

Sukkat Shalom

January 2013

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

Chair: Gillian Raab, chair@eljc.org
Secretary: secretary@eljc.org
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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 4 January 2013**

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

Date **Friday 11 January 2013**

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

Date **Saturday 12 January 2013**

Event Tea & Talmud
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 3pm

Date **Sunday 13 January 2013**

Event Choosing Judaism
Venue Usual Location
Time 10:30am

Event Spinoza

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 4pm

Date **Friday 18 January 2013**

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

Date **Saturday 26 January 2013**

Event Shabbat Service
followed by Tu B'Shvat Seder and lunch.
Please bring a non-meat dish to share.
Fruits and wine for the seder provided by
Helen Sherbourne and Stewart Zolinger. See
page 6 for why.

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 11am

Date **Friday 1 February 2013**

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

AGM 2013

We will be electing new Council members and a new Chairman. Please get in touch with any Council member with any suggestions for people who could be nominated. See Chairman's word on Page 2.

Date and time (to be confirmed)
afternoon of February 17th.

**Deadline for copy for
February 2013 newsletter:
Monday 28 January 2013.**

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.

Tu B'Shevat	26.1.2013
Purim	24.2.2013
Pesach	26.3.-2.4.2013
Shavuot	15.-16.5.2013
9 Av	16.7.2013
Rosh Hashanah	5.-6.9.2013
Yom Kippur	14.9.2013
Sukkot	19.-25.9.2013
Simchat Torah	26.9.2013
Hanukah	28.11.-5.12.2013



LJ position on Israel

As many of you will be aware there are many differing views among members of Sukkat Shalom on the current political situation in Israel. It is our policy that we do not have a community view on this and we urge members to respect each other's differing views.

On 15th November the Chairman and Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism (Lucian Hudson and Rabbi Danny Rich) co-signed a letter from the Jewish Leadership Council to the Israeli Ambassador supporting the Israeli Government's recent actions. Details of the letter can be found here (<http://www.thejlc.org/2012/11/conflict-with-hamas-communal-leaders-express-solidarity-with-israel/>).

We have discussed this action by the leaders of Liberal Judaism at our Council meetings and we agreed that we would write to express our concern that only one view of the current situation was being endorsed in the letter. We have sent a letter to Danny and Lucian, not about the current situation, but about

the fact that we were concerned that a more nuanced view had not been expressed by the leaders of Liberal Judaism. The full text of our letter can be found on the "Our Values" section on our web site in the section dealing with our position on Israel.

Chairman's word

This will be the penultimate time that I will have to think of some words to share with members and friends. The very wise people who drafted our constitution eight years ago stipulated that no Chairman should in any circumstances have a term of office that exceeds four years. So at the AGM, provisionally scheduled for Sunday 17th February, I will be handing over to a successor.

It doesn't seem like four years ago that I had the daunting task of taking over from our founding chairman Maurice Naftalin who has done so much to establish our community. Maurice has been a great support to me during my time as chairman. I do hope I can do as much for someone else.

A new team will be taking over in February and we are anxious to have some new faces on our Council. We would also benefit from having other people, not necessarily on the Council, who might be willing to share out the many small tasks that are involved in running a largely voluntarily led community like ours. We are always looking for people who would be willing to coordinate social events. It is high time we had some further Boys' or Girls' Nights Out that have been very successful in the past. It has even been suggested that we might have a Boys and Girls together Night Out (what a revolutionary idea - some people have mixed feelings about it). Other contributions we would welcome would be help in maintaining our web site and our Facebook page, now sadly neglected. Most importantly of all we do need someone to help the new chairman with secretarial duties such as answering emails, sending out bulk emails and letters to members.

If you think you could contribute to the community to help with these tasks, or any other things you think we should do, then please email me soon so we can make plans for next year.

Wishing everyone a Happy Secular New Year and all the best for 2013.

