

Sukkat Shalom

December 2012

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

Chair: Gillian Raab, chair@eljc.org
Secretary: secretary@eljc.org
Newsletter: Hannah Holtschneider, newsletter@eljc.org
Treasurer: Claudette Hudes, treasurer@eljc.org
Membership: Eva Wiseman, membership@eljc.org
Catering: Maureen Mackinnon catering@eljc.org

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

Events and Services

Date Friday 7 December 2012

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Venue Marchmont St Giles, 2a Kilgraston Road
Time 6:15pm

Date Friday 14 December 2012

Event Erev Shabbat Service for Human Rights,
led by Rabbi Mark Solomon
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 7pm

Date Saturday 15 December 2012

Event Chanukah Party with Rabbi Mark Solomon
for details see p 3.
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 3-5:30pm

Date Sunday 16 December 2012

Event Choosing Judaism
Venue Usual location
Time 10:30am

Event Spinoza

Venue St Mark's Unitarian Church,
Castle Terrace (downstairs room)
Time 4pm

Date Friday 21 December 2012

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Venue Marchmont St Giles, 2a Kilgraston Road
Time 6:15pm

Date Saturday 29 December 2012

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

Date Friday 4 January 2013

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Venue Marchmont St Giles, 2a Kilgraston Road
Time 6:15pm

Date Friday 10 - Sunday 12 January 2013

Events **Erev Shabbat Service, Shabbat Service**
led by Rabbi Mark Solomon
Tea & Talmud
Choosing Judaism (usual location)
Spinoza
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace

**Deadline for copy for
January 2013 newsletter:
31 December 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.

Contents

Page 2 *Future dates, Liberal Judaism*
Page 3 *Chairman's word, Chanukah Party*
Page 4 *Community matters*
Page 5 *Events and announcements*
Page 6 *Limmud article by Michael Elam*
Page 7 *Limmud sipper photos and kugel recipe*
Page 8 *Invitation to public Menorah*

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.

Chanukah	9.-17.12.2012
Tu B'Shevat	26.1.2013
Purim	24.2.2013
Pesach	26.3.-2.4.2013
Shavuot	16.-16.5.2013
9 Av	16.7.2013



Israel Statement from Danny Rich (20.11.2012)

Dear Liberal Judaism constituent member,

Many of you will be aware that last Thursday I signed the British Jewish community letter of support, addressed to His Excellency Daniel Taub, the Ambassador of Israel.

I did so because it was my view that Hamas, the governing party in Gaza – rather than splinter groups- was responsible for the firing of rockets into Israel, that faced with such provocation Israel had a right to decide on a means to protect its citizens, and that Israel's response was targeted at military personnel, potential rocket launch sites, and other institutions of power.

In a community letter – and since it was to be despatched within hours – it was not possible to 'tweak' the letter to suit particular views or express nuances.

Liberal Judaism has in all its statements and efforts always advocated for a solution which offers peace with justice for both Israelis and Palestinians. Further it believes that bellicose statements and force by either or both sides serve the interests of neither Israelis nor Palestinians and is likely to lead to a greater escalation of violence and to further loss of

civilian life.

Israeli spokespersons have declared that 'some 80% or more of long term rockets have been destroyed' and it seems that a ceasefire is now a possibility.

Liberal Judaism urges both parties to operate a ceasefire without preconditions and calls upon all parties involved – including the United Nations, the United States, and the British government – to do all in their power to support a genuine and sustained effort to reach a longer term solution whereby Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side with dignity and security.

'What is obtained by justice is retained, but what is obtained by force proves a burden.' *American Friends Service Committee Pamphlet, 1955.*

Rabbi Danny Rich
Chief Executive

The text of the JLC letter can be found here:

<http://www.thejlc.org/2012/11/conflict-with-hamas-communal-leaders-express-solidarity-with-israel/>

Liberal Judaism Diary

Liberal Judaism has produced a new downloadable diary that is now available for all our members.

Download your copy here:

<http://www.liberaljudaism.org/written-word-resources/45/669-liberal-judaism-diary-5773.html>

Bnei Mitzvah Israel Tour

Voucher Project

Liberal Judaism's Bnei Mitzvah Israel Tour Voucher Project launches this coming January. The project will give those who go through the Bnei Mitzvah process in a Liberal community, a £50 discount voucher for LJY-Netzer's unique and incredible Israel Tour. Sam Grant is in the process of contacting all Liberal communities to build a database and ensure the project is successful. If you want to get in touch or have any questions please email Sam:

sam@liberaljudaism.org

To find out more about LJY-Netzer's Israel Tour

please click here: <http://www.ljy-netzer.org/2012/09/israel-tour-returns/>

Student Chanukah Packs!

Make sure you get your chanukah pack from the LJ Students team by emailing Benji

(benji@liberaljudaism.org) with your address now!

Chairman's Word

This year the festival of Chanukah coincides with Human Rights week. As you will see from page 1, our Erev Shabbat service on Friday 14th December will be a Human Rights Shabbat. The exact format of this is still being planned, so if you have any ideas about things we might do, or if you would like to contribute something please email our info address (info@eljic.org).

One of the ideas we have in mind is to highlight the work of the organisation Rene Cassin (see www.renecassin.org). Cassin was a French lawyer and human rights activist. Following the atrocities of the Holocaust, he and Eleanor Roosevelt, wrote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. You can find the full text of the declaration, along with commentary by Rabbi Mark from a link on the current front page of our web site (www.eljc.org). The organisation Rene Cassin is a human rights NGO that uses the experience of the Jewish people, and positive Jewish values, to campaign and educate on universal human rights issues such as discrimination, detention, and genocide. Their website has several ideas as to what we might be able to do to advance help these rights to be for everyone in the world.

One of the most inspiring sessions I attended at Limmud (see Michael Elam's article on Page 6) was a talk by Steve Miller of Tzedek, a Jewish Organisation to combat extreme poverty. His approach was that of working through education, but not just simply providing educational resources imposed from outside. Instead their work in the poor communities of Northern Ghana involves leadership training starting in the pupils' mother tongue that empowers local teachers to develop educational programs themselves.

This approach reminded me of the Fairtrade approach to helping farmers. If you are planning to buy any chocolate Chanukah Gelt for your families, do try to make it Fairtrade. It is often hard to find this and some of the chocolate coins one can find at this time of year are not only unfair trade but pretty nasty chocolate. Some of the best Fairtrade Chocolate is made by "Divine Chocolate". This firm supports farmers, also in Ghana, and they make both milk and dark chocolate coins. I don't know of any local stockists (let me know if you find any), but one can order them online from several websites and we have some for the kids at the Chanukah Party (see below).



Finally, of course, at this time we are thinking of the human rights of people in Israel and in Palestine to live without the threat of rockets or bombs. As I write this the seemingly fragile cease fire still appears to be holding. Let us hope that this will continue through Chanukah and beyond, and we may even have some progress in the peace process,

Wishing you all a peaceful and Happy Chanukah,
Gillian Raab

The Sukkat Shalom Chanukah Party for all the family!

Organised by the cheder families

Saturday 15th December, Columille Centre 3 Newbattle Terrace



Start 3pm

Candle lighting 5.00pm (bring your Chanukiahs)

Finish 5.30pm

Rabbi Mark Solomon will be there to join in the fun.

Dreidel tournament!

Latkes!

Food and drink!

Mass Menorah lighting!

And much more

Contributions of Chanukah party snacks will be welcome.

Community Matters

Kol Nidre Appeal update

This year our Kol Nidre development charity is Money for Madagascar, and as I have just received their annual newsletter, I thought members might be interested to learn a bit more of how your contributions will help.

A few facts about Madagascar

According to UNICEF, the population of Madagascar is now 20.7 million, nearly 1 million of whom are orphans. The average Malagasy completes just 4.4 years of education, largely due to a lack of classrooms. Over half the children under the age of five suffer from retarded growth, and Madagascar is sixth worst in the world for malnutrition. 57% of the population lives in extreme poverty.

What MfM does to help

Last year, MfM sent over £200,000 to projects in Madagascar. MfM's costs are extremely low (3.5% of their income), since at present much of the work of running the charity is done by volunteers.

Projects include:

- * La Source, a school/training centre for young people with learning disabilities;
- * encouraging enterprise and developing life-skills among vulnerable teenage girls;
- * help for silk farmers in the north east of the country to produce silk, as they can no longer use the protected nature reserve as a source of living;
- * work to protect the vastly-diminished Betampona rain forest through helping local people with safe water, education as to how to grow food in non-destructive ways, and reforestation (which protects their water sources).

There are others, which you can read about on MfM's website, www.moneyformadagascar.org and blog, moneyformadagascar.blogspot.com.

Sue Lieberman

Kol Nidre Appeal

If you have not already done so, there is still time to contribute to the Kol Nidre Appeal, but do so soon as we plan to close it and send off the cheques before the end of 2012.

Members' News

Mazal Tov to Anna and Tim Dover (parents of Connie) on winning the Scottish Licensed Trades News award for Restaurant of the Year for the Roost Restaurant in Bridge of Earn, Perthshire.

