



July – August 2018 Tamuz– Av– Elul 5778

Let us know what you think of Etrog or send us your contributions by contacting the newsletter team at newsletter@eljc.org

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**Sukkat
Shalom**
Edinburgh Liberal
Jewish Community

**Scottish Charity
Number
SC 035678**

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Diary



On your mobile: check the diary on our [web page](#) rather than here.

July 2018 / Tamuz – Av 5778				
Fri 6	Tamuz 24	6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	Marchmont St Giles
Fri 13	Av 2	7pm	Erev Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Mark Solomon	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Sun 15	Av 3	3pm	Singing Practice (All welcome—no need to have come to earlier sessions, or to read music or Hebrew.)	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Sun 15	Av 3	4pm	Discussion Group	St. Marks Unitarian Church
Fri 20	Av 9	6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	Marchmont St Giles
Sat 28	Av 16	11am	Shabbat service	St. Marks Unitarian Church
August 2018 / Av – Elul 5778				
Please note: none of our August services are in St. Mark's				
Fri 3	Av 23	6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	Marchmont St Giles
Fri 10	Av 30	7pm	Erev Shabbat service and communal supper. Please bring a dish to share (no meat or shellfish, thanks)	Marchmont St Giles
Fri 17	Elul 7	6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	Marchmont St Giles
Fri 24	Elul 14	7pm	Erev Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Mark Solomon	Marchmont St Giles
Sat 25	Elul 14	11am	Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Mark Solomon. (If you need a lift, or if you can offer one, please get in touch)	Newstead Village Hall
Sun 26	Elul 15	3pm	Singing Practice (All welcome—no need to have come to earlier sessions, or to read music or Hebrew.)	TBA
Sun 26	Elul 15	4pm	Discussion group	TBA
Fri 31	Elul 21	6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service	Marchmont St Giles

Word from the Chair

It's not very often that I feel like I'm 'ahead of the curve', but in early May something happened that made me think 'this is a good topic to discuss in my next Word from the Chair'. However, two weeks later, Rabbi Mark gave a sermon on a theme similar to that which I was thinking about, albeit that the specific details were different.



As those of you who have ever exchanged e-mails with me know, I don't always look at my e-mails every day. I don't know about you, but seeing as how a lot of what I do at work these days involves sitting at a computer, the last thing I want to do when I come home is to jump onto another computer. So, last month, I came in late on an exchange of e-mails about whether we should put something into one of our mid-month reminders from the Board of Deputies. Truth be told I can't remember the exact details of what it was, but it was something to do with the Labour Party, anti-Semitism and Jeremy Corbyn. The discussion in the exchange was whether we should put something into any of our communications without having 'the other side' put in too. By the time I read the e-mails a consensus had been reached that we wouldn't include the article.

At the time I thought 'OK' and while I didn't worry any more about the decision, I did start thinking about what we do and don't put into our communications, and whether if we advertise or what might even be viewed as promoting something, do we have to worry about 'the other side'. The more I thought about this, the more I started thinking about my approach to contentious issues in general within Sukkat Shalom. The obvious one is the range of different views we have on Israel, and I know that in the past we have had members feeling uncomfortable, be that in their ability to say what they think or the way that others have expressed their opinion. It's clearly stating the obvious that that's not something any of us wants, and indeed I remember being taught that Judaism actively encourages discussion and differing views, so long as the discussions are held in the right way and that everyone involved is, as it were, striving for the truth. But does that mean that we should actively encourage discussion on potentially contentious issues? In my opinion, the answer is no. If members wish to have a discussion, on anything, then great, but to my mind that's not a reason to encourage discussions if we know they may be divisive.

How does this link into what Rabbi Mark said in his sermon? If you were at the service at the end of May, you'll have heard Rabbi Mark talk about the fallout from the saying of kaddish in front of parliament for the Palestinians who were killed in Gaza, many of whom turned out to

be members of Hamas. **Rabbi Mark's point was not whether it was right or wrong to say kaddish**, but that we should defend the right of people to do so if they wished. In particular Rabbi Mark highlighted some of the comments made about those who participated in the event, and how vitriolic the comments were. And that to me links in with my point. We might not agree with what others say or do – and interestingly Rabbi Mark pointed out that Liberal Judaism had issued a statement saying that while some of those involved in the event were **Liberal Jews, they weren't representing Liberal Judaism** – but we need to allow them to have their own views and opinions.

