

Sukkat Shalom

January 2011

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: Eva Wiseman, membership@eljc.org
Catering: Maureen Mackinnon

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

Date Friday 7 January 2011

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Venue Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road
Time 6:15pm

Date Friday 14 January

Event Erev Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 7pm

Kabbalat Shabbat followed by TU B'SHEVAT SEDER
led by Rabbi Mark Solomon
21 January 2011, 6:15pm, Marchmont St Giles,
1a Kilgraston Road
Please bring a non-meat dish to share.
For further details see p3.

Date Saturday 22 January

Event Tea & Talmud
Venue Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace
Time 3pm

Date Sunday 23 January

Event Choosing Judaism
Venue Usual Location
Time 10:30am
Event Cantillation
Venue St Mark's, 7 Castle Terrace
Time 3pm
Event Spinoza Discussion Group
Venue St Mark's, 7 Castle Terrace
Time 4pm

ELJC support line

07904 813162

Our community phone (0131 777 8024) is not manned but if you leave a message it will be forwarded as an email attachment to several council members. If you need help in an emergency you should call this number which will let you speak to one of our council members who will mobilise help to come your way.

Burns Supper

23 January 2011, 7pm
Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road
See p5 for further details.

Date Saturday 29 January

Event Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 11am

Date Friday 4 February

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Venue Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road
Time 6:15pm

Sunday 6 February: AGM



This year's
Holocaust Memorial Day
Civic Commemoration
will be taking place on

27th January 2011, 7:30pm
at Craigroyston High School.

To receive an invitation please email:
info@eifa.org.uk

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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.**

6 February	AGM at 3pm venue t.b.c.
11 February	Erev Shabbat Service
18 February	Kabbalat Shabbat Service
25 February	Chavurah Supper led by Rabbi Mark Solomon
26 February	Shabbat Morning Service
27 February	Choosing Judaism; Cantillation; Spinoza Discussion Group
4 March	Kabbalat Shabbat Service
11 March	Erev Shabbat Service
18 March	Erev Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Mark Solomon

Jewish Calendar

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



I'm Jewish, my partner isn't

Sunday 16th January 2011, 2.30pm-5.45pm at the Sternberg Centre, London.

The seminar offers you the opportunity to talk about your situation, discuss any issues that you may face and explore the various issues open to you. It will be led by Sheila King-Lassman and Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain, and is for members of Liberal and Reform synagogues. Entry is for both Jewish and non-Jewish partners alike. There is a charge of £5. You can just turn up on the day although it helps us gauge numbers if you call in advance: contact us on 01628-671058 or email: rabromain@aol.com.

Chairman's word

Let us know what you want

Another secular year is almost over and it will soon be time for our 2011 AGM. All members will receive a mailing with our annual reports and the Agenda for the AGM in the next two weeks. Do look out for this and please consider coming to the AGM (there will be refreshments as usual).

As I am sure most of you know the business of the community is carried out by a group of members who give generously of their time to make sure that everything runs as smoothly as it is possible in a volunteer-led organisation. Like any organization we struggle to know what our members would like us to provide for them, within the "Purpose and Values" guidelines. These are published on our web site and were detailed further in our newsletter for April 2010 that you can also access via the web site.

Our Council meets around ten times a year to decide on plans and, in many cases, to ratify the decisions of various sub-committees (e.g. Religious Affairs) where much of the real work is done. Here are a few of the items that we have discussed at recent council meetings, on which we would very much like further input from our membership. Please email or phone us with your responses to any of the questions below.

1. We are planning a new edition of our printed membership directory to be sent to all members with contact details of other members. Every member agrees what details, if any, they are willing to have published. Would you like us to include photos of any member who provides one?

2. How would you feel about having the membership directory available on the password protected section of the web site?

3. We are reviewing our provision of the emergency contact phone (see page 1) which is very seldom used. At present it goes to a member of council who is willing to be available, and the person taking the calls changes from time to time. Would you ever make use of this? Do you keep the number with you for emergencies? Would you perhaps prefer a list of people who would be willing to be contacted so you would know who you might reach?

