

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

March 2013

Chairman	Norman Crane	chair@eljc.org
Administrator	Catherine Lyons	admin@eljc.org
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Catering		catering@eljc.org

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

Events and Services

Date **Friday 1 March 2013**

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

Date **Friday 8 March 2013**

Event Erev Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 7pm

Date **Friday 15 March 2013**

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

Event Student Service and possible supper
Details to come in the mid-month reminder

Date **Saturday 23 March 2013**

Event Shabbat Service with Rabbi Mark Solomon
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 11am

Event **Tea & Talmud**

Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 3pm

Date **Sunday 24 March 2013**

Event Choosing Judaism
Venue Usual location
Time 10:30

Date **Monday 25 March 2013**

Event First night communal seder
Venue Marchmont St Giles,
1a Kilgraston Road
Time 6:45pm

Members should already have received a booking form, with full details. It is also printed at the end of the newsletter.

Date **Sunday 24 March 2013**

Event Philosophy Group
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 4 pm

Date **Friday 29 March 2013**

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

Date **Friday 5 April 2013**

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

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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Deadline for copy for April 2013 newsletter: 21 March

Future Dates

Our regular schedule is as follows.

Our **Erev Shabbat** service will be on the **second Friday** of each calendar month.

Our **Shabbat morning** service will be 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.

Pesach	26.3.-2.4.2013
Shavuot	16.-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

Meeting of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

10 March 2013, 12.30 pm, preceded by a sandwich lunch at 12.00 am

Jewish Community Centre JCC, 222 Fenwick Road, Glasgow, G46 6UE (www.scojec.org)

SCoJeC is the umbrella organisation for Jewish Communities in Scotland and, among other things, it represents us all to the Scottish Parliament. Meetings are open to all. The entry to the JCC is through a car park and round a corner — not obvious. If you are thinking of going, contact Gillian on treasurer@eljc.org if you need directions.

A Sense of Duty

Henry Grunwald OBE, QC

10 March 2013, 8:00 pm, (7:00 pm refreshments) City Chambers, George Square, Glasgow, (glasgowforumoffaiths.org.uk)

Lecture in memory of the late Judith and Henry Tankel.

Why is everyone a Maimonidean?

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

8.00pm, **March 10th 2013**

Marian Oppenheim Hall, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, 4 Salisbury Road. (ejls.org)

Dr Daniel Davies

Daniel teaches at Leo Baeck College, and is part of the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit. Some texts that are basic to the Jewish tradition seem to be subject to constant struggle. Maimonides' Guide for the Perplexed is one of those texts. This talk will consider some of the reasons.

Giants

Jewish Book Week on Tour

Sunday, 10 March 2013 – 2:00 pm, Garnethill synagogue

129 Hill Street

Glasgow G3 6UB

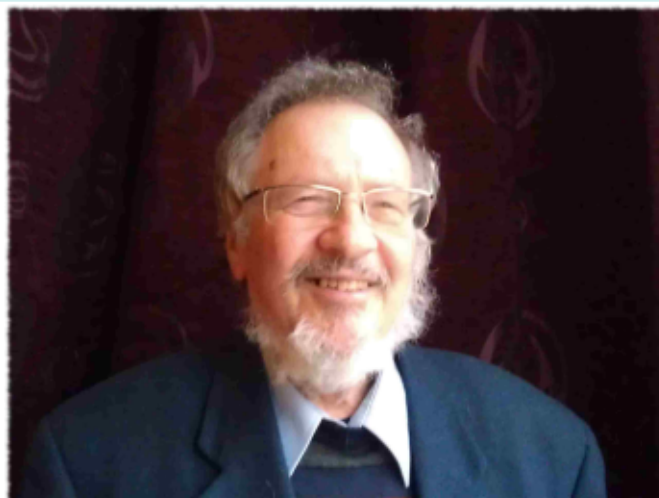
Price: £6.00

Author J David Simons will be discussing his novels, set in the Glasgow Jewish community. Master biographers, Eilat Negev and Yehuda Koren will also be speaking about their new book, *Giants: the Seven Dwarfs of Auschwitz*: the Ovitz family, seven of whose children were dwarves, performed across eastern Europe in the 1930s and '40s as "The Lilliput Troupe". Captured in 1944 and sent to Auschwitz, they continued to perform and escaped death. Biographers Eilat Negev and Yehuda Koren are journalists whose work has been widely published and critically acclaimed.

