

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

July 2009

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EVENTS & SERVICES

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

Our regular Erev Shabbat service.

Informal Kabbalat Shabbat Services

There will not be any of our short informal Kabbalat services in July. They will resume in August on the weekends with no other services..

Date Saturday 18th July
Event **Shabbat Service**
Venue **Columcille Centre,
Newbattle Terrace**
Time **11 am**

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

Forthcoming Events for Sukkat Shalom

Saturday 15th August, Shabbat Service at St Marks at 11am. This marks the occasion when Sarah will be bat mitzvah, with the service being led by Sarah and Rabbi Mark. After the service, Sarah's family invite all members of the community to join them in kiddush at the Caledonian Hotel.

Sunday 16th August, Choosing Judaism class, 10.30 am at the usual location.

Saturday 22 August, Shabbat Service, at Columcille Centre, 11am.

EVENTS & SERVICES

Advance Notice - High Holy Days

Yes, it's fast approaching that season of the year already! Full details will be in August's Newsletter but as a reminder the dates which all fall in **September** are:

Erev Rosh Hashanah -	Friday 18th
Rosh Hashanah -	Saturday 19th
Kol Nidre -	Sunday 27th
Yom Kippur -	Monday 28th

Our rabbi for the HHD will be Rabbi Alan Mann (see page 8).

Jewish Calendar, July 2009 Tammuz & Av 5769



LEO BAECK COLLEGE

ELJC's July LBC Diary Meditation

"A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination" Nelson Mandela

3rd July -	<i>Andreas Hinz z"l</i>	2002
8th July -	<i>Dr Albert Friedlander z"l</i>	2004*
9th July -	<i>Dr Claude Montefiore z"l</i>	1938
18th July -	Blessing for Av	
21st/22nd July -	Rosh Chodesh	
30th July -	Tisha b'Av	

* denotes rabbi

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Madam Chairman's Word

My words this month will be brief. I simply want to mention some of the things we hope to put in place over the next few months as a result of decisions taken at our recent strategic planning meeting. These include

- A new visual identity
- more social and educational activities
- perhaps a presence on facebook or twitter
- a more permanent home

The last item is likely to prove the most difficult (see details below). If you could help us with any of these, please be in touch.



The bimah in the wooden shul of Gombin (now Gabin) Poland, which was destroyed by the Nazi's.

.Our Search for a New Home

At the recent council meeting to plan strategy for the coming year we returned again to the question of premises. In recent months we have had several occasions where bookings of venues for our services have been cancelled at short notice. We have found it impossible to have even just one or two fixed places to meet as the owners of the premises always have priority no matter how far in advance we make our bookings. The religious affairs group drew up a detailed wish list two years ago of what fea-

tures we would like for premises of our own. Here are extracts from it

1. We must have control of our room(s)
2. We need disabled access with toilets and parking
3. We must be able to store kiddush cups, service books etc. and have a space for our library
4. We must be able to light candles and drink wine
5. We must be able to accommodate a normal service with about 30 to 40 people
6. We need access to a kitchen
7. There should be no permanently visible non-Jewish religious symbols
8. We must be able to have a Ner Tamid (electric version)
9. We must be able to affix a mezuzah
10. We must be able to afford it and our treasurer has suggested a budget of around £4,000 per annum.

Given the constraints of item 10 the most likely option would seem to be a room or rooms within some other organisation's premises. I am personally against the suggestion that we embark on a major fund-raising initiative to rent or buy premises. I feel that this would detract from our other activities. Members already contribute in so many ways. We are to a large degree a DIY community with the members making things happen. Fundraising could be less positive. But we do need a home. It could bring huge benefits, a base for our growing library, somewhere we could pin up the cheder students' work for all to see, the possibility of advertising our events to a wider public

as well as reducing the strain on those who have to arrange lets and transport our various boxes between locations. Do you know of somewhere that might be our home? Or perhaps you know of organisations or sources of funds that could help us. Please contact us with any suggestions.

Gillian Raab, Chairman

Correction: Somehow, I managed to get our new editor's surname wrong in the June Newsletter. Jamie has been doing the mail now out now for several months, and of course it should have read Shearer-Bromfield. Apologies offered and accepted.

Progress report on our new Siddur Erev Shabbat

Norman Crane and I have started work on content selection and layout design, taking into account the material in Lev Chadash, the booklet we use now, and the old and new Reform versions. Since our current booklet is a selection from the siddur that Reform Judaism has replaced, and the content in Lev Chadash is rather different, it is inevitable that a new booklet implies change from the way we do things now.

We wouldn't want every service to be identical, but we do want variety to be within predictable boundaries. Deciding how much variation to allow for, and determining how to present material concisely and in a way that is easy to follow: the engaging part of this project is really about crafting an anthology that always seems fresh. It is our great fortune that Norman brings a depth of scholarship to this craft. I hope the resulting siddur will be of real value, beyond the pragmatic benefit of simply having a booklet with transliteration we can store copies of in multiple places.

If you're interested to know more about this project and get involved, or if you have views on material for inclusion then please let me know (newbooklet@eljic.org).

Catherine Lyons

Interfaith

Edinburgh Interfaith Association

On the first Monday of each month there is an Interfaith Community meal at St John's Church hall, Princes Street. Cooking starts at 5.00 p.m. and the meal begins at 6.00. It would be good if some of our members could sometimes show an ELJC presence. You do not need to give notice of attendance - please feel free to take friends. The next Interfaith Community Meal is on Monday 6th July - I hope some of you can go.

Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group

The July meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th July in Nicolson Square Church. We will start as always, with a vegetarian finger buffet at 7.00 p.m. followed at 7.30 p.m. by a talk to be given by Trishna Singh from the Sikh Community who will tell us something of her faith tradition. If people have any ideas for next year's events, please bring them along in July.

There will **not** be a meeting in August, we will resume in September - venue tba. When meetings are held in Nicolson Square Church, these will be on the **third** Wednesday of the month instead of the last Wednesday. When we meet in other Faith meeting places, you will be informed.

One of the various topics which are being considered is a series of three sessions on the mystical traditions of different Faiths.

In July we also say 'Goodbye' to Janice Clark, the group's co-ordinator / organiser for almost three years. She and her husband, Peter, are to go to Sierra Leone to work for the next five years in the Methodist Movement. We owe Janice a great debt of gratitude for all her very hard work on our behalf and we wish them well in the next stage of their missionary work.

Editorial

*A personal reflection on Andreas Hinz z"l,
Yonatan Ya'akov ben Avraham*

1965 - 3 July 2002

A Modern Day Hasid Ashkenazim

When I set up the Manchester Liberal Jewish Community nearly five years ago, the Inaugural Erev Shabbat service was dedicated to the memory of rabbinic student Andreas Hinz, who had been brutally murdered in 2002, shortly before he would have been ordained. Rabbi Sheila Shulman of Beit Klal Yisrael led the service, with Rabbi Aaron Goldstein, Outreach Director of LJ, assisting. It was attended by Liberal Judaism's Nigel Cole, some of my non Jewish family from the Isle of Skye and a senior representative of London Underground. I think that the service was a fitting tribute, yet in no way could it address the incalculable loss I, and anyone who knew Andreas, felt and still feel.

As the anniversary of his death comes around again, I cannot help but think of the shared hopes and chances stolen, of his family (his Mum and Claudia his cousin) left without their tower of strength, and ultimately of the Jewish community and our world left without a man of great compassion and sensitivity. In many ways, he was typically German; punctual, reliable; he had humour but it was not always recognised. He was also a very outgoing man and committed to Jewish education especially with the young.

I admired so many things about Andy. He never compromised on being both gay and Jewish. He treated everyone as a fellow human being, accepting that we all live with unanswered questions. He was committed to helping the Jewish community to become thoroughly inclusive. He did not buy into

some view of having to decide whether he was there as a gay man or as a Jew. Neither of us was prone to taking kippot off when we, as Jewish gay men visited gay venues! Andy was not prepared to exchange one ghetto for another - but chose an integrated life.

In the wake of his murder, I came to speak of Andreas as a modern day Hasid Ashkenazim - a modern day Jewish saint of Germany. He was a man of deep integrity, faith and conviction. Andy did much to rebuild the progressive Jewish community in Germany. He had his own successful publishing business in Germany, but before studying for the rabbinate, made sure all his staff had found alternative employment before he closed the business down. He was a man of the highest human integrity rooted in compassionate ethics.

