

# SUKKAT SHALOM

EDINBURGH LIBERAL JEWISH COMMUNITY

## December 2005

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וּפְרוּס עֲלֵינוּ סֵכֶת שְׁלוֹמֶךָ  
*sukkat shalom - shelter of peace*



Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

### EVENTS & SERVICES

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

**Date** Sunday 4 December  
**Event** Cheder  
**Venue** Catherine & Phil's house  
**Time** 3pm - 5pm

**Date** Friday 16 December  
**Event** Erev Shabbat service led by  
Rabbi Mark Solomon  
**Venue** Columcille Centre,  
2 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh  
**Time** 7pm

**Date** Saturday 17 December  
**Event** Shabbat Service with Lunch and  
Study led by Rabbi Mark  
Solomon  
**Venue** Columcille Centre,  
2 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh  
**Time** 11am

Please bring along a non-meat contribution for lunch. Rabbi Mark will also be leading the **Talmud reading group** and the **introduction to Judaism class** during the weekend. At the time of the newsletter going to press, the timings of these have still to be confirmed, but again details will go on the web site and forum, and/or contact Nick for further details.

**Date** Monday 19 December  
**Event** Council Meeting  
**Venue** tbc  
**Time** 7.30pm

**Date** Saturday 31 December  
**Event** Chanukah 7th night service and  
Party

**Venue** Catherine & Phil's house  
**Time** 3pm - 6pm

**Date** Friday 6 January  
**Event** Erev Shabbat Service  
**Venue** Columcille Centre,  
2 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh  
**Time** 7pm

### Final Reminder Kol Nidre Appeal

The Kol Nidre Appeal will remain open until **15 December 2005**. Cheques should be payable to Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh and sent to Jonathan Broadie at 26 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh EH9 3HP.

### Kaddish

It's a custom in our services for the service leader to ask before Kaddish if there are any names that should be especially remembered that day. In case you aren't comfortable with calling a name out under these circumstances, please remember that it is always possible to approach the service leader to give names to him or her quietly beforehand

### Youth Outing in Edinburgh

The Glasgow New Synagogue youth group (RSY-Netzer) are having an outing to the Edinburgh Dungeons on **Sunday 11th December** and have asked if any of our 'youth' would like to go along. They will be arriving at about 3pm for a 3.15pm tour. The age group is P4 - S2. If would like to go or find out more details, please contact Ben Freeman, in the first place through the community phone (07891 439 646) or by mailing [info@eljic.org](mailto:info@eljic.org).

## Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

**Dec 4 Nathan Abrams**, University of Aberdeen, *The Jewish Dream Factory: Jews and the American Film Industry*.

Dr Abrams is a Lecturer at the University of Aberdeen. His forthcoming book is *Commentary Magazine 1945-1959: A journal of significant thought and opinion..* He is also the co-author of *Studying Film* and co-editor of *Containing America: Cultural Production and Consumption in Fifties America*.

**2006 Jan 15 Catherine Lockerbie**, Director of the Edinburgh Book Festival, *Israeli writers*.

In the 5 years Catherine has been Director the book festival has grown and prospered. Amos Oz and David Grossman are just two of many Israeli authors who have appeared. In the words of Prof Geoff Lord when presenting her for an honory Doctor of Law at the University of Dundee "As a student at Edinburgh, she gained a double First in Philosophy and French, but, while studying the classics, deliberately sought out the company of living writers, and in her own words 'fell in with a bunch of reprobates'. These reprobates included such major poets as Sorley Maclean and Norman MacCaig."

**Both of these events will be held at 8pm sharp in the Marian Oppenheim Hall, Salisbury Road, Edinburgh.**

### Cheder

The current cheder block will be finishing on 4th December. After that, we will resume in January. At the last Council meeting, it was decided to hold a meeting to discuss the topics of future cheder classes. Nick intends to organise this for early January, and **all members, not just cheder parents, are welcome to attend. If you have any ideas, thoughts etc., please come along, and/or have a chat with him beforehand.** The time and date will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

### Happy Birthday ....

.... To Orli Meiksin who was one year old on 11 November.  
... and to her big sister Naomi who will be 4 on 2 January.

## Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

The Council is the umbrella representative organisation of all the Jewish Communities in Scotland. It employs a Parliamentary and Public Affairs Officer to monitor the Scottish Parliament and liaise with MSPs and others on matters affecting the Jewish Community. The council will hold its AGM will be on Sunday 4th December at Giffnock Synagogue in Glasgow. All observers are welcome. Proceedings start at 12pm with a guest speaker - Murray Tosh, Deputy Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament. There will then be a sandwich lunch followed by the business of the AGM. It would be helpful to have a rough idea of numbers attending so we know how much food is required. **Tel 0141 577 8228** or email [info@j-scot.org](mailto:info@j-scot.org)

### Social Event 1

**The Scottish Chamber Orchestra** will be performing a Viennese New Year Concert in aid of Maire Curie Cancer Care. The programme will include: Strauss Waltzes and Polkas, and works by Smetana, Brahms and Lehár. We'd like to organise a group outing to this event, but the tickets are quite expensive. If you are going and would like to sit in a group with other members, please ring the community phone or mail [info@eljic.org](mailto:info@eljic.org). But you'll need to be quick if we are to get a block of seats!  
Date : Sunday 1 January 2006 at 7pm  
Venue : The Usher Hall  
Prices : £24/£22/£20/£17.50/£15/£8 (the cheapest tickets worth getting are probably £20)

### Social Event 2

Anyone up for an informal Saturday night out with dinner (and maybe the odd drink) on the evening of Saturday 17th December? If so, please contact Ricky on 07962 076017.

## Letters

I had a new press release from Liberal Judaism this week - no great excitement in that, you may think, especially since the great majority of them are about events in London. This one was different, though. It was accompanied by a picture of Rabbi Aaron holding a Sefer Torah and surrounded by a smiling crowd. The event was a naming ceremony for three children from the same family, and what made this worth a press release was the place - Lincoln.

Lincoln is an intimate part of the history of British Jewry. In the 12th century, this small town was the home of the greatest financier of his time, Aaron of Lincoln, whose fortune was so great that when he died and the king "inherited" his estate (standard practice in those days when a Jew died) the national exchequer had to set up a separate division to manage it. The name of Lincoln has tragic connotations too. Lincoln was the scene of a blood libel and pogrom fifty years later, and because shortly afterwards all Jews were expelled from England that is the association that remains. For a long time after Cromwell revoked the expulsion no Jew would live in Lincoln.

We did, though. I grew up there, in a Jewish community that mostly consisted of one family - ours. It was strange to be Jewish in a place which still had Jewish street and house names after seven hundred years without any Jewish residents. But things have changed, at last. Since 1996 Liberal Jews have been holding services there - in a room which may well be the same one in which they were held before the expulsion. Their community is thriving. Looking at the smiling faces around Aaron, I see an ancient wrong, though it can never be righted, being at least balanced and set to rest.

**Maurice Naftalin**

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*Letters for publication are welcomed as are responses to those published.*

*The deadline for the next newsletter will be Wednesday 21 December 2005.*

*Please email any contributions to [newsletter@eljc.org](mailto:newsletter@eljc.org) or post to Clare Hogg, 4 Meadowpark Court, Haddington, EH41 4HT*

## **Third Edinburgh International Festival on Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace 8 February to 12 March 2006.**

Professor **Tariq Ramadan** and Greek Orthodox **Bishop Kallistos Ware** will lead a field of speakers, artists, writers and scholars in presenting the third festival. Internationally distinguished musicians and artists participating in MESP 2006 will include **Yair Dalal, Omar Faruk Tekbilek, Davod Azad, Latif Bolat, Beth Bahia Cohen and Yasmin Levy**. Yasmin Levy preserves and revives the most beautiful and romantic songs from the Latino/Judeo-Spanish heritage, mixing it with Andalusian Flamenco. [*ed. note: catch Yasmin Levy, she's wonderful!*]

The conference and Festival are non-political in nature taking no fixed position on any political, ethical or cultural question. It intends rather to create a forum in which we can listen to each other more deeply and learn with more open minds and hearts. Both the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation and the Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community will host services during the Festival, including a Carlebach service.

**For more information Tel 0131 331 4469,  
Email [njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:njwalk4300@hotmail.co.uk)**

## **I'm Jewish - my partner isn't**

**Rabbi Aaron Goldstein writes:** Liberal Judaism is holding a seminar for all who say 'I'm Jewish and my partner isn't' and we extend a warm welcome to couples in such relationships. The seminar offers you the opportunity to talk about your situation, discuss any difficulties that you may face and explore the various options open to you. The panel will include **Revd Marcus Braybrooke, Sheila King-Lassman and Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain**. Entry is for anyone, whether or not you are synagogue members and is open to both Jewish and non-Jewish partners alike. There is a charge of £2.50 per person. You can just turn up on the day although it helps us gauge numbers if you call in advance - contact us on 01628-671058 or email [rabbi@maidenheadsynagogue.org.uk](mailto:rabbi@maidenheadsynagogue.org.uk) Sunday 15th January 2006 2.30pm -5.45pm The Sternberg Centre, 80 East End Road, Finchley, London N3 2SY

## SCOTLAND LIMMUD DAY

Somewhat to my surprise, my first attendance at a Limmud day turned out to be a totally enjoyable day. I had been lured there primarily by the "Let's Get Physical" sessions, namely the opportunity to take part in both the Israeli dancing and the Klezmer music and dance. The Israeli dancing was certainly physical enough and managed to suit both beginners and those with more experience. The Klezmer session proved to be truly a joy with the versatile and excellent Edinburgh-based group "Beyond the Pale" playing traditional Yiddish music and most of the very large group in attendance, young and old alike, enthusiastically attempting to follow the relatively simple dances that once were a feature of Eastern European Jewish life.

