

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

February 2008

Chairman: Maurice Naftalin, chair@eljc.org
Secretary: Nancy Warren, secretary@eljc.org
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www.eljc.org

EVENTS & SERVICES

Date Friday 1st February
Event Erev Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre,
Newbattle Terrace
Time 7pm

Our erev Shabbat service will be followed by a family supper. Please bring a non-meat dish to share.

Date Saturday 9th February
Event Shabbat Service
Venue St Mark's Unitarian Church
7 Castle Terrace
Time 11am

Rabbi Mark is up with us this weekend as he is giving a talk at Limmud in Glasgow, and so our monthly Shabbat service will be held on the second Saturday of the month rather than the third.

Weekend of 8th – 10th February

Rabbi Mark is up this weekend. Currently the Kabbalat Torah group are planning to meet on the Saturday afternoon and the Choosing Judaism group will meet on the Saturday evening. As ever, details will be given to those involved and/or contact Nick, Gillian or Rabbi Mark for further details.

Please note that there is no Shabbat service on Saturday 16th February.

EVENTS & SERVICES

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

Please join us for erev Shabbat on the 7th.

Talmud Reading Group

Interested in learning more about Jewish law and tradition? If so, the Talmud Reading Group is for you. Rabbi Mark guides us through close study of texts from the Talmud in the original and in English. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic or any special expertise is not required and beginners are very welcome. Why not give it a try? Topics vary from session to session.

This month the TRG will meet on **Friday, 8th February at 7:30pm**. Joe Goldblatt and Nancy Lynner will host at their home in Newington and the session will be preceded by a Shabbat dinner. Details are as follows:

71 2F2 South Clerk Street
(On east side of street near corner of West Preston and South Clerk. Purple door on street, look for Abbey Pub as landmark. Ring buzzer for 2F2). This is a second floor flat and is not accessible for people with disabilities. If you need assistance with the stairs, please notify Joe for arrangements.

Please bring a dish to share. Joe and Nancy will provide beverages.

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Scotland Limmud Day
Expanding Horizons

Sunday 10 February 2008

The final programme for the Scotland Limmud is now available. There will be a full day of events running in a number of strands: family programme, text-based/Torah, religion & spirituality, Israel, arts & performance, history, contemporary issues, and panels or tasters. Session descriptions are available at www.limmud.org.

Rabbi Mark will lead a text study session, 'Not Called "Your Son" but "Her Son"', on the history of the Jewish status of children and Stephanie Brickman will teach a Yiddish singing workshop of Nigunim. Other highlights include Nancy Morris on 'L'Chaim: Is Drinking on Purim Healthy for Jews' and -- for those who missed her appearance at the Lit -- novelist Tamar Yellin reading from and discussing her award-winning first novel, *The Genizah at the House of Sepher*.

Creche Up to age 5

There is a crèche for babies, toddlers and pre-school children. The expert child care is provided by Glasgow City Council approved Pollock Mobile Crèche. Recommended staff-child ratios are strictly observed. For this reason, please pre-book and pre-pay places for your child(ren) by 3 February, as instructed on the booking form.

Family Programme (5-12 years old and their parents)

At each slot, there is at least one session which is aimed at children and their parents. Children should always be accompanied by a parent or a designated carer other than the presenter who is running the sessions.

Youth Programme (13-16 year-olds)

All sessions are suitable for youth, unless marked Adult Only. Sessions that may particularly appeal to youth are marked on the timetable with the letter Y.

Transportation

There will be a free bus from Edinburgh. Anyone who is attending Limmud is welcome to travel on the bus. Please contact Elaine Samuel (Elaine.Samuel@ed.ac.uk) or Lesley Danzig (lesley_danzig@yahoo.co.uk) to reserve a place.

The bus leaves from Dalkeith Road, opposite the Royal Commonwealth Pool, at 8am. There will also be a pick-up at around 8.20am on Corstorphine Rd outside PC World. The bus will be leaving at 6.15pm from Glasgow.

**Venue address: Hutchesons' Grammar School
21 Beaton Road
Glasgow
G41 4NW**

Sessions will take place between 10 am and 5.30 pm

Sukkat Shalom - Meetings of the Council

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 the next Council meeting, please get in touch with one of our Council members or call the shul's information line for the date and time of the next meeting.

Chair's Word/AGM Report

This is my report to the AGM on Sunday. If you've already seen it, skip to the election results.

It's good to be able to report another successful year for our community. All the main indicators of our health remain good: we continue to grow in numbers, and we are sustaining, and sometimes increasing, our activities. The reports that accompany this one paint an encouraging picture.

