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## **Edinburgh Reform Jewish Community Events**

### **Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> April. 7.00pm - Erev Shabbat Service**

**Homeroyal House, 2 Chalmers Cres, Marchmont, Edinburgh.** Please arrive in good time. If you are early press 5 then 4 then call for Blanche. We can't let you in after **7.10pm** without prior arrangement.

### **Mon 5th April. 7.00-9.45pm**

**Edinburgh Reform Jewish Community – Sukkat Shalom** First night of Passover at Inch House, Inch Park. We are delighted that we will be able to hold our 6<sup>th</sup> communal seder this year at our usual venue. A fish meal will be prepared, but a vegetarian alternative will also be available.

If you are able to help either before the meal, or with the clearing up afterwards We would be most grateful if you could contact Rachel Savage ([rbgsavage@hotmail.com](mailto:rbgsavage@hotmail.com)) or telephone (0131 554 3837). A reminder..... people should send in their seder booking forms if they want a place reserved, thank you. (If you have mislaid your copy please ring Rachel or download another one from the Sukkat Shalom website – [www.ssedin.org](http://www.ssedin.org))

### **Fri 7<sup>th</sup> May. 7.00pm - Erev Shabbat Service**

**Homeroyal House, 2 Chalmers Cres, Marchmont, Edinburgh.** Please arrive in good time. If you are early press 5 then 4 then call for Blanche. We can't let you in after **7.10pm** without prior arrangement.

## **Sukkat Shalom AGM**

Our AGM on 21st March was a momentous occasion. This was the moment at which we had to face up to the ending of the affiliation with GNS, and what to decide where we would go next. I'm glad to be able to report that after an exhaustive discussion, covering many points (a fuller summary of the discussion will be on the website ([www.ssedin.org](http://www.ssedin.org)) soon and in the next newsletter), we were able to reach near-unanimous agreement about short-term goals at least. The main results were the following. We passed this resolution overwhelmingly:

*This meeting agrees that we are committed to being a fully independent progressive Jewish Community, providing as many Jewish facilities - life cycle events, services and the like - as we possibly can. At this stage we do not know the details or timescales involved, but we are committed to developing these Jewish facilities to the best of our abilities.*

We committed ourselves to buying the scroll that has been so long under discussion. The timescale still has to be decided - the sofer has other scrolls in the queue before ours, and we still have fund-raising to do. But we are definitely well on the way.

We formed a steering group to consider all the many issues that face us as a newly-independent community. We have many volunteers for this group, but more would be welcome - it is open to all full members of the community. See the website or contact us for time and place of the next meeting.

Overall, the meeting had a very positive atmosphere. There was a strong sense of community and mutual trust, notwithstanding the inevitable uncertainty of the situation. We all feel that we have taken significant first steps in building an independent progressive Jewish community in Edinburgh.

Maurice Naftalin

**My words may occasion regret, but my silence will avoid it. *Ibn Gabirol***

## **Induction of Rabbi Nancy Morris as Rabbi of Glasgow New Synagogue**

On March 11 2004, Adar 19 5764, I was privileged to attend the Induction of our new Rabbi, Rabbi Nancy Morris. This was a wonderful occasion and was well-attended, with many of the local dignitaries from the City of Glasgow, the Chief Executive and other representatives of RSGB, Rabbis from London and elsewhere as far as Canada.

The Invocation and Welcome were given by Dr David Goodman, Chairman of Glasgow New Synagogue. A very moving Address was given by Rabbi Tony Bayfield, Executive Director of RSGB, including many amusing anecdotes from his own background. Maariv Prayers were led by Rabbi James Baaden of South London Liberal Synagogue whom many of us know and love from his visits to Sukkat Shalom when he was a student Rabbi, his wonderful singing voice lifted the congregation present and filled us with a sense of joy. The Induction was performed by Rabbi Lawrence Englander of Solel Congregation, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada who followed this with an Address, telling us of his work with Rabbi Nancy as a colleague. Rabbi Nancy then gave us her address and told us of her journey into the Rabbinate, after which she led the concluding Prayers.

The Final Blessing was given by Rabbi Andrew Goldstein of Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue. There were many congratulations by dignitaries, including the Catholic Archbishop who had thoroughly enjoyed the Service and had joined in with great gusto!

There followed a Kiddush – as always, Betty Black and her team did us proud – it was a wonderful array of tradition Jewish delicacies (but of course)! I was able to talk to many of the visitors. Including David Jacobs form RSGB (Small Communities Development Officer), Lisa Stock (Chair of RSGB Northern) and Rabbi Tony Bayfield who was extremely impressed, not only with the new Shul building, but the tremendous 'buzz' (as he called it) and atmosphere in the Shul community. He felt that there was a very positive feel to the community. We also talked about the future of our own community at Sukkat Shalom and he felt that we were facing a very exciting time in our own development.