The talk I had been most looking forward to, on the great Jewish migration from Eastern Europe towards the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, was full when I arrived. My disappointment was quickly forgotten when I went to an alternative session where I listened to an ordinary Glaswegian describe his wife's and his experience of going to the Soviet Union in 1981 to smuggle much needed medication and funds to prisoners of conscience and the refuse movement. The decision to accept the proposal made to them by the Israeli Embassy had not been an easy one, considering the risks they would incur and the fact that they had two young children. Their remarkable and at times poignant experience made for an enthralling session. The tone of the next session that I went to was rather different. It was led by an academic from Aberdeen, Nathan Abrams (he's on again at the Lit this Sunday), and entitled, "My mother was trying to kill us with fat: Food, culture and sex in Jewish film". Featuring a range of relevant film clips, and a critical analysis of the symbolism employed to characterise Jewish cultural identity, the session had the audience laughing throughout and sorry when it came to an end. The final session I attended, "Sex, drugs and Kabbalah-touching the hidden face of G-d," was a bit arcane for those of us with little understanding of Kabbalah. It nevertheless held my attention and I left happy with my new knowledge of why aspects of my own lifestyle, seen as questionable by some, were in fact fully consistent with this interpretation of Judaism.

Although I only was able to attend a small fraction of the sessions on offer, during the course of the day and on the bus back to Edinburgh I was interested to learn that virtually all the people I spoke to who had gone to various different sessions had shared my view that it had been a very worthwhile and enjoyable day.

### *Steve Engleman*

I stumbled quite fortuitously upon Rabbi Mark Solomon's late addition to the Limmud programme. I was looking for a different classroom but promptly changed my mind when I saw a door marked 'The Influence of Islam on Judaism'. All seats were taken and many people were perched on desks stored around the walls.

Mark's topic was the interplay of Judaism and Islam in the golden age spanning Saadiah Gaon and Maimonides. He presented in detail and with great clarity the cultural wealth of the early-medieval Jews and Muslims. In particular I learned from his exposition how Saadiah's systematic thought was a response to the challenge of Islamic literalism and its influence on Karaite Jews, how the intellectual tools of Islam were used to expound to Jewish thought. For an hour I was immersed in Mark's portrayal of the overlapping heritages, genres, and religious beliefs that wove together the early middle age from Baghdad to Spain.

A steady trickle of latecomers continued some time after my arrival at the lecture. It was the only capacity audience I witnessed that day. I'm guessing that Mark's lecture was a highlight of the day for many who heard it, and I'm greatly looking forward to Mark's contribution to our community.

### *Catherine Lyons*

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#### The **Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre** **Chanukah Dinner**

**will be on**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2005

Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road  
7.30pm with after dinner speaker, Gordon  
McInally

£20 adults, students/children £12  
(£19 (£11 student/child) if purchased  
by 2<sup>nd</sup> December)

Tickets from Stephen Hyams, 5 Margaret Rose  
Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 7EZ

*From the Tikkun Community:*

### **Ethical Consumption for the Holidays**

*You don't have to buy stuff to be loved. It's better for the environment if you don't.*

We in Western countries are 20% of the world population, but we are consuming over 80% of the earth's natural resources, causing a disproportionate level of environmental damage and unfair distribution of wealth.

We at the Network of Spiritual Progressives—an interfaith organization of people committed to peace, social justice, and providing an alternative spiritual voice to that of the Religious Right, are seeking to build a New Bottom Line in which materialism and selfishness is replaced with love, caring, generosity, kindness, ecological sensitivity and awe and wonder at the grandeur of creation. To build such a world, we need to start living in accordance with our own highest ideals. Some suggestions:

- take a holiday from shopping
- give a gift of your time
- give an intangible gift
- make something
- buy locally, buy ethically, or
- buy nothing at all!

To read the article in full, visit <http://tinyurl.com/d9cob> or if you don't have internet access, contact Clare and she will post you the full article.

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### **Jewish Festival Dates 2006**

Tu B'Shevat	Mon, Feb 13
Purim	Tue, Mar 14
Pesach	Thu, Apr 13
Yom Hashoah	Tue, Apr 25
Yom Haatzmaut	Wed, May 3
Lag B'Omer	Tue, May
Shavuot	Fri, Jun 2
Tisha B'Av	Thu, Aug 3
Rosh Hashanah	Sat, Sep 23
Yom Kippur	Mon, Oct 2
Sukkot	Sat, Oct 7
Simchat Torah	Sat, Oct 14
Hanukkah	Sat, Dec 16

### **Remember the ELJC Welfare Support Line is 07904 813162.**

Please do not hesitate to call if you need assistance.

