

# Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

December 2007

**Chairman:** Maurice Naftalin, chair@eljc.org  
**Secretary:** Catherine Lyons, secretary@eljc.org  
**Newsletter:** Kristi Long, newsletter@eljc.org  
**Treasurer:** Jonathan Broadie, treasurer@eljc.org  
**Membership:** Gillian Raab, membership@eljc.org

**Phone:** 0131 777 8024  
**www.eljc.org**

## EVENTS & SERVICES

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

Rabbi Mark is again visiting us this weekend. To celebrate Shabbat and the 4<sup>th</sup> night of Chanukah, we'll be having our regular service, at 7pm at Columcille, followed by a family supper – as usual, please bring a non-meat dish to share, and as last year Phil will be making us some latkes. You are also encouraged to bring along your channukiah so that we can all light Chanukah candles together.

### Weekend of 7th-9th December

On Saturday morning (8/12) there is the **Choosing Judaism** class while in the afternoon we hope to have the **Talmud Reading Group**. Those normally involved have details, but if you would like more details, please contact Nick, Gillian or Rabbi Mark. On Sunday morning (9/12) there is cheder and in the afternoon there is the **Kabbalat Torah** group – again details will be confirmed with those involved.

**Date** Saturday 22nd December  
**Event** **Shabbat Service**  
**Venue** **Columcille Centre,  
Newbattle Terrace**  
**Time** **11am**

Our regular Shabbat service will be held at Columcille Centre this month.

## EVENTS & SERVICES

**Date** Friday 4th January  
**Event** **Erev Shabbat Service**  
**Venue** **Columcille Centre,  
Newbattle Terrace**  
**Time** **7pm**

The venue is likely to be Columcille, but will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

**Date** Saturday 19th January  
Rabbi Mark will be with us this weekend. Further details will be provided in the next newsletter, but please pencil in the evening of Saturday 19th January for the **ELJC Burns Supper** (see next page).

### **Kol Nidre Appeal Final Reminder**

Donations are still being accepted for the Kol Nidre Appeal. Details on the charities benefitting from the Appeal are in the October newsletter.

Cheques (made out to Sukkat Shalom) should be sent to Jonathan Broadie, 26 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh EH9 3HP.

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## **Sukkat Shalom - Meetings of the Council**

The date of the next Council meeting is Monday, December 17th. If anyone in the Community has an item or issue which they would like to be discussed by the Council, or would like to attend, please get in touch with one of our Council members.

## **Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group**

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on 19th December at Nicolson Square Church. Building on the previous meeting's focus on human trafficking, the topic of this meeting will be 'People on the Move', looking at how people are displaced and at refugees and asylum seekers.

The evening will begin with a meal, so please bring a vegetarian dish to share. For more information, contact Rebekah Gronowski.

## **Reiminder – Jewish Parent Toddler Group**

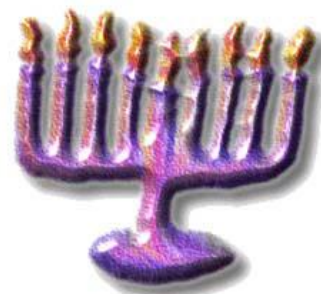
The Cross Community Toddler Group is a welcoming and inclusive group of parents with children under five who get together once a month. The group meets on Sunday mornings from 10 am in the community centre at the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation. Please feel to bring along Jewish books, toys and songs for sharing. We start at 10am with coffee and snacks. This is play time for the children. At 11:30am we are joined by the pre-cheder class for songs and Israeli dancing.

Remaining dates for 2007-08 are December 16th and January 20th.

For more information or to be added to the "Jewish Children's Activities," mailing list, send an email to Shari Cohn-Simmen at [shari.cohn@ed.ac.uk](mailto:shari.cohn@ed.ac.uk).

## **Sukkat Shalom Burns Supper**

We are hoping (arrangements are still being finalised) to hold a Burns Supper on 19th January. We have a provisional acceptance from a star speaker for the address to the immortal memory, and a star singer in the form of Rabbi Mark. Full details will be in next month's newsletter, but please put this date in your diary now!



## **Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre**

The annual **Chanukah dinner** with musical entertainment will be held on Saturday 8th December.

The Community Centre is looking for help with this event. In particular, they need help Wednesday 5th December in the morning, and on Thursday 6th December in the evening.

For further information or to volunteer to help out, contact Doreen Bowman or email [jcc@ehcong.com](mailto:jcc@ehcong.com).

