

Sukkat Shalom December 2010

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

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Events and Services

Date **Friday 3 December**

Event Erev Shabbat service with Rabbi Mark Solomon

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

Time 7 pm

Date **Saturday 4 December**

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

Venue St Mark's, 7 Castle Terrace

Time 3pm

Chanukah Party

St Mark's, 7 Castle Terrace

Saturday 4th December 4:30pm

Please note the change of time.

Bring your chanukiahs. Latkes will be served.
Do bring any further party food to share.

Date **Sunday 5 December**

Event Choosing Judaism

Venue Usual location

Time 10:30am

Event Cantillation

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

Time 2:30pm

Event Spinoza

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

Time 4pm

Date **Friday 10 December**

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Venue Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road

Time 6:15pm

Date **Saturday 11 December**

Boys Night out. See page 4 for details.

Date **Saturday 18 December**

Event Shabbat Service

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

Time 11am

Date **Friday 24 December**

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Venue Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road

Time 6:15pm

Date **Friday 31 December**

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Venue Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road

Time 6:15pm

Sunday 23rd January 2011

Our second **Burns Supper**, see page 2 and attached booking form.

Book now to get the earlybird price

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.

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Booking form for Burns Supper is attached with the electronic version of this newsletter. If you need a printed copy please contact info@eljc.org

Future Dates

Our regular schedule is as follows:

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.

These services take place in the **Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace.**

14 January	Erev Shabbat Service
21 January	Tu b'Shvat seder and family supper
29 January	Shabbat Morning Service
11 February	Erev Shabbat Service
26 February	Shabbat Morning Service
11 March	Erev Shabbat Service
26 March	Shabbat Morning Service

Jewish Calendar

Chanukkah	2-9 December 2010
Tu b'Shvat	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



Kulanu – Inclusion Forum

You may have read in LJ Today that Liberal Judaism is setting up a forum dedicated to spreading and sharing best practice on ensuring that disabled people are included in all synagogue and community activities. Called Kulanu, the forum is aimed at enabling the movement to set the standard for community inclusion. If you are interested in becoming involved please contact Liberal Judaism's Officer for Social Action and Disability, Leon Charikar, on leoncharikar@yahoo.co.uk.

Chairman's Word

It is no surprise that having done without a tartan for all the years that Jews have lived in Scotland we now have not one but two Jewish tartans to choose from. Perhaps the surprise should be that there isn't a third one for those of us who wouldn't dream of wearing a kilt made of either of the other two.



The first one shown here was created by a Glasgow dentist, Dr. Clive Schmulian, to support the charities kkl - JNF and Jewish Care Scotland. It is registered with the Scottish Tartans Authority.



Hard on its heels was the Jewish(Kosher) (Corporate) Tartan created by Rabbi Mendel Jacobs, also of

Glasgow. This one is registered too, but with a different Tartan body, the Scottish Tartans World Registry.

Now I have no idea as to the reputation of these different tartan registries, nor of the validity of the hechshers that they provide. But it illustrates something I have long known: that Scots can enjoy disagreements almost as much as Jews.

But there are things that bring Jews and Scots together, notably food and drink. This year both Jewish Communities in Edinburgh will be holding a joint Burns Night. A joint committee is well ahead with the plans and it promises to be a wonderful evening. Highlights will include the Toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns proposed by Mr Nat Edwards, Director of the Robert Burns Birthplace and Museum, Alloway. Burns' songs will be sung by our Rabbi Mark Solomon, and we will have music supplied by the same excellent traditional musicians who played at our last Burns Supper three years ago. Details are:

Burns Supper

**Sukkat Shalom and Edinburgh Jewish
Community Centre Committee**

Sunday 23rd January 2011

7.00 pm

**Jewish Community Centre,
4 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh, EH16 5AB**

Price £23 if booked by 30th December

Otherwise £25 final booking 7th January

Students and young people £12.50

Anyone with financial problems but who would like to come should contact Jonathan Brodie (treasurer@eljc.org).

Full details are on the attached booking form. Send yours in soon, we look forward to seeing you there.