I remember the quote along the lines of 'democracy is the worst of all systems for governing a country – apart from all the rest'. The same idea, to me, seems to apply to Liberal Judaism. **Wouldn't it be nice to be told what to do, and how to think? It would, except that we'd then have no freedom to express views on anything.** Liberal Judaism encourages us to **critically review our own and others' opinions, and while that can often make us feel uncomfortable**, it is much less uncomfortable than being told how to think and what to do. So long as we respect the right of people to hold their views, without forcing these views on others, **then I think we can have confidence that we'll continue to be a community for the diverse range of members, with our equally diverse range of views, that we are.**

Nick Silk

Summer Barbecue Sunday 29 July 2018

Our annual summer BBQ will be at Kate and Nick's, 18 Grange Knowe, Linlithgow, tel (01506) 845325 on Sunday 29 July. Arrive any time from 12.30. Contributions of food and drink are welcome but please no pork or shellfish. All welcome - kids, adults, friends, relatives.



If anyone wants a lift from Linlithgow station, just call (but ideally let us know beforehand so **we've not drunk too much....**). It is also possible to walk from the station. It takes about 20 minutes or about 45 minutes by the scenic route round the back of the loch. By car, come off the M9 at Junction 3 and turn left towards Linlithgow. As you go past the Oracle Factory there is a turning for Grange View on the left. Turn in there, then left at the **roundabout into Grange Knowe. We're in the first cul-de-sac on the right.**

Nick Silk

Helping our Fantastic Fundraiser. Sunday 27th October

2018 6.30pm

Sukkat Shalom's **Fantastic** Fundraiser Event is taking place on 27th October. We need items for raffles and prizes, so we need folks to kindly donate whisky, wine, or any other spirit, plus any nice goodies to help fill our hampers. Go on! Check your cupboards and help contribute towards the prizes. Thanks!

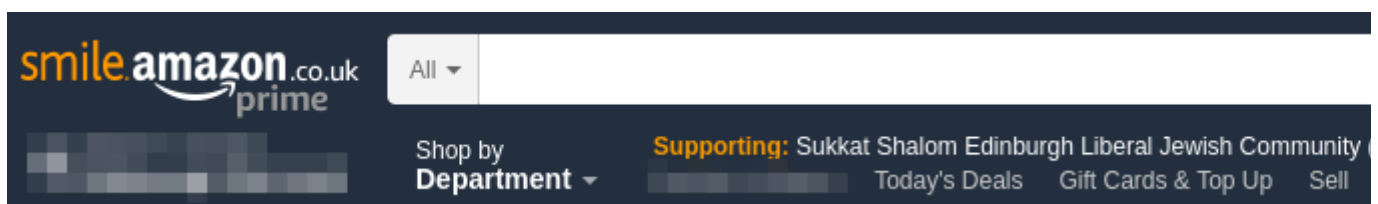
You can bring donations to any of our services throughout July and August ([see above](#)), or if **you can't attend any of these dates then Ricky is happy to collect :-)**. Just contact him on rickyhogg7@gmail.com or mobile 07962076017

Ricky Hogg

Donate to Sukkat Shalom while you shop

Do you use Amazon for your shopping? It seems everyone and their dog are Amazon customers, and we're sure a lot of Sukkat Shalom members are as well! The great news is that Amazon has launched a charity site called Amazon Smile which will allow you to support Sukkat Shalom as you shop. So the next time you're about to shop using Amazon, first go to the Amazon Smile site at smile.amazon.co.uk, and select "Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community" as your charity, then continue your shopping.

You'll have registered Sukkat Shalom as your chosen charity, and to continue donating in future shop via the Amazon Smile page. It costs you nothing, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to Sukkat Shalom. How do you know if it's working?

