

# Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

## December 2008

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### EVENTS & SERVICES

The weekend of 5th-7th December student Rabbi **Tanya Sakhnovich** will be visiting us. Tanya came to Edinburgh earlier this year when she led our Seder and also conducted a Shabbat service. This is also **Human Rights Shabbat**. Our activities this weekend are as follows:

**Date** Friday 5th December  
**Event** Erev Shabbat Service  
**Venue** Columcille Centre,  
Newbattle Terrace  
**Time** 7 pm

Erev Shabbat service led by Student Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich, followed by a family supper. Please bring a non-meat dish to share.

**Date** Saturday 6th December  
**Event** Shabbat Service  
**Venue** St Marks  
Castle Terrace  
**Time** 11 am

Human Rights will be the theme of the Shabbat service, led by Student Rabbi Tanya. Following a short break, from 2-4, there will be a special **Tea and Talmud** discussion on human rights, also at St. Marks.

In the evening we would like to show the Israeli film, *Walk on Water*, preceded by havdalah. We are still hoping that someone will volunteer to host the showing of this film. If you would like to do so, please let Nick know as soon as possible (ring 0131 777 8024), or even volunteer during the weekend. Unfortunately, if no-one does volunteer, we will have to cancel this event.

**Date** Sunday 7th December  
**Event** Family activity  
**Venue and time** t.b.a.

Catherine Lyons is organising a family event on Sunday but owing to her bicycle accident (we wish her a speedy recovery!) details aren't worked out yet. Please get in touch (0795 4411418) if you would like to know more.

### EVENTS & SERVICES

#### Informal Kabbalat Shabbat Services

**Dates** 12th & 26th December  
**Venue** Marchmont - St Giles  
1a Kilgraston Road  
**Time** 6:15 pm

**Date** Saturday 20th December  
**Event** Shabbat Service  
**Venue** Columcille Centre  
Newbattle Terrace  
**Time** 11 am

Sunday, 21st December -- **Chanukah Party!**  
See p. 2 for all the details.

**Need Chanukah candles?** ELJC has them for sale -- see p. 2 for info.

**Date** Friday 3rd January  
**Event** Erev Shabbat Service  
**Venue** Columcille Centre,  
Newbattle Terrace  
**Time** 7 pm

Rabbi Mark will be up this weekend. There will be a Talmud session at lunchtime on Saturday (full details in next month's newsletter)

#### **Jewish Calendar for December 2008**

21st December -- Chanukah begins at sundown

28th December -- Rosh Hodesh Tevet

29th December -- 8th Day of Chanukah

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## **Get Ready for Games, Songs, Fun and Latkes -- It's The Annual ELJC Chanukah Party!**

Date: Sunday 21st December

Venue: Columcille Centre

Time 5.30--7.30pm

Everyone is invited! A festive occasion for all to enjoy, and we are looking forward to having lots of children. Please bring along your chanukiah and dreidels. Phil will take his traditional turn as latke cook. As usual for our family suppers, please bring along a non-meat dish to share.

There will be games for the younger ones from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Plans for games include Flip the Latkes into the Pan and Pin the Mogen David on Judah Macabee. There will also be a dreidels area, so bring your dreidels and show off your spinning skills. And Nancy Lynner will be doing face painting. Starting from about 6:30, there will be Chanukah stories and singing.



### **Need Chanukah Candles?**

Chanukah candles will be for sale at services in December.

Small ones £1 per box

Larger ones £3 per box

or contact Gillian ([membership@eljc.org](mailto:membership@eljc.org) or 0131 226 6234)

## **Exhibit at Innovative Craft**

Sukkat Shalom member Liz Goring is a founding director of Innovative Craft who are currently hosting an exhibition of design from the Jerwood Contemporary Makers. The location is the group's new home, the Dovecote Studio building and former Infirmary Street baths.

Opening times:

14th November 2008 - 31st January 2009

Tuesday - Saturday, 10.30am to 5.30pm

for more details (and a picture of Liz) see:

<http://www.innovativecraft.co.uk/>

## **News from the ELJC Council**

The next Council meeting will be held on 10th December. If there are any issues you'd like to raise, please contact a member of the Council.

### **Want to Lead a Service?**

The Religious Affairs committee met during November and agreed that we should try and set up a schedule of people who would like to help lead services. If you would like to lead part or all of a service, please let Nick know.

## **Kol Nidre Appeal -- Last Chance**

Our Kol Nidre appeal will remain open until the end of December. Our four charities are Marie Curie Cancer Care, Cosgrove Care, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel and Tzedek.