This is the second year in which Rabbi Mark has been our foster-rabbi, and the level of his involvement with us has, if anything, increased. Our relationship with him has been one of the most successful aspects of the development of our community, for which we should thank Liberal Judaism (LJ), the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, and of course Rabbi Mark himself. His services are always very well attended, but his weekends here also routinely include adult education through the Talmud reading group, teaching a class of proselytes, and leading the Kabbalat Torah group of post-barmitzvah teenagers. So we don't give him a quiet time! In addition, he has a presence in the wider Jewish community—his talk at the Lit in February was received with acclaim by a packed audience, and he is speaking again at the Glasgow Limmud next month.

We have maintained the same schedule of religious services as last year, with monthly Erev Shabbat and Shabbat services, and services to mark all the festivals. The highlights of the religious year include the bar mitzvah ceremonies of Adam Barclay and Ricky Hogg; our seder, again in Columcille to accommodate the increased numbers; and our very well-attended High Holy Day services.

One satisfying aspect of the year has been a sense that we are extending a little more beyond core religious activities:

- With help from LJ, Lauren organised a Tent event for young adults;
- three proselytes whom we have supported have been to the Rabbinic Board;
- adult Hebrew classes are revived with an enthusiastic new teacher;
- social activity is good, around services (like the seder, the Melrose outing, the chavurah services and the family suppers) and in social and theatre evenings

Since we are paying the new adult Hebrew teacher at a professional rate (and we are considering making similar arrangements for the cheder), it's gratifying to be able to announce that we are anticipating a very large donation from a long-standing member, specifically for education. Not only does this greatly relax our financial constraints in planning educational work, it also represents a big vote of confidence in the future of the community (and this, from someone who actually knows what we're like!)

It's only when I come to write this report that I realise how much we are doing. Although a lot of work is done by a few people—as always in communities like ours—the community couldn't sustain this level of activity without a lot of enthusiastic support from the whole council and from the entire membership (and family and friends!). I shouldn't single individuals out when everyone deserves a mention, but two people I really want to name are Kristi, who has been working very hard in the near-invisible post of newsletter editor, and Rebekah, who is stepping down from council after years of hard work for the community.

And this will be my last year as chair—a well-planned constitution guarantees that! I must be feeling an anticipatory glow, since I'm not ending with my usual list of complaints. There are still many areas in which we should be doing more, but we should also recognise that we've achieved a lot to be proud of in the last few years.

Maurice Naftalin, January 2008/Shevat 5768

Result of Elections

Chair: Maurice Naftalin, Secretary: Nancy Warren, Treasurer: Jonathan Broadie.

Members of council: Marjorie Broadie, Steve Engleman, Lauren Fox, Joe Goldblatt, Ricky Hogg, Kristi Long, Nancy Lynner, Catherine Lyons, Maureen Mackinnon, Gillian Raab, Nick Silk, Bill Zachs

For the first time ever, we have a full council of 15. That's a very happy situation in terms of involvement for a community of 60 people. But please don't feel left out—we can always co-opt to council!

WINDOWS for PEACE

A Summer School in Edinburgh for young Palestinians from the Occupied Territories (OPT), Palestinian Citizens of Israel and Israel Jews

When Judy Sischy (Edinburgh) and Brenda Beecham (Newcastle) were in Israel in 2007, they visited Windows for Peace in Tel Aviv and were inspired to launch this project for July 2008. You may remember WfP as a recipient of our Kol Nidre appeal three years ago.

WINDOWS caught our imagination because it aims to bring together young people from the Middle East, aged around 12-17, through correspondence, the media and the arts. One of their main achievements is the production of a magazine, which is achieved largely by communication between young people about their personal lives through letters or e-mails, many of which are heart-rending.

Sadly, if the young people are to come together, it still has to be in a neutral venue outside the Middle East. There have been two summer schools to date, both in Italy, and when we visited the WINDOWS offices in Tel Aviv, we began to explore the possibility of a summer school in Edinburgh, a city that is proud of its tradition of diversity. The WINDOWS team was excited at the prospect and on our return we began seriously to investigate the possibility. We were greatly encouraged by Edinburgh City Council to go ahead.

The summer school would create an opportunity for 15 young people to meet and experience intensive interaction through a facilitated dialogue and sharing of values. They will have quality time to look at the Middle East conflict from a different perspective, away from the tensions of the region, supervised by adult interpreters and leaders. The aims of the summer school are to create more trust, openness and sincerity between the participants, to develop a deeper knowledge and under-

standing of the issues of the Middle East conflict, to share values and vision and to inspire higher motivation to be active back home towards change.

The summer school project needs £30,000 for flights, accommodation and other expenses. We would be delighted if you would consider contributing to this project by sponsoring an individual, which would amount to a donation of £2000, or by making a donation of any amount you choose. We would be immensely grateful for any support that you can give.

We have managed to make arrangements for the group to come to Edinburgh in July 2008 and have already been promised almost £15,000 towards the costs. We dearly hope that we shall raise the remainder to enable the summer school to go ahead. For further details please contact me through Maurice or Gillian.

