

# Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

April 2006

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**Secretary:** Catherine Lyons, [secretary@eljc.org](mailto:secretary@eljc.org)  
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## EVENTS & SERVICES

**Date** **Friday 7 April**  
**Event** **Erev Shabbat Service**  
**Venue** **Columcille Centre**  
**2 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh**  
**Time** **7pm**

**Date** **Wednesday 12 April**  
**Event** **Community First Night Seder**  
**Venue** **Columcille Centre**  
**2 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh**  
**Time** **7pm**

Our 8<sup>th</sup> communal seder will be held at a new venue this year but with Rabbi Pete Tobias leading the service as usual. If you would like to volunteer your services for catering please contact Gillian. If you have not had an application form, please contact Gillian on 226 6234, or visit <http://eljc.org/seder5766.html>

**Date** **Saturday 15 April**  
**Event** **Introduction to Judaism class**  
**Venue** **Gillian and Charlie's house**  
**Time** **9.00am**

Please contact Nick or Rabbi Mark for further details.

**Date** **Saturday 15 April**  
**Event** **Shabbat Service and Lunch**  
**Venue** **Columcille Centre**  
**2 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh**  
**Time** **11am**

Rabbi Mark will lead the service. Please bring something that we can all share for lunch. **Please note that as this will still be Pesach, only food suitable for Pesach should be brought e.g., no bread, pasta, pastry, biscuits or cakes (unless they are Pesach ones!).** Our tradition permits rice.

After lunch we are planning on going for a walk – come prepared!!

**Date** **Sunday 16th April**

**Event** **Cheder Activity**

**Venue** **tbc**

**Time** **tbc**

We are hoping to have a cheder activity with Rabbi Mark in the morning. We will be in touch with those of you who have cheder children

**Date** **Sunday 16th April**

**Event** **Talmud Reading Goup**

**Venue** **Stephanie & Josh's house**

**Time** **7.30pm**

Please contact Stephanie or Josh for more details.

**Date** **Saturday 29 April**

**Event** **David Silk's Bar Mitzvah**

**Venue** **St Mark's Unitarian Church**  
**Castle Terrace, Edinburgh**

**Time** **11am**

After the service, Nick and Kate invite all members of the community for lunch at the Point Hotel. In order to help with catering arrangements, could you please let Nick and Kate know if you would like lunch (tel. 01506 845325, e-mail [nick\\_silk@btinternet.com](mailto:nick_silk@btinternet.com) or even just speak to us!)

**Date** **Friday 5 May**

**Event** **Erev Shabbat Service**

**Venue** **Columcille Centre**

**2 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh**  
**Time** **7pm**

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**ELJC Welfare Support Line**  
**07904 813162**

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**We can do no great things, only small things with great love. --Mother Teresa**

## ELJC Website

We're slowly doing a long-overdue overhaul of the community website. If you have any skills or ideas that could contribute to this process, please do get in touch: [webmaster@eljc.org](mailto:webmaster@eljc.org). In particular, we need more photographs! We know that you have a lot of pictures at home, because there are always plenty of photographers at every communal event. Please share them!

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## ELJC Membership

At our AGM in January, we discussed one idea for extending our membership scheme, though in the end we didn't accept it. But as a result of the discussion, we felt that our membership arrangements do need review, especially (but not only) in respect of family memberships. Council has now set up a working group to consider the options. If you would like to take part (involvement will probably mean two or three meetings over the next few months), please contact Catherine or Maurice: mail [info@eljc.org](mailto:info@eljc.org), or ring the community phone.

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## Ark for the Scroll

At a recent Council meeting we discussed the possibility of having a (portable) ark for the scroll. After some discussion, we decided that the best idea was to ask whether any member of the community would like to make, or help to make, one. We think that you'll probably need to have some carpentry skills for this, but any ideas would be welcome. Please contact Liz, Gordon, Nick or any member of the Council if you are interested.