To contribute to the appeal, send cheques, made out to "Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh", to Jonathan Broadie, 26 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3HP.

## **Consultation on Proposed RME Curriculum**

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the consultation response. Catherine Lyons has been working with SCoJeC on a thorough and detailed submission. A copy of the response will be posted on the SCoJeC website ([www.scojec.org](http://www.scojec.org)) once it has been submitted on 30th November.

## Human Rights

Universal human rights are integral to Judaism. The belief that every single person is created in the divine image; that the human family is one; and that we are all obliged to deal justly with each other are fundamental Jewish beliefs. Indeed, one of the most esteemed rabbis in Jewish history – Rabbi Hillel - claimed that the entire Torah, the Hebrew Testament, could be summed up into one line ‘that which is hateful to you do not do unto others’; a thought that still underlies the Universal Human Rights Movement today.

The Jewish people’s struggle throughout their history for freedom from oppression and tyranny gives them the experience to advance universal human rights, as many of the horrors the Jews experienced are still being faced by other communities today. These include:

- The negation of cultural rights.
- The denial of basic rights to education, language and religious practice.
- Racism, discrimination and prejudice
- The expulsion of whole communities and the denial of their rights to property and restitution.
- Verbal and physical abuse.
- Collective punishment.
- Torture.
- Genocide.

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights (see [www.un.org/Overview/rights.html](http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html))

was formulated in response to these experiences, in particular the tragedy of the Holocaust, in which collectively over six million Jews, Roma, homosexuals, disabled persons and political opponents of Nazism were executed. Consequently, this experience has empowered many Jewish people to lead the advancement of human rights and freedoms for oppressed individuals and communities around the world.

We will be celebrating the International Day of Human Rights on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December - in conjunction with Rene Cassin (see [www.renecassin.org/?q=Home](http://www.renecassin.org/?q=Home)), the Jewish

Human Rights organisation - with a themed Shabbat service (am) and discussion group (pm). To contribute to the service, or for information on how to get involved with the issues raised, please contact me.

I look forward to seeing you on the 6<sup>th</sup>!

*Lauren Fox*  
[laurenfox@hotmail.com](mailto:laurenfox@hotmail.com)

## **The New Ten Commandments: Human Rights Film @ Filmhouse**

On Sunday, 14th December at 3.15pm a special film event will take place at the Filmhouse on Lothian Road.

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Lansdowne Productions and the Scottish Documentary Institute gathered together some of the most talented filmmakers and visual artists based in Scotland today. Collectively they created the feature length documentary, The New Ten Commandments.

United by a single theme – Human Rights in Scotland – the film communicates a variety of artistic visions whilst exploring the real life stories of those for whom the Universal Declaration has intimate meaning. With testimony of human rights abuses sitting alongside tales of human rights recognition, the film is both an emotionally powerful journey and an exercise in passionate filmmaking of the highest calibre.

The directors: Kenny Glenaan, Douglas Gordon, Nick Higgins, Irvine Welsh, Mark Cousins, Tilda Swinton, Sana Bilgrami, Alice Nelson, Doug Aubrey, David Graham Scott, Anna Jones.

After the screening there will be a panel discussion featuring John Watson (Amnesty International) and Alan Miller (Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission).

## Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

Dec 7: Scottish Council of Jewish Communities: *Jewish Women: Looking Backwards ... Looking Forwards*

It is 14 years since the publication of Rosalind Preston's ground-breaking review of Jewish women's lives entitled "Women in the Jewish Community". The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC), as part of a UK-wide initiative with the support of the Board of Deputies, is now revisiting these issues.

ScoJeC will provide a speaker to lead a discussion with members from the community to address the impact of the original report on the Jewish community and identify areas still in need of urgent attention. Please note that you can find background information and contribute to the consultation at

<http://www.boardofdeputies.org.uk>.

**All talks will be at the Community Centre on Salisbury Road on Sunday evenings. Annual membership is £12 per person and individual meeting attendance is £10.**

### Jewish Community Centre

The Jewish Community Centre at Salisbury Rd will be hosting a Chanukah party featuring the Danzig Jazz Trio on Saturday, 20th December at 7:30. For information or to book a place, contact Joyce Sperber, [j.sperber@yahoo.com](mailto:j.sperber@yahoo.com).

### Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group

21st January is now to be 'Servants of God' at Nicolson Square, starting with food.

18th February is the visit to the Synagogue in Salisbury Road, ending with refreshments provided by the Synagogue.

Both events start at 7pm. For more information, contact Rebekah Gronowski.

