

# Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

## EVENTS & SERVICES

**Date** **Friday 6th March**  
**Event** **Erev Shabbat Service**  
**Venue** **Columcille Centre,  
Newbattle Terrace**  
**Time** **7 pm**

**Rabbi Danny Rich** (Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism) will lead the service, and there will also be readings in celebration of International Women's Day. The service will be followed by a **family supper; please bring a non-meat dish to share**. This is Danny's first visit in a while; it would be good if he could get to meet as many in our community as possible.

**Date** **Saturday 7th March**  
**Event** **Annual General Meeting**  
**Venue** **Columcille Centre,  
Newbattle Terrace**  
**Time** **6 pm**

Our community's AGM will be followed by a pizza party and concert. Full details on p. 2.

**Date** **Saturday 21st March**  
**Event** **Shabbat Service**  
**Venue** **St Columba's by the Castle  
14 Johnston Terrace, EH1 2PW**  
**Time** **11 am**

Join us for our regular Shabbat morning service. (There are two St Columba's: we are in the one a hundred yards down from the roundabout)

### Informal Kabbalat Shabbat Services

**Dates** **13th & 27th March**  
**Venue** **Marchmont - St Giles  
1a Kilgraston Road**  
**Time** **6:15 pm**

Our short informal service to welcome Shabbat.

**Date** **Sunday 29th March**  
**Event** **Facilitated discussion on Israel**  
**Venue** **Marchmont - St Giles  
1a Kilgraston Road**  
**Time** **2pm**

See p. 2 for an explanation of our aims for this.

## March 2009

**Chairman:** Maurice Naftalin, [chair@eljc.org](mailto:chair@eljc.org)  
**Secretary:** Nancy Warren, [secretary@eljc.org](mailto:secretary@eljc.org)  
**Newsletter:** Kristi Long, [newsletter@eljc.org](mailto:newsletter@eljc.org)  
**Treasurer:** Jonathan Broadie, [treasurer@eljc.org](mailto:treasurer@eljc.org)  
**Membership:** Gillian Raab, [membership@eljc.org](mailto:membership@eljc.org)

**Phone: 0131 777 8024**

**[www.eljc.org](http://www.eljc.org)**

## EVENTS & SERVICES

**Date** **Friday 3rd April**  
**Event** **Erev Shabbat Service**  
**Venue** **Columcille Centre,  
Newbattle Terrace**  
**Time** **7 pm**

**Community Seder**  
**Don't Forget to Book Your Places**  
**Now!!**

Our Community Seder will be on **8th April**. This year for the first time it will be a fully catered event, at the new St. Margaret's University campus in Musselburgh. Please note that we need to have sufficient numbers by **March 20th** to confirm our booking with the caterers.

Advance reservations are essential and a booking form with payment details is included with this newsletter.

## **Jewish Calendar for March 2009**

9th March -- Purim  
25th March -- Rosh Hodesh Nisan

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## Purim Events

This year the Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community and Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation will celebrate Purim jointly, with a Megillah reading, talent show, and Purimspiel. The celebration will take place at EHC's Jewish Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road, on **Monday 9 March**. The Megillah reading starts at 7.00pm, followed by Hamentaschen, refreshments, and the Purimspiel at 8.00. See you there, for Hamentaschen, noshes, fun, and (literally) the whole Megillah!

PS. If you have a talent to display or might play a role in the Purimspiel please contact Phil Wadler ([wadler@inf.ed.ac.uk](mailto:wadler@inf.ed.ac.uk), 07976 507 543, 0131 447 4276).

## ELJC Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place at **Columcille Centre on Saturday, 7th March**, starting at 6pm. **Rabbi Danny Rich** will be joining us for the AGM. Papers and an agenda have been mailed to all members, and everyone is encouraged to come—and even to think about getting involved (why not stand for Council?)

If an AGM isn't enough to tempt you out on a Saturday evening, it will be followed by **pizza party** (other food available by request!), with a chance to chat with Rabbi Danny. And after that will be a **concert of Jewish music by Chana Jaffe and Tirtza Singer**, hosted by Sukkat Shalom as part of the Middle Eastern Festival of Spirituality and Peace. Our members will receive a discount, and tickets will be available at the door. For more details on the concert, see p. 5..