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## Purim

Our Purim spiel was a recently discovered history of the MacGillah clan, a branch of the ten tribes whose history has unaccountably been omitted from both Scottish and Jewish History. It told of how Malcolm (aka Mordechai) MacGillah and his niece saved Scotland from the evil plans of Haman (aka Hamish) and at the same time introduced the Scots to the therapeutic and psychological benefits of MacGillah's special chicken soup. The text was ably read in Scots by Gordon Barclay assisted by a large cast of characters.



## **Liberal Judaism in Practice**

We have recently received some copies of pamphlets from Liberal Judaism in this series. Some of them are replace similar titles in the "Where We Stand" series. In particular, there are two new pamphlets.

**Ethical Eating**, by *Rabbi Janet Burden*.

This covers both the traditional Kosher hechshers as well as the use of other labels such as 'Fair Trade' or 'the Soil Association', and a general Jewish ethical principles as they apply to food.

**Lesbian and Gay Jews and same sex relationships** by *Rabbi Roderick Young*

This covers the issues raised by same sex commitment ceremonies. It can also be accessed on the web at [http://www.liberaljudaism.org/pdf/LJinPRACTICE\\_LesbianGay.pdf](http://www.liberaljudaism.org/pdf/LJinPRACTICE_LesbianGay.pdf)

**Liberal Judaism and Jewish Identity** by the late *Rabbi John Rayner*.

A reprint of the 'Where we stand' leaflet which answers the question of 'Who is a Jew?' from the perspective of the Liberal movement. A web version of this is at [http://www.liberaljudaism.org/lj\\_wherewestand\\_liberaljudaism.htm](http://www.liberaljudaism.org/lj_wherewestand_liberaljudaism.htm)

Anyone interested in obtaining copies of these, or enquiring about other topics should contact **Gillian Raab** ([Gillian.Raab@googlemail.com](mailto:Gillian.Raab@googlemail.com) or 0131 226 6234).

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### **Mazel Tov**

A very Happy (special) Birthday on April 8th to **Phil Wadler**.

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## **SALE OF ART WORK**

**BARGAINS GALORE  
FROM 1989 TO PRESENT**

**Friday, 21st April to Monday 24th April**

**Friday and Saturday 11am to 6 pm  
Sunday and Monday 12 noon to 6 pm**

**Prices start at £ 25.00  
drawings, watercolours and oils by**

*Miriam Vickers, S.S.A.  
WASPS, Patriothall Gallery,  
1d Patriothall, Hamilton Place,  
opposite Stockbridge Library,  
Edinburgh EH3 5AY.  
0131-226-7126*

For further information contact Miriam Vickers at [mirivick@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mirivick@yahoo.co.uk) or 0131-226-7126.  
See [www.s-s-a.org/artists/vickers/](http://www.s-s-a.org/artists/vickers/)

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### **Edinburgh Wizo**

We are part of a world wide non-political group founded in the UK 85 years ago and provide much needed funding for social work projects throughout Israel. Our membership is open to all and to raise funds. Forthcoming event :

**11th June**

**Lunch/Garden** party at the home of Edward and Marylla Green , Innerwick House, Ellisland Road. 12.30 This is a ticketed event (for catering purposes) and they will be available from 22nd Feb from Kate or myself. A children's ticket will be £5.

For further info on our events, on Wizo membership please cotact me. Looking forward to meeting some new faces!  
*Sylvia Donne*

8 March 2004

Dear Liberal Judaism Member,

My first letter to all of Liberal Judaism's members focused on Settling In to my new job; this, my second, considers Partnership. Partnership is the key to understanding the relationship which the movement's headquarters based at the Montagu Centre ought to have with its constituent parts. In any federal organisation where constituents pay into a central body it is not difficult for the parts to resent the whole and for the organisation to misunderstand its members. Liberal Judaism is no theoretical exception to that rule, and so a major task of mine is, on the one hand, to clarify what is best done where whether locally or centrally, and what is best achieved together.