That Andy is now in the LBC Calendar affirms my personal conviction we lost in life though not in faith - a Jewish saintly vessel of and in the presence of the Eternal. He quite simply touched people's lives. He taught that there is no freedom unless you are free to be totally who you are with the Eternal, the world and your communities. If you can do this, with respect for self and others, then you can become a blessing.

For me - life without this vision would cease to have meaning.

Andreas Hinz z"l - May his life and memory be a blessing!

James Shearer-Bromfield



The Magic of the Silver Screen

With the Edinburgh Film Festival ended, while there are some good films still to be seen at the Edinburgh Filmhouse and other venues, only one grabbed my attention for the July Newsletter.

Pedro 27th July 8.15pm - Edinburgh Filmhouse. Nico Oceano. USA 2008. 1h33m. Cat. 15

Cast: Alex Loynaz, Justina Machado, Hale Appleman, DaJuan Johnson.

A biopic celebrating a remarkable individual. Pedro Zamora was in MTV's Real World show in 1994 as an HIV positive person. He had been born in Cuba and then moved to Miami in the Marielitas exodus of 1980. Diagnosed with HIV at just 17 he became a peer educator, speaking in schools about prevention. He died aged just 22 before Real World's final transmission, but he had been able to carry out his dream of getting his message across to as many people as possible.

Related Item: Look out for November's Newsletter, which is anticipated to have a contribution from the **Jewish Aids Trust** in advance of World Aids Day in December.

ON DVD

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

If you have not seen it yet, it is worth a viewing. Not an easy subject for us, and sometimes it seems a little simplistic, but then it is a story told through the eyes of two boys who became friends. One, the son of the camp commandant or "farm" as Bruno naively understood it, and Smul, a resident in "the farm". Initially I thought this was going to be an exercise in German apologetics - but actually it is worth following through as it reminds us good thinking upright Germans were muffled and silenced too. The free thinking grandma; the tense, questioning but faithful wife and a friendship that went to the end! Keep the tissues close by!

Singing in the Leyn

Singing Group

Everyone enjoys a service more when the singing is confident and strong. But since we can't always have Rabbi Mark with us, we'd better get our own act together! If you'd like to be part of a group effort to make our old songs sound better, and maybe bring in some new ones, please get in touch with Maurice via info@eljc.org or the community phone.

Interested in Learning to Leyn? (Chant Torah)

Every year at Rosh Hashanah, I vow that this will be the year that I learn to chant Torah. Last year I mentioned this aloud to a couple of people and found out that I'm not alone. Several other people in the community also said they'd like to learn.

At the recent Council strategic planning session, the Council discussed ideas and options for adult education. I volunteered to organise lessons for people who want to learn to chant Torah. At the moment I'm compiling a list of names and looking for a possible teacher.

Do you want to learn to leyn? You don't need to be an experienced singer or have a great singing voice. Chanting is a bit different from singing, and is more forgiving for those of us who aren't great singers. You will need to be able to read some Hebrew, but fluency in Hebrew isn't necessary, either.

If you'd like to join us in the class, contact me at kristilong66@yahoo.com or 0131-466-9356 to add your name to the list. I should be able to report on our plans for the training next month.

Kristi Long

liberal judaism

Court of Appeal Rules JFS Admissions Policy is Unlawful

The Court of Appeal has ruled that admissions policy, of the London JFS (formerly Jews' Free School) which relies on the United Synagogue's definition of Jewish status, is unlawful. In response, Rabbi Danny Rich, Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism, said,

"The JFS, a state comprehensive funded by taxpayers, has been exclusively following one Jewish religious authority and ignoring the rest. Liberal Judaism is not opposed to the United Synagogue nor do we oppose the principle of state-funded faith schools. But we do object to standard-setting by just one section of the community to the detriment of the rest. The Court of Appeal's ruling means that the JFS will now be open to children from all types of Jewish background, and this is something we truly applaud."

For legal details on the judgement please refer to the link below

www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2009/626.

BNP wins 2 Euro seats

How Worried Should We Be?



Not in my Name

The BNP won 2 European Parliament seats in English northern regions in June's Euro elections. We can, however, make our presence felt by adding our names to the Not in my Name on line petition,

<http://action.hopenothate.org.uk/page/ic/nvz8klyqa9tyer/SgtZQQoKC00LUI1Qname!>

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The editor is happy to be a contact point for community orders. Please state your preference for diary or filofax and quantity. Send your order request to my personal e mail jsb@shechem.plus.com

Community order deadline: 31st July.