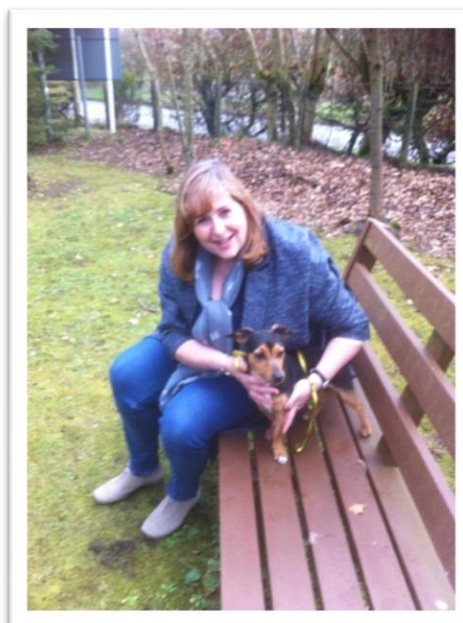


Well, once you've registered the Amazon Smile page will look exactly like the regular Amazon page, but it'll have the Amazon Smile logo instead, as well as "Supporting: Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community" under the search bar (as illustrated in the screenshot above). The shopping experience via Amazon Smile is identical to regular Amazon - exactly the same staggeringly wide selection of products (seriously, is there anything they don't sell?) at the same prices as regular Amazon but every time you buy something via Amazon Smile you'll be helping us out!

Jewish Care Scotland comes to Edinburgh

For the first time, Edinburgh has its very own Jewish Care Scotland Social Worker - Annette Wilson, who brings with her a wealth of skills and experience. For seven years Annette was a Social Worker at Waverley Care, the leading Scottish charity that provides care and support for people living with HIV or Hepatitis C. From there, she moved to Wester Hailes where for 14 months she was part of City of Edinburgh Council's Health and Social Care Team initially as a community based Social Worker and latterly as duty Social Worker. Most recently, she has been working at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary where she worked as a hospital Social Worker.

Annette is delighted now to be back in the voluntary sector working for Jewish Care Scotland. Born and brought up on **Edinburgh's Southside, she has happy memories of the vibrant and multi-cultural community including Jeanie Veitch's sweetie shop, Kleinberg the bakers, Rankin's the fruit shop, the many co-op stores and the store horse that delivered the milk.** Here she is with her dog, Bradagh which is **Gaelic for 'spirited'.**



Annette works completely confidentially, reporting directly, and only, to her line manager at Jewish Care in Glasgow. You do not have to be a member of a shul to use this service, which is free and open to anyone who identifies as Jewish living in Edinburgh or Lothians. Annette works flexibly from her home, seeing people in mutually agreed convenient places, including their own homes if this is what they would like. She can help with a wide range of issues, including housing, benefits, family difficulties and challenges encountered because of physical or mental ill-health or caring responsibilities. Annette can draw on her local knowledge of the resources available and her wide range of contacts to find the best possible support.

Annette works Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. You can contact her directly on her mobile 07415 456541 and by email annettew@jcarescot.org.uk

A warm welcome to Bernadett, Johanna, Talia and Noach

Khandakar

In a moving ceremony conducted by Rabbi Mark Solomon, Bernadett with her daughter Talia (7) and her son Noach (4) were admitted as members of Sukkat Shalom, following their acceptance into the Jewish faith by the Beit Din on 10 May. Johanna, at 15, must make her own decision, which she is in the process of doing.

The path that resulted in Bernadett becoming a Jew began in unlikely circumstances when she was a teenager growing up in the village of Petervasara in Northeast Hungary. Petervasara had had a community of 50 Jewish families, all of whom were deported by

the Nazis with Hungarian collaboration. Only one individual, the rabbi's son, survived the holocaust, emigrating to Israel. Bernadett remembers the silence that surrounded this vanished community, **and questioned her grandmother incessantly about the Jews who'd once lived in** her village.



Some years later, as a puppetry student in Budapest, Bernadett happened to hear a radio programme about Purim that included interviews with Jewish families; her interest was fired again and her sense of involvement with Judaism persisted and grew focusing particularly on the visual beauty and magic of written Biblical Hebrew as well as its verbal meaning. The illustrations here show Bernadett's puppets of Queen Vashti and King Achashveros. After her puppetry course, Bernadett went to university where she qualified to teach drawing and visual communication at High School level and following that, completed a degree in painting at Edinburgh College of Art, all the time exploring and stretching the visual potential of Biblical Hebrew.



Bernadett's life so far has been full of challenge and struggle and a sense of swimming against the tide. But her experience of admission by the Beit Din and then of acceptance by Sukkat **Shalom has given her a great sense of 'coming home.'** She and the children are spending this summer in Petervasara where their house will be the first to have a mezuzah for more than 70 years. In September, she will visit Israel for the first time. And then we look forward to welcoming the whole family back to Edinburgh.

Edinburgh Interfaith Women's Group (EWIG) to Coldingham Priory, Berwickshire

Saturday 7th July 2018

You are warmly invited to bring a picnic and join EWIG on their summer outing to the ancient and fascinating Coldingham Priory in the picturesque village of Coldingham, above Coldingham Bay. The outing will start with a guided tour of the priory, followed by a picnic in the Priory garden, or on the beach.

Departure: 10.30 by bus from outside the Methodist Church, Nicolson Square EH8 9BX Edinburgh, arriving back at 5.00. The cost (which has been subsidised by Interfaith Scotland) is £7 per person, with children under 12 going free.

If you'd like to go, click on the link below and return it to Nila Joshi (see details on form).

[link to booking form](#)

Scottish Jewish Archives Centre speaker brunch – Michael Levitt – Sunday 15 July

The Archives Centre is holding the next in its series of speaker events featuring Scottish Jews who have had a successful career after leaving Scotland.

This event features Michael Levitt, who is a member of the Canadian Parliament,

Michael emigrated to Canada from Scotland with his mother at the age of 13. In the Canadian Parliament, he is a human rights advocate, serving as Chair of the subcommittee on International Human Rights. He also sits on the House Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development. Michael is a strong advocate for the Jewish community and the Parliament's relationship with Israel.

The venue is Eastwood House, Rouken Glen Road, Giffnock, Glasgow G46 7JLG
Doors open at 12 noon and the talk starts at 12.30pm.

Tickets are available from jane@janetobias.com or info@sjac.org - £17.50, or £15 for Friends of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre.

Swimming for Hana

This year, on the 26th August (which happens to be my 73rd birthday), I'll be taking part in the Hana Greenfield Memorial Swim in the River Labe where it flows through Kolin, a town 60km east of Prague. This is where Hana's father taught her to swim and where she swam as a child and a teenager along with her friends and neighbours – Jewish and non-Jewish. But swimming in the river stopped during the 1930s due to the pollution that accompanied industrialisation, and from 1939 onwards, when Germany occupied Czechoslovakia, increasingly restrictive anti-Jewish measures included a prohibition on swimming. In 1942, Hana and most of the other Jews of Kolin and the surrounding area were deported to Terezin and many of them, including Hana, were taken from there to Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. Hana survived, dying just a few years ago in London, but 480 people (including 60 children) of Kolin's original Jewish population of just over 500 perished.

I first heard about the Memorial Swim from Sharon Goldstein when she and Rabbi Andrew Goldstein of Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue (NPLS) were with us in Edinburgh for Rosh Hashana last year and heard too about the extraordinary relationship that has grown up between this London community and the town and people of Kolin over the last 40 years. As a fledgling community NPLS borrowed first one and then two scrolls on long-term loan from a collection held by Westminster Synagogue. Both of these scrolls were from what was then Czechoslovakia, one from Trebon and the other from Kolin. A conscious commitment was made to find out about the places the Torah scrolls had come from and the communities to which they'd belonged. In the years and decades that followed visits were made, research undertaken, and bonds of friendship and collaboration forged that have ensured that, while Kolin's Jewish community did not survive, many people, both Jewish and non-Jewish in the Czech Republic, the UK and elsewhere have been actively and creatively involved in discovering, remembering and understanding this once vibrant community and how they lived as well as how they died.

