

# Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

August 2007

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## EVENTS & SERVICES

**Date** Friday 3rd August  
**Event** Erev Shabbat Service  
**Venue** Columcille Centre,  
Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh  
**Time** 7pm  
**Rabbi Mark** will be with us this weekend and will lead the service.

**Date** Saturday 4th August  
**Event** Talmud Reading Group  
**Venue** 44 Queen Street  
(3rd floor flat - Levy)  
**Time** 3pm

**Date** Saturday 18th August  
**Event** Shabbat Service  
**Venue** Columcille Centre,  
Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh  
**Time** 11am

This service will be led by student **Rabbi Nathan Alfred**. Nathan will also be leading our High Holyday services so this is a great opportunity for us to meet him and for Nathan to meet us. We hope that we get a good turnout for the service.

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

### Good News!

Following our appeal, we have a new Newsletter Editor! **Kristi Long** has very kindly volunteered her services and she will be taking over producing the newsletter from the October issue. Please continue to send any relevant articles to the same email address [newsletter@eljc.org](mailto:newsletter@eljc.org)



## Sukkat Shalom's Festival excursion on Sat 25th Aug

Most people have replied by now but if you haven't and wish to come along, here are the details. The show is **Talking Heads (by Alan Bennett), Sat 25th Aug** starting at **16.30hrs** (1 hour 45mins long) at the **Freemasons Hall George St, Edin**. Phone number for booking is **0131 226 0000** Price £14, £12 and £10 concession (**please book your own tickets**). Afterwards, most people are going to continue the evening by having a meal at **Est Est Est**, George Street, around **18.30hrs**. Please contact **Ricky** on **07962 076017** if you wish to attend the meal and he will ensure there will be a place reserved for you.

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*"I learned that it is the weak who are cruel, and that gentleness is to be expected only from the strong"*

**Leo Rosten**

## **The High Holydays at Sukkat Shalom**

Once again the High Holydays are coming up. Listed below are the details of our services and other information which you may find helpful.

**Services** - The times and venues of the services are shown below.

### **Erev Rosh Hashanah**

Wed 12/9/07            7pm    St Marks

### **Rosh Hashanah**

Thur 13/9/07            11am   St Marks

The service will be followed by lunch and Tashlich at the Raab's

### **Kol Nidrei**

Fri 21/9/07            7pm    St Marks

### **Yom Kippur**

Sat 22/9/07

Morning service	11am
Additional service	1pm
Break	2.30pm
Study Session	3pm
Afternoon service	3.30pm
Children's service	4.30pm
Memorial service	5pm
Concluding service	5.30pm
Conclude	6.30pm

**We intend going to a restaurant after the service, although at the time of writing, we still need a volunteer to co-ordinate this!**

### **Succoth**

Sat 29/9/07            11am   Columcille

We will be having our Succoth service on Shabbat morning. We will be decorating the succah from 9am, have our service at 11am and then have some 'nibbles' and eat fruit in the succah after the service.

### **Mitzvot**

All members will receive a 'mitzvah invitation'. If you do not receive one, or if you would like to discuss any aspects of the mitzvot, please speak to Nick Silk.

## **Tickets and Security**

For reasons of security, **ADMITTANCE TO ALL SERVICES WILL BE BY TICKET ONLY.**

All members will receive a ticket by post prior to the High Holyday services. All visitors, including friends and relatives, who wish to attend services are requested to apply to the Secretary for a ticket. We suggest a £25 donation is made by those who are able to afford it **but it is our policy that no-one will be prevented from attending services on the grounds of cost.**

### **Security**

If you have not already volunteered for helping out with security and would be prepared to help, please contact Gordon Barclay.

### **Kol Nidrei Appeal**

We will be having a Kol Nidrei appeal and all money collected will go to charity.


### **Children**

We do not plan to have a crèche during any of the services. However, we will have some 'worksheets' relating to the High Holydays which children will be able to complete/colour in. For those parents wishing to take children out of the services and use the worksheets, there will be a separate room at St Marks. However, there will be no supervision provided and as such parents who do wish to take children out of the service will have to provide their own supervision, since children must be supervised at all times. Obviously children are welcome to attend any of the services, but we would ask that parents ensure that the dignity of the services is maintained.

There is a service specifically for children at 4.30pm on Yom Kippur, to which children (and all adults) are invited.