Mitzvah Day Activities

Phil Wadler and Gillian Raab



Sukkat Shalom members teamed up with members of the Edinburgh Hindu Community for Mitzvah Day and National Sewa Day which coincided this year on 21st November. The words Mitzvah in Hebrew and Sewa in Hindi have much in common. Mitzvah's meaning of commandment has come to mean "good deed" or an act of human kindness, with the emphasis on helping other people. Sewa in contrast seems to mean something like "selfless service", or anything done which is not primarily for one's own benefit. The five kinds of Sewa - Personal, Global Community, Animals, Plants, Nature - incorporate care for the

environment, which we might feel comes under the heading of Tikkun Olam or care for the world, as well as help for others. It is interesting that the introduction to Sewa on the Website of the National Hindu Students' Forum is the following quote from Albert Einstein

"A hundred times every day I remind myself that my inner and outer life depend on the labors of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am still receiving."

See links from <http://www.nhsf.org.uk> to learn more about Sewa.

Together we carried out the Mitzvah/Sewa of helping to clear vegetation and rubbish from Holyrood Park, seen in the background here. In the morning we cleared gorse, and in the afternoon we lifted litter - both were surprisingly satisfying activities. Over lunch we had the chance of having interesting discussions touching on religious issues as well as the difficulties of organising small and spread-out religious communities. Everyone was keen for another go, and we've already contacted the Rangers to arrange a day of clearing in May.

Not too late for another Mitzvah



In connection with Mitzvah day (just past) we are collecting **warm scarves, hats and gloves (in new or nearly new condition)** to send on to World Jewish Relief's collection to alleviate the severe winter cold expected in vulnerable communities in the former Soviet Union. Both adult and children's sizes will be welcome. We would be delighted if you could bring along any you could contribute, either to any shul events (or leave a message on the community phone so we can arrange to get them) so they can be added to the collection we will be sending to WJR.

You might like to visit the WJR website where you can read the biographies of some of the people who may be receiving our help: <http://www.wjr.org.uk/ways-to-give/survival>.

Community Matters

Boys' Night Out

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.

Cross-Community Toddler group

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.

A BIG Thank you!

I would like to thank everyone who has helped me in any way with my recent home move. You have all truly performed your Mitzvot and I have really appreciated all the help which people have given me - it has certainly made my move less stressful. *Rebekah Gronowski*

New member

We are delighted to welcome Adam Bock as a new member of Sukkat Shalom. Adam has come to take up a post teaching social entrepreneurship at Edinburgh University Business school. He has also just had success in defending his PhD thesis - Mazel Tov Dr Bock. He is here with his family Lynn Hyland, Taran (aged 7) and Kenna (aged 4).

Mazel Tov

To Lisa and Joe Lee on their new daughter Eva, a sister for Elliot and Adam, born on Friday 19th November weighing 3.46 kg / 7lb 10 oz.



Quilting success



Congratulations to Eve Morris who has recently won First Prize in the Hoffman Challenge - an annual Quilting Competition. Eve presented us with the beautiful quilt on the left that we use at Erev Shabbat services. For the competition Eve did an exquisite quilt of the Egyptian Goddess, Isis, with extremely difficult and superb beading on it too. It may be seen during an Exhibition in Edinburgh in February 2011 - meanwhile see the photo here.



Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society Film Evening

Sunday 12 December, 8pm, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road

The Band's Visit (Bikur Ha-Tzimoret) (Eran Kolirin, 2007)

A screening of this well-observed, thoughtful and comic film about an Egyptian police brass band who go astray on their way to an Israeli municipal festival.

Events and announcements



Public Menorah Lighting

On 7th night of Chanukah, Wednesday 8 December, 6pm, St Andrew Square. This is a picture of last year's one and yes, that is a the fork lift truck in the background that was needed to reach the lights safely.

Remember to wrap up warmly so as to be able to stay to enjoy the occasion which last year included doughnuts and latkes.

Interfaith Events

International Women's Day 2011, Saturday 12 March

The Scottish Women's Convention (www.scottishwomensconvention.org) is holding an event at the Scottish Parliament, 12:30-4pm. To register for this free event please call 0141-248 8186 or email Mary Kerr at mary@scottishwomensconvention.org.

Book early to avoid disappointment.



Big Band Evening with Glasgow Reform Synagogue

Sunday 12th December Carmichael Hall, Giffnock from **7.30pm till late**

A 19 piece authentic Big Band will be performing all the great songs from the years gone by to the present. You can dance, sing or just simply enjoy the fabulous music!

Members, family & friends very welcome!

Tickets: £20 (including supper), available from Sheena in the Shul Office: 0141-639 4083.