Although swans and fish have returned to the now-clean River Labe, people haven't. Jane Drapkin, a member of NLPS and an awesome open water swimmer, hatched the idea of the Hana Greenfield Memorial Swim when visiting Kolin in 2015 and she, Hana's daughter, Meira Partem – also a keen swimmer - and the town of Kolin are together organising this event. They think this will be the first time that anyone from the town of Kolin will have swum in the river for over 80 years, and the first time that Jewish and non-Jewish people will have taken part together in an activity that used to be commonplace in the town's history.

I am now in mental and physical training for my swim, finding out everything I can about Kolin and its history, taking advantage of the **City of Edinburgh's**



wonderful

swimming pools where I've signed up for various swimming improvement classes and swimming in the North Sea (into which the River Labe flows once it has become the River Elbe and crossed Germany). This morning, while writing this, I took a break to meet up on the beach with the Portobello Wild Ones, many of them year round open water swimmers. As I swam with them I thought about Hana and her friends swimming in the river at Kolin and about my father who, not long after the Second World War taught me to swim, aged four, in the English Channel.

Sue Bard

FESTIVAL TIME

Festival Time is approaching fast and here are some performances, events and talks of Jewish **interest that may appeal to you. It's not exhaustive** – let us know if you hear of other things and **we can add them to a special Festival Reminder at the end of July. If you'd like to organise a group Festival visit, just suggest an event and a date and invite people to buy tickets and meet you there.**

Festival Open Day

David Neville will be master-minding **this year's Festival Open Day on Sunday 12 August. As ever, it will be a great opportunity to get a taste of a range of shows of Jewish interest as well as a bite of a bagel. The event will be held in the community hall at Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, 4a Salisbury Rd, Edinburgh EH16 5AB with entry by donation More details, including times will follow when available.**

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2018

Tickets for all Fringe shows, including for free ticketed events can be obtained on-line at <https://tickets.edfringe.com/box-office>

My Kind of Michael Nick Cassenbaum

1 – 26 August (except 2,13,20) 7.30pm

Red Lecture Theatre, Summerhall, Summerhall Place, Edinburgh, EH91PL

Many of us will remember Nick's engaging, funny and moving 2016 show 'Bubble Schmeisis', set in a London East End Turkish Baths. Nick is back with a show about Michael Barrymore, iconic comedian and TV presenter of the 80s and 90s. Nick, who has loved Michael Barrymore since he was a child, describes this show, which looks at the love affair between audience and entertainer, as being full of Jewish interest.

Price (still) Includes Biscuits Naomi Paul

5 – 27 August (except Sundays) 6.15pm.

The Space @ Surgeons Hall Nicolson Street EH8 3DW Venue 53

Naomi returns to the Fringe this year with another solo stand-up show reflecting aspects of London Jewish life.

Laughing for Palestine Monday 13 August 4.15pm

The Ballroom at Laughing Horse @ Counting House 38 West Nicolson Street, EH8 9DD
Venue 170

Frankie Boyle and other stars of stand-up will be performing at this not-to-be-missed fundraiser show which will launch the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD) **'Buy a Brick Campaign.'** This campaign aims to buy 10,000 eco-friendly traditionally made mud bricks to build a community centre in the Jordan Valley. The centre, in one of the most deprived areas of the West Bank, will serve 13 Palestinian communities for cultural activities. It will be built by local Palestinians and international volunteers this October at the ICAHD and TORAT TZEDEK Building-Harvesting-Learning Camp. An auction to buy bricks will take place during and after the show.

Torat Tzedek (Torah of Justice) is an Israeli human rights NGO founded in September 2017 by Rabbi Arik Ascherman, who led Rabbis for Human Rights for 21 years.

Sugarcoating Daphna Baram 2 – 26 August (except Wednesdays) 7.00pm

Sweet Novotel, Novotel Edinburgh Centre Hotel, 80 Lauriston Place EH3 9DE Venue 188

Daphna Baram is the Israeli Director of ICAHD UK and is also a renowned comedian. This show, which has **gathered great reviews around the UK, is described as 'a journey into body, politics and body politics.'**

Old Jewish Jokes Ivor Dembina (SHOW 1) 2-26 August (except Tuesdays) 1.15pm

Laughing Horse @ Finnegan's Wake 9b Victoria Street, EH1 2HE Venue 10.

