

SUKKAT SHALOM

EDINBURGH LIBERAL JEWISH COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 2004

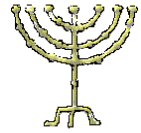


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www.eljc.org

Shalom!

This edition includes an invitation to join a Liberal Community trip to Israel, as outlined on **page 3**. The intention is for an inclusive yet flexible trip for the wider Liberal Community. It is still at the planning stage, which means that you have the opportunity to influence the shape of the trip – contact Shlich@liberaljudaism.org. By joining with other small communities we can create an expanded Liberal Judaism trip, both in terms of numbers attending and quality of programmes offered, and so meet the needs of people with different experiences and knowledge of Israel. A more detailed outline is on the Sukkat Shalom website www.eljc.org.

This month also introduces the **Book Corner**. It would be great to make this a regular feature, so do send in your reviews!

We've had an exceptionally generous anonymous donation towards the cost of a breastplate for the scroll, so are now able to go ahead with design and sourcing the scroll decorations.

If you weren't able to attend Ida's 90th-birthday party you can catch up with the moving toast from her niece, Irene, on **page 6**. However, you're too late for the champagne provided by Irene or for the delicious birthday cake baked by Kate Silk – thank you Kate and Irene!

Sukkat Shalom is still in the party spirit and a good job too – with Chanukah beginning on the evening of 7 Dec: the community party will be held on Sun 12 Dec, see the "Events" column.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter. Contributions to the January newsletter should be sent to Ricky at sukkatshalomsec@aol.com Regards, Hannah

"What you give for the cause of charity in health is gold; what you give in sickness is silver; what you give after death is lead"

Events

**FRI 3 DEC, 7pm – Erev Shabbat service
HomeRoyal House, 2 Chalmers Crescent**

Please arrive in good time; if you are early press "5" then "4" then "call".

**SAT 11 DEC, 11am – Shabbat service and
Sukkat Shalom sponsored kiddush, Glasgow
New Synagogue, Glasgow**

Sukkat Shalom is sponsoring a kiddush at GNS to thank the Glasgow community for their support over the years. Please contact Gillian for info on the minibus: RaabGillian@aol.com

**SUN 12 DEC, 3pm/4pm – Chanukah events
4 Merchiston Crescent, EH10**

Cheder (3–4pm), Chanukah service and party (4pm) at Stewart and Gina Green's home: 0131 228 4140.

**THURS 16 DEC, 7.30pm – Council meeting
5 Derby Street**

All Sukkat Shalom members welcome to attend: please tell Gordon or Liz if you intend to come: gordon@barclaygoring.fsnet.co.uk

**SAT 18 DEC, 11am–1pm: Shabbat service
St Columba's Church Hall (by the Castle),
14 Johnstone Terrace**

Service will be followed by kiddush.

**Fri 7 JAN, 7pm – Erev Shabbat service
HomeRoyal House, 2 Chalmers Crescent**

Please arrive in good time; if you are early press "5" then "4" then "call".

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Sat 4 Dec – Kiddush in honour of Betty Black, Glasgow New Synagogue. See note on p. 2.

Mon 6 Dec: Private view/selling of contemporary Scottish art and jewellery in aid of the Medical Campaign for the Victims of Torture among other charities. Details on <http://tinyurl.com/4ppv> (members only), or ring 07891 439 646.

The Lit: **Sun 12 Dec:** David Neville's film, *The Audition*; **Sun 19 Dec:** Talk: *Religion & American politics*. www.ejls.org, or 447 5883

Notices

Condolences

Ricky Hogg and family would like to thank all who have sent sympathy and best wishes following the recent death of Ricky's father.

New arrival!

We are delighted to announce the birth of Orli, daughter to Avery and Elena Meiksin and sister to Naomi



Social/fundraising events

Everyone enjoys social events, but it's hard to get them off the ground. Do you enjoy getting people together? Combine social fun with a good cause by organising a fundraiser for the community!

Kol Nidre appeal

The Kol Nidre Appeal now stands at **£1300** and remains open for those who would still like to contribute. Any donations should be sent to Jonathan Broadie at 26 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh EH9 3HP

Shabbat service and sponsored kiddush, Glasgow

If anyone who is going to GNS for the service the service and Edinburgh-sponsored kiddush on 11 Dec is *not* a member of GNS, please let Nick Silk know (the.silks@ukgateway.net). This is purely for security reasons, since GNS needs to know in advance the names of visitors to services and Nick has agreed to provide list of non-GNS members in advance of the service.