Alice Herz-Sommer - the oldest Holocaust survivor ...

has celebrated her 107th birthday on 26 November. A documentary on her life is in the making. At the moment a moving trailer is available on Youtube (<http://www.youtube.com/user/AliceTheFilm>) and you can follow news about this film at <http://www.nickreedent.com/> and on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Alice-Dancing-Under-The-Gallows/135466749835032>).

Debate on Shalom TV

You can watch Alan Dershowitz and Jeremy Ben-Ami debating on Israel on the web at <http://www.shalomtv.org/BenAmiDershowitz.htm>.

Dershowitz: J Street contributes to the atmosphere of delegitimizing Israel

Ben-Ami: Dershowitz drives young, liberal Jews away from Israel

This video is an articulate presentation of the two different points of view on Israel held in the US.

Jewish Women's Aid Survey

Jewish Women's Aid is currently conducting a survey to ask women about their views and experience of domestic abuse. Please take 5-10 minutes to take this anonymous survey by clicking on this survey link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JWASurvey_PubLink.

Jewish Organ Donation Survey

A major survey of Jewish attitudes to organ donation is being circulated by the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust with a view to finding ways of increasing the pool of available Jewish organ donors. The survey is anonymous and only takes 5 – 10 minutes of your time so please complete it if you can: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Jewish_Organ_Donation.

Françoise Robertson writes about Sydney

You don't have to be Jewish to live in certain parts of Sydney – but you almost certainly are. It is not just in the numerous synagogues that you meet Jews. They are in every cafe and restaurant, and they talk lots – and you become involved in their conversations. Well, I did anyway. From the director of a Hebrew University, to an unmarried, wealthy man in his 50s, whose mother was, naturally, in total despair.

The menus always have soup with matzo balls, schnitzels, red cabbage, strudels, etc. ... Even if you keep out of synagogues and restaurants, you can't escape. The streets have signposts directing you to the nearest temple. There are Hebrew-speaking playgroups, there is Shabbat for tots and Hebrew is taught as a second language in some primary schools. The Sydney Jewish paper publishes weekly and gives details of all the services, classes, discussion groups, and other activities.

We used to stay in a lovely big Kosher hotel, the Stanford Plaza at Doubly Bay, which was host to all the large Jewish events. However, sadly the hotel is now shut. The area is crammed with large shops selling overpriced handbags, over-high, overpriced shoes, and dress shops full of Bling-Bling for the next wedding or Bar Mitzvah. There are hairdressers that do "Japanese straightening" – no thanks. Beauticians offer to help reduce the effects of Sydney-sun. Shoe shops are the most bizarre – with odd stilettos languishing on shelves without partners. There never seem to be customers in these shops – we don't know how they survive. Apparently the closing of the Stanford Plaza has dramatically reduced business in the area. In the small alternative, unposh, but very friendly hotel there were some non-Jews. The bearded Jew who protected his hat with a plastic shower cap, was followed by his long-suffering wife dragging the luggage.

Luckily Rabbi Mark Solomon introduced me to the Temple Emmanuel which I attended. What a wonderful place! Every Sabbath there was a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Often a baby naming, a blessing for someone about to undergo surgery, or some whole family was called up for some happy event. For the recent funeral of a 19-year-old boy, 1,000 attended shul. The membership is over 3,000. On Monday mornings I attended the lecture and discussion group for seniors. A similar event took place for others on Monday evenings. There are three Rabbis. There are two synagogues in the grounds; the larger is progressive, the smaller masorti. There is a large function room, a children's play area, and always 2 security guards on the gates. A weekly programme of events is published. A box of donations of food sits waiting for the needy to help themselves. If I hadn't been busy with family, I could have attended daily for some event. One of the highlights was a service with a famous cantor.

There is, of course, a Jewish museum, and a shop in Bondi selling all things Jewish. In Bondi there is a large run-down hotel facing the sea. It is incredibly noisy with a main road running past. But it's full of Jews and their numerous children.

As I was in Sydney for the usual reason, visiting my son and family, we spent most of our time in the playparks of Sydney – or on the beaches. Even in the playparks there are plenty of clearly identifiable Jews. On one occasion the mother of 3 tots, close in age, sat under her voluminous wig, paying little attention to her offspring, muttering her prayers.

There are many happy memories of the friendly people I met, from all over the world, who were part of the Temple Emmanuel congregation. The sound of the choir, whose size varied according to the service, still lingers in my memory. If you want to be Jewish – Sydney is the place to be.