## Cheder Grant

Our community received a UJIA Cheder Challenge grant of £1500 from to support further development of the cheder. Thanks to Gillian Raab for her excellent work in drafting the grant proposal. Watch this space for more news on cheder activities and developments.

## Chairman's Last Word...

... not literally (as far as I know), but the last one as chair. I'm standing down at next week's AGM, as required by a far-seeing constitution, and beginning a new life as A Face in The Crowd (I'm still waiting for the result of my application for a new identity under the Witness Protection Programme).

I gave a summary of my time in the chair in my annual report (part of the AGM mailing). Trying to write a summary of the summary, my first thought was of Vinnie Jones's farewell in *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*: "it's been ... emotional". Mostly in a good way, of course!

Here's a slightly longer version of the same thought: when we were thinking of starting the community I wrote "if we want to, we can decide to build a community with a spiritual centre, a conscience, and a sense of belonging and communal support". For a lot of our everyday work that's a very pompous description. But although we haven't fully achieved the community I was thinking of, I do feel we have been working towards it, and that we're headed in the right direction. Not there yet? As ever, Rabbi Tarfon has the last word: "It is not for you to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it". Which brings me to...

## Sukkat Shalom Facilitated Discussion on Israel

I reported last month that we have secured the professional help of our members Stew Green and Sue Lieberman to facilitate a discussion on Israel. The council knows what a difficult topic this is, but we felt that for us as a community to be unable to express our feelings to one another would be more dangerous still.

So, without any intention of trying to reach a common position, we have to try to talk—cautiously, with the greatest regard for one another's feelings, and with the interests of our community always foremost in our minds. There will be no Sukkat Shalom "position on Israel", but we need to know that our community is a safe, respectful, Jewish environment where we can discuss the issues and share our perspectives.

We will meet for the discussion on **Sunday March 29th, at 2pm** (till about 4.30-5pm) at Marchmont St. Giles Church, 1A Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh EH9 1TZ.

## 2009 Jewish Film Festival Tour Scottish Dates

5<sup>th</sup> March

### ***Blessed is the Match***

### ***The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh***

Director: Roberta Grossman

USA 2008 85 mins

Language: English

Hannah Senesh was just 22 when she parachuted into Nazi-occupied Europe with a small band of Jewish volunteers from Palestine: the only military rescue mission for Jews during the Holocaust. A gifted student from a wealthy Budapest family, Hannah became a committed Zionist in the face of growing anti-Semitism in Hungary, emigrating to Palestine in 1939 without her beloved mother Catherine. Hannah's mission ended in tragedy when she was captured and executed in a Gestapo prison, yet her poetry and diaries have left an inspirational legacy.

Roberta Grossman's film tells Hannah's story as much through the eyes of Catherine Senesh as those of the heroine herself, bringing their letters and diaries to life with gripping reconstructions to explain how their bond, as well as Hannah's love for her people, compelled this courageous idealist to return to Hungary from the safety of her kibbutz. Narrated by Oscar-nominated actress Joan Allen, and featuring interviews with Hannah's fellow female parachutists and former Israeli president Shimon Peres, *Blessed is the Match* is an unmissable testament to a 20th century Joan of Arc.

12<sup>th</sup> March

### ***Noodle***

Director: Ayelet Menahemi

Israel 2007 101 mins

Language: Hebrew with English subtitles

Cast: With Mili Avital, Alon Aboutboul and Anat Waxman

A charming and deeply moving comic-drama about a young Israeli woman and an abandoned Chinese boy whose lives converge in the most surprising manner.

Miri, a thirty-something flight attendant who has been twice widowed, lives with her volatile sister Gila, who is in the throes of a mid-life crisis. Returning home from work one day Miri thinks nothing of being asked to look after their Chinese maid's young son. But when she fails to return Miri finds herself with a six year old Chinese boy silently waiting for his mother to come back. Thus begins a remarkable journey involving family, friends and an array of engaging characters, crossing continents and cultures in an attempt to reunite mother and child.