## A Word from the Chair

### MITZVAH GORERET MITZVAH!

The Chairman's Word this month is the second part of our two-part series on Jewish Social Action Month. To remind you, the month was Cheshvan, following the High Holy Days, and named by KolDor for Social Action by virtue of its lack of traditional festivals (see [www.cheshvan.org](http://www.cheshvan.org)).

The themes of the first two weeks were global poverty and trade & economic justice, and climate change. This month we take up the last two: Darfur, and Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

**Darfur** is covered in an LJ flyer you can find at <http://tinyurl.com/328o6a>. The text for the week is Leviticus 19:16: "*Do not stand idly by while your neighbour's blood is being shed*". Jewish support has been strong at the rallies to Protect Darfur, from marchers, rabbis, speakers and Jewish students.

Among the ideas in the flyer are these:

**Make a donation** to The World Jewish Relief Darfur Appeal, which supports elderly Darfuris and their dependents in five centres near the border with Chad. Details at: <http://www.worldjewishrelief.org/darfur/>

**Write to your MP** to urge that everything is done to ensure that the joint AU-UN peacekeeping force going into Darfur at the end of this year is strong enough to protect civilians. The UN is still waiting for countries to provide the necessary helicopters, trucks and other equipment. Also to urge that there is continued diplomatic pressure for safe, unfettered access for humanitarian organizations to all who need their help.

Rabbi Julia Neuberger, Liberal Judaism President, has suggested: *we can **befriend Darfuri refugees and asylum seekers in this country, and, in particular, help them if they are threatened with deportation back to Khartoum. We can tell our MPs how much we disagree with that return policy, but we should also make Darfuris feel they have friends here—and act on their behalf.***

*If you are interested in reaching out to a Darfuri refugee and offering support and friendship, either through the community or as an individual, contact Nikki Levitan, Educational Outreach, Aegis Trust on [nikkilevitan@hotmail.com](mailto:nikkilevitan@hotmail.com) or 07817 677 228.*

*It's the least we can do—after all, our community should know, if anyone does, what it means to be an asylum seeker or a refugee.*

**Refugees and Asylum Seekers** are the subject of the page at <http://tinyurl.com/3x85kh>. The text for this last week should be more than well known: *The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. (Leviticus 19:33-34)*

Mitzvot here include:

Support the **Jewish Council for Racial Equality (JCORE)** in their campaign for Darfuri and other refugees (<http://tinyurl.com/3da5pt>)

**If you're planning to get T-shirts printed**, get them made by the Streets Ahead Children's Centre (SACCA) in Rwanda. This project, supported by World Jewish Relief, has trained eight former street children in t-shirt printing and they are now finding contracts with VSO and the British Embassy. Contact [cw@wjr.org.uk](mailto:cw@wjr.org.uk) to find out more.

Help JCORE's **Dictionary Appeal**. Each year many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children come to the UK from countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan where wars and persecution have forced them to leave their families behind.

One of the biggest problems these children face is simply making themselves understood. With a shortage of schools in London, they often have to wait months before they can even start to learn English. A **dictionary** is a prized possession, often beyond their means. Please help JCore by making a donation to enable them to buy dictionaries and other schoolbooks. If you have revision books in good condition please donate them to JCore. Contact [admin@jcore.org.uk](mailto:admin@jcore.org.uk) or tel 020 8455 0896 to help with this urgent appeal.

You can also support JCore by setting up a collection of food and toiletries to help asylum seekers and refugees (<http://tinyurl.com/3da5pt>)

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If anyone would like to get more involved as part of an ELJC Social Action Committee, then get in touch with Lauren: [laurenfox@hotmail.com](mailto:laurenfox@hotmail.com)

Maurice & Lauren

## Limud in Scotland

The Scotland day Limud, *Expanding Horizons*, will take place on Sunday, 10th February at Hutcheson's Grammar School in Glasgow. There will be around 50 sessions running, from cookery to current affairs, puppetry to politics, and much more. There will also be family sessions to which children are welcome. The all-inclusive ticket covers the full day's programme, kosher lunch and other refreshments.

A bus will be going from Edinburgh. To find out more about the planned speakers and activities, go to <http://www.limud.org/day/scotland/>.

Booking forms are now available online by email at [scotland@limud.org](mailto:scotland@limud.org) or by phone at 0141-639-4541. Book by 25th January for the early bird discount.

## Israeli Film at the Filmhouse

**The Band's Visit**  
Bikur Ha-Tizmoret

*Fri 7 to Thu 13 Dec*

An Egyptian band gets stranded in an Israeli desert town in this warm and delightful take on cross-cultural relations, proving that sometimes a light touch is just what's needed to address serious topics. When their hosts fail to turn up at the airport, the Alexandria Ceremonial Police Band take a bus to the town they're supposed to be playing. Not only isn't it much of a place, it's also not where they're meant to be, but the last bus has just left. To quell grumbings already afoot among members, conductor Tawfiq hesitantly accepts a suggestion from café manager Dina to stay the night...

## Christmas Exhibition

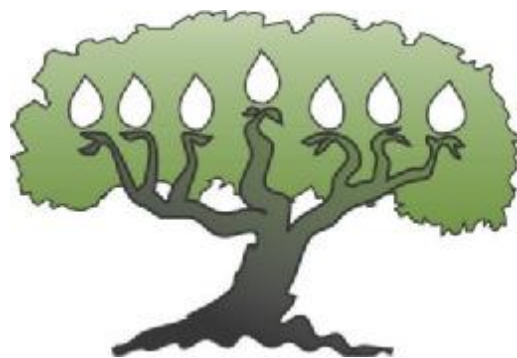
and sale of work by contemporary and emerging Scottish artists

Each year Malcolm Merrick organises this event in support of medical charities. The exhibition this year is on Monday 10th December 2007 from 2.00 - 8.30pm at the Conference Centre, 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh.

Unsold work is also available to view by special arrangement until Thursday 13th December by calling (0131) 225 7324

This event is in support of the medical charities Merlin [www.merlin.org.uk](http://www.merlin.org.uk) and the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh education fund.

Concerned about the environment? Check out the **Green Menorah covenant**. The Green Menorah is the symbol of a covenant among Jewish communities and congregations to renew the miracle of Hanukkah in our own generation: using one day's oil to meet eight days' needs. To find out more and take up the challenge, visit [www.shalomctr.org/](http://www.shalomctr.org/)





# liberal judaism

## Interfaith Tour of Israel and Jordan

14th - 19th May 2008: Liberal Judaism and the Dittons Council of Christians and Jews have organised an interfaith tour of Israel - including Petra in Jordan - led by Rabbi Danny Rich and Father Patrick Shanahan, with archaeologist Roberta Harris. Come together as Jews and Christians for a unique perspective of the land from both religions. Information and a registration form are available from the Liberal Judaism website, or email [shlich@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:shlich@liberaljudaism.org)

## 'Tent' Winter Getaway

Attention young adults -- there will be a national 'tent' getaway on 21st - 23rd December, focusing on redefining the mould of Judaism.

The spirit of a 'tent' getaway goes to the big city (Birmingham) for a classic weekend programme of services, walking, singing, partying and studying with unique and challenging workshops looking at our identity as modern and Progressive Jews. Only £80, including full-board, twin accommodation and programmes. For booking or details contact Avivit on 07866 501787 or [a.katzil@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:a.katzil@liberaljudaism.org).

## Liberal Jews on Air

If you haven't already tuned in at [www.jcomradio.net](http://www.jcomradio.net), make sure you don't miss out. If you happen to do that on MONDAYS between 6.00 and 7.00 pm, you'll hear Rabbi Pete Tobias' radio show, 'I'm a rabbi - get me out of here!'. The first show was on Monday 26th November and the series will continue until 11th February 2008.



# liberal judaism

## Support World Jewish Relief this Chanukkah

Eight nights, eight ways to save the world. Why spend all your money on dreidls, tsotskes and chanukkah gelt when you can make a real contribution to tikkun olam by donating to support one of World Jewish Relief's many important projects around the world? Visit [www.worldjewishrelief.org.uk](http://www.worldjewishrelief.org.uk) if you want to find out more.

## WJR Bangladesh Appeal

Liberal Judaism is supporting the World Jewish Relief Bangladesh appeal in response to Cyclone Sidr, the most destructive storm to hit southern Bangladesh for 16 years. Over two million people have been affected by this disaster. More information is available from the Liberal Judaism website, [www.liberaljudaism.org](http://www.liberaljudaism.org)

## Wiener Library Questionnaire

The Wiener Library is the oldest library and archive in the world focusing on the Holocaust. The library is currently in the process of evaluating their services and programmes and want to reach out to potential readers: people who we might expect to be accessing the collection at the Wiener Library, but are not doing so at the moment. The library is an invaluable resource, with much material that isn't available anywhere else. Find out more at [www.wienerlibrary.co.uk](http://www.wienerlibrary.co.uk).

## New Liberal Judaism Book

A new Liberal Judaism publication, *Compelling Commitments*, by Rabbi Elli Tikvah Sarah, is now available. *Compelling Commitments* presents a new approach to Liberal Judaism as a way of life, with a view to galvanising individuals - both those who are already involved in Liberal Judaism, and those who are not - into choosing to become committed Liberal Jews in the twenty-first century. Order from Liberal Judaism, or through ELJC, via Maurice.

## עברית

### Hebrew Lessons

For the past five weeks, five members of the community have been fortunate to study Hebrew with Yifat Haber. We've focused on the Hebrew of the siddur, working on vocabulary and grammar as we read a number of the common prayers closely.

We all learned a great deal and enjoyed the opportunity to spend time studying the texts that we normally read quickly in the services. If you would like to improve your Hebrew, learn more about the meanings of the prayers, or even to begin learning Hebrew, you are welcome.

Yifat will be in Israel over Chanukah, and is trying to arrange another set of lessons upon her return in February.

The proposal for the next course will be 4 weekly sessions beginning the first week of February, meeting two hours on one evening per week. Day and venue are still to be determined. There will be a small charge for the course.

If you would like to sign up for this series, please contact Yifat Haber by email at [yifat\\_haber@yahoo.com](mailto:yifat_haber@yahoo.com) or by phone at 07906 290 650.

Yifat asks that you let her know if you are a beginner (need to practice reading Hebrew) or advanced (can read Hebrew fluently). Requests for specific prayers or berachot to study are very welcome.

For more information about the Hebrew course contact Gillian Raab.

### Herbed Parsnip-Sweet Potato Pancakes

Makes 18-20 pancakes

*If you like your pancakes to hold together more firmly, add 2 tablespoons of flour to the batter*

2 large parsnips (about 12 oz), peeled

2 medium sweet potatoes (about 12 oz), peeled

2-3 shallots, thinly sliced (about 2/3 cup)

1 teaspoon salt

4 egg whites

1 1/2 teaspoons chopped thyme

3/4 cup canola oil for frying

Accompaniments: Sour Cream or Crème Fraiche

Using a food processor or box grater, grate parsnips and sweet potatoes. In a large mixing bowl, combine parsnips, sweet potatoes, shallots, salt, egg whites, and thyme.

Heat oil in a heavy skillet over medium heat. Working in batches, spoon 1/4 cup batter at a time on to the skillet and press down with a fork to flatten. Fry for 2-3 minutes per side, until crisp and browned. Drain on paper towels and keep warm for up to one hour in a 200°F oven.

Serve with sour cream or crème fraiche.

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Please, has anyone found my large copy of *Talmud Bavli: Tractate Berachot* published by Soncino Press? It is a second-hand copy, red hard-back cover with gold lettering and measuring approx. 8 inches by 12 inches and 1.5 inches thick - it is quite heavy so not easy to miss.

I am most upset that this has become lost - it does not have my name in it and the most likely place for me to have left it behind is at Columcille in the Cafe area. Please keep your eyes open for it as I cannot readily get another one.

*Rebekah*

## Letters to the Editor

Dear editor and cofaithful,

I am belatedly replying to G Allen's letter, which appeared in the September newsletter. My reason for delaying was that I had hoped that someone in our community might raise their head above the parapet and join this important debate. Since this has not happened, it falls to me to respond to G Allen's letter.

I am sorry if my description, perhaps overstated, of Israel's leadership, seemed intemperate. Unfortunately the debate about the issues in Israel/Palestine often is characterised by intemperance. Mr Allen's own letter compared the boycott of Israeli academics to the Nazi Germany's boycott of everything Jewish, culminating in Krystal Nacht! Please! We should reject the idea that Israeli and Jewish interests or policies are necessarily the same.

The campaign to boycott Israel is not anti-Jewish (even if some of its supporters may be). It aims to change Israeli policies which I believe Jews should also oppose—the perpetration of human rights abuses and cruel oppression of neighbouring peoples; for example, people in Gaza are now living as if under a mediaeval siege. A good Jew speaks out against such atrocities, especially when committed by the one nation-state which claims to be the Jewish Homeland. Home is where the heart is: surely no good Jewish heart could ever be in Israel while its leadership remains so inhuman and unJewish.

Yours etc,

Robert Waang

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

## Mazel Tov

Ricky, Clare, Jason and Hannah are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Isla Rebecca Hogg on 7th November; all are well. Thank you to everyone who has sent cards and messages - much appreciated and we hope to be out and about soon.

*Claire and Ricky Hogg*



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Chanukah Greetings to everyone at  
Sukkat Shalom from

Anat Kamenka

Jerusalem P.O.B. 1824

Tel. 054 554 8498

Email. [anatka20@hotmail.com](mailto:anatka20@hotmail.com)

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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 Monday, 24th December. Please email all contributions to [newsletter@eljc.org](mailto:newsletter@eljc.org).**