

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

May 2009

Chair: Gillian Raab, chair@elj.org

Secretary: Nancy Warren, secretary@elj.org

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Treasurer: Jonathan Broadie, treasurer@elj.org

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www.eljc.org

EVENTS & SERVICES

Date Friday 1st May
Event Erev Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre,
Newbattle Terrace
Time 7 pm

This is our regular erev Shabbat service.

Informal Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Dates Friday, 8th, 22nd & 29th May
Venue Marchmont - St Giles
1a Kilgraston Road
Time 6:15 pm

Join us for a short, informal service to welcome Shabbat. Note that there are three Kabbalat Shabbat services in May.

Date Saturday 16th May
Event Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre,
Newbattle Terrace
Time 11 am

Our regular Shabbat service will be held at Columcille this month.

Date Thursday, 28th May
Event Erev Shavuot Service
Venue Conservative Club,
67 Northumberland St
Time 7 pm

Note that this is not the venue advertised in last month's newsletter. Unfortunately Columcille had double booked! This will be followed by coffee and cheesecake, and depending on numbers we will have an informal discussion. We'll be finished by 10pm at the absolute latest!

Jewish Calendar for May 2009

12th May - Lag B'Omer
22nd May - Yom Yerushalayim
24th May - Rosh Hodesh Sivan
28th May - Erev Shavuot

EVENTS & SERVICES

Date Friday, 5th June
Event Chavurah Supper
Venue Columcille Centre,
Newbattle Terrace
Time 7 pm

Rabbi Mark is visiting us this weekend, and our chavurah supper will take the normal format i.e., there won't be a formal service so we'll start at 7pm with a few prayers and some songs/hymns, after which we'll eat and sing some more songs and say a few more prayers. As usual, please bring along a (non-meat) dish to share.

Date Saturday, 6th June
Event Shabbat Service
Venue St Marks
Castle Terrace
Time 11 am

This is an 'additional' service to our usual schedule. However as Rabbi Mark is visiting us, and we are having the informal chavurah supper on erev Shabbat, we wanted Rabbi Mark to lead a more formal service.

The service will be followed by **Tea and Talmud** at 2.30pm, also at St Marks. **Choosing Judaism** will take place on Sunday, 7th June at 10am.

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Party Invitation

Nancy Warren and David Nelson invite the congregation to a party to honor Maurice Naftalin for his years as Sukkat Shalom's chairman - and his wife Ruth Hendery for all her generousities.

4:30 PM

May 10, 2009

2 Kirkbank Road

Burntisland

The house is an easy walk (about half a mile) from the train station. For directions by car or by foot from the station, please call or email David at 01592-870322 or dmn261034@mac.com.

If you would like to bring a snack to share, please call or email Nancy at 01592-870322 or nancymmwarren2@gmail.com to let her know if it's sweet or savory.

If the weather is fine, the links across the street will have "crazy golf" and a soft play area. There is also a nice playground on the links and a small beach. There's plenty of room for frisbees and kites.

RSVP to Nancy at
nancymwarren2@gmail.com

Subscriptions Reminder

Subscriptions for the new year are now due. Please return all forms with payment to Jonathan Broadie. Remember that all cheques must be made payable to "Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh". If you did not receive a subscription renewal form, contact Jonathan at treasurer@eljic.org or call the community phone.

Meeting on the Israel - Palestinian Situation

On Sunday March 29th our community had a meeting to discuss the situation between Israel and the Palestinians. This is an issue which potentially divides us, and Jews around the world, as much as it divides many Israelis and Palestinians in the Middle East.

The meeting was facilitated by Stew Green and Sue Lieberman and in total, about 14 members attended. Although clearly only a start, the topic was engaged with very constructively by all present. Overall the feeling was that the discussion and the process was very positive. Perhaps it might be said that we didn't really get very far into difficult issues but given where we are now and the need to go carefully and openly with each other, that seemed about right as a start.

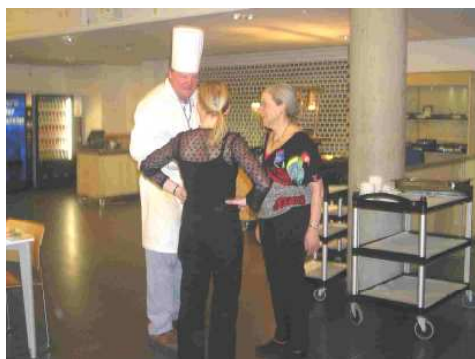
Whether or not we may at some point need to build on this remains to be seen. Either way, though, it is very encouraging that we were able to hold a discussion such as this in such a peaceful, mutually respectful and stimulating fashion. That can only bode well for our growing community.