Rabbi Pete Tobias, BBC Radio 2, Tues 7 Dec

You may have already been enjoying Rabbi Pete's slots on 'Pause for Thought', Radio 2, 88-91 FM on Tuesdays at 9:15am. His final show is this Tues 7 Dec. You can also go to the Radio 2 website and 'listen again' by following the links to the appropriate page.

LJY-Netzers Veida (Conference)

The conference is being held from 19-22 Dec in London. It will be a fun, educational and inspiring four days with winter activities, discussions and the unique LJY-Netzer atmosphere. Call LJY-Netzer on 020 7631 0584.

Hebrew Congregation Chanukah dinner

Sukkat Shalom are invited to the Chanukah dinner on 18 Dec. Please contact Doreen Bowman: bowman@onetel.com.

Prayer Books

We had hoped to start using the Liberal prayer book, *Siddur Lev Chadash*, for our shabbat services from January. Unfortunately they are out of print so we will have to wait until February when Rabbi Goldstein will lend us some. In the meantime, we will be using the Reform siddur. If you have one, please bring it with you for the Dec and Jan services as we have only a limited number of photocopies. We will continue to use our 'normal' booklets for erev Shabbat services.

Would you like to be involved with services?

The recently formed Religious Affairs committee held its first meeting in November and are keen to involve as many people as possible in helping with services. So, we invite you to volunteer for some (or all) of the following:

Taking services – This can be taking some or all of an erev Shabbat or Shabbat service, or reading from the scroll.

Yahrzeits – We would like to send out notification to those with a yahrzeit that the yahrzeit name will be read at the following shabbat service. This will involve sending a standard letter or e-mail to those who have a yahrzeit, with the list being provided from information in the membership database. You will be able to do this in your own time, will not have to attend any committee meetings and all expenses will be refunded!

Birthdays & Anniversaries – In a similar way to yahrzeit notification, we would like to invite those with a birthday or anniversary to have a mitzvah at a service. Again, you send out the invitation in your own time, from a list that is provided for you.

'Domestics' – We would like to set up a rota of people who would be prepared to bring along kiddush wine, challah, juice, take the glasses away for washing and the like. I'm sure a good part of this will involve just checking that someone else is, for example, bringing along the kiddush cups. Expenses will be reimbursed. The more people that volunteer for this the better, as we'll all have to 'do our bit' less often!

So, if you are interested in helping with any of the above, or would like to just have a chat about what it would involve, please contact myself or one of the other members of the Religious Affairs Committee (Maurice Naftalin, Ricky Hogg, Rachel Savage or Rebekah Gronowski).
Nick Silk

Liberal Judaism Community Israel Tour, 15 – 22 May 2005

A number of individual congregations, as well as Liberal Judaism, are intending to have tours to Israel in 2005. Although the intentions may be slightly different, by pooling our resources we can meet individual congregation's expectations whilst also meeting a number of others' by:

- **creating an expanded Liberal Judaism trip**, both in terms of numbers attending and quality of programmes offered, and so meet the needs of people with different experiences and knowledge of Israel.

- **supporting the Israeli people** and, in particular, the IMPJ, RHR, LBC Haifa, UJIA projects and other schemes with which Liberal Judaism and our congregations are involved.

- **providing a complete experience** for our smaller congregations that may not be able to run their own trip.

- **providing opportunities for individuals** to follow their own interests as part of a friendly and meaningful group.

To achieve these goals a modular programme is proposed (approx. £600 incl all flights, transports, hotels and meals):

May 15–17: LJ community tour, headed by the Rabbis participating. Based in the centre of Israel and designed to meet different needs for all age groups and level of involvement with Israel.

May 18–20: Options for choice headed by different Rabbis and based at different geographic locations (for example: Galil - Golan touring and learning/Desert tour/art and artists/Jewish Palestinian project...).

May 20–21: LJ Shabbat in Jerusalem

May 22: Return or stay for a relaxing holiday

We invite you to respond to this proposal and to help us make it appropriate for your interests and needs as an individual, a family, a congregation and a movement. A brochure and application form will be available early January. We need to finalise the group to be taken by the end of February – so put these dates in your diary now and discuss it with your family and congregation!

Gili Tzidkiyahu, Liberal Judaism Shlichah,
Shlichah@liberaljudaism.org or 020 7580 1663

Note from Editor: detailed outline is available – please contact Gili or refer to www.eljc.org

Rabbi Aaron Goldstein says:

We are very much in the early stages of putting the trip together. The most important points are:

15 – 22 May 2005.

Approx. £600, including all flights, transports, hotels and meals.