J David Simons's first novel, *The Credit Draper* was published in May 2008 and was short-listed for The McKitterick Prize in June 2009. His latest novel *An Exquisite Sense of What is Beautiful* is due to be published by Saraband in March 2013.

To reserve tickets (£6 including tea) call: 07989 420075 See more at www.jewishbookweek.com/events/glasgow-10th-march-jbw-tour-giants#sthash.eai2EiNb.dpuf

Chairman's word



I feel honoured to be following in the footsteps of Gillian Raab and Maurice Naftalin as the third chairman of Sukkat Shalom. They will be a hard act to follow. In particular, I have seen at first hand just how much Gillian has done for the community over the past four years, much of it, of necessity, unseen to the majority of members.

During that time Jonathan Broadie has continued, ably as ever, as treasurer, until ill health obliged him to retire from that post. Claudette Hudes stepped into the breach in the interim, despite a raft of personal commitments, for which we are grateful. Now that Gillian is no longer chairman, she has volunteered to be treasurer, for which I am very thankful, since I know she will approach that responsibility with her own brand of bustling energy.

At the last council meeting before the AGM, we discussed the idea of having an official post of vice-chairman. When it came down to it, we could not define what that person might do that other people are not already doing, so we concluded that the designation was not helpful. Of course, there remains the case of the chairman falling under a bus, but I promise to look both ways.

I am very heartened by the number of people, some members of council and others not, who have come forward and volunteered to help in any way they can to carry forward the work of running the community as an organisation. It is a very obvious thing to say, but everything we do is done by a volunteer, from putting chairs out and back, to helping out from time to time at cheder, to taking on various aspects of communications and secretarial work. I intend as much as I can to foster this spirit of us all working together.

There are several areas of activity that lend themselves to this approach. One is indeed communications and secretarial work, and it has been suggested that a team of people undertake this, since I in particular lack the necessary expertise. A second area is how we spend out money, particularly with regard to the hire of premises, and several people are looking at this.

A third area is the acquisition of a building, a site, at least some kind of premises for the community. This may only be a gleam in our eye at the moment but there are possibilities open to us other than those we have explored in the past. So I intend to set up an informal group to look at them. We are fortunate that we have the requisite expertise within our ranks to do this. This is certainly something I intend to push as hard as I can. If we succeed, I see it as the next big step for our congregation.

We have enjoyed the work of our rabbi, and I am sure that Rabbi Mark has contributed largely to a rise in membership of half as much again in the past four years. I would like to see this trend continue in the next few years, and I think that the acquisition of a home for the community would greatly enhance the possibility of this happening.

As I sit writing this, I am also thinking ahead to Purim. Regrettably, we are not having a joint Purim shpiel with EHC, but it means that we are able to enjoy the work of our own, home-grown Purim shpielers. This includes me in a minor way; I shall be behind a Nick Clegg mask, and otherwise known as Oy a Clogg — you will notice I cannot resist a feeble joke — and as second plotter. One day I'll make first plotter. I pray that my 'plots' for the community don't end up masking a farce of unfulfilled aims.

Chag purim sameach!

Norman Crane

Sermon for *Erev Shabbat Mishpatim*

Feb 8th 2013

Stew Green

Tomorrow's Hebrew date is Shevat 29th for which the Torah reading is Mishpatim (Exodus 21:1–24:18). However, on the Shabbat before the month of Adar — in other words tomorrow — it is apparently traditional in Orthodox shuls to also read Parsha Shekalim (Exodus 30:11–16):

When the Holy Temple stood in Jerusalem, the 1st of the month of Adar marked the beginning of the collection of the annual half-shekel that each Jew contributed to the Temple.

The half-shekel was due annually on the 1st of Nissan, and the courts would post reminders regarding this tax a month earlier, on the 1st of Adar. Some Jews commemorate this on the Shabbat beforehand by reading the portion in the Torah which discusses this commandment, (although we tend to just mention it):

11 The Lord spoke to Moses saying: 12 When you take a census of the Israelite people, according to their enrollment, each shall pay the Lord a ransom for himself on being enrolled, that no plague may come upon them through their being enrolled. 13 This is what everyone who is enrolled in the records shall pay: a half-shekel by the sanctuary weight — twenty gerahs to the shekel — a half-shekel as an offering to the Lord. 14 Everyone who is entered in the records, from the age of twenty years up, shall give the Lord's offering: 15 the rich shall not pay more and the poor shall not pay less than half a shekel when giving the Lord's offering as expiation for your persons. 16 You shall take the expiation money from the Israelites and assign it to the service of the Tent of Meeting; it shall serve the Israelites as a reminder before the Lord, as expiation for your persons.