Gillian Raab, Chairman chair@eljlc.org

Sukkat Shalom Hanukah Party 2012

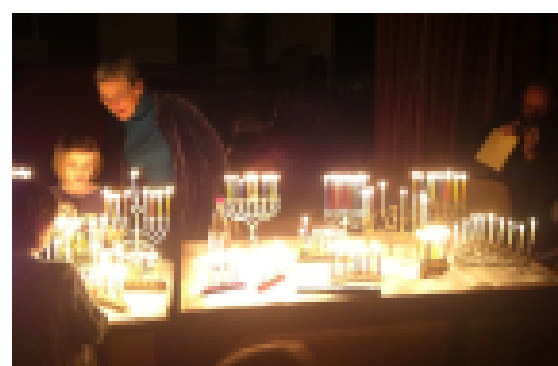


It was wonderful to have such a big crowd at our Hanukah party this year. Huge thanks to everyone who worked to make the party such a success.

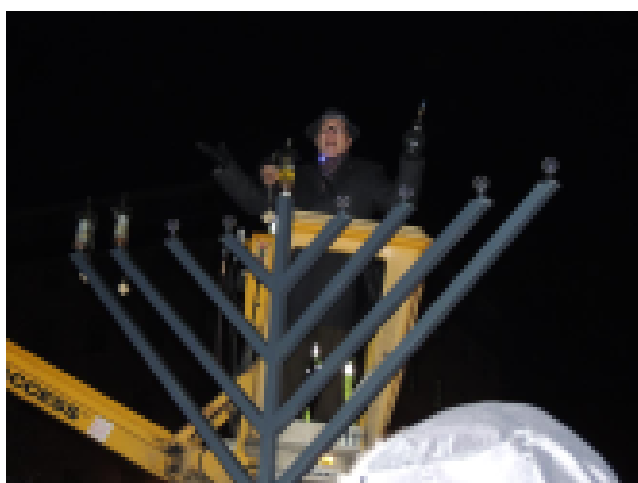
We had games including adult and children's dreidl competitions, singing games, wonderful impromptu piano music and lots of volunteers who helped set things out and stayed to clear up at the end. This last is a special mitzvah much appreciated by shul regulars.



A special mention must go to the cheder parents and teachers for providing great latkes, other food and drink and even a dreidl shaped piñata - sorry we didn't manage any photos of it or the kids scurrying after its contents.



Public menorah lighting in St Andrew Square



A public menorah lighting took place this year on the second night of Hanukah. This event, organised by Chabad of Edinburgh, has now become a tradition and this year it was the turn of Professor Joe Goldblatt to have the honour of going up in the fork lift truck to light the lamps. Everything went well this year and well done Joe for your contribution and safe return to earth.

The lighting was followed by a reception on the top floor of Harvey Nichols with many interesting speeches. Especially interesting was one from Humza Yousaf, SNP MSP for Glasgow and now Minister for External Affairs and International Development who talked about the Jewish neighbours he knew when he was growing up in Glasgow.

Many thanks to Chabad of Edinburgh, Rabbi Pinny and everyone else who contributed to this successful event.

Community Matters

Members' news

2013 will find former member **Hannah Kenner** teaching English in India for several months and she sends us this message:-

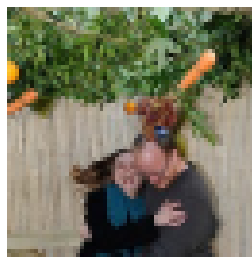
An opportunity to start the New Year with generosity and improve the future of underprivileged children. Would you like to help a small orphanage for underprivileged children in Jaipur, India?

I'll be teaching English as a volunteer at the orphanage; I'm aiming to raise £350 and welcome all donations, whatever size! I travel to India in mid-January and would be delighted to pass on your contribution. Contact Hannah at frizzwig@yahoo.co.uk if you want to help.

40% of the world's poor live in India, over 40% of the Indian population is illiterate and 40 million children don't have access to education. It's time for change! I'm hoping to improve the situation by volunteering at an orphanage that is home to 27 orphans and poor hostel children. I'll be teaching English with a small NGO that helps people living in poverty in India to improve the quality of their lives. PS If you're interested in the project, there's more information at

<http://ecoteer.com/placements/placements.php?func=view&placementid=488&orgID=784>

We are delighted that **Jennifer Underwood** has had a successful visit to the Liberal Judaism Beth Din in December. Jennifer has been active in the community for several years now and we will be delighted to welcome her as a full member. She writes about her path back to Judaism on page 6.



Mazal tov to Helen Sherbourne and Stewart Zollinger on their engagement.

To celebrate the occasion Helen and Stewart will be supplying the two kinds of wine and selections of the four kinds of fruit that we will need for the Tu B'Shevat seder on January 26th,

Purim - have fun - join in the show



Your chance to join our Purimspielers in their performance on Erev Purim (evening of 23rd February). As has been the case for the past three years we are planning a joint Purimspiel with the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation. A topical script is under construction and rehearsals (not to many or too taxing) will be starting soon. This picture is the curtain call from a previous performance. If you would like to **join the fun by taking a part** or by helping out with any aspect of the production, please email Jenny Underwood so she can contact you with details (jennifer.underwood@hotmail.co.uk).

Human rights trip to Israel

Dates are now finalised 17th to 26th May 2013

Maurice is finalising details of recommended flights and options for accommodation and will be updating the web page shortly (<http://www.eljc.org/index.php/israel-human-rights-trip>) with all the details.

See next page for an overview of the plans.

Human rights trip to Israel (continued)

We will be based in Jerusalem but travelling around to see the country and visit various Human Rights projects to learn about their work. There will be free time too and social events. We will have our own mini bus and driver for the duration of the trip and we are hoping that Rabbi Mark Solomon will be accompanying us. If you are interested in joining us please contact Maurice (maurice@morninglight.co.uk) as soon as possible.



Events and Announcements

Jewish Literary Society (www.ejls.org)

If you have not been to a Lit event before then this coming session would be a good time to start. The next few meetings look particularly interesting. Although the Lit holds its meetings in the community hall of the Orthodox Synagogue in Salisbury Road it is very much a meeting place for all Jews in Edinburgh. Don't be shy; you will find familiar faces there. You can join or pay a small fee for individual meetings. The first meeting (6th January) is being addressed by Dr Shirli Gilbert from Southampton University. Dr Gilbert is an expert on, among other things, the Music of the Holocaust and has contributed much of the content of a most interesting web site <http://holocaustmusic.ort.org/> where you can read about and listen to many songs and music from or connected to the Holocaust. Details of the next three meetings are below.

Unless stated otherwise, all meetings are on Sunday evenings and start at 8.00pm with tea served at the end of the meeting. The venue is the Marian Oppenheim Hall, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, 4 Salisbury Road.

January 6th 2013: Dr Shirli Gilbert: “Forgotten Letters: A Refugee from Nazism in Apartheid South Africa”

Shirli is a historian at the University of Southampton. Her research interests include modern Jewish history, the Holocaust, music and resistance and apartheid South Africa.

January 13th 2013: Lord Beecham: film, “Strangers No More”

Lord (Jeremy) Beecham, who spoke to us a few years ago on the treatment of minorities in Israel, will introduce this award winning documentary. Strangers No More tells the tale of children from 48 different countries who attend the Bialik-Rogozin School in south Tel Aviv. Many of the students have escaped genocide, war and hunger to arrive in Israel at a school where “no child is a stranger.” The documentary focuses on a number of students as they acclimatize to their new lives and attempt to put the hardships and horrors of the past behind them. It highlights the bond between teacher and student, and amongst the students themselves, enabling them to create new lives in this exceptional community.

February 3rd 2013: Norman Crane: “The Book of Judith: A Tale of Gender, Sex and Politics”

Norman is a pillar of Sukkat Shalom. He has an MA in Jewish studies from Manchester and a passionate interest in all things Jewish. With the title above, we are looking forward to something a bit spicy!

Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre Committee

Come and celebrate the Bard's birthday! Sunday 27th January 2013 7.00 pm, Jewish Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh, EH16 5AB

A Burns Banquet including wine and soft drinks will be provided.

Price: £25, students and young people £12.50; Final booking date: Monday 14th January

To book please indicate the number of tickets required and the names of those attending, and send a cheque for the correct amount payable to 'Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre' to Betsy Dorfman, 163/7 The Maltings,

Slateford Road, Edinburgh EH14 1PD. If you need a lift to the event contact Steven Hyams on 445 3740.

NOTE: For various practical reasons this will not be a joint event with Sukkat Shalom this year, but we do hope some of our members will support it. We look forward to sharing Purim celebrations with EHC as usual this year.

Faith, Rituals, Adolescence

Faith, Rituals, Adolescence, by Arpita Shah, is a video triptych that explores religion through the voices and ritual actions of young people from the Jewish, Sikh, Muslim, Hindu and Christian communities in Scotland. It was made during Arpita's residency with Ankur Productions.

The film features members of our community and also Jewish young people from Giffnock Shul.

Faith, Rituals, Adolescence will be screened at the Arts Complex in Edinburgh as part of the Iranian Festival in February 2013. It will be part of the group show 'Borders'. There will be lots of great works by national and international artists from a variety of disciplines, including video, painting, sculpture, photography and performance.

Edinburgh Iranian Festival, 6th - 16th Feb 2013, 11am-7pm

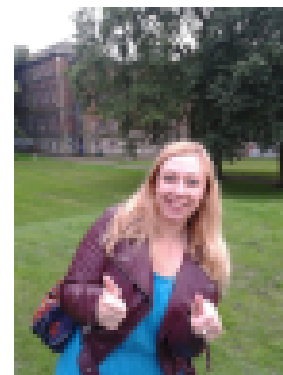
Arts Complex, St Margaret's House, 151 London Road, Edinburgh

FREE ADMISSION

www.ediranfest.co.uk/art.html

Jennifer Underwood writes

My journey to Judaism has been a very lengthy one, eventually culminating in my trip to the Beth Din on the 4th of December. Thanks to Rabbi Mark, I had a fantastic day in London and we had an evening of merriment with friends before my long Megabus journey home! Rather embarrassingly, I did burst into tears in front of the panel of Rabbis but I suspect many people get quite emotional by this point.



I have been involved with Sukkat Shalom for around three and a half years now and I will never forget my anxious first visit to one of the Friday evening services. The experience was completely new to me but I was warmly welcomed by the community and even asked to recite the Shabbat blessings!

Although my maternal grandmother was Jewish, I had no religious upbringing at all (neither did she really) and I spent my youth very interested in religion. Very unusual for a teenager I admit but I was fascinated by Buddhism, Wicca and Christianity to a lesser extent. It wasn't really until I finished my university studies that I decided to explore Judaism. Growing up in Edinburgh, you tend not to be exposed to Jewish culture very often so I was only aware of the Orthodox community. After doing a bit of research and deciding that some of the Orthodox viewpoints didn't quite sit well with me, I happened to come across the Sukkat Shalom web page.

I found that the liberal, modern attitude to Judaism suited me down to the ground and I quickly realised that many of people within the community that I assumed to have been born Jewish had in fact converted in the past. In addition, my partner (who is not Jewish) was fully accepted straight away.

I have built up some fantastic memories over these last few years (laughing my head off at the annual Purimspiel, chatting over wine at Pesach, listening to Rabbi Mark's wonderful voice and trying to conceal my own tone deaf singing voice next to Kat's fantastic one!). I've also made some fab friends and thoroughly enjoyed learning Hebrew with Norman and Wendy. I was rather intimidated by the thought of attempting to learn but luckily due to their incredible patience, I can now slowly keep up in the services.

Despite being at the end of my conversion process, I still feel as though I have a lifetime of learning ahead of me. I suppose the more one knows, the more they are aware of what they don't know!