## Edinburgh Interfaith Association

A number of interfaith events have been planned around Edinburgh

### One 2 One – The Heart of the Matter

Thursday, 4th December at 7:15 pm

This meeting of hearts and minds is proposed as Inter-Spiritual Conversations in a small group and on a one to one basis. The session will be facilitated by Rev. Kate Atchley and will consider questions such as:

- What aspects of your religious/spiritual worship or practice is most important to you and why?
- When you find yourself in a crisis or challenging situation, to what religious or spiritual teachings or practice do you turn, and how does this help you?
- What difference does your religious/spiritual worship or practice make in the way you lead your life, day to day?

This event is free, but places are limited. Email or call to register your name and for the venue details.

**Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association 20th Anniversary** Keynote Launch Lecture with The Rt. Hon. Alex Salmond MSP, First Minister of Scotland

Thursday 22nd January 2009 – 7.15pm  
St John's

### Holocaust Memorial Day Civic Commemoration

Monday 26th January 2009 – 7.15pm  
Keynote Speaker: Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, Child Survivor, President of World Union for Progressive Judaism – European Region

For Tickets to all events: 0131 228 8146 or email [info@eifa.org.uk](mailto:info@eifa.org.uk)

All EIFA Events may be viewed on the website - <http://www.eifa.org.uk>

## Save the Date! Thursday 5 March 2009

### Evening Workshop: Jewish Approaches to Spiritual Healing

**Facilitators: Chana Sophia Yaffe and  
Tirtza Singer**

**Venue: Augustine United Church,  
41 George IV Bridge**

**Time: 5pm for 5.30pm-9.30pm  
Cost: £15/£13 (Concessions)**

From the heart centre of Jerusalem, we will share with you the beautiful and moving Jewish spiritual traditions that bring healing and forgiveness to our families, our communities, our entire planet and ourselves.

The workshop draws on: Guided meditations that will allow us to touch a deeper place of awareness within ourselves; visualizations to open and heal the heart, enhanced by the harp; the writing of forgiveness letters; harp playing and soul singing; storytelling as a channel for personal transformation. We want to bring you to a place of profound healing. We invite you to join us to open the wellsprings of healing, awakening compassion with loving boundaries.

### **Special opportunity for ELJC!**

Chana and Tirtza have offered to put on a special event or performance for our community when they are in Edinburgh for the Middle Eastern Peace and Spirituality Festival in March. Would you like to get involved in organising a concert for the community? If so, contact Rebekah Gronowski or a member of the Council.

## Films of Interest at the Filmhouse

7th December at 3:00 PM

### ***Trouble Sleeping***

Robert Rae / United Kingdom / 2008

A fragile community is disrupted when secrets come to light.

Putting her old life in Palestine behind her, Halla has forged a successful career in Edinburgh. But when a figure from her past shows up unexpectedly, Halla must choose between old loyalties and new stability. This first feature from Edinburgh's Theatre Workshop – a company that collaborates with community groups to address the issues that affect them – burns with relevance. Raw-edged, relevant and crafted by passionate collective effort - it's inspiring, provocative stuff.

The Director of 'Trouble Sleeping', Robert Rae, will be attending the screening.

18th December at 8.45pm

### ***The Beetle***

Yishai Orian / Israel / 2008

Director Yishai Orian, like millions of others around the world, adores his Beetle – despite its rough and noisy ride, underpowered motor and dubious distinction as Hitler's 'car for the masses'. Sadly, Orian's beloved 40-year-old vehicle is on its last legs, and his very pregnant wife wants him to replace it with a modern family car. We join the filmmaker for an extremely funny and touching road trip, as he goes in search of the people who previously owned, loved and even gave birth in his cherished car. The more he hears about his bug's past, the more determined he becomes to ensure it has a future.

## **Our Crowd**

By Joe Goldblatt

This month, Our Crowd has ten questions for Eva Esther Wiseman. Eva is originally from Poland but has spent most of her life in Paris.

1. What is your favourite Jewish holiday?

My favourite holiday is the festival of Purim. I love the character Esther and she is my favourite Jewish heroine. I also love Purimspiel and Hamantaschen. More seriously, there is so much hope in this festival and it is so good to believe, even for just a moment that all Hamans can be defeated.

2. What is your favourite Jewish food?

I love latkes, chicken soup and gefilte fish. I have some very romantic memories from Paris in which gefilte fish was involved but I will not say anything more about it. And by the way, my mums' chicken soup and latkes are really amazing!