Note that expiation equals atonement through payment of a penalty. Apparently, this tax was primarily used to purchase the animals which were used for the communal sacrifices. The leftover funds were used for a variety of communal purposes, including salaries for the judges and maintenance of the Temple, its vessels, and the city walls.

Our modern-day equivalent of the half-shekel contribution to the Temple is our annual subscription to our Community, going to support both Liberal Judaism, based on a per-capita subscription, and our own community activities.

Like the Temple model, we charge everyone the same — with a few exceptions — and others can arrange to pay less if the membership fee would be a hardship. Needless to say, the well-off are, of course, encouraged to contribute more!

The treasurer has not paid many bills for sacrificial animals recently(!); however, the other communal costs from the Temple are similar in nature to our own. For *maintenance of the Temple* one could read *rental of our accommodation*; for *salaries of judges*, one could read *fees to Rabbi Mark and his travel expenses*.

And of course, there are many other necessary and increasing costs incurred in running a thriving and growing community which is somewhat remote and isolated from the rest of Liberal Judaism. By coincidence, I had a meeting on Monday with Gillian, our excellent Chair, who will be standing down at our AGM a week on Sunday. Gillian, it seems, is going to become Treasurer, and has been looking at our finances.

Apparently we are not in quite such good shape financially as we used to be. In fact the last couple of years our outgoings have been more than our income. Furthermore, Gillian mentioned in passing that she is aware it often proves quite slow and difficult to get our membership fees in each year. Lots of time and energy goes into reminders, and, even then, not everything that should come in actually arrives.

I imagine that, in biblical times, the fact that one's wrongdoings were 'expiated' by the payment of a half-shekel was quite an incentive to pay. We don't have quite the same clout, nor the ability to generate fear for our well-being in the after-life! However, we do have a brilliant community, led by a small but dedicated group of officers and Council who do a great job and put in lots of hours organising, maintaining, and developing our own personal 'Temple'.

In this season let us remind ourselves to do what we can to help them and each other, by returning our membership subs promptly when the annual fees payment is requested.

Purim triumphant once again!

You never know what to expect when Purim comes around. We started by making havdalah, and were surprised to be joined by two dragons (dragons must really like havdalah!). Then Yoda appeared among us with a large group of Jewdi Knights we had never seen before. They all hailed from LJY Netzer. And Esther had a great number of maidservants and some pages in training; they belonged to our cheder, and they all won prizes!



One of Esther's maidservants, practising her steps at the Court of Shushan



Moo!



Yoda, Jedi Master Storyteller

When we had eaten and drunk (yes drunk!) heartily from a table groaning with many kinds of hamentashen and lots of wine bottles, Yoda brandished his light sabre, and it unfurled into a megillah! This powerful Jedi Master was a most accomplished and musical storyteller.

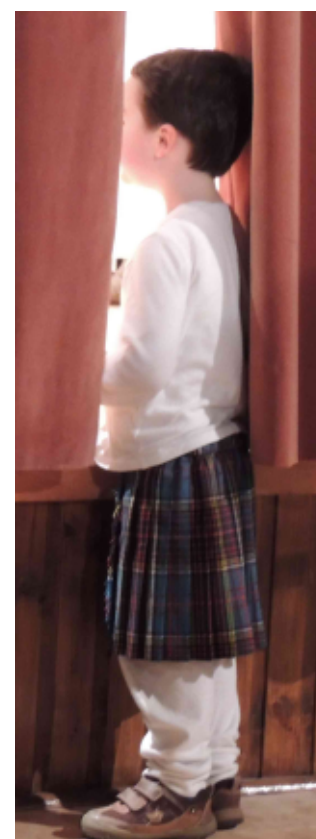
After a dramatic megillah reading, during which costumed characters popped up among the congregation and gave voice to our favourite heroes and villains, it was time for the shpiel.