Holocaust Memorial Day



This year Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp by the Soviet Union in 1945, falls on Sunday January 27th. We have invitations to three events in connection with this day.

Details of how to apply to attend each of these are given here. They are all free events but you need to register for them in order to attend.

A Holocaust Memorial Event, Broughton High School, 24th January, 7:00pm

Rwandan Genocide survivor, award-winning African Musician and founder and director of the Samputu Forgiveness Campaign, Jean Paul Samputu, will be sharing his amazing, moving story with us. With a message of forgiveness and hope, Jean Paul will also be performing some of his songs for us.

We are also very happy to include Sello Hatang in the evening's programme. Sello has for many years worked as a spokesperson for the Nelson Mandela

Foundation as Head of Public Programming and Communications.

Marianne Lazlo, an Edinburgh-based survivor of the Holocaust, will also be kindly contributing a few words. Speaking alongside other members of the Edinburgh Jewish Community, Marianne represents an important link back to the Holocaust, and will be sharing her experiences and perspectives on the atrocities that changed the world forever.

Contact Matt Lord for a ticket if you wish to attend.

0131 629 9058 mattlord.eifa@gmail.com

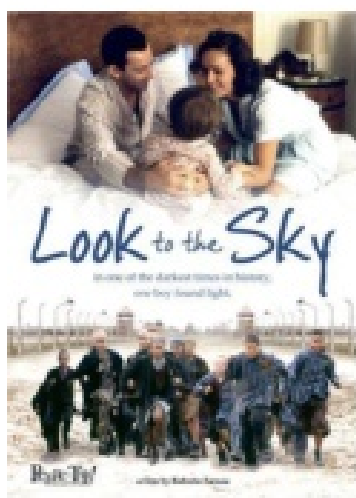
Glasgow Reform Synagogue

Saturday 26th January, 2013 10.30 a.m.

Please join us for a Shabbat morning Civic Service on To mark Holocaust Memorial Day on the theme of "Communities Together: Build a Bridge" Kiddush (Food & Refreshments) will follow the service RSVP to Glasgow Reform Synagogue office: 0141 639 4083 shul@grs.org.uk 147 Ayr Road, Newton Mearns Glasgow G77 6RE www.grs.org.uk

Look to the Sky Sunday 3rd February at 4pm

See poster below

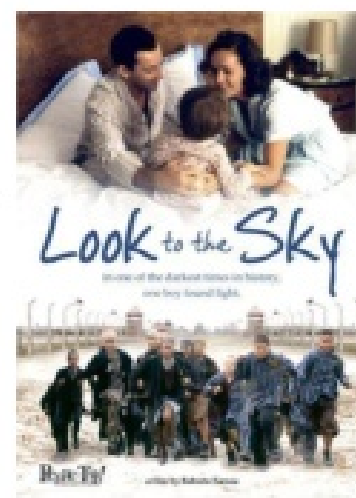


Queen Margaret University

The International Centre for the Study of Planned Events, The Division of Media, Communications and Performing Arts and The Social Justice Programme present
The Multi-Award Winning Film

Look to the Sky

by Roberto Faenza
Based loosely on the book Childhood by physicist Dr. Jona Oberski*



"A film about the power of love!" IL Giorno
"Beautiful and profound cinema!" L'Espresso
David Di Donatello Award Winner:
Best Director, Best Score, Best Costumes, Best Screenplay
Note Re-scheduled date and time:
4pm Sunday 3, February 2013
International Holocaust Memorial Day Event
Queen Margaret University, Halle Lecture Theatre, 314B
RSVP by 1, February 2013 to esweeney@gmu.ac.uk

There is no charge for attending this event.

Community endorers and co-sponsors for this event include Chabad Edinburgh, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, and the Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community
Transport: Lothian 30 Bus stops at front door, North Berwick train from Waverly is a five minute journey, get off at Musselburgh station, two minute walk to theatre.

*Dr. Oberski will participate from Amsterdam via Skype™ in a post film question and answer session with the audience.