Local communities clearly know their own localities and priorities best but, perhaps building upon the collective wisdom and experience of all Liberal Jewish communities, Liberal Judaism centrally may be best placed to do what each community may not be able to do on its own. This is what I term partnership and what, since I took up the role of Chief Executive full time last June, I have promoted as the role of Liberal Judaism's movement headquarters.

I start from the premise that for Liberal Judaism to thrive locally and nationally, both constituent communities and Liberal Judaism at the Montagu Centre need to play particular roles. Liberal Judaism as a movement is little without its constituents serving as beacons of the best of Liberal Jewish principles and practices, and our constituents will be best enabled to achieve their objectives if the Montagu Centre, as the central resource of the movement, is effective and efficient in carrying out its tasks.

Let me give you some examples from communities ranging from our smallest to our largest, from our nearly newest to our oldest, geographically spread from the North to the South.

- LJS needed to extend its engagement with young adults and, in partnership with Liberal Judaism, its employment of Young Adult Worker, Anna Gerrard has led to the successful 'ideas café';

- Edinburgh was without rabbinic support and the intervention of Liberal Judaism led to the 'fostering' of Edinburgh by Rabbi Mark Solomon;
- Northwood wanted to provide activities for a growing group of younger members, and, assisted by Liberal Judaism's Outreach Director, 'tent' is now established (as it has been similarly in a number of other constituents including Brighton, Kingston and Leicester);
- Nottingham was temporarily without spiritual and educational leadership but the regular visits of Liberal Judaism's rabbinic Chief Executive and Outreach Director for nearly a year has stabilised the position;
- North London needed support with its development and Liberal Judaism resources enabled it to expand its rabbinic services and its membership base; and
- Dublin has benefited from a special arrangement with Liberal Judaism that has enabled a number of its young people to attend Kadimah Summer Camp and other youth activities.

The truth is that the relationship between Liberal Judaism and its constituents can, and should, be of mutual benefit. Liberal Jewish communities and the Liberal Judaism movement thrive best when each does its function to the best of its ability but recognises that without the other its own work is made more difficult.

Only three things will prevent that partnership from thriving - lack of will, lack of vision and lack of resources. Liberal Judaism and its constituents have the first two of these in abundance and, because we do, we will with the assistance of our Council of Patrons and others, resolve to find the third.

After 'Partnership' the theme of the next 'From the Chief Executive's Desk' will be 'The Montagu Centre'.

May I close by wishing you well for Pesach and by reminding you that you may contact me directly on 020 7631 9835 or by e-mailing to [d.rich@liberaljudaism](mailto:d.rich@liberaljudaism).

**Rabbi Danny Rich**

## Liberal Judaism Successes at the Board of Deputies Jewish Community Media Awards

The award of a second runner up prize for *LJ Today* in the Jewish Community Media Award category of 'Community Newsletter' was external recognition of the dynamic and interesting coverage which *LJ Today* provides for, and about, Liberal Judaism's constituents and the issues that matter to them.

For some eighteen months or so *LJ Today* has been under the guidance of a new team: Beatrice Sayers, Editor and designer Tammy Goldstein (member of Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue and wife of Liberal Judaism's Outreach Director, Rabbi Aaron Goldstein), and it has been receiving very positive comment from its readership. The joy was further enhanced by the second runner up Synagogue Newsletter category award to *LJS News*, and a third place prize to Bet Tikvah's website, [www.bettikvah.org.uk](http://www.bettikvah.org.uk)

Rabbi Danny Rich declared: *"I am really thrilled, both for the LJS and Bet Tikvah but particularly for Tammy and Beatrice. Their joint creativity and quality have been appropriately recognised. LJ Today is a vital plank in Liberal Judaism's strategy of celebrating and promulgating our principles and achievements"*.