1. A Liberal Judaism tour
2. Opportunity for your Sukkat Shalom to spend time together and focus on an Israel-centred project of your choosing.
3. Opportunity to follow your own interests e.g. political track, artists track, site-seers track etc.
4. Join with the movement of IMPJ (Israel movement for Progressive Judaism) and its Communities around Israel with the aim of identifying a potential twin for Sukkat Shalom.

We look forward to your comments!

Festival dates 2005 (5765/5766)

5765

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Tu B'Shvat: | 25 Jan |
| Purim: | 25 Mar |
| Pesach, 1 st seder night: | 23 April |
| 1 st day of pasach: | 24 April |
| Erev 7 th day of pesach: | 29 April |
| 7 th day of pesach: | 30 April |
| Yom Ha'Shoah: | 5 May |
| Yom Ha'Zikaron: | 11 May |
| Yom Ha'Atzmaut: | 12 May |
| Lag B'Omer: | 16 May |
| Yom Yerushalayim: | 26 May |
| Erev Shavuot: | 12 June |
| Shavuot: | 13 June |
| Tisha B'Av: | 14 Aug |
| Selichot: | 24 Sept |

5766

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|--|--------|
| Erev Rosh Hashanah: | 3 Oct |
| Rosh Hashanah: | 4 Oct |
| Kol Nidre: | 12 Oct |
| Yom Kippur: | 13 Oct |
| Erev Sukkot: | 17 Oct |
| Sukkot: | 18 Oct |
| Erev Shemini Atzeret/ Erev Simchat Torah: | 24 Oct |
| Shemini Atzeret/ Simchat Torah: | 25 Oct |
| 1 st night of Chanukah: | 25 Dec |

Book corner by Anat

***Jewish Study Bible*, ed. Adele Berlin, Marc Zvi Brettler (Jewish Publication Society Tanakh translation)**

**Oxford University Press, 2004
ISBN 0-1952-9754-7**

This is an English-only edition of the Hebrew Bible with textual corrections and notes that take account of modern scholarship as well as traditional readings and Talmudic commentary. A substantial essay section amounts to a wide-ranging survey of most aspects of Jewish religion from c.1000 BCE right up to the present day, on a range of topics such as: prayers and liturgy; creation and development of the Talmud; religion and history of Bible times; kabbalah; the Jewish Haskalah (Enlightenment); modern feminist readings; and much more. An excellent base from which to approach the Bible within the Jewish liberal tradition.

***A Tale of Love and Darkness*, Amos Oz
Chatto & Windus, 2004 (translation)
ISBN 0-7011-7421-8**

Oz writes beautifully, so if you can manage Hebrew it's well worth the effort; this edition is in English. A born writer and storyteller, Oz tells the tale of his childhood (no schmaltz) which coincides with Kom Hamdinah – the establishment of the state of Israel. An accurate and atmospheric retelling of the feelings, debates and experiences around that era, that is particularly timely now.

I'm about 10 years younger than Oz and spent some of my childhood in the nextdoor-neighbourhood to his in Jerusalem in the '50s; I went to the school, Katsenelson, which his parents rejected for him as not academic enough! I can vouch for his recreation of those days, though my Sephardi family had a very different and more relaxed atmosphere than his early Aliyah family. But I also had an uncle who went off to build 'halutzit' (pioneering) on a kibbutz (my uncle went on to become a major trades union organiser in Histadrut, the Israeli T&G/TUC).

As ever, Oz is a gifted and sensitive storyteller with bite; if you haven't already read him – or heard Oz himself at the recent Edinburgh Book festival – then I strongly recommend this. Of his other novels, *The Same Sun* is noteworthy as it is his collected journalism from a 'Peace Now' perspective.

If you want to compare similar major Arab-language writers, Naguib Mahfouz's *Cairo Trilogy* covers similar ground in a slightly earlier ear – growing up and national culture in '30s–50s Egypt. He also has a very good collection of poetic short stories. Hanah al-Shaikh's *Beirut Blues* combines an account of Lebanon's civil war with a feminist 'take' on Lebanese society – also beautifully evoked.

Logistics

www.abe.com supplies out-of-print or any secondhand books at very reasonable prices. And of course there is the ubiquitous Amazon...

Note from Editor: I have access to publishing discounts, including a 50% OUP discount. Contact me on ssedin_news@yahoo.co.uk.