At the Court of Ahashverosh, Queen Vashti escaped from her autocratic husband to pursue a career in politics in an independent Scotland (Was this Alex Salmond's first appearance in a Purim shpiel?) Without the politically astute Vashti, the hapless Ahashverosh fell prey to a very plausible (and smartly dressed!) prime minister; David *Cahamaneron*, he seemed to be called. But, in time-honoured fashion, Esther and Mordechai came to rescue.

We found out that King Ahashverosh was addicted to burgers. Perhaps that's why no horse could be found in Shushan with which to honour Mordechai. But the royal court did manage to provide him with a cow instead!

And the story ended with a liberal twist: evil and arrogant though he was, *Cahamaneron* was not hanged. Though he might have preferred it to his fate: spending the rest of his years under the thumb of Shushan court beauty, Crystal, seen on left at the curtain call.

Warmest congratulations to playwright Jennifer Underwood and all the cast!



It was so exciting, waiting to see what was behind the curtain!

Catherine Lyons and Gillian Raab

Members' News

A very warm welcome to our newest member, **Jenni Underwood**, who has already contributed magnificently to our community as this year's Purim playwright. Mazel tov, Jenni!

Mazel tov, too, to **Miriam Vickers**, who is exhibiting at the Society of Scottish Artists, Royal Scottish Academy (1 – 21 March).

Interfaith News

Direct Approach: a Community Network for Minority Ethnic Women and Women of Faith

Direct Approach brings together faith groups and minority ethnic communities on the issues of **gender equality and women's rights**. It drives community change and makes a difference to statutory and public services. It is currently gathering information on **honour, gender equality, and women's rights** in order to identify obstacles to gender equality.

This short questionnaire will help our network better understand what people mean by 'honour', and the impact that it has on individuals and communities. Using this research, we will implement real change in terms of equality.

Visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/honour> to participate in this survey and make a difference. Thank you.

Women's Interfaith Group

Diary for 2013 (www.edinwig.org.uk/EWIG/Events_in_Edinburgh.html)

EIFA International Women's Day Awards: Celebrating Women through Recognising their Contributions

March 9th, 1 - 4 p.m., St John's, Princes Street
During the last few weeks many women have been nominated who have contributed to their communities and whom EIFA wish to honour. No matter how insignificant they may think their work is, they deserve to be recognised for their, courage and strength. One of our members has been nominated for an award!

Joanna Bleau invites us to attend the **Bach Ensemble of Edinburgh's** concert in aid of the **Multiple Sclerosis Society**: Duddingston Kirk. Sunday 24th March, 7.00pm. Tickets: £10/7, from KenTaylor: 0131 258 6523 kka.taylor@virgin.net.

Polwarth Parish Church's Second Inter-Faith Labyrinth

3rd March 6.30pm-8.30pm.

For details see

<http://gallery.mailchimp.com/fefa17235eb906e3549710910/files/>

[2013_1_interfaith_labyrinth.pdf](#)



Faith Communities against Domestic Abuse: a new initiative

Domestic abuse can happen in all settings, to women and men. Scottish Women's Aid Faith Group forum have produced a poster designed for Faith groups which you can view at: togetherwecanstopit.org/news/new-resource-for-faith-groups.

If you know someone who might be experiencing domestic abuse, make it possible for him or her to tell you or someone else. For advice, see www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk or call the Domestic Abuse helpline 0800 027 1234.

Rebekah Gronowski

Turbanology

27th March 2013, 11 am – 3.30 pm, free
Main Council Chamber, City Chambers, Edinburgh

Journalist Jay Singh-Sohal will explore the misconceptions that link the turban to terrorism, and discover its importance for diverse groups in society. Vegetarian lunch will be served.

Places are limited; please confirm your attendance before 21 March 2013: turbanologyedinburgh.eventbrite.co.uk or 0131 556 0441.

Norman Crane

Ten Questions for Norman Crane

Joe Goldblatt

Norman Crane is the third chairman in the history of Sukkat Shalom (Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community). He and his wife Wendy came to Edinburgh five years ago. Wendy and Norman are both committed teachers in the ELJC Cheder which now has 15 children.

Where is home originally?

London, until I drifted away when I went to university.

Where did you live just before you came to Edinburgh and what was that like in terms of Jewish life?

We lived in various places in the Manchester area. There is plenty of Jewish life there with three Reform congregations, many orthodox congregations, and many shops and social and cultural activities.