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### Pesach Song - Dayeynu

There are many happy songs that are sung in joyous reminder of having been released from bondage. The most famous song is the melody 'Dayeynu', which records the many ways that God sided with the Hebrews. At the end of each mention of God's favours, the word 'Dayeynu' (or 'Dayeinu' or 'dayenu') - a Hebrew word that is pronounced: 'die-ay-new' - is sung, meaning: 'It would have been enough'. 'It', in the Passover story, represents each favour that God created to help free the Hebrews from slavery. This song is essentially a song of thanks and gratitude to God, where its message is saying: 'If God did a simple favour for us and didn't do anything else, it would have been sufficient', even if granting more favours would have helped the Hebrews to escape slavery sooner, or helped contribute to less suffering. The main point of the song is to recognize and be grateful for even the simplest of favours from another.



Vote for Pluralism  
Tolerance  
& Equality  
Vote for Pro Zion



Liberal Judaism have passed on to us an appeal from Pro-Zion, who describe themselves as the Zionist arm of Reform Judaism & Liberal Judaism in the UK.

You can find out about Pro-Zion from their website (<http://www.voteliberaljudaism.org.uk>), where their statement of aims says that "Pro-Zion endeavours to make Israel fundamental to the sacred lives and Jewish identity of Reform & Liberal Jews."

"As a Zionist organization, Pro-Zion champions activities that further enhance Israel as a pluralistic, just and democratic Jewish state." Their platform promises to work for the strengthening and recognition of progressive Judaism in Israel, to place Jewish life before Jewish land, and to aim to end violence through the creation of two states with peaceful and secure borders.

Pro-Zion is appealing just now to progressive Jews in Britain to register and vote for them as British delegates to the WZO Zionist Congress of the Jewish People, taking place in Jerusalem later this year. The Pro-Zion slate includes Tony Bayfield, Danny Rich, and Aaron Goldstein.

Voting is open to all Jews over the age of 18, who accept the "Jerusalem Programme" (see <http://tinyurl.com/gvr6z>).

Registration costs £3. It is easiest to register and vote on the Web - start at <http://www.zionistelections.co.uk/>.

If you prefer to use a postal vote, ring Dalia on 020 8343 9756 or write to:

AEC c/o ZF, 741 High Road, London N12 0BQ.

**But in either case you will have to hurry - registration closes on April 3rd, and voting on April 10th!**



# liberal judaism

**Biennial Weekend**  
**"Judaism without Borders?"**  
Cheltenham Park Hotel,  
Cheltenham, 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2006

Some spaces still available and day visitors very welcome. After dinner guest speakers **Roger Lyons**, perhaps best known for being the President of the Trade Union Congress 2003-4. and **Dr Edward Kessler**, Founding Director of the Cambridge Centre for the study of Jewish-Christian Relations and co-editor of "Aspects of Liberal Judaism: essays in honour of John D Rayner" (2004).

For children aged 8 -15 a full **LJY-Netzer** weekend programme runs at the same time close to Cheltenham. Crèche and childcare facilities are available for the under 8's, allowing the whole family to participate. For more details see the website at [www.liberaljudaism.org/biennial](http://www.liberaljudaism.org/biennial)

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## **Passover: Journey to Freedom.**

The Jewish Museum has opened a new temporary exhibition on Pesach, entitled **Passover: Journey to Freedom**. This is a fantastic designed especially with children and families in mind and including an interactive Seder table.

**Venue:** The Jewish Museum, 129-131 Albert Street, Camden Town, London **NW1 7NB**  
Tel. 020 7284 1997

**Opening Hours:** Monday to Thursday 10am-4pm, Sunday 10am-5pm

**Closed:** 13 April, 19-20 April

**Admission:** Adults £3.50, Senior Citizens £2.50, Children/Students/Disabled £1.50, Family ticket £8. *Group Visits and Educational Programmes welcome by prior arrangement.*

**For further information and illustrations, please contact:**

Sara Priem on: Tel. 020 7284 1997  
marketing@jewishmuseum.org.uk  
[www.jewishmuseum.org.uk](http://www.jewishmuseum.org.uk)



## **The youth movement of Liberal Judaism**

### **Events Diary March-Aug 2006**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>** Super Sunday! Charity Fund-raising!  
Years 11 - Bogrim

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** Yom Limmud (Day of Learning):  
Years 11 – Bogrim