Do send us your views on these or any other matters. Wishing you all a Good New Year and all the best for 2011.

Eight reasons you should come to our Tu B'Shevat Seder

1. Tu b'Shevat celebrates the New Year for trees and the tradition of a seder for this festival goes back to the middle ages. The Tu b'Shevat seder is much shorter than a Passover seder and you get to drink just as many cups of wine or grape juice.
2. You will find a beautifully set table (see last year's opposite) with all that we need for the seder.
3. Rabbi Mark Solomon will be leading the seder using his own text.
4. It is starting early, at 6.15pm, so that younger ones can take part. We will be holding it at Marchmont St Giles Church Centre, our most child-friendly venue.
5. You get to eat lots of fruit from each of three different groups and a different type of wine or grape juice to go with each one.
6. After the seder we will be having a Shabbat supper, where you



can bring a dish (no meat or sea food) and get to taste everyone else's.

7. Tu b'Shevat reminds us of our responsibility and debt to nature. The Torah abounds with reference to nature and the land and the imperative of living in harmony with its forces.
8. By eating different kinds of fruit and reciting Psalms on Tu b'Shevat you

can carry on the Kabbalistic tradition of celebrating the "Tree of Life." This "tree" is a symbolic representation of the flow of Divine life, energy and blessing into the cosmos, descending from the depths of God's unknowable being through the "four worlds" or major levels of the creative process.

To learn more about the history and meaning of the Tu b'Shevat seder you can consult the article contributed by Rabbi Mark Solomon to our January 2010 newsletter (go to the newsletters page on our web site www.eljc.org). Or, easier and more fun, come along to

**Marchmont St Giles Church Centre
at 6:15 pm on Friday 21st January.**

Bring a non-meat dish or something else to share

NOTE: Strictly Tu b'Shevat is on the 15th of Tevet, reflecting its agricultural origins as the time of the full moon when tithes on the land were collected. This year the 15th of Tevet is the from the evening of the 19th to that of the 20th of January, not the evening of the 21st, but we are holding it on the next evening to take advantage of Rabbi Mark Solomon's visit.

A festival of light - three faiths in one space

On 4th December we took part in an interfaith service on the theme of light that brought together the three religious communities who use St Mark's Unitarian Church: The Edinburgh Unitarians, the Edinburgh Wild Geese Sangha and ourselves. The event was the idea of Rev Maud Robinson, the minister of St Marks who some of us will have met at our events. It was well attended by representatives of all three faiths although most of our members arrived at Jewish time, much to our Rabbi's consternation, as he was waiting at the start for those of our members who were to take part in the service. **We must remember to adjust our internal clocks to non-Jewish time for any future interfaith events.**

Rev Maud explained during the service that although the Unitarian movement arose and evolved in the Judeo-Christian tradition it now embraces aspects from many other spiritual traditions. Among Unitarians, there are those who find the focus of their faith elsewhere than in liberal Christianity, for example in religious humanism or Creation Spirituality. During the service each of the faith groups lit candles and explained their meaning in their tradition. The following extracts were taken from the order of service coordinated by Rev Maud.

Unitarian Chalice Lighting The Flaming Chalice is the symbol of the worldwide community of Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist congregations; it is lit during most gatherings for worship. The flaming chalice combines two archetypes—a drinking vessel and a flame—and as a religious symbol has different meanings to different beholders. Sharing, generosity, sustenance, and love are some of the meanings symbolized by a chalice. A flame can symbolize witness, sacrifice, testing, courage, and illumination.

Lighting of the Chanukkah Candles The flames we are about to kindle are flames of freedom. Over twenty-two centuries ago a small band of Jewish freedom fighters, the Maccabees, rose up against the forces of oppression, an empire that imposed religious and cultural uniformity on its inhabitants. They fought for the right to be different, to be themselves – and they won. With God's spirit, the few were able to overcome the many, the powerless to vanquish the strong. They began the custom of kindling lights on the feast of dedication – the meaning of the word Chanukkah – when we rededicate ourselves to the ongoing struggle for freedom.

