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Under the auspices of the Glasgow New Synagogue a constituent of the RSGB



Fri 1st Aug 7pm

Erev Shabbat Service: Eric Liddell Centre, 15 Morningside Road, Edinburgh.

Due to Homeroyal House being unavailable the Erev Shabbat services in August, September & December will be held at the Eric Liddell Centre. Please arrive in plenty of time and someone will be on the door; there will be tea and coffee facilities.

Fri 5th Sep 7pm

Erev Shabbat Service: Eric Liddell Centre, 15 Morningside Road, Edinburgh.

Fri 3rd Oct 7pm

Erev Shabbat Service : Homeroyal House, 2 Chalmers Cres, Marchmont, Edinburgh. Someone will be on the door to let you in, please arrive in plenty of time. If you are early press 5 then 4 then call for Blanche. There will be no entry after **7.10pm** unless prior arrangement has been made. (Thank-you).

The Shiur will resume after a summer break.

Events in the Synagogue Hall, 4 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh.

Sunday 17th August. 11am

This is a get back to nature ramble (not actually *in* the Synagogue Hall). It is a guided ramble by an expert in trees, flowers and mushrooms. It is suitable for all ages and costs £5 for an adult (free for children). The venue and meeting arrangements are still to be confirmed so anyone interested should contact Doreen Bowman (bowman@onetel.net.uk).

Tues 19th August. 7.30pm

The Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society will be putting on a concert featuring a string quartet led by Madeleine Whiteson. The concert will be held at the Hebrew Congregation (4 Salisbury Road). The concert is free, but donations will be welcome to help benefit the Lit.

Other events include:

Sunday 31st August a Challah making evening with supper (“Arthur Kleinberg will demonstrate the art and we will then get a chance to try for ourselves”)

Sunday 21st September - pre-yomtov coffee morning with cake and book sale.

Sunday 2nd November - Israeli dancing.

Saturday 13th December - winter ceilidh and dinner.

So show us how to spend our time and acquire a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90 : 12

Edinburgh One World Festival Peace and Justice Concert

This is the reading that I gave at the concert on June 21st on the subject of peace and justice in the Jewish tradition:

I would like to read two passages tonight. The first is on the theme of the Jewish prophetic tradition, by Marc Ellis, an American theologian who himself can be seen as being within that tradition – as a voice of conscience denouncing the idolatry of power. In this passage, the word Israel has its traditional and present meaning, referring to the Jewish people not to the state.

Concern with conscience and justice in the Jewish tradition is often identified with the prophets, but it is not too much to see the center of the Torah itself - that is, the story of the formation of the Jewish people - as an assertive, restless and relentless struggle with the prophetic.

The framework of Jewish life is the covenant with God. The covenant was given, accepted, rebelled against, withdrawn, only to be given yet again. Fulfilled originally in the promised land, it was later carried into exile. The prophetic tradition was the framework within which the covenant took shape.

Historically, the covenant was with and for Israel. Yet within this exclusivity, Israel was constantly instructed to be just to the stranger and the foreigner. Israel is a particular people with a particular God, but Israel's God was also seen as the God of the universe. In that universe no one is a stranger or a foreigner. Once Israel had its place, once the promise was fulfilled, then all were to reside in a just and peaceful world.

The promise itself is prophetic in its expectations and demands. Possession of the land demanded the creation of a society different from the Egypt left behind, or the Israelites would be dispossessed and the wandering would begin again. The new society is simply stated: justice for all, which at the same time is the path of affirming God. The Torah is clear: no worship of God without justice. Injustice is a form of idolatry. The contract is explicit and the prophets are the messengers of God restating it and the penalties for failing to live according to it.

The second passage is the conclusion of a sermon by Rabbi David Forman, the founding chair of Rabbis for Human Rights in Israel

http://www.rhr-na.org/resources/HH_packet/html/05.forman.humanrights.html

On the most sacred holiday in the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur, Jews read the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Is this not the fast I look for? To unlock the shackles of injustice, to undo the fetters of bondage, to let the oppressed go free and to break every cruel chain. If you remove the chains of oppression, the menacing hand, the malicious word; then shall your light shine in the darkness" (Isaiah 58:6-10).

