

Sukkat Shalom September 2011

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

Chair: Gillian Raab, chair@eljc.org
Secretary: Nancy Warren, secretary@eljc.org
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Catering: Maureen Mackinnon catering@eljc.org

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

Events and Services

Date Friday 2 September 2011

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 6:15pm

Date Friday 9 September 2011

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

Date Friday 16 September 2011

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

Date Saturday 24 September 2011

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

Date Wednesday 28 September 2011

Event Erev Rosh Hashanah Service led by
Rabbi Mark Solomon
Venue Please contact us
Time 7pm

Date Thursday 29 September 2011

Event Rosh Hashanah Service led by
Rabbi Mark Solomon
Venue Please contact us
Time 11am Followed by buffet lunch

Date Friday 30 September 2011

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

Date Friday 7 October 2011

Event Kol Nidre Service led by Rabbi Mark Solomon
Venue Please contact us
Time 7pm

Date Saturday 8 October 2011

Event Yom Kippur. Services led by
Rabbi Mark Solomon
Venue Please contact us
Time 11am

**See pages 5 and 6 for
further details of High Holyday arrangements,
opportunities to volunteer your help
and details of the break fast meal.**

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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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.**

Jewish Calendar

Chanukah	20th/21st-28th 12/2011
Tu B'Shevat	8 th 2/2012
Purim	7th-8th 3/2012
Pesach	6th/7th.-14th 4.2012
Shavuot	26th/27th-28th 2012
9 Av	29th 7/2012
Rosh Hashanah 5773	16th/17th-9th 9/2012
Yom Kippur	26th 9/2012



Introducing our new Student Worker and Student Chaplain



Liberal Judaism and LJY-Netzer would like to introduce our new Student Worker, Adam Francies, and Student Chaplain, Rabbi Ariel

Friedlander. They are here to help students and those of student age through University, Gap Years and simply be a listening ear. Please don't hesitate to contact them for information about what is on offer this year or with any questions about the year ahead. You can contact Adam by emailing adam@liberaljudaism.org and Ariel can be reached at chaplain@liberaljudaism.org.

Communities Family Shabbaton - GLJC, 12th November 2011

Communities' Family Shabbaton with the Gloucester Liberal Jewish Community in Cheltenham. A chance

for you to meet and spend Shabbat with families, members and leaders from Liberal, Reform, Masorti and Independent communities. £20 per person, children half price. Lunch, Torah Breakfast & refreshments included. Phone 020 8349 5632, email debi.penhey@lbc.ac.uk or [click here](#) to download the flyer.

Mitzvah Day - Sunday 20th

November



Mitzvah Day is a Jewish led day of social action. On Mitzvah Day, around the world, thousands of people take part in hands on projects, without fundraising, to support charities and to build stronger communities. The day is based on the Jewish values of tikkun olam (repairing the world), tzedek (righteousness) and gemilut chasadim (acts of loving kindness). To find out more and how to get involved, go to <http://www.mitzvahday.org.uk/>.

Last year we worked with the rangers to help clear gorse in Holyrood Park and we may do so again. But ideas for any other activities would be most welcome. Further announcements will follow.

Jews, Christians and Muslims in Europe



This three-part e-learning course has been developed by the Woolf Institute (Cambridge) and focuses on the relationships between Jews, Christians and Muslims and their impact in modern Europe, looking at their history, culture and issues of citizenship. Applications are now being accepted for the next course commencing 7th November 2011. The closing date for applications is 14th October 2011. Visit the website by clicking here <http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/jcme/index.php>.

Limmud Conference: 25th-29th December 2011



This December Limmud Conference will play host to 2,500 people of all ages, backgrounds and perspectives having a thousand conversations on every subject. Conference is at the University of Warwick and runs from Sunday 25 to Thursday 29 December, with Shabbat Limmud on Friday 23 and Saturday 24. To find out more and how to book your place, go to <http://www.limmud.org/conference/>.