Flawless script, witty dialogue and well crafted visuals are all spiced up with a sensitive insight into human lives and loves, turning this film into a meaningful cinematic experience.

### ***Sidney Turtlebaum***

Director: Tristram Shapeero

UK 2008 20 mins

Language: English

Cast:

Producer: Daniel Jewel

Writer: Raphael Smith

Winner of The Pears Foundation UKJFF Short Film Fund 2008

Sidney Turtlebaum (played by acclaimed BAFTA, EMMY and TONY award-winning actor, Sir Derek Jacobi) is a bitter sweet comedy and cautionary tale set in present day Golders Green, the heart of London's Jewish community.

Sidney is an eccentric gay Jewish man in his eighties. To punish the world Sidney earns his living as a pickpocket and a con-man. When Sidney meets 26 year old Gabriel (Rupert Evans - *Hellboy*, *The Palace*) he cannot resist the opportunity to show off his skills to his new young friend.

All films will be showing at the Glasgow Grosvenor, 24 Ashton Lane, Glasgow.

## **2009 Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace**

The MESP Festival continues through 15th March with events, concerts, workshops and exhibits. Full details are available at [www.mesp.org.uk](http://www.mesp.org.uk). Several events with specific Jewish focus are highlighted here.

### **5th March**

#### **Evening Workshop: Jewish Approaches to Spiritual Healing**

**Facilitators: Chana Sophia Yaffe and Tirtza Singer**

**Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge**

**Time: 5pm for 5.30pm-9.30pm**  
**Cost: £15/£13 (Concessions)**

From the heart centre of Jerusalem, we will share with you the beautiful and moving Jewish spiritual traditions that bring healing and forgiveness to our families, our communities, our entire planet and ourselves.

The workshop draws on: Guided meditations that will allow us to touch a deeper place of awareness within ourselves; visualizations to open and heal the heart, enhanced by the harp; the writing of forgiveness letters; harp playing and soul singing; storytelling as a channel for personal transformation. We want to bring you to a place of profound healing. We invite you to join us to open the wellsprings of healing, awakening compassion with loving boundaries.

### **7th March**

**Special event hosted by Sukkat Shalom!**  
**Concert: Chana Jaffe and Tirtza Singer**

**Venue: Columcille Centre**

**Time: 8.30pm - 9.30pm**

**Cost: £7.50 or £5 concessions. Discount for Sukkat Shalom members.**

Jewish music and storytelling hosted by Sukkat Shalom - Edinburgh's Liberal Jewish Community.

Contact and Booking: Pay at the door or call Colin on 0131 558 9686 to reserve tickets.

### **10th March**

#### **A Celebration of Poetry from Scotland and the Middle East**

**Venue: Word Power Books, 43-45 West Nicolson Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9DB.**

**Time: 7pm for 7.30pm-8.40pm.**

Readers: Jenni Calder, Ghazi Hussein, Sheikh Ghassan Manasra and Jila Peacock.

Chair: Tessa Ransford.

This evening of poetry will include readings by Jila Peacock (of poems of Hafez), by Ghazi Hussein (of his own poems), by Sheikh Ghassan Manasra (of his own poems and of Rumi), and Jenni Calder (of Jewish poetry).

### **11th March**

#### **Lecture: Health, Wellbeing and Healing**

**Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge**

**Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm-9.30pm.**

**Cost: £5/£3 (Concessions)**

Prof. Stephen Wright will use fable and clinical studies to explore the implications for healthcare of a society in which spirituality has been debased and patients are seen as "no more than complex biopsychosocial systems".

Following the talk, there will be a forum discussion taking up these issues with particular reference to Scotland and the Middle East. Among the panellists will be Dr Kenneth Collins, Chair of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre.