And one extra late-night performance, 15 August 11.45pm at the Ballroom at Laughing Horse @ Counting House 38 West Nicolson Street, EH8 9DD Venue 170

Return of the Fringe's longest-running Jewish comedy show. Traditional Jewish humour and satirical insights into the life of the modern Jewish comic. This is a free ticketed event.

Ivor Dembina Show Ivor Dembina (SHOW 2) 2-26 August (except Tuesdays) 6.15pm

Laughing Horse @ Finnegan's Wake 9b Victoria Street, EH1 2HE Venue 101

Stand-up, stories and jokes. A mixture of brand new, old and very old material.

This a free ticketed event.

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL 2018

To book tickets go to www.edbookfest.co.uk

If the event you want is booked up, it's very often possible to get returns if you go along early.

Dawn of the Modern Era Elisabeth Asbrink and Jonathan Fenby Sun 12 August 2pm

Elisabeth Asbrink's 1947: When Now Begins looks at the year in which a UN Committee was given four months to solve the problem of Palestine. **Jonathan Crosby's Crucible** focuses on 1948, the year of Indian and Pakistani independence and communist victory in the Chinese civil war.

Region in Crisis Ian Black Monday 13 August 12.15pm

A talk by the Guardian's long-time reporter on the Middle East.

Muriel Spark, Religion and Exile Gabriel Josipovici and Kapka Kassabova

Friday 17 August 10.00 am.

A consideration of how Muriel Spark – brought up as a Jew, educated in a Presbyterian school and a convert to Catholicism – deals with these disparate elements in her fiction.

Getting Graphic in Politics Martin Rowson, Mohammad Sabaaneh and Phill Jupitus

Saturday 18 August 7.30pm

Cartoonist Martin Rowson's graphic version of the Communist Manifesto and former political prisoner in Israel, **Mohammad Sabaaneh's Palestine In Black and White** are the material for discussion between the writers and comedian/performer Phill Jupitus.

Windows for Peace

In December 2016 Rutie Atsmon, founder of Windows for Peace (WfP), visited Edinburgh, where she and a young Arab Israeli gave a mind-blowing talk about the work of WfP including a video presentation by another colleague, a young Palestinian woman from the Occupied Territories who had been denied a visa by the UK Government in order to be with us in person.

Since 1991, WfP has brought together young Palestinians from both sides of the Green Line and young Israeli Jews in long-term educational programmes designed to promote mutual understanding and to make a lasting change to attitudes, perceptions and behaviours. This work is by its nature long-term and gradual. It has been supported here in Edinburgh where Judy Sischy played a key role in raising funds for and in raising funds and in helping to organise successful summer schools for Windows youngsters to come and spend time Edinburgh.

The value of such work and the importance of the investment in young people is evident in the **role that many of the WfP ‘graduates’ are now playing as adults active in a range of human rights and social justice issues** – from solidarity with the protesters in Gaza, to ongoing work against the occupation in the West Bank and Gaza, to the campaign against deportation of asylum seekers from Israel, as well as gender and environmental issues.

Last year, due both to funding cuts and to the worsening political situation, WfP felt that the best use of resources would be for teacher training programmes. Judy Sischy is at the moment visiting Rutie in Israel to hear about the new training programmes and also about some revival in the youth work and we look forward to hearing more from her when she returns.

To continue to restore the invaluable youth work that WfP does, Judy, on behalf of Windows UK, makes a plea for donations in response to a sponsored walk that has taken place, but can accept donations until 31 July. To help support these new initiatives you can donate on:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/events/walkforwindows>