Pesach at ELJC

Our communal seder was held at a new venue this year, at the new campus of Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh and was professionally catered. The event was attended by over 60 people and led by student rabbi Tanya Sahknovich, seen here encouraging the children in their rendering of the Mah Nishtanah.



The evening was a really participative event with contributions from many who attended including a chance for anyone who wanted (and many did) to say what “Dayenu” event they would like to give thanks for. Leora Wadler impressed us all by reciting a poem, “The Four Questions” from *Uncle Eli’s Haggadah*. The catering staff were very receptive to being instructed in the how to make the meal chametz free. Here the chef is being congratulated on the lightness of his kneidlach by the chair and her daughter, Anna.



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to organising the evening and making it a success.

Gillian Raab

Not Quite Jerusalem - Sukkat Shalom’s Pesach Seder in 5769 (CE -2009)

We held this year’s Seder in the Queen Margaret’s University new campus in East Lothian.

I was very moved by it all – the personal reflections on my own journey, the location, the sense of us being a community at peace regardless of our differences, and a lovely extended family atmosphere led by Rabbi Tanya. This event is now etched in my memory as something special, unforgettable, a place of peace.

It did however take a lot of work by others. As a community I am sure we all thank all involved for their time, work and energy in making this Seder a success. Next Year in Jerusalem! Or perhaps even in Queen Margaret University as our local Diaspora meaningful alternative. To be honest, I don’t think I could cope with Jerusalem as it is at the moment. Our Olives on the Seder plate while Hamas rockets ever fall on Jewish homes including those that seek an equitable co-existence! There are no easy answers! Human dignity and freedom; embodied for us by Pesach, involving cost, understanding, compassion and sacrifice, going beyond our comfort zone! Much missing in this world now!

As the light faded and the pond outside disappeared from view; the anticipation in the hall rose, I remember thinking we could be in some sort of Scottish kibbutz hall (in East Lothian or Israel) – for no matter what the trials and tribulations or even the ways of living Jewish life, Jews throughout the world do at least in faith come to share as a community of Klal Yisrael – “All Israel” on these spine points of our celebrations.

Continued on next page

I think what hit me hard was being a member of an Edinburgh progressive Jewish community celebrating Pesach in East Lothian – where I and a few others of us live. It was circle of life stuff.

There was no known progressive community when I lived in Edinburgh, and because of trying to make a Transatlantic love viable, my own faith journey easier, and to fulfil a career dream, I headed south – into the lion's den.

I had both my happiest and my darkest moments of my life down south. City battered, looking for the quieter countrified ways of Scotland that I knew of the past, I came to what is now home, to East Lothian.

It took time to join ELJC. And now I wonder why I did not do so when I first returned. Both Rabbonim Aaron Goldstein and Janet Burden spoke so highly of you.

I am a very private person, now somewhat verging on reclusive, so if I did not meet you before – perhaps we will next time in our “Not Quite Jerusalem” Queen Margaret University venue! I had much to say Dayenu for. If you, like me, did not express it at the time, I hope those thanks will continue to inspire you in your life journey.

Jamie Shearer-Bromfield



From the Chair

I am writing this on the Sunday morning after the Shabbat Service where Rabbi Mark led us in a very moving commemoration for Yom Ha'shoah. It was wonderful to see such a large congregation; it felt like a High Holyday service. But growth also has its challenges. When we were only a handful of individuals and families it was easy to keep everyone informed, but with so many members it is really important that we ensure our members know what is going on. These thoughts made me decide to use this spot in the newsletter to keep our members informed as to what matters we are discussing at our council meetings and to remind them how they can find out more.

We now hold council meetings about once every 6 weeks. The minutes of all the council meetings can be accessed on the “organisation” section of our web site (<http://www.eljc.org>). To access this you need a user name and password which you can get by emailing webmaster@eljc.org. If there are any items that a member would like to have discussed then they need only approach any council member to have the item considered for the agenda. Members are welcome to attend any council meeting and to contribute to the meeting, at the discretion of the council members present, but not to vote.

At our first council meeting after the AGM the business was mainly a review of the working groups that carry out most of Sukkat Shalom's business. See last month's newsletter and the web site for the outcome of this. Our next meeting will be a longer one than usual where we will be considering our strategic plans for the coming year. This will be an occasion to sit back and review what we are doing now, how we might change things or what new directions might be worth trying. We will soon be putting together a list of subject headings for this meeting. Here are a few that I have thought of as a start.

- Premises – should we attempt to rent a more permanent place or buy?

Continued overleaf

- Adult education – what would people want? how can we help each other?
- Membership issues – in particular should we have some outreach to the many Jewish students in Edinburgh?