Our rabbis taught: "Who is mighty? He who turns his enemy into a friend" (Avot de Rabbi Natan 23).

The Talmud tells us: "Upon three things does the world rest – upon justice, upon truth and upon peace. And the three are one. For when justice is done, truth prevails and peace is established (Ta'anit 4:2).

Maurice

Letters from Rebekah's Travels in Crete - contd.

Etz Hayyim Synagogue, together with the Synagogue in Rhodes where I had attended High Holy Days in 1996, are the oldest Synagogues in the Greek Islands. Etz Hayyim certainly dates back to 4th Century BCE during the time of Alexander the Great, and is one of the two Synagogues which existed on the island of Crete. The other one was destroyed and there is now a restaurant situated on the site. Etz Hayyim was re-dedicated after a massive reconstruction programme, having lain derelict for many years. Nikos Stavroulakis travelled the world raising funds for its restoration which was a major task in itself.

Happily it is now restored and there are plans for its extension to provide more facilities and to enlarge the Library which, as I may have mentioned before, houses 1700 books. Nikos himself is a prolific writer of books covering various topics, including a Jewish Cookery Book. Talking of food - Pesach is celebrated each year and this year's Pesach Seder was held in the restaurant previously mentioned, on the site of the other Synagogue; there were 30 people present including visitors.

As mentioned in my previous article, Etz Hayyim Synagogue has its own website where the visitor may find out much more about this piece of history. There are many books (many written by Nikos), cards (mostly designed by him also) and other artefacts of Jewish interest. Do visit the website and - if you go to Crete - do visit the Synagogue, where Nikos will make you most welcome. He is very anxious to make contact with other Jewish Communities all over the world. As you can imagine, with only three Jewish souls permanently on the island, it can be very 'lonely' from a Jewish point of view and easy to feel isolated.

But - WE are all out here and all over the world, so we can be their extended community. If you would like to contact Nikos, please email him: dori@grecian.net

Each summer, during the tourist season, Etz Hayyim welcomes about 150 visitors through its doors to visit, pray, worship or just sit - if there are any young Students who would like to do volunteer work with Nikos during Summer vacations, please contact him - he would be very delighted to hear from you. However - on a practical note - may I suggest that, because of cultural local customs, only young men consider this. I do not intend this to be sexist in any way but, young single lassies possibly could feel rather vulnerable and therefore uncomfortable.

I do have other information which I have brought home with me if anyone is interested. Please email me :- rebekahgronowski@hotmail.com and if I can tell you anything

I will be only too pleased. Also, if you want to know how to become a Friend, Member or Supporter of Ezt Hayyim, please let me know & I will forward details.

Nikos, if you read this and I have made any mistakes, please forgive me & let me know - I don't have my notes with me!

Stay well, enjoy the summer and visit Crete!

Rebekah.

Edinburgh Reform Community

Av / Elul 5763

Should we buy a Torah scroll?

The subject of the community buying its own Torah scroll has been raised more than once during the last year. A scroll would provide a focus for us, and make it possible to conduct Torah services more frequently (borrowing a scroll from Glasgow is laborious). It would be an important step towards making ourselves less dependant on Glasgow, while not cutting those ties.

An approach was made to the Czech Torah Scroll Trust, but they have no more scrolls in a usable condition, and we would have to join a waiting list for a scroll returned by another community. If we want one, we will have to buy one. We have made tentative contacts with a scribe who has given us advice on what we would have to pay, and is looking around for something appropriate. We would have to plan on raising between £4000 and £5000 for the purchase. Beyond that, the scroll would have to be dressed, a portable ark of some sort would have to be made for it, and we would have to insure it. We should perhaps be aiming for £5500-£6500.

Some donations have already been pledged and there is a group of members very keen for the community to take this step. But it is important that such an important development has the backing of the majority of the community.