Our best wishes go to **Thelma Henderson** who has recently been in hospital. We are delighted to hear that she is back home and doing well. We wish her refuah shlema, (a full recovery) soon.

Miriam Vickers has artwork in the following exhibitions: 1. Compass Gallery, Glasgow 2. Feral Landscape at Edinburgh Printmakers Workshop 3. Natural Curiosity at Patriothall Studios, Hamilton Place. Stockbridge opposite Stockbridge Library. See www.naturalcuriosityexhibition.weebly.com This runs from 7th -20th December 2012 and Miriam would like any friends to attend the private view, but please RSVP to Lynn@lynnwilson.co.uk

Chanukah Candles

We have candles at £2 which will be available at all events from now on, or contact info@eljc.org

Events and Announcements

Two more Ha'aretz Articles on Scottish Jews

1. How Jewish is the only Jewish School in Scotland?
2. Does Scotland manage to be anti-Israel without being anti-Semitic?

We even get a mention in the second of these. You can read them online (you need to sign in – it is free for 10 articles) by going to <http://www.haaretz.com> and searching for "Scotland".

Listen to Rabbi Mark online

Those of us who were able to attend Rabbi Mark's lecture for Interfaith Week at New College "The Influence of Islam on Judaism" were given an amazing tour of the early histories of Islam and Judaism. This was told through five Jewish scholars, from Saadiah Gaon in 9th/10th Century Baghdad to Moses and Abraham Maimonides in 12th Century Cordoba and Cairo. In each of their works there is evidence of a very strong Islamic influence that continues to influence us up to the present. Responses to Mark's presentation were given by a Muslim and a Christian scholar. As ever, those of us who were there felt very proud to have such an accomplished speaker as our Rabbi.

If you were not able to be there you will soon be able to listen to the whole event online at the web site of the Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World: www.alwaleed.ed.ac.uk

Do you get the Edinburgh Star?

If not, now is your chance. This beautifully produced glossy magazine for the Edinburgh Jewish Community comes out twice a year, before Rosh Hashanah and before Pesach. Thanks to Claudette Hudes, who sits on the editorial board, we have had several contributions from our community in recent editions. There is no formal price, but



those who receive it are expected to send in donations. If you would like to be on the mailing list please send your name and address to Sidney Caplan

(email sidthefootman@blueyonder.co.uk).

Special offer: There are still a few copies of the last issue available. If you sign up soon you may be in time to get one of them.

Community Centre Committee Chanukah

Dinner

Saturday 8th December 2012, Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road

Drinks Reception at 6.30pm, Lighting the Chanukiah at 7pm

£25 adults/£5 under 10's/£12.50 students

Please send your name, cheque (made out to 'Jewish Community Centre') and the number of tickets needed to (please indicate if vegetarian alternative to chicken required): Betsy Dorfman, 163/7 The Maltings, Slateford Road, Edinburgh EH14 1PD by 23rd November 2012.

If you need a lift to the event contact Steven Hyams on 445 3740.

Chabad Menorah Lighting in St Andrew's Square

Sunday, December 9th at 6.30pm

See page 8 for large copy of invitation



Interview partner wanted

Susie Imber, an American living in Fife, would like to find someone around her own age (60s) to interview for an art project about their family's immigration journey, to compare with her own father's immigration journey. Susie's dad was Jewish and went to the US, and she's doing an art degree in Dundee. Please get in touch with her directly: susieimber@btinternet.com

Columcille Christmas Fair

Saturday 8th December, 9-5pm, Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace.

LIMMUD VIRGIN

By Michael Elam



At 09:59 on the morning of Sunday 25th November (2012) I walked through the doors of Holyrood R.C. High on Dixon Rd, Glasgow, for what was to be my very first Limmud! This in fact was I believe Scotland's sixth Limmud Event!

My first Limmud was a painless and joyous experience if not, just a bit over stimulating! There was some concern that maybe some of my desired speakers and their topics that I was keen to go and hear speak might be over subscribed! 'Oh No!' If so, I was prepared as advised to have a second speaker choice to hand. Indeed, many of the talks I attended were packed out! But room was made for more and made for more again and again!

It was great to see so many of the faces that I have got to know and become acquainted with from both east and west of Scotland since I first started attending Sukkat Shalom in July of this year.

The last time I had the company of so many Jews was in Israel in 1993 where I spent my summer as a nineteen year old! There was a coach laid on for us Edinburgh lot, which left from The Salisbury Arms, at the top of Old Dalkeith Rd. The weather on that Sunday morning was thoroughly dreadful! The coach driver was reluctant to let us on before the scheduled 8am departure. The coach driver was also adamant that we the 'travel party' delegate one member of our party to be in charge of our group! The coach driver also insisted that we should not eat food on the coach for the duration of the journey! All of our party including some very young children, turned up to board this coach on a very early and very dark dreich Edinburgh morning. Maybe our coach driver's mood was matching the weather that morning!