These are not final and may not be endorsed by other council members. We would welcome any input from members ahead of the meeting on these topics or for additional headings that might help to structure our meeting. We are not looking to change the course of Sukkat Shalom in a drastic way, because we feel that we have been sailing with a fair wind these last few years, but we just to make sure we are following the course that we would all wish. We look forward to hearing from you.

Gillian Raab (chair@eljic.org)

Our Crowd

By Joe Goldblatt

This month we feature Burntisland resident, David Nelson.

What is your favourite Jewish holiday? Pass-over.

Why? I get to eat gefillte fish, made (by me) to my mother's recipe!

(Author's note: It is extraordinarily good and delicious!)

Why did you choose gefilte fish? It carries such good memories of my family life.

What is your favourite Jewish memory?

Getting married (again) under the chuppah in Nancy's California house.

What do you like best about Sukkat Shalom?

The friendliness of everyone, and the total absence of any pressure (even implied) to conform in any particular way.

What is one thing most Sukkat Shalom community members may not know about you that you wish to share?

I cannot remember how many times I have hugged opera star Dame Kiri te Kanawa.

What is one of your favourite Jewish songs?

Zogshe mir rebenyu, lechem is vos? Bei de negidim .

Who are your favourite Jewish composers, artists, entertainers or authors?

Felix Mendelssohn, David Oistrakh, Daniel Barenboim, Marc Chagall, Danny Kaye, Goldie Hawn, and Miriam Margolyes.

Who would like to have dinner with?

Robert Winston and Jonathan Miller.

What are your favourite travel destinations?

Venice, rural France and Norway.


How do you describe your personal journey to liberal Judaism?

A poor education and a partial exposure; then a long move away, gladly chosen. Now I am happy to be associated, through my wife, with a liberal Jewish community. Had this been the context in which I started, I might never have left.

When you think of Sukkat Shalom, how do you describe the community?

Friendly and welcoming. Sukkat Shalom is a community that welcomes fresh faces and extends a friendly hand to them.





liberal judaism

Singing Weekend at NPLS

Interested in developing your singing skills?

NPLS are holding a weekend of singing workshops for everyone in a stimulating community atmosphere. They will provide you with the music and skills to enhance your community with choral, traditional and folk style music. And for individuals there will be vocal technique, introduction to Torah cantillation, illustrated talks, performance, food and much more.

The event takes place Friday 24th - Sunday 26th July at Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue (NPLS) For more information or contact the NPLS office on 01923 822 592. A booking form is available at www.liberaljudaism.org/pdf/SingingWeekend_NPLS_July09.pdf. £70 for members of Liberal Judaism congregations, £110 for non-members.

Biggest Machaneh Aviv Ever!

This year's Machaneh Aviv is the biggest ever, with 57 chanichim already signed up and many more applications still coming in. Chanichim will be looked after, entertained and educated by a huge 21-strong L JY-Netzer tzevet and the camp will now be taking place in the much-loved Hogwartsesque Kadimah site, Cottessmore School in West Sussex . There are only 13 places left on Machaneh Aviv so book soon to avoid disappointment by emailing ben@liberaljudaism.org or calling 020 7631 0584.



liberal judaism

Friends of Progressive Judaism AGM

The Friends of Progressive Judaism AGM will take place on Sunday 21st June at 3pm at The Sternberg Centre, 80 East End Road , London N3 2SY . Following the brief formal meeting there will be a break for refreshments, after which Rabbi Dr Tony Bayfield will give a lecture entitled Israel: Hope Or Despair? For more information email Jane at jane.greenfield@sky.com

Summer Institute at Leo Baeck College

The Summer Institute at Leo Baeck College is a unique development opportunity for Jewish professionals, voluntary leaders, rabbis, educators and teachers. This year's Summer Institute features Rabbi Steve Greenberg (Jewish Centre for Learning and Leadership, CLAL New York) and Rabbi Shoshana Boyd Gelfand (Executive Director, The Movement for Reform Judaism). Tuesday 30th June - Thursday 2nd July 2009. Email info@lbc.ac.uk for more information.

Holocaust Memorial Day Newsletter

The latest edition of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Newsletter contains details of how to download a copy of the book that lists events that took place to mark HMD in 2009. This book also serves as a source of inspiration for events in 2010. If you'd like to subscribe to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust newsletter, simply email news@hmd.org.uk.

Yiddish Films of Edgar Ulmer at the Filmhouse

A chance to see some classic Yiddish films from the US!

Green Fields

Sun 10 May at 2.00pm

Cast: Michael Goldstein, Helen Beverly, Isidore Cashier, Anna Appel, Max Vodnoy, 1937.