Lighting of Candle and Incense before the Buddha Respectful of countless Buddhas, I calmly light this candle, Brightening the face of the Earth. Mindfulness is the light of awareness. Mindfulness is at the same time a means and an end, the seed and the fruit. Mindfulness is also the energy that can embrace and transform our difficulties. Mindfulness wakes us up to what is happening in our body and mind, here and now. When we practise mindfulness, we are in contact with life, and we can offer our love and compassion to lessen suffering and to bring about joy and happiness. The Sanskrit word for mindfulness SMRITI means remember. Mindfulness is remembering to come back to the present moment.

The interfaith service was followed by refreshments, including latkes expertly cooked by Phil - see him still in his apron below and by our Chanukkah party. As usual we had a table filled with everyone's menorahs, more delicious latkes and games for the kids. See Mark giving dreidl instruction below and pianist Kat playing for pass-the-parcel. We had a good turnout of children, despite the weather, though we know that the heavy snowfall that day prevented several families from further afield from joining us.



Community Matters

Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre and Sukkat Shalom



Sunday 23rd January 2011, 7.00pm
Jewish Community Centre
4 Salisbury Road, EH16 5AB

The Immortal Memory will be proposed by Mr Nat Edwards, Director of the Robert Burns Birthplace and Museum, Alloway
 Burns Songs sung by Rabbi Mark Solomon

A Burns Banquet including wine and soft drinks will be served.

Burns night

Remember to send in your booking form to Melissa Gilroy by 30th December to get the early bird price.

A booking form was attached or included with to the December newsletter and it can be downloaded from our web site. If you need a printed copy then please email info@eljc.org or phone Nancy Warren (01592 870322) or leave a message on the Community phone giving us your address so we can post one out to you.

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 Broadie (treasurer@eljc.org) or leave a message on the community phone.

Plans are well ahead for what promises to be a great evening. We will be needing volunteers to help with cooking on the Friday 21st and to help set up on the Sunday morning.

Please email Maureen (mamack12@yahoo.co.uk) if you could come on either day.

Bonus Mitzvah / Sewa Day

Thanks for your participation (or interest) in Mitzvah/Sewa Day this year. We joined with members of the Edinburgh Hindu Community to work with the rangers in Holyrood Park. The day was so enjoyable that we have decided to organize a 'Bonus Mitzvah/Sewa Day' halfway through the year, to give us another chance to work in Holyrood Park. The ranger service has written back, and we've been assigned:

10am-4pm Sunday 15 May 2011

Let Phil Wadler (wadler@inf.ed.ac.uk) know if you are interested, and reserve the day in your calendar now!

Gender-specific nights out

We sit together at services - but nights out are different matter! The Boys Night Out (BNO) for December had to be cancelled but is now rescheduled (see below). Do join us for one of these popular events (meet for a drink and then to a restaurant). I'm not sure what happens on the BNO but if you come to a GNO you can be assured of stimulating intellectual conversation - and maybe just the odd tad of gossip too.

Boys night out

details to follow

Girls night out - Saturday 29 January

We will meet at the same spot as last time - wine bar that was former the Polish Church in Randolph Place and continue to a nearby restaurant. Contact Nancy Warren nancymwarren2@gmail.com or 01592 870 322 to book your place.

Rabbi Mark's Induction at Manchester



by Wendy Crane

Before finding our spiritual home in Edinburgh Norman and I lived for many years in Manchester. We were delighted and honoured, therefore, to be invited to revisit our old stamping ground and represent Sukkat Shalom at Mark's induction at Manchester Liberal Community (<http://www.mljc.org.uk/>) on November 7th 2010.

Having driven down from Edinburgh we took the opportunity for a whirlwind tour of Jewish shops in Prestwich, North Manchester. We thought we had left ample time to get to Cross Street Unitarian Chapel in the city centre, where the induction was to be held. We had reckoned without the changes in traffic routing which have happened since we left for Edinburgh, creating a system of one way streets and diversions which almost rivals Edinburgh in its Byzantine complexity, and after a tussle with this and a partly new built and strangely unfamiliar Manchester we arrived panting at our destination.