Jewish Film Festival

The JFF tour is coming to the Edinburgh Filmhouse. These are the excellent films we're getting, with their dates:

Lullaby + short – Sat 4th Dec
Mama Loshn, Kinder Loshn – Tues 7th Dec
Forerunners + short – Sat 11th Dec
Arna's Children – Sun 12th Dec
Twin Sisters – Wed 15th Dec
Behind Enemy Lines – Sat 18th Dec
Rosenstrasse – Tues 21st Dec

Further details from the Filmhouse, 0131 228 2689, or www.filmhousecinema.com. If you're going, why not let other people know in the forum on "Outings and Social Events" and we can meet for a drink.

Talk by Rabbi Nancy Morris

Rabbi Nancy Morris, of Glasgow New Synagogue, will be talking to the Literary Society in January on *Sexuality, Law and Leadership: pushing the boundaries of Orthodoxy*.

Rabbi Morris is Scotland's first female Rabbi. To attain this position, she has had to challenge many of the customary barriers to women inherent in the Orthodox tradition; she will tell us of her struggles and her triumphs.

This talk is part of the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society's 2005 programme. It will be held in the Marian Oppenheimer Hall, 4 Salisbury Road on **Sun 7 Jan, 8pm. £3/£1.50.**

Letter

Lindsay Levy and Gillian Raab write:

This year's selection of charities for the Yom Kippur appeal was a last minute choice. In future years we will have more time and so it is important that we decide what criteria should guide our selection.

There seems to be a general agreement that it is not appropriate to support a political cause. The definition of what makes an organisation political is a difficult one. Some people might think 'Windows for Peace', our choice for this year, is an apolitical organisation, but others would disagree. As a community we need to make a choice that everyone will feel comfortable with.

We agree with Avery that we should be seeking to support charities that support individuals in need, and this should apply to our choice of an Israeli charity. It is very difficult to see through the spin on the countless charitable web sites to find out what each one really does. Those of us with contacts in Israel should try to find out from them which Israeli charities best deliver help to those who need it.

We have time before our next Yom Kippur appeal to think more carefully about what charities we will support. Everyone must contribute to this important decision, so start thinking of your proposals now.

Note from Editor: The latest newsletter from Windows for Peace is on the website at <http://tinyurl.com/3lae6> It includes details of seasonal greetings cards (multicultural, of course) for sale in aid of WfP.

Recipe for low-fat latkas

9 medium russet potatoes -- peeled and grated
1 large onion -- peeled and grated
3/4 cup whole wheat flour
1/3 cup nutritional yeast
1 tablespoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon white pepper

Variation: include grated celeriac along with the grated potato

Mix the onion and potato together well in a large bowl. Add the other ingredients and mix well. Cook latkas on a large, heavy non-stick or lightly-oiled skillet or on a non-stick, electric pancake griddle. Place 1/4 cup of the potato

mixture for each latka onto the preheated griddle or skillet.

Flatten into thin pancakes with a spatula. Cover them with lids or foil (or an inverted cookie sheet over the griddle) and cook until the bottoms are golden brown. Flip them over and cook, uncovered, until the second side is golden brown. Serve hot with applesauce and tofu sour cream.

©*The (Almost) No-Fat Holiday Cookbook*, Bryan Clark Gorgon, The Book Publishing Company, 1995

Return of the funnies

Oy vay, has it come to this?

A woman goes to the post office to buy stamps for her Chanukah cards.

She says to the clerk: "May I have 50 Chanukah stamps please."

"What denomination?" asks the clerk.

The woman replies: "Oy vay, has it come to this? Okay, give me 6 orthodox, 12 conservative and 32 reform!"

With thanks to Rebecca Wober

The tale of three Shuls

There once was a town with three shuls. The town was plagued with squirrels which took refuge in the synagogues after being chased away from peoples' houses. In the first shul, the Rabbi did not want to cruelly poison the squirrels and soon they over ran the synagogue.

In the second synagogue, the Rabbi too did not want to be cruel to the squirrels. His strategy was to entice them away with tit-bits and morsels of food left outside the synagogue. But soon they multiplied and the problem of invading squirrels was as bad as ever.

In the third synagogue, the Rabbi held a special kiddush to welcome the squirrels and invited them to join the shuls committees. Now this synagogue only sees squirrels only on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

With thanks to Ron Vallance, GNS

A Chanukah laugh for you.

Beth Edberg recommends: Turn your volume up on your computer, this is worth listening to. <http://home.nc.rr.com/keehyun/stuff/jew-heyya.html>

Ida's 90th birthday, 21 Nov

Champagne toast from Ida's niece, Irene, in Australia (read out by Rebekah Gronowski):

Ida, no doubt, today you are surrounded by people who care for you very much and have joined together to express this to you. I understand what also makes you even more special is that you are the Elder of your Congregation. How truly wonderful!