The most critically acclaimed and beloved of American Yiddish talkies, Edgar Ulmer's soulful, open-air adaptation of Peretz Hirshbein's classic play heralded the Golden Age of Yiddish cinema. When an ascetic young scholar ventures into the Lithuanian countryside, searching for the city of 'true Jews', he learns some unexpected lessons from the Jewish peasants who take him in as a boarder and tutor for their children.

This screening will be preceded by a 30-minute talk on the films of Edgar Ulmer, by Barry Davis. Barry Davis taught history at Kingston, Warwick and Thames Valley Universities. He has taught Yiddish on Summer courses at Oxford and SOAS, and teaches at Spiro Ark and the London Jewish Culture Centre. He has acted in and advised on Yiddish on a number of films and on stage and is a writer on Jewish History and Yiddish Literature and film.

The Singing Blacksmith

Sun 17 May at 3.30pm

Cast: Moishe Oysher, Miriam Riselle, Florence Weiss, Anna Appel, Ben-Zvi Baratoff, 1938.

Moishe Oysher, the renowned cantor and star of Yiddish radio, stars in this musical version of David Pinski's play 'Yankl der Schmid', a classic 1906 drama by one of America's most significant Yiddish writers. Shot at a Catholic monastery in New Jersey, the film focuses on a tough, hard-drinking, womanising blacksmith who is ultimately transformed into a good,

hardworking husband by the love of a decent woman.

The Light Ahead

Sun 24 May at 3.30pm

Cast: David Opatoshu, Helen Beverly, Isidore Cashier, Rosetta Bialis, Anna Guskin, 1939.

Impoverished and disabled lovers Fishke and Hodel dream of life in the big city of Odessa, free from the poverty and stifling old-world prejudices of the shtetl. Made on the eve of World War II, *The Light Ahead* is at once romantic, expressionist, and painfully conscious of the danger about to engulf European Jews.

American Matchmaker

Amerikaner Shadkhn

Sun 31 May at 4.00pm

Cast: Leo Fuchs, Judith Abarbanel, Judel Dubinsky, Anna Guskin, Celia Brodtkin, 1940.

Leo Fuchs, the 'Yiddish Fred Astaire', stars in this musical comedy as Nat Silver, a debonair and fabulously wealthy Jewish-American businessman whose recent engagement (his eighth) goes awry. With its urbane, neurotic hero, *American Matchmaker* looks ahead to the films of Woody Allen.

All films in Yiddish with English subtitles. Restoration and new English subtitles by The National Center for Jewish Film.

All films at the Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Road.

Could you help out once a month?

We could do with help in sending out the print copies of the newsletter every month. You would be sent an electronic copy and mailing labels. Your job would be to print it off, get copies made and posted out. Costs will be reimbursed.

Please email newsletter@eljc.org if you think you could help.

Members' Exchange

Nancy Warren is delighted to report that she has been granted "**indefinite leave to remain**" in Britain. So, she plans to stick around.

Congratulations to **Rebecca Wober** and **Gordon Duffy** on the **birth of their son, Solomon Woodburn Duffy** was born 27th March weighing 7lb 1oz. Both parents and baby are doing well. A baby blessing with the community will be arranged.

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.

*The souls that were yet
to be created were
there.... So did the
sages of all
generations receive
their wisdom from
Sinai.*

Isaac, Exodus Rabbah

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, 22nd May. Please email all contributions to newsletter@eljc.org.

Looking Ahead Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 3rd May : Hill walk, Ben Ghlas and Ben Lawers. Rabbi Nancy's second and third Munro. Everyone who has expressed an interest in this should have received a detailed email about meeting up and coordinating transport. Anyone else who wants to come should contact Gillian (chair@eljc.org 07748 678 551) a.s.a.p. so we can see if we can fit you in to the transport arrangements. NOTE: IF THE WEATHER IS BAD WE WILL NOT BE ATTEMPTING TO DO THIS WALK, SO LAST MINUTE CONTACT NUMBERS ARE IMPORTANT

Sunday, 10th May, Party to honor Maurice Naftalin and Ruth Hendery, hosted by David Nelson and Nancy Warren in Burntisland. For details, see the invitation on p. 2.

Friday 12th June, Kaballat Shabbat service, 6.15pm at Marchmont St Giles

Saturday 20th June, Shabbat service, 11am at the **Quaker Meeting House**

Friday 26th June, Kaballat Shabbat service, 6.15pm at Marchmont St Giles

Nick & Kate will be hosting the **annual BBQ in Linlithgow on Sunday 14th June**. The format will be the same as in previous years, so we'll start at 12.30pm and finish when we finish. Full details will be in next month's newsletter, but if you've never been before, there are regular train (and bus) services from Edinburgh and a lift can be arranged from Linlithgow station.

ELJC Support Group
07904 813162