I would like to thank all at GNS for a well-organised and dignified Service for Rabbi Nancy' Induction – truly an occasion for her and us to remember for a long time!

Rebekah Gronowski

## **RSGB Conference – June 2004**

David Jacobs (RSGB Small Communities Development Officer) has asked me specially to encourage as many of our Sukkat Shalom Community as possible to attend the RSGB Conference at Leicester University at the end of

June (the last weekend). I can tell you from experience that it is a super occasion – the Shabbat Service, Havdalah and the Sunday Morning 'Yeshiva' Session are truly worth going for! Anyone who wishes to go can download an Application Form from the RSGB website. If you do not have internet access, please let either Ricky or me know and we can send you a copy of the document.

Thanks – Rebekah

## **One World Peace & Justice Concert**

### **March 6th 2004**

This was a major Middle Eastern themed Peace & Justice Concert held in St Mary's Cathedral in Palmerston Place, Edinburgh. Doors opened at 5.45 p.m. and we were able to sample the delights of Indian Cuisine at a buffet kindly provided by the Suruchi Indian Restaurant. The Concert began at 6.30 p.m.

What a feast of Middle Eastern delights we were to experience! There was a group called 'Canty' who were some of the ladies of 'Cappella Nova' (a well-known group in Scotland) & they were accompanied by William Taylor on the mediaeval clarsach. This was a beautiful blend of pure voices singing early music, Plainchant, music of the mystic Hildegard von Bingen and polyphonic music in the Italian style – a true delight to listen to. There were beautiful Islamic chants sung by Hassen Rasool who has an exceptional voice and a true spirituality. This was followed by a dance/drama "Where's the Power" presented by The Elements – this was followed by Egyptian Dancing by Hilary Thacker who, as always, gave us a wonderful display! She was accompanied by Mike Zolker & Javier Villar Morales on Middle Eastern percussion instruments – very skilfully played. The audience learned 'Hevenu Shalom Aleichem' with me and sang very well – my job was made easy because many people already knew it – we were able to manage two parts which was fun!

The highlight of the evening both for me and for most people in the audience was the Jewish and Sufi Chants, jointly led by Rodef Shalom Eliyahu McLean and Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bukhari – everyone was invited to form concentric circles (with Margaret and me in the centre in our wheelchairs) – all joined hands and we chanted mantras in Hebrew and in Arabic based on the theme of 'Shalom' and Salaam'. This was a most moving experience and the atmosphere within the circles was quite electric and extraordinary – a truly mystical and spiritual experience. This was a very difficult item to follow but we finished with 'Shalom Chaverim' sung as a round and all left with a tremendous feeling of peace and well-being. A truly wonderful evening!

Rebekah Gronowski

# Edinburgh Reform Community

**Nisan – Iyar 5764**

**April 2004**

## **New Jewish Title**

This was from one of the Jewish newsgroups: Coming from a mixed-persuasion background, I've started thinking of myself as "unobservant Orthodox." My wife, however, says it's more accurate for me to proclaim allegiance to Reconformodox Judaism.

In this week's JC the scribe Marc Michaels, who is helping us with our scroll, is pictured on page 31, putting the last touches to the Holocaust memorial scroll at Brighton Reform. Marc has already given us some ideas about how celebrate the arrival of the scroll. One thing he suggests is scraping out the middles of the last letters, so that they can be filled in by community members, thus 'completing' the scroll! Marc's excellent site on the work of a sofer is

<http://tinyurl.com/3hhuu>

Gordon Barclay

## **Tuna in a Green Pepper Boat pareve**

1/4 cup low-sodium tomato juice  
2 tbsp. lemon juice  
1/4 tsp. onion powder  
1/4 tsp. paprika  
Pinch black pepper, or to taste

In a small bowl, combine the dressing ingredients.

### Tuna Salad

1 6 1/2-oz. can water-packed tuna, drained  
1 tbsp. green or red pepper, minced  
1 small carrot, shredded  
1 green pepper, halved lengthwise and seeded

In another bowl, combine the tuna, carrot, and minced pepper. Pour the dressing into the tuna salad and mix thoroughly. Fill the green pepper halves. Serves 1-2.

Gail Ashkanazi-Hankin,  
Denver Author of Passover Lite

We have a new website all of our own!

This exciting news is unfortunately not yet matched by much exciting content. All contributions gratefully received...

But at the very least there is now a place you can go to to find the latest news and arrangements for Sukkat Shalom events:

[www.ssedin.org](http://www.ssedin.org)