## **“From Conflict to Co-operation”: Inter Faith Youth Conference**

**Hosted by the Scottish Interfaith  
Council and the Edinburgh Inter-  
faith Association**

**Sunday, 15th March  
1:30-6:30**

**St. John’s Church Hall, Edinburgh  
(corner Princes St & Lothian Rd)**

Young adults are invited for an afternoon of interfaith workshops followed by an optional vegetarian supper.

### **Discussion Workshops**

- 1) Professor Len Swidler, director of the Global Dialogue Institute in Temple University, Philadelphia, USA will lead a workshop on the theme of the conference
- 2) Racelle Weiman, Executive Director of the Global Dialogue Institute, will lead a workshop on the theme of the conference
- 3) Kate Turner, director of ‘Healing Through Remembering’, will lead a workshop on ‘Dealing with the past – relating to the conflict in Northern Ireland’
- 4) Dr Maureen Sier will show extracts from a new youth inter faith DVD and will lead a discussion on the theme of the conference

### **Music and Mediation Workshops**

- 1) Singing  
Members of Voicebeat, a multicultural choir based in Glasgow, will lead a singing workshop
- 2) Drumming  
Jane Bentley, founder of Art Beat, will lead a drumming workshop with African drums and percussion instruments
- 3) Clay meditation

A member of the SIFC youth committee will lead a meditative workshop using clay – always a popular option!

- 4) Buddhist Meditation  
Pende, Tibetan Buddhist Monk and resident of Samye Ling Tibetan Buddhist Centre near Dumfries will lead a workshop on Meditation and Conflict Resolution

For more information or to book a place, contact Frances Hume on [fhume@scottishinterfaithcouncil.org](mailto:fhume@scottishinterfaithcouncil.org) or call 0141 420 6920.

### **Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society Events**

#### **8th March**

#### **Jews Behaving Badly**

Join the Lit for an evening of pre-Purim fun! This Purim we present a mishmash of readings, poetry and songs all around the theme of Jews Behaving Badly, and for all to participate in.

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> March**

#### **Claire Ungerson on *The rescue of Jewish men from Greater Germany in 1939: the case of the Kitchener Camp in East Kent.***

Clare Ungerson is an Emeritus Professor of Social Policy. Since her retirement from the University of Southampton in 2004 she has moved away from Social Policy research and begun a study of a refugee camp for Jewish men which existed in East Kent in 1939/40. Known as the Kitchener or Richborough Camp, it was funded and organised by the Anglo-Jewish great and good. Given that 4000 men were saved and that she has found some fascinating archive material, it is surprising that so little has been published about the camp. This talk uses visual material, diaries, memoirs and interviews, to illustrate some important issues - why was the camp only for men, how were the men selected, and why was the British government willing to waive the usual visa requirements to allow these refugees into the UK.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> April**

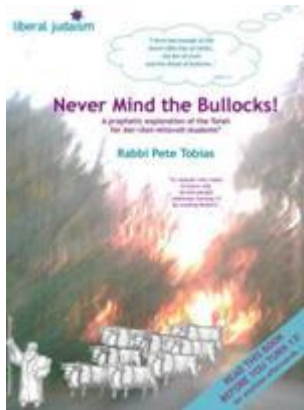
#### **Joachim Hemmerle on the *Yiddish puppet theatre “Haki-Baki.”***

All events take place at Salisbury Road, starting at 7:30 pm.

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## Never Mind the Bullocks! Book Launch for Rabbi Pete Tobias

Sunday 8th March at The Liberal Synagogue Elstree will see the launch of a new b'nei mitzvah textbook written by Rabbi Pete Tobias. The book, entitled, 'Never Mind the Bullocks!' in reference to a verse in Isaiah, takes the form of a conversation between a rabbi and the prophet as preparation for a bar-/bat-mitzvah course. At the launch, Rabbi Tobias will introduce the book, then lead a question and answer session. Refreshments will be provided, and signed copies will be available to buy. Please download the flyer from the LJ website or email Janet on [office@tlse.org.uk](mailto:office@tlse.org.uk).



## Rabbi Danny Rich appointed to CCJ Presidents' Council

The Council of Christians and Jews has announced a widening of the Presidents' Council with the appointment of three new Presidents from across the Jewish religious spectrum. Rabbi Danny Rich, Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism, Rabbi Dr. Abraham Levy, Spiritual Head of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation, and Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, Senior Rabbi of the Assembly of Masorti Synagogues, will join Rabbis Jonathan Sacks and Tony Bayfield as representatives from the Jewish Community.

## End to Violence for Women

You are invited to join in sending a letter of petition to your local MEP calling for a written declaration on the "Say NO to Violence against Women" campaign. The campaign has been initiated by UNIFEM to highlight the need for action and protection of women against violence. The written declaration calls on Member states to support the UNIFEM

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campaign and asks the Commission to declare a 'European Year on Zero Tolerance of Violence against Women' within the next five years. Please lobby your MEP to sign the declaration by the deadline of 12th March. A letter of petition can be downloaded from the Liberal Judaism website.

## Jewish-Christian Study Weekend

24th - 26th April. Liberal Judaism and the Dittons Council of Christians and Jews are co-sponsoring a Jewish-Christian study weekend at the beautiful Park Place Pastoral Centre in Hampshire. The weekend is led by Rabbi Danny Rich and Sister Margaret Shepherd, former National Director of the CCJ. Please download a [brochure](#) or email [d.rich@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:d.rich@liberaljudaism.org) for more information.

## Book now for Machaneh Aviv

14th - 19th April 2009. Machaneh Aviv is LJY-Netzer's Spring Camp for school years 3-10, a brilliant six-day adventure with everyone's favourite youth movement! For the first time ever, Machaneh Aviv will take place at LJY-Netzer's lovely Kadimah site, Cottesmore School in West Sussex. Places on Machaneh Aviv are limited and running out fast. To avoid missing out on this brilliant LJY-Netzer event **SIGN UP NOW**. Download the brochure and application form from the Liberal Judaism website and get them back to us ASAP. If you require a hard copy of either or have any questions, please call Selina 020 7631 9822 or email [s.o'dwyer@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:s.o'dwyer@liberaljudaism.org).

## Day of Celebration for Liberal Judaism

Saturday, 17th May, The Midlands Centre for Liberal Judaism. Come and celebrate your movement in this day of workshops and talks in Birmingham. Choose from over 25 fascinating workshops at this day of celebration for Liberal Judaism, with special events for youth run by LJY-Netzer. Baroness Neuberger will be speaking at the event. Adults: £6 / Under 18s: £1. Details are available on the website, or email [w.glassman@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:w.glassman@liberaljudaism.org)

For more details on any of these items, go to [www.liberaljudaism.org](http://www.liberaljudaism.org)

## How to Make a Life-changing Ethical Commitment

A committed connection to Israel can take many forms. I have wondered in the last two months more than ever what it must be really like to be Israeli, and how I can support Israel to become the place I want it to be. On Thursday 12th March we get a chance to find out what it means to put Jewish ethics on the line. Tamar Katz, from the Israeli Shministim (translates as S6 school leavers), will be speaking in Edinburgh that day.

The issue of military refusal in Israel has been brought to the fore by the Gaza conflict. The graphic reports of the deaths and injuries that it caused have resulted in many anguished discussions, often weighing the tactics used by each side against the other. For me, Hamas tactics don't affect the moral challenge posed by Israeli actions, and my personal hope for the meeting of March 29th is that we will see our community taking that moral challenge seriously. The challenge an Israeli teenager faces, however, is of a completely different order, with infinitely more serious consequences flowing from their decision. When, months ago, Tamar Katz had to decide on her future, she made a big decision:

"I refuse to enlist in the Israeli military on conscientious grounds. I am not willing to become part of an occupying army, that has been an invader of foreign lands for decades, which perpetuates a racist regime of robbery in these lands, tyrannizes civilians and makes life difficult for millions under a false pretext of security."