One thing that was clear from the topics the speakers spoke about was that the hour was just not long enough! So I felt! Three talks that day that really stand out for me are our very own Sukkat Shalom's Rabbi Mark Solomon's talk 'Equal Marriage The Jewish Way', which was well attended and participated in. Another talk that stands out for me was Glasgow's Reform Rabbi Lisa Barrett's talk 'Listening To G-d 's Voice-An Introduction To Jewish Spiritual Direction'. This can be a strange concept to some but I found listening to Rabbi Lisa's own personal experience and meditative techniques, very invigorating! For Session Six I took in Hagai M. Segal's 'The Arab Spring, Israel And The Middle East'. Segal is fast paced and quick fire, giving the listener a full and complete picture of the current situation on what's news and what's happening and the stuff we don't always get to hear about!

Throughout the day there was a constant supply of coffee/teas and shortbread! Mmhh Mmhh! I took full advantage! Lunch was a simple hearty soup and filled rolls but very nice and very filling.

At the end of the day there was just enough time to take in a bit of Klezmer, Scotland's very own Jewish Folk band. I was very impressed with the band's lead female vocalist's version of Cher's Walking In Memphis!

What thoroughly wonderful day! I'am most certainly looking forward to the next LIMMUD SCOTLAND!!

Then it was time to board the coach home ... with a different driver! And a different attitude! Then it occurred to me that 'I have never been on 'Jewish' coach trip before!

I have now!

Limmud Supper

We were very pleased to have extra visitors as well as a good turnout of members at our chavura supper last Erev Shabbat, which was part of the Limmud Scotland weekend, see previous page. We outdid each other with wonderful dishes. See the recipe for one below. We also had a fascinating after-dinner talk from Lydia Aisenberg, seen in the picture below talking with Yonathan (also Eisenberg) and Melissa. She told us about her early life in Wales, subsequent experiences in an aggressively secular Kibutz, and finally about her work at



Givat Haviva the International Centre dedicated to promoting mutual responsibility, civic equality and cooperation between divided groups in Israel. During this short talk she could only outline a few of the issues she has to deal with, but her main message was about the complexity of the situation where often nothing is as it seems. Lots of informal discussion ensued as we can see from the small corner of the room shown here.

Apple-Noodle Kugel

By Louise Primrose

Several people asked who had made the delicious kugel that was brought to our Limmud supper. It was Louise Primrose, and here is her recipe and the story of how she perfected it.

One cup of raisins soaked in a cup of sweet wine or orange liqueur until raisins are plump.

500g of egg noodles

1/4 cup of butter or margarine

8 Granny Smith apples peeled, cored and finely sliced

1/2 cup of light-brown sugar

3/4 cup of apricot jam

3/4 cup of ground almonds

1/2 cup of honey

5 large eggs

Ground cinnamon for dusting.

Heat oven to 350. Grease two 9x12 inch baking trays or combination.

Melt the butter/margarine in pot large enough to hold all the apples, brown sugar, apricot jam and sauté until the apples are soft.

Cook the noodles for no longer than the directions on package and drain, don't over cook.

Remove the apples and mix with the noodles and 2/3 of the raisins drained. Beat the 5 large eggs well, then mix through the noodles and apples. Place the mixed apples, raisins, noodles and egg mixture in to baking trays.

There should be at least half a pot of liquid (add apple juice to the half way mark of the pot) add the remaining raisins and stir in the ground almonds.

Pour the liquid evenly through the noodles and apples. Dust with cinnamon to taste.

Place in middle of oven and turn down to 275 and bake until golden brown and cooked through (approx 35 mins).

Serve with honey, maple syrup etc.

I was once recruited by my kibbutz mother to peel 24 apples for a kugel for the later part of the Shabbat meal, then watched her make a huge kugel, only 19 apples went in the other apples were eaten before it was made. The final bake was truly delicious served with condensed milk (from a white tube with a black patched cow on it); ever since then I've tried to get it right.

6" H

CHANUKAH

A Celebration of Light



SUNDAY, 9 OF DECEMBER 2012
6:30PM
At St. Andrew Square opposite George Street
Followed by a Reception at Harvey Nichols - Forth Floor
Greetings from Local Dignitaries

This event will be tweeted!
This is a project of Chabad of Edinburgh & Harvey Nichols
www.chabadofedinburgh.com