ELJC - Community Support

An answer when you need help

Our community phone goes to an answering service. In an emergency you may need to speak to someone.

Is that ELJC Community Support? Hello, my name is Alice.

Alice was having a really difficult day. She had been chasing a white rabbit, had just drunk from a bottle that said "Drink me", was stuck down a rabbit hole, and did not know what to do.

Then she saw a phone with a sign saying "ELJC Community Support – Phone Me". So she did and she didn't feel as though she was coping with it all on her own anymore!

Ever since then, Alice made sure she kept the Community Support number in her mobile phone, made sure her family, emergency contacts, friends, doctors, care support and even the Mad Hatter all knew the numbers or where to find it. You see, Alice realised the community could only help in an emergency, crisis or illness etc if someone told the community in the first place. Council do their best but do not have a crystal ball!

She even cut out the number from the newsletter and stuck it by the phone at home, used a fridge magnet to keep it on the fridge, and stuck it prominently into the front of her address book. Perhaps you should think about doing the same. No one knows when they or their family will need support.

The support number will connect you with one of our Council members who will do what is possible to help. We try to always have someone available to answer.



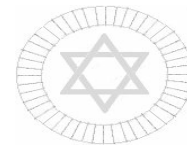
**ELJC SUPPORT LINE:
07904 813162**

If you or your family are stuck in a hole or are in a bad place, dealing with illness etc and need a bit of Jewish support then

"Phone me".

Alice did. She's now the Support Line patron.

Remember, the ordinary community information line is 0131 777 8024.



**An answer when you need help from
your Scottish fully inclusive Jewish
Community**

CUT ME OUT AND PUT ME BY THE PHONE

ELJC - *The Cool Shul*

The only Jewish community in Scotland that brings the heritage of the past together within a fully inclusive human equality progressive driven vision for the future embracing the rich diversity and egalitarian outlook with the finer democratic and non hierarchical partnerships of the present within a Scottish context. Kilts an' all!

Remember us when you have far flung family or friends looking to go to University. We have many academics in our community in the Athens of the North.

Members' News

Ida Skubyeska

Following her recent admission to hospital Ida is now out, and staying in Marian House, a care home in the same complex as her flat. We all send her our love and good wishes for a speedy recovery. As you may know, Ida is a holocaust survivor and lost most of her family in the Shoah. Her only relatives are in Australia . If you would like to be added to an email list of people who are kept up to date with her news and may be willing to visit then please email info@eljc.org and we will pass on the request.

Keeping Kosher

Good News – The challah is rising and rolling again! **Falko's** have resumed baking kosher Challah. Hopefully there will not be any more interruptions! While we know Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland, we also realise that as a Jewish community we are "living in the provinces". Levels of Kosher observance vary widely in Liberal Jewish life – but some like to do their best; made more difficult by the lack of kosher retailers. **If you find a product that is authenticated as Kosher**, let us know so we can at least remind people.

Did you know that Lurpak butter was kosher? And Mars bars.

Rabbi for the High Holy Days

This year our rabbi for the Yamim Nora'im is Alan Mann. A graduate of Leo Baeck in the 70's he is by profession a solicitor. He ministered to the Nottingham congregation in the 80's and was the foster rabbi of Dublin. He has done 17 HHD's with the Dublin community. His wife Odile graduated in Edinburgh.

Kinder Corner

If you know of a child celebrating a little person's milestone such as the first day at school, passing a music exam, a sports day victory, or if there is Cheder news remember to let the Newsletter know so we can **all** celebrate! Why not submit a picture for the Newsletter and capture the moment in our community history.

Social Events

Have you ever thought "I wish we did.....at ELJC as a community event?"

Are you thinking of having an event in your district, a mezuzah fixing perhaps, a party etc where you might like a bit of a Jewish presence?

We are the only Liberal Jewish Community in Scotland and sometimes far flung Jews may welcome our presence. If you have an idea for an event, **tell someone about it.**

Many thanks to all who contributed this month. Items for publication are welcomed, as are responses to items published. The deadline for the August newsletter will be Friday, 24th July. Please email all contributions to newsletter@eljc.org.

Anticipated Newsletter deadlines

September - 21st August

October - 25th September