To find out more about WfP, follow this link <http://www.win-peace.org/>

Walking for peace

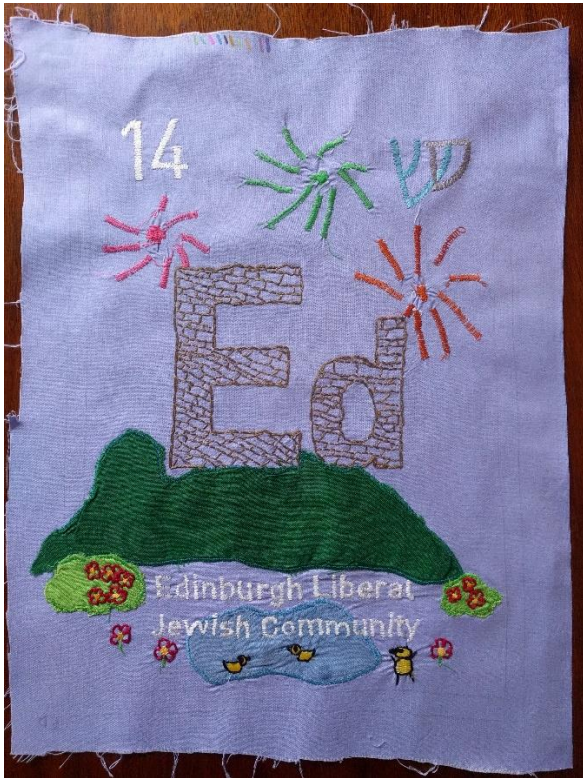
This year's well-attended annual Peace Walk, organised by the Edinburgh Interfaith Association, took place on Sunday 15 May, a beautiful sunny afternoon heralding the wonderful summer that we've since had. Starting at St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral, we progressed under the EIFA banner via the Ba'hai Centre and St John's Episcopal Church to St Mark's Unitarian Church, meeting place not only of the Unitarians but also of the Buddhist Wild Geese Group and now of Sukkat Shalom as well. Here, Mary McKenna, the convenor of St Mark's spoke about the history and the inclusive principles of Unitarianism. Our chair, Nick Silk followed, describing Sukkat Shalom, Liberal Judaism and its place in the worldwide Progressive Jewish movement. Nick shared the prayer - so right for this occasion - **'My brothers do I seek' from The Human Family section of Liberal Judaism's Siddur Lev Chadash**. Our next stop was the Lauriston Jesuit Centre, and then finally the Muslim Welfare House. Here we had a warm welcome from Mahmoud Nabawi of the Dar Al Argam mosque followed by a short, jointly hosted Peace Service. Bhajis, biscuits, tea and cold drinks and the chance to relax and chat ended a memorable and enjoyable afternoon.



Our Cheder flies the Liberal Judaism Banner

In order to help celebrate the Liberal Judaism Biennial's theme, 'The Formula for Truly Progressive Judaism', each of the 43 communities was asked by LJ to create a panel that represents them and forms part of a banner of a periodic table of Liberal Judaism. The panel was to represent our community and its surroundings. It will be sewn together with the other panels and displayed at the LJ Biennial Weekend 29 June – 1 July.

To create our panel, we called on the children at cheder to help with the design. They drew pictures of what ELJC and Edinburgh mean to them, and these pictures were collaged together to form the final design.



I was very interested to see how much the children's designs were influenced by the green spaces in and around Edinburgh, as well as the cobbled streets and fireworks which punctuate the city. I used a combination of applique, hand and machine embroidery, and drawing to create the finished piece.

Katy Bromberg

(Editors' note: in our next Etrog look out for pictures of the finished banner on display at the LJ Biennial)

2. SHAVUOT at our Cheder

While it has become customary to eat dairy foods at Shavuot, the origin of this custom is obscure, and contrary to the more usual exhortation to eat meat on holidays. Various explanations have been given. One is that when the Israelites received the laws of kashrut at Sinai, they realised that their pots were not kosher and so ate uncooked dairy dishes instead. Another explanation is that by first eating dairy and later meat, we recall the two loaves offered on Shavuot. Some people eat dairy foods with honey in them because

the Torah is likened to milk and honey. 'Honey and milk are under your tongue' (Song of Songs 4:11). These explanations may seem somewhat tenuous, unlike the actual making and eating of the dairy foods, enthusiastically taken up by our Cheder children. Thank you to Katy



Bromberg for sharing the experience and the recipes with Etrog. Two recipes for Shavuot, tried and tested at Cheder by the first two classes, Kita Echad and Kita Shtayim.