Inscribed in the Book of Life

by Rabbi Mark Solomon

With other material for the High Holy Days, members of Sukkat Shalom will be receiving a small, pale green booklet modestly entitled Membership Directory and Handbook. The timing is fortuitous, for soon, on Rosh Hashanah, we will be praying as a community, “Remember us for life, Sovereign who delights in life; and write us in the book of life, for Your sake, God of life.” Whatever the metaphor of a heavenly book of life might mean, it struck me that our little membership directory is a very human, down to earth book of life – and no less holy for that.

We are a young enough community that our names can fit within the compass of a small booklet; and a close enough community that almost everyone felt happy to have their name listed, most with contact details so that other members can get in touch. Unlike American synagogues, which generally number themselves by households, British Progressive congregations number individual members, so this is a book of individuals – each and every person counts in her or his own right. At the same time, the “other family members” column mentions partners (Jewish or otherwise) and children (nearly forty!), illustrating the open and varied network of relationships that are part of our community life.

The biblical verse that was probably the source of the idea of a divine book of life is Malachi 3:16, “Then those who revered the Eternal One spoke to one another, and a book of record was written before God, of those who revered the Eternal One and honoured God’s name.” This is a book of communication, allowing us to reach out and speak to one another with friendship and help.

It is a book of life, with a section entitled “From Cradle to Grave” explaining what services the community can offer its members throughout the life cycle. Gillian Raab, in her Chairman’s Welcome, writes, “If you find Sukkat Shalom a positive influence in your life ...” and I hope everyone does. It may be in the spiritual nurture of weekly worship, the intellectual stimulation of monthly study, the annual re-connection of Seder and High Holy Days, the Jewish companionship of outings and social events, the pastoral support available in times of need, or the knowledge that Jewish ritual and meaning are available in seasons of joy – birth, coming-of-age and marriage – as well as in seasons of mourning. A positive influence, above all, in reminding us what is truly important in life: the Torah’s values of justice, holiness and love of neighbour.

It is a book of hope. I counted, then counted again to be sure it wasn’t wishful thinking, and found that the main list contains exactly seventy names – fortuitous again! For it was the seventy souls who went down to Egypt with Jacob (Genesis 46:27, Deuteronomy 10:22) that became the nucleus of a great nation. Even within the finite compass of east Scotland’s Jewish community there is the hope and potential for growth, as more and more people are attracted to the traditional teachings and modern approach of Liberal Judaism. As though to indicate this there are a few empty squares at the end of the membership list: plenty of space still to fill up. It’s also a tacit acknowledgement of the few members who chose not to have their names publicised, and the proselytes who attend regularly in their preparation for conversion, and who will surely appear as members in the next edition.

It is a book of encouragement. The rise in numbers since the last membership directory should encourage us that we are travelling in the right direction. More importantly, the booklet suggests several ways members can get more involved and active. The Hebrew word for a year – shanah – can be linked to the verb “repeat” (shanah), because each year follows the same cycle as the last, but also to the verb “change” (shinnah) because a new Jewish year challenges us, through the moving and inspiring services of the Days of Awe, to move forward ethically, grow spiritually, and step up our commitment to Jewish life and values.

Just as the booklet was going to press, a discussion sprang up about the range of communal

organisations listed, some feeling that this ought to have included groups dealing with Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is no secret that our community, like many, contains a spectrum of views on this most contentious of contemporary Jewish issues. In the end it was too late to resolve the question and get the booklet out on time, but over the coming year we will certainly have to continue our dialogue on how we, as Liberal Jews in Scotland, can best express our commitment both to universal equal rights for all human beings – including the right to dignity and self-determination – and to the survival, safety and thriving of the Jewish people in Israel and elsewhere.

One thing our modest directory cannot assure, unlike the metaphorical heavenly book of life, is the fate of those inscribed in it for the coming year. For that, our Machzor (prayer book) tells us, we must resort to “penitence, prayer and charity.” My prayer is that all of you and your loved ones may be blessed with a year of life and health, prosperity and happiness. Le-shanah tovah tikatevu ve-techatemu – may we all be written and sealed for a good year.