### **Soofganiyot (Hanukkah doughnuts)**

#### **Ingredients**

Oil for frying  
1/4 cup warm water  
1 tablespoon sugar  
2 packages dry yeast  
1/2 cup orange juice  
1/4 pound butter  
5 tablespoons sugar  
dash salt  
2 eggs lightly beaten  
3 cups all-purpose flour

#### **Method**

In a heavy pot, heat oil to 350-375 degrees. Combine sugar with water and add yeast. To proof yeast, put in a warm, moist place or put a pot of boiling water in an enclosed space such as the oven or clean, empty dishwasher. While yeast proofs, heat orange juice, butter, sugar and salt in a small pan. When lukewarm, pour into bowl and add beaten eggs and proofed yeast. Stir to mix. Add flour and make into a pliable dough. Knead on floured board or in bowl. Grease bowl and allow dough to rise in a warm, moist place for about a half hour. Punch down. Cut dough in strips or into circles. Place on greased, floured cookie sheet at least one inch apart. Return to warm, moist place to rise. Allow to rise for 20 minutes or longer. Fry in preheated deep fat until nicely browned on both sides. Drain on paper towels. Sprinkle with confectioners sugar or cinnamon and sugar mixture. These may also be served with honey or jam and may be reheated to restore freshness. Yield: 18 - 24, depending on size. Enjoy!

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*"Do not condemn your neighbour: you do not know what you would have done in his place"*

**Sayings of the Fathers**

## Interfaith Week

### Women's Interfaith Gathering 'Food and Festivals'

Bring finger food to share

**Venue: Nicholson Square Methodist Church, Nicolson Square**

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 7pm**

### World Aids Day

#### **Leith's World Aids Day Cafe**

An Event for the Whole Community

**Reflecting:** on first-hand experiences of HIV and AIDS and learning from it.

**Remembering:** those we've known and loved and everyone affected around the world.

**Refreshing:** space to talk, music to lift our spirits, signs of hope and a chance to make a difference. This event is organised by Leith Churches Together and is supported by The Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association for Inter-Faith Week

**Venue: South Leith Halls, 6 Henderson Street**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 7.30pm**

### **Non-Public Events**

Other events during Inter-Faith Week include the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Edinburgh's Religious Leaders which is followed by an education engagement. Young people from Edinburgh schools will engage in small group dialogues. The First Minister will host a reception at Parliament for Faith Community and Inter-Faith organisation representatives at the Scottish Parliament on St Andrews Day.

### ***INTERFAITH WEEK is supported by City of Edinburgh Council***

Victor Spence, General Secretary  
Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association  
Peace & Justice Centre  
St John's Church  
Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 4BJ

*Promoting Dialogue, Mutual Respect,  
Understanding, Co-operation and Peace within  
our richly diverse city and beyond*

## An Expedition To Ukraine NPLS Goldstein Tours

SUNDAY 21 MAY – WEDNESDAY 31 MAY  
2006 (with the option of an extension in Yalta)

**WHY AN EXPEDITION?** Because we aim to cover a lot of ground and see many sights, Jewish and tourist, in 11 days. Once in Ukraine we will travel by train and coach and plane. We will stay in good hotels, but Ukraine is not yet completely up to Western standards. ALSO you will see places way off the normal tourist routes, and, as well as seeing the popular sights, you will experience rural Ukraine ahead of the crowds. In Kiev we will be guided by Rabbi Alex Duchovny and in Kharkov and the

Crimea by its newly appointed Rabbi – our very own Misha Kapustin. You will stay in **Kiev, Kharkov, Sevastopol** and **Yalta**.

- Fly to Kiev for 3 days of touring Jewish and general sights.
- By express train to Kharkov to meet with Rabbi Misha Kapustin and visit his congregation.
- A fascinating coach journey across the length of Ukraine from Kharkov to Sevastopol, stopping along the way at Denpropropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhya, Melitopol, Dzhankoy and seeing sights most will never get to see.
- 3 nights in Sevastopol with day trips to the Crimea war sites, Yevpatoria and its Karaite buildings.
- 2 nights in Yalta with free time at this former Russian Riviera and the possibility of extending your stay there before returning home via an internal flight to Kiev. Restricted to 45 places – already half booked. Do not delay in getting a full brochure - available from the Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue office: 01923 822592 email: [admin@npls.org.uk](mailto:admin@npls.org.uk)

**Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein**  
**Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue**