

Sukkat Shalom

JULY 2012

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

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Events and Services

Date **Friday 13 July 2012**

Event Erev Shabbat Service followed by a communal meal. Please bring a non-meat dish to share. Details of our visitor that evening on page 5

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

Time 7pm

Date **Saturday 28 July 2012**

Event Shabbat Morning Service led by Rabbi Mark Solomon

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

Time 11am

Event Tea & Talmud

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

Time 3pm

Date **Sunday 29 July 2012**

Event Tisha b'Av Service and study

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

Time 11am

NOTE: Choosing Judaism class will meet here instead of the usual location.

Tisha B'Av – the 9th of Av – marks the anniversary of the destruction of the First and Second Temples, and many other dark dates in Jewish history. We will meet to remember and discuss the mourning that lies alongside the rejoicing, the fasting that balances the feasting in Jewish culture, from the plaintively chanted verses of the book of Lamentations to the poetry of the Shoah. NO refreshments will be served!

Date **Sunday 29 July 2012**

Event Spinoza

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

Time 4pm

Date **Friday 3 August 2012**

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Venue Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road

Time 6:15pm

NOTE: Our short Kabbalat Shabbat services are suspended during July, but will resume as usual in August on weekends when we don't have another service.

Deadline for copy for August 2012 newsletter:

25 July 2012

ELJC support line

0131 208 1447



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

Festivals begin on the evening before the day listed.

Rosh Hashanah 5773 17.9.-18.9.2012

Yom Kippur 26.9.2012

A full calendar can be accessed from the diary page of our web site



Leo Baeck College

<http://www.lbc.ac.uk/>

Rabbinical Ordination was streamed live on Sunday 1st July:

<http://www.lbc.ac.uk/201206241589/News/ordination-2012.html>

The link to the stream is

<http://www.lbc.ac.uk/ordination-2012.html>

There are also links on the website to Leo Baeck College new visual identity:

<http://www.lbc.ac.uk/201206191586/News/leo-baeck-college-new-visual-identity.html>

and the College Video <http://vimeo.com/43685801>

You will now know that there is no longer going to a LBC Diary - links to alternatives may be found here:

<http://www.lbc.ac.uk/201206141585/News/leo-baeck-college-diary-5773.html>

Scotland Day

Limmud 2012

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY 25TH November 2012

Scotland Day Limmud will welcome presenters from Scotland, the UK and across the world to discuss ... everything. Whether it's Jewish history, politics, faith, families, traditions, humour, all, or none of the above, there are sessions to suit you and your whole family.



There will also be young Limmud sessions, with more information to follow.

Where else can you participate in Cooking for the Soul with Silvia Nacamulli, learn about Kabbalah and have a Klezmer song and dance session? Find out about Stalin's war on Yiddish, discuss attitudes to Israel or read between the lines of the Tanach with top educationalists such as Esther Lapian, Maureen Kendler and Clive Lawton?

Associated events in Edinburgh and bus transport on the Sunday are also being planned.

Keep an eye on www.limmud.org for more up-to-date information. Like our Facebook page "Scotland Day Limmud" (and ask all your friends to like it too) or email Scotland@limmud.org to get involved. The organising committee will be meeting next on the evenings of Monday 16th July in Glasgow. The committee would be very interested in involving people from the smaller communities and all around Scotland. If you'd like to attend the organising meetings, SCoJeC may be able to pay transport costs. Please get in touch with Fiona Frank, SCoJeC project worker, to discuss that - email Fiona@scojec.org or tel 07779 206522.

Chairman's word

As many of you will know Fiona Frank, the research worker from SCoJec (Scottish Council of Jewish Communities) has been extremely active around Scotland on the "Being Jewish in Scotland" project. Thanks to everyone who took part in her survey. The Scottish Government are certainly getting their money's worth from the very modest funding they have provided for this project. Fiona has been



reaching out in imaginative ways to all sorts of Jews in Scotland including those who are usually hard to reach in both the geographic and social sense. As part of this outreach she held an evening for unaffiliated Jews in our house where a Klezmer group (Beyond the Pale) performed, seen here in our sitting-room window. The interim report of the project

is currently available on the SCoJec web site (www.scojec.org) and the full report will be launched in the autumn.

facebook

One of the findings of Fiona's research was that there was a hunger for Jewish contact among many Jewish people living in Scotland, especially, but not exclusively, among those living far from the major centres of Jewish life. Our newsletter tries to reach out to those of you who are interested in wider aspects of Jewish life, beyond synagogue services. So do send in details of any local events of Jewish interest and we will publicise them. We are delighted also that Helen Sherbourne (h_sherbs@hotmail.com) is now keeping our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sukkat-Shalom-Edinburgh/409490615745959>) up-to-date. Do visit it and "like" it if you do and also let her know what you think. Should we advertise other events of Jewish interest there, as well as our own services? Or would that just dilute our own events too much? There is also a Facebook group for Jews in Scotland (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/10040850983/>) that perhaps is more relevant for fulfilling that function.

We are fortunate in Edinburgh that we have many visitors who come along to our services and often contribute something to the community. At our Shabbat morning service in June we were fortunate to have Rabbi Harry Jacobi taking part in the service on his way home from a holiday on Orkney. The Parasha for that week was Korach where the grisly tale of the fate of those who rebelled is recounted. It might seem, on the face of it, to have little to do with the themed readings from our siddur to go with it. Formally these are on the topic of controversy, but when you read the passages they say more about reconciliation. But Rabbi Jacobi made the connection by discussing the difference between Moses and Aaron – the Parasha also tells the tale of Aaron and his family being appointed as priests when his staff sprouts leaves and blooms. While Moses was hard and fierce in his dealings Aaron was the peacemaker, resolving arguments and encouraging people to accept their differences with others. I think this is an important message for us in a Liberal Community where we pride ourselves in our diversity and a reminder that we should not be trying to impose our own views on the whole community. Harry also recollected the time in the 1950's where he served for three years as minister to the Aberdeen Community while he was a student, having come to the UK on the Kindertransport.

Wishing you all a good summer. Gillian

A Walk along the Prior's Walk

Isobel King reports on the June Service at her village of Newstead



Will it, won't it rain was the question on everyone's lips on 9th June when 23 intrepid members of Sukkat Shalom traced their way to Newstead for a service in the Village Hall. Apart from one or two spots of rain – just to prove that the weather had the last say – the day turned out to be fine and not too cold.

Mark, having arrived in Newstead the evening before, was on hand to help me set out the hall – a peaceful and serene atmosphere in which to celebrate worship, and into which to welcome some new, or newer faces of the Jewish community in the Borders – Peebles, Yetholm and Lauder. Coffee and scones welcomed the arrivals from far and wide, so that the wait between breakfast and lunch did not seem too long!

The service featured the Aufruf – pre-wedding call-up to the Torah – of Yonatan Eisenberg and Melissa Wood, and the Torah portion appropriately spoke of Moses' marriage. In his sermon, Rabbi Mark reflected on the fundamental human experiences of sameness and difference between people. While agreeing with the Chief Rabbi's plea for the "dignity of difference," he argued that the quest to recognise sameness, between individuals, cultures, religions, all creatures and indeed all existence, is nevertheless a higher and more meaningful quest. It is the deep meaning of the Shema, the unity of God which is the inner unity of all being, and to truly understand this brings the greatest peace.



The sun appeared and so did the members of Sukkat Shalom emerge from the village hall – a two minute walk up the road to Dove Cottage gave everyone a chance to stretch their legs before Kiddush and then lunch. A route march followed when Bess, the dog and I, led the way to Melrose Abbey before they returned to the Cottage, to make ready for everyone's return in time for tea. Imagine the surprise for Isobel to find that Gail Potts, with the help of her children Emily and Gabriel (from Lauder) had done all the washing up!

Most of the party took an interesting tour round the ruins of 12th century Melrose Abbey before returning to Dove Cottage for more refreshments.

Many thanks to Isobel for giving everyone such a wonderful day and for making the sun shine.

Jane Haining service at Dunscore Church

Marianne Laszlo tells her story

On 3rd June the Dumfriesshire village of Dunscore held a service in the Parish Church for Jane Haining, a native of the village. Jane died in Auschwitz after she stayed on in Budapest after the Nazi invasion in order to continue to care for the, mainly Jewish, children in her care. Jane was presented with a Heroes of the Holocaust medal by the UK government in 2010, and this event was to mark the presentation of the medal to Dunscore Church by Jane's family. Marianne Laszlo attended the service to represent the Jewish Community in Scotland and presented them with the yellow star that she had worn as a young person. Marianne is on the right in the photo below. Here she tells us about her own life during the Shoah and what made her feel a link with Jane Haining.



I learned of the story of Jane Haining when I visited the Scots Church in Budapest. It was because of this visit that I decided to come to

Dunscore for this special service, knowing that I was around the same age as Jane's small charges would have been. I had been so moved by the story of Jane sewing the yellow stars on the clothing of her small charges and it reminded me of the memory of my own mother cutting up our yellow bedspread and making stars for our family. I can remember sewing them onto my own clothing.

I was born in Debrecen and had a happy early childhood with my parents and 3 sisters. I only realised I was a Jew and was 'different' in hospital at 6 years old when I made friends with the little girl in the next bed. One day we were excitedly looking forward to starting school, she to the local Catholic school and I to the Jewish school. Suddenly my little friend started calling 'Dirty Jew, dirty Jew' and spitting at me. Confused and frightened, I was moved to another ward. The thing I still wonder of this small girl who was my friend 'Who taught her that behaviour'?

A few years later my family and I were transported to Auschwitz, but our train did not enter as at that time there was a backlog and we were diverted to Vienna. The fate of 10,000 Hungarians cremated each day at that time probably saved our lives. During my time in the camps my health suffered and not long after returning home I fell very ill. The Red Army were camped behind our house and one of the camp doctors came to my aid with a large injection of what I can only believe was penicillin – again a life saved by the care of others.

When I visited Israel and Yad Vashem, I wanted them to have my yellow star, but they would not take it, saying 'give it to your children, let them hear your story.' I only ever told my children this story when they were adults as I did not want to share it before that. They found it hard to believe then. As I approached Dunscore I realised I had it with me that day and I was delighted that they accepted it to display along with Jane Haining's medal.

Community Matters

New members

We are delighted to welcome four new members this month, **Adi Stockdale**, **Gail Potts**, **Marilyn Rome** and **Alex Guilherme**. Adi, originally from Israel now lives in Dunfermline with husband Lance and daughters Maya (aged 6) and Gillian (aged 4) and an addition to the family is expected in August. Gail, also a native of Israel now lives in Lauder with husband Stephen, daughter Emily (soon to be 5) and son Gabriel (turning 3). Marilyn, originally from the USA, is also from the Scottish Borders where she lives with husband Gibson (Gibby). Alex is originally from Brazil but now lives in Edinburgh and some of you will know him from his contributions to the Spinoza discussion group.

Meet-up for new or prospective members

On Sunday 15th July, the Choosing Judaism class will have an informal meet-up lunch in the centre of Edinburgh, to get to know each other better. This is also an opportunity for people who have recently joined the community or those who are thinking of getting involved to meet some new faces and find out what it's all about. If you'd like to come along, or for more details, please contact Helen Sherbourne at h_sherbs@hotmail.com.

Mazal Tov



To **Melissa Wood** and **Yonathan Eisenberg** on their wedding on 21st June. Despite it being Midsummer's Day it poured rain solidly throughout their outdoor ceremony, but Rabbi Mark assured them that this was a sign of good luck. It was a wonderful occasion with guests from all over the world including Yonathan's family from Israel and Melissa's from Scotland.



To **Anna and Tim Dover** (parents of Connie) on reaching the semi-finals of the programme Kitchen Wars on Channel 5 for couples who run restaurants together. Theirs is the Roost in Bridge of Earn (<http://www.theroostrestaurant.co.uk>). Their semi-final round will be screened this Thursday (5th July) at 8pm.

Kol Nidre Appeal

The cheques to our four charities for the Kol Nidre appeal have been sent off to Jewish Care, Water Aid, the Scottish Refugee Council and Physicians for Human Rights (Israel). We were so late in sending it off this year as we kept hoping that some more contributions would come in that would allow us to exceed our previous year's total of £4,021. It turned out that we did not quite make it, but our total of £3,672 came close. Thanks to everyone for their contributions.

SCIO Application

We have just heard that our application to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation has been approved. We will need to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting to ratify this formally, most probably in August or early September.

Events and Announcements

Erev Shabbat Service 13 July 2012

We will be joined on this occasion by Joy Rosenberg, Director of Education at Temple Beth Shalom in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She will be presenting a short talk on the Crypto Jews of the South-West. Joy has worked in Jewish education for over 30 years in New York, Texas and New Mexico.

Festival Open Day at Salisbury Road Synagogue

Come along on **Sunday 19 August** for a taste of Jewish cultural events and shows at the Edinburgh Festivals. Details to follow in the August newsletter.

Rabbi Relay Ride

On midsummer's eve the Rabbi Relay ride from Land's End to John O'Groats passed through Edinburgh. They arrived safely at the end of their ride on 29th June and so far have raised almost £15,000 for food related charities, including Leket Israel and Table to Table, which offer food distribution to those in need. The Rabbi Relay Ride was organised by Gefiltefest (the Jewish Food organisation - see www.gefiltefest.org). Gillian Raab joined them on a stretch along the Union Canal as far as the Falkirk Wheel and reports on the ride:

It was sunny for most of the way, although there were lots of puddles on the bumpy path and we all got encrusted with mud. But as we arrived at the Falkirk Wheel we were hit by a huge thunderstorm but managed to reach the cafe area with only a minor drenching. The picture shows us taking a short stop at Ratho. On my right is Rabbi Shoshana Boyd-Gelfand who did the stretch to Glasgow. Although she had been practising by riding her bike to work her previous longest ride had been 12.5 miles which she exceeded 3 fold on this ride. Shoshana is the Director of JHub, a programme of the Pears Foundation. JHub provides residency, organisational development and support to Jewish charities working in the areas of social action and innovation. If you would like to sponsor her visit

<http://www.charitychoice.co.uk/fundraiser/rabbirelay/gefiltefests-rabbi-relay-ride/727>. She is raising funds for the main ride charities and for a local, non Jewish, community centre near her home. Details on her ride web page.



Letter from Rabbi Nancy Morris

Many of you will know Nancy from her time as Rabbi of Glasgow Reform Synagogue. She sends us her news from her current position in Calgary:

I'm excited to now be moving on to a new challenge in London, England. In August I will be starting as senior rabbi at South West Essex and Settlement Reform Synagogue in northeast London. It is an old, established and proud member of the Movement for Reform Judaism in the U.K., and one of the biggest in the movement. It is now the largest synagogue in the northeast part of London. It was where some of the most illustrious products of the Reform Movement spent their formative years, including Rabbi Tony Bayfield, and Rabbi Jackie Tabick, the first woman rabbi ordained in the U.K. I'm excited to be the first woman rabbi to be leading SWESRS, and will be honoured to have Rabbi Tabick take part in the induction which will be held on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 9. Please feel free to contact me on my email address, rabbincymorris@gmail.com and you will be most welcome to visit or attend a service any time.

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

Leah Granat, the deputy director of SCoJeC will be making Aliyah to join her family in Israel this autumn. She will continue some of her work, such as parliamentary monitoring, from Israel and her position as Public Affairs Officer will be filled by Ellen McCance, who is currently Secretary of the Dundee Hebrew Congregation.

You can read more about her here (http://www.scojec.org/news/2012/12vi_pao/pao.html). At the AGM in June Hilary Rifkind was elected as Chairman and Gillian Raab (our chairman) as Vice-Chair. See http://www.scojec.org/news/2012/12vi_agm/agm.html for more details.

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council - ELREC

<http://www.elrec.org.uk/>

Rebekah Gronowski has recently been appointed as a Member of the Board of ELREC - see the website for details of what ELREC does.

ELREC exists to provide a way in which people from various communities may engage with each other and be represented in the wider community on issues of equality. As an organisation we work towards the elimination of prejudice in society. "ELREC strives for a society which is free from prejudice where everyone is treated with respect, integrity and justice." We work in mutual co-operation with each other in a democratic manner, embodying principles of transparency and equity.

If anyone in our Community or the wider Jewish Community finds that there are any issues of inequality, prejudice or injustice which need to be addressed within the wider Scottish community in which we live, please contact me or any other Member of the Board of ELREC and we will look into the problems: rebekah.gronowski@gmail.com.

Direct Approach: a Safer Communities Network for BME Women and Women of Faith" is a sub-group of ELREC.

(Sukkat Shalom is a corporate member with Anna Duncan-Nitzan as our representative.)

Interfaith

"By whose authority? An interfaith look at women and religious authority" - a conference at High Leigh Conference Centre, 16 - 19 July

More information can be found at: www.modchurchunion.org.



"Engaging Young People in Interfaith": National Networking Seminar

8th September 2012, 11.30 am - 5 pm (vegetarian lunch provided), Inverness

Representatives of all local interfaith groups in Scotland are warmly invited to the annual networking seminar to be held in September in Inverness. The main theme this year will be how to engage young people in interfaith activities but there will also be time to explore challenges and opportunities in interfaith in Scotland.

Please register interest by contacting Maureen Sier on Maureen@scottishinterfaithcouncil.org and a full programme with details of venue, presenters and workshops will be sent in due course.

Scottish Women's Aid supporting *Peace One Day*, 21 September

A campaign to promote peace across the world, this year's theme is "Global Truce" in the hope to reduce domestic abuse on this day. We're putting on candlelit vigils across the country (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness) to shine a light on domestic abuse. We're having a meet up in Edinburgh on the 12th July at 5pm in our offices to let folk know what we're doing and we'd love it if you could join us. If you're unable to come along, but would like to be kept updated, please let us know too.

RSVP by the 3rd July to ellie.hutchinson@scottishwomensaid.org.uk

To find out more, go to: <http://peaceoneday.org/global-truce/>