenagers were also clearly very shy.

The whole thing was clearly going to be a learning experience for me as well as for the students. I talked about giving thanks for the harvest and explained the symbolism of the lulav and etrog as simply as I could. I demonstrated the shaking of the lulav and invited all the students to have a go as well, accustomed to a rush of eager hands and voices at this point. Here only one brave soul took up the invitation. It was at this point that I posed the question about the sound of the lulav.

At tea afterwards I anxiously asked if what I had said had been at an appropriate level, having been unable to gauge the students' response. I was told that it was difficult even for the teachers who knew them well to do so, but they were pleased I had brought something hands-on to show and do.

As I drove back through the fog I could only hope that what I had said and done had gone a little way to penetrate the communication barrier experienced by these students. I was very pleased and touched when, a few days later, I received a number of thank-you cards.

Norman Crane

Jokes slot

Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.

Do not stay at home because 17 percent of all accidents occur in the home (that's 37% already).

Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14 percent of all accidents occur to pedestrians (now that's 51%).

Avoid traveling by air, trains or buses, as 16% of accidents involve these forms of transportation (that's 67%).

Of the remaining 33 percent, 32 percent of all deaths occur in hospitals. Above all else avoid hospitals.

You will be pleased to learn that only 0.01% of all deaths occur in a synagogue, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any point in time is in synagogue.

Torah Study is even safer. The number of deaths during Torah Study is too small to register.

For safety's sake, go to Synagogue as often as possible, and attend Torah Study. It could save your life!

Contributed by Lisa Barcan - do send us in any other contributions for this slot (newsletter@eljc.org).