Unfortunately we are many waves apart but you never allowed this to deter our relationship. Mum always also encouraged me to honour you and for us to cultivate a relationship. So here we are today, so many, many waves away... making a toast to you on your 90th Birthday.

You were born in Bedzin, Poland, 90 years ago to this day. You grew up in a wonderfully happy and loving home with two sisters, Helena and Hanka (my mother) and your Father and Mother, Maurice and Miriam. You were privately schooled and then graduated from the well-known Yagellon University (attended also by The Pope) with a Masters of Philosophy, where you read Geography and Zoology. You also trained for War Emergency at the Medical School and became an officer of the International Red Cross. In 1939, when the Nazis occupied Poland, you fled with my mother from your family home hoping to reach Romania. Your parents thought you would be gone for no more than a few months, but you were both deported by the Soviets to sub-arctic Northern Russia where you were in a forced labour camp for a year; life was harsh. 1941 you enlisted with the Polish Army that had now been formed. You were taken into their Medical Services and were the only Jewish Nurse. Assignments included working tirelessly on the Afghan border for in a terrible epidemic of typhoid: 1000s died.

By Sept 1941 you left the Army and due to illness you were taken to Teheran where you recuperated and perfected your English. There you learned of a camp of Jewish refugees and in 1943 you independently supervised exit for the refugees, on an arduous and complex sea voyage, through desert and into Jewish Palestine, marked by history as "The Teheran Children".

Now in Jerusalem, you were back again in the Army with assignments taking you from Jerusalem to Cairo and then on to Gibraltar. When D-Day was announced you sailed by convoy, arriving at Greenock, Scotland, on 4 July 1944, being the largest convoy that the Royal Navy had ever sailed without any loss of human lives and equipment. You were at a Military Hospital near Perth where you were a translator. By the end of the war you were in Carnoustie, supporting soldiers learning to use prosthetic limbs. In 1947, you were decorated by the War Office – once for *Defence* and a second for *Courage*.

In 1943, you learned that your beloved father, mother and sister had been murdered by Hitler's Nazis. 39 other members of our family had also been murdered in Auschwitz leaving you virtually without any family members. You had left your family home with my mother in 1939 in the hope of returning

quickly, but never saw your family again. How can any soul recover from this? Years of grief and sorrow

In 1947 after demobilisation, you married Uncle Fred, an officer and gentleman; a lawyer and a judge in Poland who had served as a Liaison Officer in Europe and Africa during the War. After demob you both settled in London and were granted full rights to teach History and Geography in England and Wales. You bravely forewent an opportunity to teach members of the Royal Family at a private school in Windsor due to Uncle Fred's work commitments in London; in 1947 in compromise you started teaching and you managed to travel abroad and teach for some years at a Ladies School in Italy. You continued to teach into the 80s. You returned to Scotland where you retired with Uncle Fred to Dalgety Bay, Edinburgh in 1989. Sadly, in 1999 we lost Uncle Fred on the Eve of the Millennium. He was loved by us all; and no doubt you miss him terribly.

In adapting to being widowed, a few years ago you bravely decided to return to London. That's you, Ida – you decide on something and you just get on with it! However, London proved not to be right for you, which you were courageous enough to face; and determined and undeterred, you found your new home in Edinburgh. May we all have your strength in our 60s let alone 80s and now 90s!

I have named just some of your achievements and qualities Ida. To name just a few more:

- When asked to do something, you commit and follow through. Once whilst discussing our family tree you committed to writing it out for me; soon a 17-page handwritten essay turned up in the post!
- You relate a story like no one else I've ever known.
- When distressed you remain steadfast and level headed; you keep your head in a storm
- You remain interested in the world around you and read the morning papers daily. If you're not reading, you are listening to tapes of books & if you're not doing that, you're doing something else.
- Your memory remains nothing short of remarkable and more lucid by the day.
- You don't let adversity set you back
- You understand the need for education in the world and you will never stop being an educator
- Compassionate, caring and flexible
- You are tough-minded and logical & your spirit is boundless
- You are incredibly hospitable

Ida this is a special toast to you. It is filled with gratitude. May all of your friends who surround you here today, know you a tiny bit better. You are loved, appreciated, and recognised. Your life has been witnessed and you are met. If your mother, father and sister were alive they would be so very proud of the way in which you have allowed your life to be used and how truly amazing you remain at 90.

To Ida Skubiejska!! Mazel Tov!! L' Chaim! May you live on to eternity!