3. What is your favourite Jewish food?

My very first meal in a Jewish community centre was in Paris, many many years ago. It was such a lovely feeling to feel welcomed and really belong somewhere after "a clandestine life" in Poland. Just the freedom of being myself, after all this time, was wonderful! More recently, I loved my conversion trip to London, the Bet Din, the Mikveh, and the a lovely meal in a kosher restaurant with Rabbi Mark, Gillian and Helen. It was a fabulous day ! And it was not even raining.

4. What do you like best about ELJC?

Being an ELJC member just makes me feel how nice is to be Jewish within a community and our community is really a fantastic one. I hope it will grow!

5. What is one secret you can share with Our Crowd?

I am a fully qualified French and Italian teacher and I am currently teaching in the French Institute and in Berlitz Languages cen-

tre. Languages are my biggest passion. I am just trying to brush up my Russian and I am learning Spanish. I will be delighted to improve my Hebrew and discover some new lessons. Yippee!

Here is another secret. I spent most of my life in Paris, so If any ELJC members ever need some tips when planning a visit to the City of Light, (especially it is for the first time), don't hesitate to contact me.

6. What is your favourite Jewish song?

Some of my most favourite Jewish songs include Belz, Yiddishe mame, Oyfn pripitchik and quite every single song interpreted by Talila who is a very popular Jewish French singer of Polish origin.

7. Who are your favourite Jewish composers, artists, entertainers and authors?

My favourite Jewish composers are Felix Mendelssohn and Jacques Offenbach.

As I mostly love the piano and the violin, I like Arthur Rubinstein, Alexis Weissenberg, Vladimir Ashkenazy , Yehudi Menuhin, Isaac Stern and Yitzhak Perlman, although this is not an exhaustive list. Then there are so many great orchestra directors like Leonard Bernstein, Georg Solti and Zubin Mehta and many others that I also admire. As for lighter music I enjoy Leonard Cohen and Barbra Streisand. I love Woody Allen and many Jewish American actors and directors. There would be too many names to mention as it's extremely rare to be a talented artist in America without being Jewish. Then there are some French actors and humorists I like very much including Elie Semoun, Elie Kakou, Michel Boujenah, Alain Chabat and one of the best French directors, Claude Lelouch. As for the Jewish authors, I enjoy Franz Kafka, Stefan Zweig, Marcel Proust, Romain Gary, Irène Némirovsky and Stephen Fry.

*Cont. on pg. 8*

*Our Crowd, cont.*

8. If you could have a dinner party with Jewish celebrities, who would you invite?

Woody Allen, Stephen Fry and for more serious conversation I'd be honored to meet Simone Veil, who is a French politician and Auschwitz survivor .

9. What are your favourite travel destinations?

Italy, the south of Portugal, the Lake District and, although this is only a dream for the moment, a big travel around US and Canada.

10. What is your personal journey within Judaism?

Being of Jewish descent, I have always felt Jewish and affirmed myself as such though it was mostly because of historical and cultural reasons. For a long while, the religion was a little bit relegated to the second plan even though I have been lighting my Shabbat candles and fasting for Yom Kippur for many years before coming to Edinburgh. Then, thinking of my future (more serious thoughts like marriage and children's education) I wanted to have it "officially" sorted and decided to convert as I had never received any religious education. When I think of ELJC, I am appreciative of the community for just being there and letting me share all these nice moments and especially for behaving in such a welcoming and heartfelt way since the very first moment I came to see you.



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

## The Exchange

Do you have something you'd like to buy, sell, trade? Want to announce an achievement, or just share a bit of news with others in the community? Send contributions for the Members' Exchange to the editor at [newsletter@eljc.org](mailto:newsletter@eljc.org).

## New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members this month:-

Jane and Jonathan Staal and Benjamin (3), Daniel (5) and Hannah (nearly 3) from Cupar

James (Jamie) Shearer-Bromfield from Wallyford

This increases the geographic spread of our community. Of our 67 adult members, 50 are in the City of Edinburgh, 6 in Fife, 6 in East Lothian, and one each in West Lothian, Perthshire, Dundee City, Scottish Borders and Tyne and Wear.

## Mazel Tov!

We are delighted to announce the engagement of Sukkat Shalom member, Lewis Broadie, to Kay Marshall who many of you will have met when she has attended services with Lewis.

## And an apology...

... to everyone who had to pay excess postage on last month's mailing. We're really sorry when things go wrong like that (even when we can actually blame the Post Office, as in this case!) Do please remember, though, that the success of our community owes much to volunteers who put in a great deal of work because they believe in what we are doing. Amongst all the things we get right, things will go wrong sometimes. When it happens, think of all they do, and please be patient!

*Maurice*

**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 Friday, 19th December. Please email all contributions to [newsletter@eljc.org](mailto:newsletter@eljc.org).**