When did you first realize you were interested in Jewish studies?

When I look back, I was interested from my childhood. I can recall one or two incidents. One of my father's elder brothers was an orthodox rabbi. When I visited him, he questioned me about what I did or did not know. I remember he asked me when I was nine to explain why the passage about the dry bones from Ezekiel was read on Pesach. I realised I knew the answer.

Where did you study Judaism?

I started as young boy in cheder, continued with post-bar-mitzvah cheder, and learned on my own through reading. As an adult, I learned through teaching others, and my first student was Wendy. I studied modern Jewish history in London and did a masters degree in Jewish studies at Manchester University between 1999 and 2002. By then, I wanted a formal qualification, and I enjoyed the discipline of having to do it within an academic framework.

Who were the strongest influences for you in terms of your Jewish education?

Well, I guess it was my Uncle Sol, and, in adulthood, various teachers.

What really fired you up?

In Manchester, at Jackson's Row (Manchester Reform Synagogue), I was inspired by three particular teachers: Rabbi Sammy Pereira, Rabbi Tovia ben Chorin, and, for thirty years, Rabbi Doctor Reuven (Bobby) Silverman.

Tell us about your family?

My Mum was called Feigele, or Frances in English. She was four foot ten inches and dynamic! If I was given the wrong thing in a shop, I sent mum into the shop to do battle.

What are your goals as the new chairman for ELJC?

We have a rabbi and a growing membership. And now we need a building. I am trying to put together a group who can do this. It is even possible that we may be able to build.

What are your hopes and dreams for the entire Jewish community of Scotland?

What I would like to see, and I am thinking about Edinburgh primarily, is the development of social and cultural activities. I would like to see the two synagogues in Edinburgh thrive.

What do you most enjoy about leading the ELJC Cheder?

The teachers doing their work with the children: I do not do much work; I give it a shove every now and then but I let the others do the work. I love seeing the results. Seeing successful b'nei mitzvah is a real joy.

So, what is it? Chopped liver, gefilte fish, brisket or chicken?

Out of that lot, it has to be chopped liver! Nothing can beat chopped liver!

Joe Goldblatt is Professor of Planned Events at Queen Margaret University. He is married to Nancy Lynner, a popular teacher in the ELJC Cheder.

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity number SC035678

You, your family and friends are cordially Invited to celebrate Passover with us at
Our Community Seder for Pesach 5773

Monday 25th March 2013 (first night of Pesach), 6.45 for 7pm

We have a strict limit on spaces this year so please book early. Seats will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Last possible booking date is Sunday 17th March.

The seder will be held at Marchmont St Giles Church Centre, 1a Kilgraston Road and will be catered and served by Butterflies Catering. Your ticket includes a three course meal (fish or vegetarian), kiddush wine and soft drinks. You may, if you wish, bring your own table wine to have with the meal.

The seder will led by our Rabbi Mark Solomon using the Liberal Haggadah B'Chol Dor Va'Dor . Many of you will have a copy already. You can order your own by calling Liberal Judaism on 020 7580 1661 or by visiting <http://www.liberaljudaism.org/written-word-resources/shop.html> Price: £8.50 plus postage .We will also have some available for loan at a charge of £1 each. Please let us know how many your party will need to borrow.

If this price would be a hardship, please contact our treasurer by email (treasurer@eljic.org) or by leaving a message on the community phone (0131 777 8024) so we may return your call. This will, of course, be in complete confidence. No members should be prevented from attending by being unable to meet the cost.

Please mail the booking form with a cheque payable to Sukkat Shalom, Edinburgh to:

Dr Maureen Mackinnon, 12 Woodfield Park, EH13 0RB.

If you cannot post us a sterling cheque, please email seder@eljic.org giving the details required on the form for details of other methods.



Your name _____

Contact details (email address and/or telephone) _____

SEDER BOOKINGS

Number		Total cost	Number of veggie (non-fish) meals
	Adult members at £15 each		
	Children of members at £7.50 each		
	Adult non-members at £20 each		
	Children of non-members at £10 each		
	Number of little ones sharing adult meals	free	

NUMBER OF HAGGADOT

	Loan of Haggadot at £1 each		
	Total amount payable		

Could you come at 5.30 to help set out the seder plates? If so please tick here.

Do you have a seder plate we could use on one of the tables? If so please tick here and bring it with you on the night.