We would be grateful if you could let us know if you are in favour of the purchase, either by e-mail - gordon@barclaygoring.fsnet.co.uk - or by post (5 Derby Street, Edinburgh EH6 4SQ). It would also be helpful if you could let us know how you might be able to contribute to the purchase or to the fundraising effort. Alternatively, if you do not think that the community should be taking the step, please make your views known.

*Gordon Barclay
Rebekah Gronowski*

The Sacredness of Human Relations

perspectives from across the faiths.

St George's West Church,
Shandwick Place, Edinburgh,
Wednesday 17 September 2003,
7pm for 7.30pm-9.30pm. This event is being organised jointly by Fiona (S George's West Church), Marjorie (Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre), and Neill (EICWS),

Sun. Sept 7th 2003

stay updated

www.limmud.org.uk

The one day event on Sunday the 7th Sept at the **Gilmorehill Centre, University of Glasgow**, offers a microcosm of the exciting choice of activities at the five day event but with all the energy. A bus is being hired to take Edinburgh folk through to Glasgow on the 7th and bring them back.

If you are interested in securing a place on the learning bus, then please contact

**Elaine at : 0131 229 5541 or
elaine.Samuel@ed.ac.uk**

Was Adam Jewish?

Young Abie Levinson said, "Papa, was Adam Jewish?" Mr. Levinson put down his newspaper and thought for a moment. He was an expert at Talmudic reasoning and the art of making a point by an unanswerable question. He said, "If we can determine that Eve was Jewish, my son, we would at once see that Adam was Jewish, for who but a Jew could bring himself to marry a Jewish girl?" (Here he turned his head a bit nervously to make sure Mrs. Levinson wasn't listening.) "Therefore, we drop the Adam problem and ask ourselves instead: "Was Eve Jewish?" "To answer that we have only to ask the question: Would anyone but a Jewish girl say, 'Here, have a piece of fruit?'"

Northern Weekend

Friday 21st – Sunday 23rd

November 2003

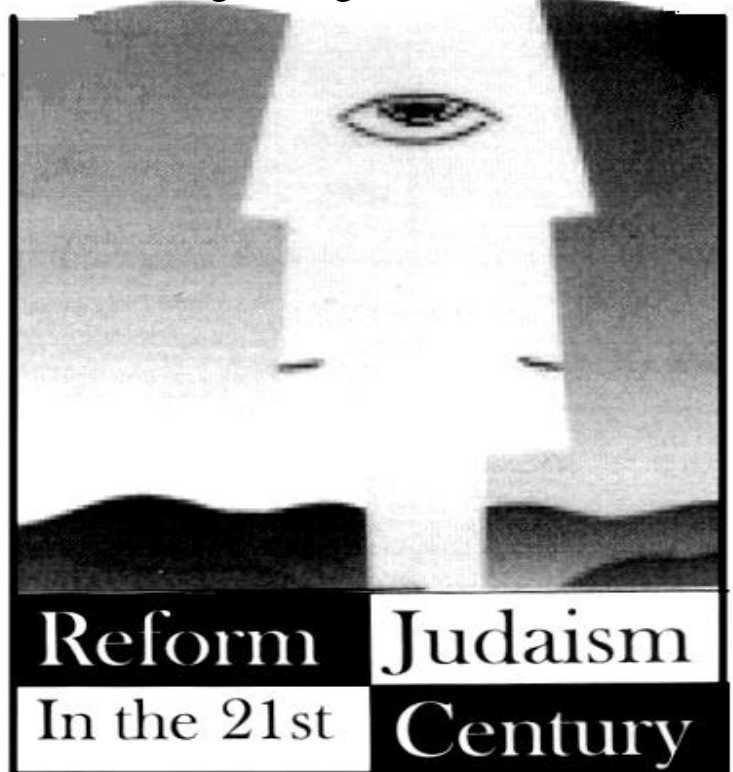
Keynote

Julian Resnick

Director of Living Judaism, RSGB

- Shabbat with an extended Northern family
- Study, fresh air and outstanding food
- Stimulating choice of workshops
- Creche and listening service
- Parallel youth programme

*Facing a
Changing Future*



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