Only 19, Tamar has served three prison sentences for living up to her ethical commitment. Israeli school leavers face a huge burden of ethical responsibility:

"I oppose the anti-Palestinian policy of attrition and the oppression, not because I prefer the Palestinian society to the Israeli one, but out of an understanding that this

policy has led us down a dead-end road politically and to immorality, forced especially on soldiers stationed in the Occupied Territories. I am not willing to become one of those holding the gun pointed indiscriminately at Palestinian civilians, and I do not believe that such actions could bring any change except ever more antagonism and violence in our region."

Liberal Judaism takes a strong position on social justice. The following is taken from LJ's statement on social action ([http://liberaljudaism.org/tikkun\\_2.htm](http://liberaljudaism.org/tikkun_2.htm)):

"Prophets like Amos and Isaiah cried out against those who would place ritual over ethics, who would mouth fine words but fail to fulfil moral duties. Their words inspired our Liberal Jewish founders and have shaped our movement throughout its history. If we are to remain true to this precious legacy, social action must not be left to languish on the periphery of synagogue life. Fine words from our rabbis won't be enough to bring it back to the centre; neither will stirring editorials in synagogue newsletters."

Israel and Palestine will take generations to heal. We owe our support to young Israelis and Palestinians not to burden them with the sins of their and our ancestors, but to strengthen them. I encourage you to give Tamar and the other Shministim your support, and go and hear her speak. And go to the website of the Shministim (<http://december18th.org/>) and sign their petition against the imprisonment of teenage refusers.

*Catherine Lyons*

(who very much regrets that she personally has to be away from Edinburgh the day Tamar is here)

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Tamar Katz will be speaking on Thursday, March 12th, at 7pm in David Hume Tower Faculty Room South (George Square). All welcome.

## Our Crowd

By Joe Goldblatt

This month "Our Crowd" features our dedicated and talented newsletter editor, Kristi Long.

Q: What is your favourite Jewish holiday?

A: My favourite Jewish holiday is Rosh Hashanah. I chose this holiday among all others because: There are many different elements that I find appealing and meaningful. There's the excitement and anticipation of a new year. (I've always felt that the autumn was the real 'new year', not January 1st, possibly because I spent so many years in academia or in jobs closely tied to academia.) I love the traditional Rosh Hashanah liturgy, particularly Avinu Malkenu, the traditional Vidui and the traditional Unetanneh Tokef. I came to Judaism via the Conservative Movement, and miss some of the traditional elements of the liturgy that aren't included in the Liberal service. I also love the tradition of eating round foods, and doing Tashlich. To someone from a Protestant background, Rosh Hashanah is so unbelievably rich and multifaceted in terms of theology, liturgy and ritual practice. For me it exemplifies many things that I love about Judaism.

Q: What is your favourite Jewish food?

A: My favourite Jewish food is very hard to say. Probably bagels, which I dearly miss. Latkes run a close second, though.

Q: What is your favourite Jewish memory?

A: My immersion in the mikvah.

Q: What do you like best about our ELJC community?

A: Its participatory nature and do it yourself approach.

Q: Tell us a secret about you.

A: My father became a minister when I was 13, and my mother many years later when I was a graduate student. When I was a teenager, I hated being the preacher's kid. But I remember reading my father's comparative religion books when he was in seminary and being fascinated by different religions.

Q: Do you have any favourite Jewish songs?

A: Well, that depends on how you define a 'Jewish song'! Is it a song written or performed by Jews, or a song with some sort of 'Jewish content'? And, other than clearly liturgical or folk music, how would we define 'Jewish content'? Taking a broad approach to the notion of a 'Jewish song' I'll go out on a limb with 'I Want to Be Sedated' by the Ramones or Brave Combo's 'Hava Nagila Twist'. In terms of more recognizably Jewish songs, I'd go for 'Shalom Aleichem', which is probably my favourite liturgical song.

Q: What are your favourite Jewish composers, artists, entertainers or authors?

A: Among authors I would include Bruno Schultz, who wrote really magical short stories, and David Grossman, who's also clearly influenced by Schultz. I also really like Nathan Englander, Jonathan Safran Foer and some of Michael Chabon's work. I vividly remember reading Chaim Potok's *The Chosen* when I was young and being utterly enthralled with it. In non-fiction, I'd say Aviva Zornberg, Neil Gilman, and Claude Levi-Strauss. Favourite entertainers would have to be the Marx Brothers. I really like lots of early Woody Allen films. I like Marc Chagall's painting.

Q: If you could have dinner with some Jewish celebrities, whom would you invite?

A: If I limit myself to living people, then how about Claude Levi-Strauss (legendary anthropologist), Neil Gaiman (creator of the Sandman comics), Woody Allen, David Grossman (novelist), James Callis (actor), Adam Michnik (political thinker and opposition leader in Poland and a real hero of mine)

*(continued)*



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and Avivah Zornberg (brilliant commentator on the Bible). That's a selection of people that should be able to have an interesting conversation about literature, theory, theology and pop culture.

Q: What are your favourite travel destinations?

A: New York, but that's like going home. It used to be Edinburgh until I moved here. I haven't traveled much in recent years but I'd like to go to Prague and Budapest, and to Paris.

Q: How would you describe your personal journey to Judaism?

A: My personal journey to Judaism may best be described as an unexpected trip to a new but strangely familiar place. It was part of a larger process of shifting to an entirely new culture. It's interesting how much graduate school prepares you for becoming Jewish! I've always been fascinated by the concept of the pilpul (the Jewish soul born into a Gentile body) because I feel much more at home in Judaism than I ever felt as a Methodist.

**ELJC Support Group**  
**07904 813162**

## The Exchange

Do you have something you'd like to buy, sell, trade? Want to announce an achievement, or just share a bit of news with others in the community? Send contributions for the Members' Exchange to the editor at [newsletter@eljc.org](mailto:newsletter@eljc.org).

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## Membership Directory

The first-ever Sukkat Shalom membership directory is now available. Copies will be mailed to all members along with the papers for the AGM. In addition to contact information for fellow members, the directory contains all sorts of useful information about kosher food, Jewish life, etc.

Please remember that the membership directory contains personal details and is for members only. Copies should not be given to any other persons.

An enormous debt of gratitude is due to Gillian Raab, who worked tirelessly to pull all of this together. Gillian's efforts have given us a valuable way of keeping in touch and building our community.

Thanks, Gillian, from all of us!

Many thanks to all who contributed this month. Items for publication are welcomed, as are responses to items published. The deadline for the next newsletter will be Friday, 20th March. Please email all contributions to [newsletter@eljc.org](mailto:newsletter@eljc.org).



**The Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community**  
**Most Cordially Invites you and Your Guests to Celebrate**  
**Passover**  
**at the**  
**Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community Seder**

8th April 2009 at 7pm

Queen Margaret University (QMU)

Queen Margaret University Drive

Edinburgh EH21 6UU

Tickets are 25 pounds per person. This covers a three course meal, wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee and the seder led by Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich. Transportation to QMU is available by Lothian Bus (30) or train (8 minutes from Waverley Station to QMU/Musselburgh station).

**Payment in advance is important to secure the community's booking**

PLEASE POST YOUR PAYMENT TO NANCY WARREN at 2 Kirkbank Road, Burntisland KY3 9HX (cheques should be made payable to "Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh").

**Note, all payments must be received by 20 March 2009.** If a minimum number of bookings is not received by this date, we reserve the right to cancel this event and refund all payment. **Concessions are available to families, senior citizens and others who require assistance.**

Please contact Jonathan Broadie at [treasurer@eljic.org](mailto:treasurer@eljic.org) for a confidential discussion to enable a concession to be made available. For further information about the ELJC Community Seder please contact Dr. Joe Goldblatt at 0131-662-4149.

*Our World~Renowned Friends Return to Edinburgh*

*Chana Sophia Yaffe*

*&*

*Tirza Singer*

*for an Evening of*

*Jewish Music and Storytelling*

*on Saturday 7th March  
in the Columcille Centre, Newbattle Terrace  
from 8.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.*

*Hosted by Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community*

*Tickets £7.50 ~ Concessions £5.00 (for ELJC members)*

*at the door or telephone Colin ~ 0131 558 9686*