### **Memorial Service**

If you have a relative whose name you would like to be remembered in the memorial service on Yom Kippur, please let Nick Silk have details (Hebrew name, English name and relationship; details provided last year are still on file). It would be helpful if these details were given prior to Yom Kippur.



# liberal judaism

## Rabbi Aaron Goldstein

Liberal Judaism Outreach Director and current Assistant Rabbi of Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue has been appointed **Senior Rabbi of Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue**. Rabbi Goldstein will take up the post full-time in the summer of 2008, until which time he will divide his time equally between both roles.

## Mitzvah Goreret Mitzvah One Good Deed Leads to Another

These words, from the section of the Mishnah containing sayings of the rabbis of 1900 years ago, are as relevant now as they were then. This autumn you can put these words into practice by pledging a minimum of 10 minutes (that's right, just TEN minutes) a week for four weeks to do a good deed. By doing so, you will join Jews around the world who take part in Jewish Social Action Month. If you sign up, Liberal Judaism will send you an email or a letter each week detailing something you can do to help those much less fortunate than us in this country or elsewhere around the world. The communication will explain why we, as Liberal Jews, are compelled to be actively involved in improving the world, and will offer you one action that can be completed in 10 minutes. If you wish to get more involved, there will be longer actions that can also be taken. To sign up, please send an email to [socialaction@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:socialaction@liberaljudaism.org) or phone **0207 5801663** to add your name to the list.

## Friends of Progressive Judaism need you

FPJ need volunteers to get involved in important work helping to fund our growing communities in Europe, the FSU and Israel. If you have enthusiasm, energy and ideas then we want to hear from you. For further info please email: **Jane Greenfield**, [janegreenfield@lineone.net](mailto:janegreenfield@lineone.net).

## Thanks

**Udechukwu Ojiako** would like to express his thanks to the everyone in the Community for their good wishes and support on his admission to Judaism ceremony.

## Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation Community Centre Upcoming Events

The community centre has an exciting programme of events planned over the next few months, so be sure to put the dates in your diary NOW! Look out for further information!!

### **Sunday 2nd September 2007**

Pre-Yom Tov Coffee Morning & Cake Auction

### **Sunday 28th October 2007**

The return of the ever-popular Quiz Evening!!

### **Saturday 8th December 2007**

Chanukah Dinner

For further information on any of the above or how to get involved in helping out, contact Doreen Bowman or email [jcc@ehcong.com](mailto:jcc@ehcong.com)

*Doreen Bowman*

## Union scraps boycott call

The boycott debate continues. The National Union of Journalists has decided to drop plans to ballot its members on whether the union should boycott Israeli goods. For more, see letter (page 4) and [http://www.somethingjewish.co.uk/articles/2406\\_union\\_scraps\\_boycott.htm](http://www.somethingjewish.co.uk/articles/2406_union_scraps_boycott.htm)

## Letters to the Editor

Dear editor and cofaithful,

As well as having my own position on the UCU Boycott (or any such proposed boycott of Israeli academic institutions), I've come to a view on the issue of Liberal Judaism's 'Official Policy' on it, which is that they should not have one!

Whether those currently serving Liberal Judaism's members as executive officers have collectively come to a majority view in favour of the Boycott or against it, they have neither institutional mandate nor moral right to declare that view as an official position or policy. Liberal Judaism is a broad movement, and the very inclusion of the word LIBERAL in its name should provide a clue both as to its capacity to form and express a group stance on any given issue, and as to the desirability that it should do so even if it could. There is a parallel, here, with something Maurice Naftalin pointed out in his letter last month: the UCU Boycott is not, in any case, the fully significant Official Policy that its capital letters here and Liberal Judaism Executive's self-important subsequent Response might indicate it to be. That is because of the practicalities involved. For example, what about the institutional joint ventures and educational exchanges between Israel and the UK? A fully enforced Boycott would disrupt such activities and would actually contravene the constitutions of universities and colleges affiliated to UCU. Similarly, it could be argued that for Liberal Judaism's Executive to insist on officially promoting an official policy for or against the Boycott, would be for it to overstep its own remit in the affairs of its constituents.

Finally, what of my own personal opinion on the Boycott itself? Well, would that it were truly official, enforced and more than a scream inside a dustbin: I would be all for it. Academics in a democracy who fail to use their influence in high places and rally their students in lower places to avoid fascists like Sharon and Olmert gaining power and developing apartheid in their midst? They clearly need a kick up the backside!

*Robert Waang  
(formerly Robert Hæl)*



Association of Jewish Refugees  
SERVING HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS  
AND REFUGEES NATIONWIDE

The recent annual joint meeting of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Newcastle AJR members was held on 27 June. **Suzanne Green** the organiser of the Northern Group coordinated the arrangements. Both first and second generation representatives participated. As usual we had brief talks from the claims advisor and social worker, followed by discussion groups. An excellent lunch was prepared by **Irene Mason**. We also had musical entertainment with Yiddish songs. Once again we were very happy to have some new people attending. Even 60 years after the Holocaust, we are still finding people whose Jewish heritage had been concealed from them - and people who didn't know of the existence of AJR. A very happy and companionable day was spent by nearly 40 people.

*Francoise Robertson  
AJR representative for Edinburgh*

For more information visit [www.ajr.org.uk](http://www.ajr.org.uk)  
Tel: **020 8385 3070** or email  
[enquiries@ajr.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ajr.org.uk)

## European Day of Jewish Culture and Heritage 2007

The main events in the UK are on **2nd September** but further events occur on days from 4-16th September. Also 'Simcha on the Square' with Jewish Music, dance, exhibition and stalls is in Trafalgar Square, London on 14th October. Though there is a predominance of London events, if you find yourself in Bradford, Brighton, Leeds, Manchester or York, for example, there are many other happenings. The opening of Garnethill Synagogue in Hill St, Glasgow is our nearest possibility. There are also guided walks, lectures, exhibitions, a cemetery visit, music, a genealogical workshop and much more. Similar activities are organised all over Europe. For information, try [www.jewishheritage.org](http://www.jewishheritage.org) or call **020 7446 8660**.

*Francoise Robertson*



The Edinburgh Festival  
**fringe**

## JMI Comes to Edinburgh

This year, for the first time, the Jewish Music Institute is providing a showcase in Edinburgh for a wide variety of Jewish culture from around the world, including new theatre, comedy, poetry, cabaret, klezmer and music theatre. This is their timetable (the **bold** titles are what appears in the official Fringe programme):

### **StencImusic:**

Actress and virtuoso clarinetist, Neyire Ashworth in a new solo instrumental theatre piece based on stories and memories from ex-residents of Spitalfields and Whitechapel in London's East End.

Aug 3rd – 27th C Soco Studio 3 – 12.00

### **The Tad Brothers: Murder On The Panini Express:**

German Jewish comedy stars, The Tad Brothers, in a hilarious whodunnit, 60 minutes of fast-paced wit, laughter and physical comedy.

Aug 3rd – 27th C Soco Studio 3 – 13.15

### **New Theatre from the Jewish Diaspora**

C Soco Studio 3 15.45:

- Gimpel The Fool, from the story by I. B. Singer – Aug 3rd – 12th
- While You Were Away: the story of an eccentric twenty-something Jewish actress's hapless life – Aug 13th – 20th
- S'Brent: Rafael Goldwasser's tour de force performance of three Sholem Alechem monologues – Aug 21st – 27th

### **Jewish Cabaret**

C Central Cabaret Bar 19.30:

- The Jewish Chronicles – Aug 1st – 11th
- God's Face Appeared In Your Gazpacho: humorous, satirical poetry about things Jewish and not so Jewish. include guest appearances from Scottish klezmer musicians Phil Alexander and Joanna Nicholson. – Aug 12th – 15th
- Stand-up – Judy Batalion: stand-up,

storytelling and satirical lectures exploring the dilemmas of Jewish identity faced by third generation Holocaust survivors – Aug 16th – 19th

- Ethnic Schtick: fusion of poetry, autobiographical storytelling and Jewish soul music from Laoise Davidson and Leah Thorn – Aug 20th – 23rd
- I'm A Stranger Here Myself: exploring the Jewish-inspired origins of German cabaret through the music of revered composers Kurt Weil and Friedrich Hollander. – Aug 24th – 27th

### **Klezmerchaos**

C Central Cabaret Bar 22.30:

- Beyond The Pale: an Edinburgh group who recreate the original spirit of klezmer, with much of their repertoire transcribed from original recordings. – Aug 22nd – 27th C Central Cabaret Bar

## Festival Gigs for Yiddish Song Project



There's a huge amount of Jewish Music and Theatre on the Fringe this year. One that is worth a visit is performances by the **Yiddish**

**Song Project**, taking place at **The Lot, Edinburgh Fringe Festival 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 August 10 - 11pm The Lot, 4 - 6 Grassmarket, Edinburgh, Scotland EH1 2JU** Tickets - <http://www.edfringe.com> or 0131 226 0000 £8 (£7) They have recorded a CD called 'Zing!' which will be ready for sale by the festival and also now have a 'myspace' at <http://www.myspace.com/yiddishsongproject> where you can listen to some of the songs from the CD and check out any upcoming gigs. If you would like to organise a group booking (more than 5 persons) at a preferential rate call **Stephanie 07739 184 480**.

### **The Solomon Sisters**

Yiddish vaudeville, comedy and glitz. Cabaret from the golden age of New York's Yiddish theatre.

Aug 1 - 27th, Pleasance, 20.20

(cont...)

## Ivor Dembina



A two-week only, strictly kosher comedy deal: admission **free**, gentiles half price. 'Crackling one-liners' Scotsman. 'Profound but also terribly funny' Guardian. 'Ivor's so funny it hurts' Evening Standard. 'Laugh? I nearly converted' Crucifixion Times.

Includes material from three shows covering his North London Jewish upbringing, a Jewish take on the world of off-beat sexuality, and a comedic account of a visit to Israel and the West Bank.

Aug 4-18th, Laughing Horse @Linsay's, 19.55

## Iris Bahr



Iris Bahr is an Israeli-American actress who is coming to Edinburgh to perform her solo show DAI (enough) about a

suicide bombing in Tel Aviv. DAI garnered a great deal of critical acclaim Off-Broadway and has been performed it at the United Nations as well. She is looking forward to bringing it to European audiences this summer before returning to NY. Reviews are available at [www.irisbahr.com](http://www.irisbahr.com)

*Many thanks to **Francoise Robertson** for helping to compile this list of Jewish fringe events.*



**Many thanks to Hannah Kenner for compiling this list.** For tickets visit [www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk) or call **0845 373 5888**

### **Martin Goodman: Jews in the World**

Wed 15/08/2007

The origins of anti-semitism are given a startling new explanation by a superb historian. Rome and Jerusalem: The Clash of Ancient Civilizations argues that the Romans were tolerant towards Jews until political decisions, rather than theological or cultural hatreds, sowed the seeds of two millennia of Western anti-Semitism.

### **Jacqueline van Maarsen**

Sun 12/08/2007

Come and meet Anne Frank's best friend. Jacqueline van Maarsen - who had been declared Jewish even though her mother was a French Catholic - went to school with the young Anne in Amsterdam. Hear the remarkable tale of how she escaped her friend's tragic fate and her enduring lessons on the evil of discrimination.

### **Jews and Arabs in the Middle East**

Thu 16/08/2007

Join two leading foreign correspondents as they discuss the complexities of Israel and Palestine. David Pratt is the award-winning foreign editor of the Sunday Herald; his Intifada is an essential first-hand account of the Palestinian uprising. Adam LeBor's City of Oranges illuminates how the human stories of Jews and Arabs in Jaffa act as microcosm and magnifying lens for the troubled Middle East.

### **Norman Lebrecht**

Mon 13/08/2007

Exhilaratingly polemical, always controversial, leading music critic Norman Lebrecht takes no prisoners. In Maestros, Masterpieces and Madness he journeys through the life (and, he argues, death) of the classical recording industry which in the twentieth century made the riches of music available to the masses for the first time. Chaired by Sheena Macdonald.

*(cont...)*

*(Edinburgh Book Festival, continued)*

**Ethel G Hofman & Martin Jones**

Wed 15/08/2007

Meals cement and shape our relationships, in families and communities. In *Mackerel At Midnight* Ethel G Hofman remembers with great fondness growing up Jewish in Shetland, and the food, Jewish and island, which enshrined that experience. Martin Jones's fascinating *Feast* looks at why humans have evolved to share food, and what it means.

**Marina Benjamin**

Thu 16/08/2007

*Last Days in Babylon: the Story of the Jews of Baghdad* is one woman's family story of the removal of what was once the most significant group in the Iraqi capital. Marina Benjamin's grandmother was among those persecuted and expelled by a hostile regime; while investigating, the writer rediscovered her own submerged identity.

**A N Wilson**

Mon 20/08/2007

A major new novel from one of the foremost literary figures of our time. *Winnie and Wolf* is the extraordinary story of the relationship between Adolf Hitler and Winifred Wagner, brilliantly recreating the days of the Weimar republic and the lives of two outsiders.

**Michael Wallner**

Fri 24/08/2007

Huge international excitement has surrounded the publication of actor and screenwriter Michael Wallner's debut, *April In Paris*, in more than twenty countries. A bestseller in his native Germany, it tells the story of an undercover German, working for the Nazis in France, who falls in love with a bookseller's daughter and has to make the most painful choices. Superb European fiction.

**Karen Armstrong**

Wed 22/08/2007

One of the foremost religious and ethical thinkers of our time, Karen Armstrong's seminal works on world religions have included *Islam* and *Buddhism*. Now the former nun turned leading commentator addresses the Bible, the world's bestselling book and fount of the West's literature, culture and belief systems.

**Raja Shehadeh**

Thu 23/08/2007

Human rights lawyer and writer of powerful and poignant sensitivity, Palestinian Raja Shehadeh is one the wisest and most welcome visitors to the Book Festival. We are honoured to be launching his new book *Palestinian Walks*, in which he crosses his land on foot; conflicts and history revealed in the beautiful battered landscapes.

**Zachary Karabell & Hugh Kennedy**

Sat 25/08/2007

The forgotten history of Islam and the West, and the monotheistic closeness of Christianity, Islam and Judaism, are potently recalled by Zachary Karabell in his timely and essential *People Of The Book*. Scottish historian Hugh Kennedy shows the remarkable speed of the Arab conquests which within a generation changed the shape of the world.

**Nick Rosen**

Sat 25/08/2007

*How To Live Off-Grid* is writer and documentary maker Nick Rosen's personal journey to a greener life - visiting and learning from those who have simplified their lives and reduced their dependence on the big power companies. This travelogue and manifesto also reassuringly suggests occasional luxury is still possible.

**Michael Rosen**

Sun 26/08/2007

One of the most exhilaratingly joyous writers for children, Michael Rosen has also written moving and compelling adult work. His collected poetry gathers prose poems from his memoirs, about his childhood, his trainee days at the BBC and later, the tragic death of his son. Come and see a master at work.

**Mustard, Custard, Grumble Belly & Gravy with Michael Rosen**

Sun 26/08/2007 Age 7+

New Children's Laureate and master entertainer Michael Rosen (most famous for *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*) brings us his delightful collection of silly, zany poetry in an event for the whole family. His irreverent style and infectious enthusiasm will have everyone wanting to rhyme along!



## Honey Chocolate Cake

### **Ingredients:**

1/2 Cup sifted flour  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
6 oz semi-sweet Fairtrade chocolate  
2 eggs  
6 Tablespoons honey  
1 Tablespoon vanilla  
1 Cup chopped nuts (optional)  
1/3 Cup butter

### **Instructions:**

Sift together all dry ingredients.  
Melt chocolate and butter, then cool.  
Beat in eggs, one at a time.  
Beat in honey and vanilla.  
Stir in dry ingredients and nuts.  
Butter an 8"x8" pan. Bake at 375 for 30 minutes, making sure to test for doneness.  
Top with whipped cream



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 29th August. Please email any contributions to [newsletter@eljc.org](mailto:newsletter@eljc.org)



## **Rosh Hashanah**

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is a two day holiday celebrated on the First & Second of Tishrei. Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the Yamim Noraim, the ten days of atonement.

On Rosh Hashanah, all mankind is judged. HaShem writes the judgment for each of us in the Book of Life. This judgment is based on our lives of the year before, and is the decision of what will happen to us in the coming year.

On Rosh Hashanah it is customary to eat foods that are sweet with flavor. This symbolizes the "sweetness and good fortune" of the New Year ahead. Foods flavored with honey, apples and carrots are commonly served. The Rosh Hashanah meal begins with apple and challah dipped in honey.

Challah, the bread usually eaten on the Sabbath, is also specially prepared for the holiday. Instead of the traditional braided loaf, the Rosh Hashanah challah is round - symbolizing the cycle of the new year. The design of ladders or birds are added to the holiday challah by some families to commemorate the prayers rising to Heaven



**ELJC Support Group**  
**07904 813162**