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** Inter-Youth Movement Israel  
Election Special: Years 11-13

**April 7-11<sup>th</sup>** Machanae Aviv (Spring Camp):  
Years 3-10

**April 30<sup>th</sup>** Inter-Youth Movement Yom  
HaShoah Event

**May 5-7<sup>th</sup>** LJY Netzer Chazon (Vision  
Weekend): Years 3-10

**June 25<sup>th</sup>- July 3<sup>rd</sup>** Bog Tour (Israel Trip): Age  
18+

**July 31<sup>st</sup> - August 13<sup>th</sup>** Machanae KADIMAH!!  
(2 week summer camp): Years 3-10

**July 18<sup>th</sup>- August 16<sup>th</sup>** Israel Tour: End of Year  
11

**August 16<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>** Kayitz Netzer (2 week tour  
around Eastern Europe): End of Year 12

Contact Us: **Jess Herman** or **Jenny Walton**  
**020 7631 0584**

[j.herman@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:j.herman@liberaljudaism.org)  
[j.walton@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:j.walton@liberaljudaism.org)

*Please note all ages are set out by English  
School Years and that all details and dates are  
subject to change.*

## Why God Never Received Tenure at Any University

1. He only had one major publication.
2. It was in Hebrew.
3. It had no references.
4. It wasn't published in a refereed journal.
5. Some even doubt He wrote it Himself.
6. It may be true that He created the world, but what has He done since then?
7. His cooperative efforts have been quite limited.
8. The scientific community has had a hard time replicating His results.
9. He never applied to the Ethics Board for permission to use human subjects.
10. When one experiment went awry, He tried to cover it up by drowning the subjects.
11. When subjects didn't behave as predicted, He deleted them from the sample.
12. He rarely came to class, just told students to read the book.
13. Some say He had His son teach the class.
14. He expelled His first two students for learning.
15. Although there were only ten requirements, most students failed His tests.
16. His office hours were infrequent and usually held on a mountain top.

*BAD JOKE DISCLAIMER: We recognize that religious humor can be risky. It is our hope that by laughing at ourselves (and others) we can make this subject more approachable. If you find any of these objectionable, we apologise. Many were posted on Beliefnet, some were passed along via email and others spotted on other websites. As with most jokes, the original authors are unknown .*

Thanks to Rebekah!

Q: Why do we have a Haggadah at Passover?

A: So we can Seder right words.

It seems a group of leading medical people have published data that indicates that Seder participants should NOT partake of both chopped liver and charoses. It is indicated that this combination can lead to Charoses of the Liver.

A blind man is sitting on a park bench. A Rabbi sits down next to him. The Rabbi is chomping on a piece of matzoh. Taking pity on the blind man, he breaks off a piece and gives it to the blind man. Several minutes later, the blind man turns, taps the Rabbi on the shoulder and asks, "Who wrote this?!!"

## Spinach Frittata with tomato and goats cheese.

### INGREDIENTS:

2 tablespoons olive oil  
3 roma tomatoes, sliced thick and lightly salted  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
8 eggs  
1/2 (10 ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry  
5 ounces goat cheese  
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
ground black pepper to taste

### DIRECTIONS:

Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Heat oil in a 10-inch oven-safe skillet. Add tomatoes; fry, turning once until golden brown, about 4 minutes total. Add garlic during the last minute. Meanwhile, whisk eggs, spinach, cheeses, oregano, 1/4 teaspoon of salt and pepper to taste; pour over tomatoes.

Transfer pan to oven and bake until just set, 12 to 15 minutes. Remove from oven and let stand a few minutes. Loosen frittata around pan perimeter. Invert onto a plate, then invert onto another plate. Cut into wedges and serve.

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Many thanks to all who contributed this month. Items for publication are welcomed as are responses to items published.

The deadline for the next newsletter will be Wednesday 26th April. Please email any contributions to [newsletter@eljc.org](mailto:newsletter@eljc.org) or post to Clare Hogg, 4 Meadowpark Court, Haddington, EH41 4HT