Chairman's word

We are grateful to the kind words our Rabbi has expressed about our membership directory. Indeed, it was not a small task to produce it and it was thanks to Eva Wiseman, our membership secretary's persistence that we were able to get responses from so many of you. But, as many of you noticed it does have a fatal flaw. The last two digits of people's home telephone numbers were cut off by the process of making the link to our data base. I'm not sure how this fault feeds in to Mark's analogy. Does the book of life ever suffer from misprints? But our embarrassment has certainly encouraged us to get the correction sheet in the mail. So if you do not receive yours in the next few days do please contact us. And be sure to staple it in to the back of your directory so it does not get lost.

The question of Human Rights, and particularly competing rights is something I have been very aware of in the last few days. I was alerted, by Leah Granat of ScoJec to a consultation by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) in connection with some cases which are shortly to be heard by the European Court of Human Rights. These cases all involve situations where the religious rights are at odds with other rights. One such case was that of Lilian Ladele, the Islington registrar who was dismissed from her post for refusing to officiate at civil partnerships. The EHRC are planning to prepare a case which argues that religious rights are less well protected than other rights, for example, the rights of disabled people. In both cases the argument hinges on what can be regarded as "reasonable accommodation" to ensure that a person's rights are met. Full details of the consultation can be found on the consultation page of the ScoJec web site (www.ScoJec.org). There was no agreement among community representatives who responded to ScoJec and as a result ScoJec will not respond to EHRC. I am pleased at this as it seems to me that it may be inappropriate for EHRC to circulate religious bodies to strengthen their case, But I am sure others would disagree with me.

Human Rights Day is coming up in early December and we are planning a Human Rights Shabbat. A few of us will be forming a group to discuss what we will do. Please be in touch if you would like to join us. One conflict of rights that we all must be acutely aware of is that of Jews and Arabs rights in Israel/Palestine. I hope that we might be able to take this on board from a human rights perspective, as Mark has suggested above.

On a happier note, musicians have often been in the forefront of resolving conflicts. One fine example is the work that Valery Gergiev, now Honorary President of the Edinburgh International Festival, has carried out in the Caucasus. I was fortunate last week to attend a concert by a group of musicians from the Philadelphia Orchestra led by the cellist Udi Bar-Davd. Udi runs an organisation that brings together people in times of conflict through music. You can read about it and listen to music from different traditions on www.interculturaljourneys.org.



Shalom and Shanah Tovah, Gillian Raab

High Holyday arrangements 2011/5772

Volunteers required

to come early to help set out the buffet lunch on Rosh Hashanah. Please contact chair@eljc.org

and

to take part in a rota of greeters on the door during the Yom Kippur services. Please contact Joe Goldblatt drjgoldblatt@aol.com

We are delighted that Rabbi Mark Solomon will be leading our High Holyday services this year, the third time he has done so as our Rabbi. Members and those attending the Choosing Judaism class will have received, or will soon be receiving, their tickets and a detailed timetable of services by post. Non-members who receive this newsletter and would like to join us should contact info@eljc.org or leave a message on the community phone to arrange to receive tickets. We do not make a formal charge for tickets. We believe that no one should be deterred from attending because they cannot afford a ticket. But at the same time, our expenses are always increasing, so we hope that those who can afford to will contribute to our costs by sending in a donation. Details of how to do this will be sent when you apply for tickets.

Of course, membership is not just about what you can get from us, but it is a commitment to the community and a contribution to ensure that there will continue to be a progressive Jewish option for people in Edinburgh and the surrounding areas. Details of eligibility for membership can be found on our web site under "How to Join". To encourage you to make this commitment we are offering a special reduced membership price at this time of year, that will include the cost of High Holyday tickets (see box). It is a real bargain, but at the same time we would be grateful for additional donations, from those who can afford it, to help us meet our costs.

Special membership offer

only £50

For remainder of 2011 and including High Holyday Tickets

Machzorim and Music for High Holyday Services

We will be using the Liberal Judaism festival prayer book (Machzor Ruach Chadashah) for our high holyday services. If you want to purchase a copy **we have copies available for sale at £16.90**. Please contact us by email or phone and we can arrange this.

Many of the tunes for the High Holyday prayers are a bit different from our usual melodies. You can listen to them and practise them by listening to Rabbi Mark on our web site (there is a link from the main page). page references to Machzor Ruach Chadashah are provided.