We were given an extremely friendly welcome. Despite our almost late arrival there was the customary observance of the period which ensures that Jewish events start at just the perfect interval after advertised time, so we were able to look around and meet people, including Rabbi Reuven Silverman of Manchester Reform Synagogue, our old congregation. This for us was an emotional reminder of the life we had lived in Manchester, in which he had played an important part. Eventually we were sent to sit behind an impressive if daunting row of mayoral chains complete with their current holders.



The room in which the induction was held was the Chapel's sanctuary, which of course contains no iconography. It is a very attractive, simple, light space, hexagonal (give or take a side, we didn't count) with the seating round the outside and the service taking place in the middle. The effect is pleasantly intimate and informal but dignified. The building of which it is a part is the latest, relatively recent, incarnation of a series of buildings on this site which have served this historically important Unitarian congregation dating back to the nineteenth century. It frequently hosts outside groups. Norman had memories revived of teaching a group of trainee interfaith ministers about Shabbat in the sanctuary. I myself recognised with an emotional pang the name of a former minister of the congregation on a board with others. He had previously been an old schoolteacher of mine, a good, kindly, scholarly man and a much valued mentor. After moving to Manchester I had been pleased to meet up with him again at the old Cross Street building.

The service used the booklet we used for Mark's induction in Edinburgh and again Mark was inducted by Rabbi Danny Rich. The music was particularly good and included an Adon Olam composed by one of the members, which it would be nice to add to our repertoire. Various people who had come to know Mark spoke warmly of his contribution to Jewish life in Manchester, including Rabbi Silverman, who together with Mark and an old friend of ours who was also at the induction, hold a regular shiur. There was also a contribution by Rabbi Brian Fox of Menorah Synagogue, the South Manchester Reform congregation, who had known Mark in Sydney.

After the service there was an excellent afternoon tea and further opportunity to speak to people we knew, some of whom, from an earlier period and different context in our lives, we had not thought to meet again there.

Seeing all these unsuspected or forgotten connections between people surfacing felt like being at an archaeological dig. The city of Manchester is wearing a new and not completely familiar face these days, but there as in our lives we do not have to look far beneath the surface to find people and places which have made us what we are. Mark's arrival and induction, recent though they are, are already part of something much older.

Events and Announcements

Interfaith events

Edinburgh Interfaith Association www.eifa.org.uk

Community Meal: Monday 10 January 2011.

Time: Cooking from 5pm, eating around 6:15pm

Location: Hall of St John's Church, Princes Street.

Feel free to come and perhaps bring a friend but let us know for catering purposes.



Edinburgh Women's Interfaith www.edinwig.org.uk

Next meeting: Wednesday 19 January 2011.

Time: 7-9pm

Location: Robertson Hall Cafe, City of Edinburgh Methodist Church at Nicolson Square

Details to be finalised.

Edinburgh International Festival of

MESP

Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace

www.mesp.org.uk

Events from 10 February through to 26 March 2011.

Please check the website for information.

Anne Frank: A History for Today

Exhibition Opening at North Berwick High School Assembly Hall

Tuesday 25th January 2011, 10.00-11.00 a.m.

Guest Speaker - Harry Bibring



If there is anyone in our Community who would like an invitation to attend the opening of this exhibition, please send your details (name, address etc.) to Mrs Jane Lowe North Berwick High School, Grange Road, North Berwick, East Lothian EH39 4QS - School Tel: 01620 894 661

or email her jlowe@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk

or email Rebekah with your details to pass on to the organisers - rebekah.gronowski@googlemail.com

For more information about this exhibition and to read about the guest speaker, Harry Bibring, see <http://edubuzz.org/blogs/northberwickhigh/anne-frank-exhibition-3/>.

Mazal Tov

Congratulations to Rabbi Nancy Morris of Glasgow Reform Synagogue and Jim Jarvie on their recent engagement. They are happily making plans for the wedding in the synagogue this summer.



Best wishes for a speedy recovery

to our treasurer Jonathan Broadie and to Leslie Mutch, who have each had an episode of illness recently. We wish them future good health.