CREAM CHEESE

Making cream cheese takes almost no time at all and it's a great way to use up extra milk that's on the turn. If you don't want to use your cream cheese to make cheesecake, it will go nicely on a bagel.

You need:

1 litre whole or semi-skimmed milk

juice of 1 lemon

1 teaspoon salt

Bring the milk to a boil and allow to cool for a few minutes. Add lemon juice and salt and stir to combine. Allow to settle until the whey (yellowy liquid) has separated from the cheese curds. Strain through a fine sieve or a colander with cheesecloth or a loosely woven tea towel placed in it. Makes about 225g of cream cheese, enough for the cheesecake recipe below.

Reserve the whey; you can use it in cooking instead of milk, water or stock. Try it as a substitute for milk in cheese sauce, or to cook your rice.

When the cheese has drained, you can refrigerate it for a more solid curd, or use it when cool for a softer texture.

NO- BAKE CHEESECAKE

Makes 6 tumbler-sized glasses, or 21cm diameter loose-based cake pan.

Crust

25g butter, melted

75g biscuits (e.g., digestives) crushed.

Mix crushed biscuits with butter and press into the base of the serving dishes.

Cheesecake

225g cream cheese

100g sugar

250ml double cream

1 teaspoon vanilla

icing sugar if desired

Combine sugar, cream cheese, and vanilla and blend well. Set aside.

Whip cream into soft peaks and fold into cream cheese mixture. Taste and adjust sweetness as desired. (Using icing sugar can help your mixture set.)

Pour cheesecake into serving dishes and refrigerate for at least an hour, or until set. Serve with fruit if desired.

Katy Bromberg

End of the Cheder Year

This year, we were delighted to welcome Rabbi Mark to present certificates and prizes to our Cheder children: his warmth and enthusiasm were greatly appreciated by everyone present: he led the children in a chant which they sang with gusto in two-part harmony, as well as a story from this week's Sidra, which was received with equal enthusiasm, the children responding intelligently to the Rabbi's questions. I was delighted to thank the children for their commitment during the year and also their families, including both parents and grandparents alike as well as the other teachers, Adam Budd, Lorraine Hershon, Yonatan and Melissa Eisenberg, Katy Bromberg, Rebecca Wober and helpers Gillian Raab and Sophie Bleau, for the time and enthusiasm that they had put into teaching their classes throughout the year.

We are all looking forward to the new Cheder year in August/September and to welcoming new children to the youngest class. Any other families in Sukkat Shalom who would like to send their children to Cheder in the Autumn **(as long as they're of primary school age)** and who have not already been in touch, are very welcome to contact me on danhershon@gmail.com

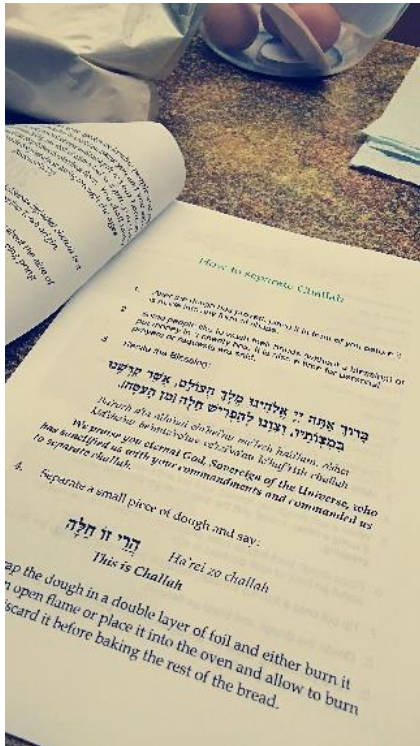


Dan Hershon (Headteacher of the Cheder)

An end of year party followed with cake decorating and games of Hebrew Twister and 'Shut the Box'

Another Challah baking evening

Very many thanks to Paul McPhail for organising another Challah baking session. As at the last session Paul was supremely organised with full instructions, including blessings and when to say them and a variety of pleating options and all the ingredients ready for us to go. This time he had the added challenge of providing recipes for participants who were gluten-free and vegan.



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