Rosh Hashanah

All members and visitors are warmly invited to a kiddush and buffet lunch at St Mark's after the Rosh Hashanah morning service, sponsored by Charles and Gillian Raab. After lunch we will take the short walk to St Bernard's Well on the Water of Leith for Tashlich when we will cast some crumbs of bread into the water.

(Yom Kippur and Break-fast Meal - see next page)

St Bernard's Well - see right

This poem was written when water flowed in the pump room

*'This water so healthful near Edinburgh doth rise
which not only Bath but Moffat outvies.*

*It cleans the intestines and an appetite gives
while morbid matters it quite away drives.'*

<http://www.megalithic.co.uk/article.php?sid=10580>



High Holyday arrangements 2011/5772 (contd.)

Yom Kippur

We need volunteers to help take part in a rota to greet members and visitors during the evening service and during the day on Yom Kippur. Jonathan and Marjorie Broadie from our security team who usually organise this will not be with us this year. We are most grateful to Joe Goldblatt and Nancy Lynner who have kindly offered to do it this year. Please contact Joe (Drjgoldblatt@aol.com) to take part in the rota. With enough volunteers each person should only have to do a short stint.

Break-fast Meal

The Caledonian Hotel, as is advertised on the tickets, where we have held our break fast meal for the last two years is not available this year. But we are fortunate to have secured a booking for a meal in a very pleasant room (see illustration) in the **Roxburghe Hotel in Charlotte Square**, still very close to St Mark's where we will be having the concluding service.



The menu below includes tea and coffee and bread, which will be available for us on arrival, as well as three courses as described below. The total cost (payable on the night) is **only £18** including service charges.

Menu

Starters

Roast Artichoke and Plum Tomato Brochette with Sweet Balsamic Syrup
Smoked Haddock and Salmon Mousse with Horseradish Mayonnaise and Brown Bread Crostini Soup
Soup of the day (vegetarian)

Main Course

Breast of Corn Fed Chicken with Puy Lentil and Vegetable Dressing and Potato and Celeriac Puree
Cold Poached Fillet of Salmon with New Potato Salad and Lemon Mayonnaise
Mushroom and leek risotto with rocket leaf salad

Dessert

Apple and Pear Crumble with 'Custard' Ice Cream
Iced Lemon and Lime Terrine with Blackcurrant Coulis
Fruit Salad

Your selections from this menu must be pre-ordered. Drinks on the night will be at your own expense. There will be water on the tables. To book please email info@eljc.org or leave a message on the community phone. In either case please indicate your menu choices as follows:-

Starter	Brochette / Fish Mousse / Soup
Main	Chicken / Fish / Vegetarian
Dessert	Crumble / Lemon and Lime Terrine / Fruit Salad

Please book as soon as possible. We need to provide the hotel with the numbers expected and their choices by 30th September.

Community Matters

Members' news

Departures

We are all sorry to hear that Kate Lebow, Andrew Lawrence and Naomi and Jacob will be leaving Edinburgh. Andrew has secured a research fellowship in Vienna and the family have been packing up in a great hurry in order for Naomi and Jacob to get started in their new German speaking schools at the start of term. We wish them all well in this exciting change in their lives. We hear that they have already made contact with a congregation in Vienna. We hope they will keep in touch with us and let us know how they are getting on.

A return

You will be delighted to hear that Lauren Fox is back in Edinburgh, for the foreseeable future, after a year studying art in Barcelona. She has a new studio space in Portobello, to work on her sculpture. She will also be studying a post-graduate course at Queen Margaret University in Art Psychotherapy. On the next page you can read about the Shed, which will be an outlet for her photography. Lauren, it will be great to have you back.

And a Mazal Tov

Nancy Lynner who has won a trip to New York City as "Associate of the Year" for her work at Holland and Barrett's health stores. Congratulations Nancy, have a wonderful trip.

And also to

To Anna Duncan, who has JUST become engaged to Itamar Nitzan. Anna and Itamar met through JDate and they have since been meeting up either here or in Israel regularly, with Anna having spent most of this summer with his family in Israel. We wish them both all the best and look forward to hearing about their future plans.

Scottish Jewish wedding of the year



Last Sunday Rabbi Nancy Morris from Glasgow Reform Synagogue married Jim Jarvie in a wonderful ceremony with no fewer than four rabbis participating in the ceremony, not counting the bride. Nancy and Jim each circled each other seven times under the chuppah, quilted and embroidered by the groom's aunt. Both the chuppah and the ketubah, specially designed for the couple by their friend Rachel Reinhart, were

illustrated with the seven species of the land of Israel : wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates, the first fruits (bikkurim) traditionally brought to the Temple in Jerusalem on Shavuot.

The four rabbis, seen here exchanging notes at the reception in Paisley Town Hall, were Rabbi Andrew Goldstein from London, Rabbi James Baaden from Oxford, Rabbi Larry Englander from Toronto and our own Rabbi Mark Solomon.



The bride looked radiant in a cream silk ballet length dress and the groom sported a magnificent Jewish tartan kilt. We wish them all our best wishes for many happy years together.

Events and Announcements

Job: "Being Jewish in Scotland" - Project Worker

Salary: c. £20 000 pro rata depending on experience, etc. **Temporary:** from September 2011 for approx 9 months. **Part-time:** c. 20 hours per week on average (variable). Some Sunday and evening working will be required. **Location:** Glasgow based but travelling will be required, including some overnight stays when attending events in remote locations.

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities has been awarded a grant by the Scottish Government for a short study of the varied experiences of Jewish people throughout Scotland. The Project Worker will arrange events in a geographically diverse range of locations, conduct interviews, facilitate meetings, collate data, and draft reports.

For further information, please see <http://www.scojec.org/bjis.pdf> or e-mail scojec@scojec.org or phone 0141-638 6411 or 07887-488 100

To apply please send a c.v. and letter of application to SCoJeC, 222 Fenwick Rd., Glasgow, G46 6UE

Closing Date: Monday 12th September 2011.

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charity SC029438.

Klezmer Karavan

Saturday 24th September:

'Leith's Welcome to the Klezmer Karavan' - A sizzling night of riotous Eastern European celebratory music and songs to make you laugh, cry, and dance!



The Village 16 South Fort Street Edinburgh, EH6 4DN

Doors open 7.30pm .

Tickets £12

Sunday 25th September: Klezmer and Yiddish song workshops

Learn some style tips and great tunes, songs and dances from Merlin (clarinet), Ilana (fiddle), Polina (song), Guy (percussion and dance). Bring and instrument or come and sing. No experience of

klezmer needed.

Out of the Blue Drill Hall, 36 Dalmeny Street, Edinburgh EH6 8RG

10am – 5pm, Tickets £40 (£33 concession)

Click on biturl.net/klezmerkaravan for tickets for Saturday night and for Sunday workshops. Limited places so book early to avoid disappointment!

For more information on KLezmer Karavan weekend contact Sharon Jacobsen or Gica Loening at klezkaravanscot@virginmedia.com

Lauren Fox - 'The Shed Photography'

www.theshedphotography.com,
info@theshedphotography.com

'The Shed' is an online community that is all about celebrating and supporting artists and photographers and selling their work.

One of the initiators says: "Artists often work in a solitary environment and are very much on their own when it comes to putting their work out into the world. ... The idea of the Shed is not just a place for artists to sell their work, but to be nurtured and to be part of a community, to have a website that is run for them by a group of people that understand the needs of a creative. ..."

Please pass this site along to anyone you think may be interested or benefit from joining us. Or even sign up a reluctant partner or friend who is too modest to believe their work is great!

Street Fair at Columcille

The centre where we hold many of our services is open during the week as a community centre for people with special needs. Do go along on Saturday to support them if you can.

Tea, Coffee, Soup and Home baking Raffle Crafts & Garden handicrafts
Storytelling
Ceilidh Music from the Columcille Ceilidh Band Columcille Art Exhibition and Photo exhibition

Everyone welcome to come and join us for a while
Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace, Morningside – next to Studio One