If you wish to contribute to this project, donations should be sent to Windows for Peace (UK), Edinburgh Summer School, PO Box 177, Manchester, M21 9YP.

Judy Sischy

Learn to Read Hebrew in a Weekend

Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue will be repeating its highly successful crash course in Hebrew, led by Rabbi Aaron Goldstein.

When: Friday 14th, Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th March 2008

Where: Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue

Cost: £60 to Liberal Judaism Congregations, £100 non-members. This includes all sessions and meals.

Edinburgh Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace

March 1-11 2008

The festival features lectures, performances and workshops by peacemakers, scholars, artists, musicians, poets and religious figures from the Middle East, Africa, the USA and the UK.

The emphasis of the Festival is on spirituality, and on spiritual, educational, and artistic and cultural approaches to peace and mutual understanding while celebrating Scotland in international terms. Most of the Festival events are held in Edinburgh. There are five main strands to the 2008 Middle East Festival, namely:

1. spirituality, and relations among spiritual and faith traditions;
2. education and audience development;
3. arts and culture;
4. celebrating the diversity of Scotland;
5. celebrating Scotland in international terms.

As part of its many attractions, the Festival contains events of specifically Jewish interest, including a talk by Rabbi Nancy Morris, songs and stories in different Jewish traditions, and a workshop with the Jerusalem Peacemakers.

The Festival is organized by the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace (EICSP), a Scottish Charity, and the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, EIAL, and with the support of many other organizations.

Further information and a full schedule are available online at www.mesp.org.uk/

Reminder: Hebrew Class Starting in February

The next four-week series of Hebrew classes, focusing on the language of the Siddur, will begin in February. If you are interested in joining, contact Kristi Long at 0131 466 9356 or newsletter@eljc.org as soon as possible.

Are You Interested in Writing or Performing in a Sukkat Shalom Purimspiel?

Volunteers Required!


ELJC will celebrate Purim on Thursday, 20 March 2008 at Columcille.

We are looking for volunteers to put together a Purimspiel. Anyone interested, please contact Phil Wadler, 0797 650 7543 or wadler@inf.ed.ac.uk.

Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre

A Tartan/Burns Coffee Morning will take place on Sunday 3rd February, at 10:30. The cost will be £4. There will be a home baking auction and a plants and books stall. Baked goods are still required, if you're interested in donating. For further information contact Doreen Bowman or email jcc@ehcong.com.

Also at the Community Center, Sunday, 16th March will be a film and food evening. More details will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.



liberal judaism

Liberal Judaism's Biennial Weekend 4-6 April 2008


The Liberal Judaism Biennial Weekend will be here before you know it, at the beginning of April, but we still have places and look forward to welcoming you. As well as an exciting array of workshops on our theme "Creation and Creativity", an exploration of arts and sciences, we are lucky to have some special speakers and participants.

Our after dinner speaker on Friday night will be Alan Ereira, well known as a writer, film maker, director and producer of historical TV and radio programmes. His best known book is co-authored with Terry Jones (of Monty Python fame) — "Mediaeval Lives" presents wonderfully human stories that bring the period to life. In 1991 Alan made an award winning film about the Kogi, a Colombian culture with their own, highly developed story of creation which mirrors that of the Bible. Even at that time, more than 15 years ago, the Kogi were concerned about the impact that humanity was having on our planet; and so we start to see both sides of our weekend's subject.

On Saturday, focusing more on the "creation" side, we are lucky to have Dr Mark Levene with us. Mark is co-founder of History!Rescue, a pressure group of academics who recognise the potentially catastrophic impact that humanity is having on the biosphere through climate change. He is the editor of "Surviving Climate Change: The struggle to avert global catastrophe", as well as being a historian and committed speaker on Israeli-Palestinian relations. On Saturday morning Mark will be participating in a Question Time debate on climate change and the environment.

Throughout the weekend we will have various opportunities to engage with our "musician in residence", Judith Silver. Judith has been sharing songs and facilitating singing with people of all kinds since 1999. She adores learning and teaching songs from all over the world, as well as encouraging the revisiting of known, favourite and forgotten songs. Given her belief that singing together is a gift that all can share and enjoy, her presence will help to keep us all in tune!

Check our website for the latest details www.liberaljudaism.org/biennial. Pick up your booking form from your community today or download it from the biennial website.



liberal judaism

Liberal Jews on Air

The final episodes of Rabbi Pete Tobias' radio show, 'I'm a rabbi - get me out of here!' are on www.icomradio.net. The series continues until 11th February 2008 on Mondays between 6:00 and 7:00 pm.

All members of Liberal Communities are invited to

A private visit to the Wiener Library - a hidden gem in the Heart of London

Join us for this unique opportunity to hear the story of the world's oldest Holocaust Memorial Institution and view some of its extensive archives and resources on the Holocaust and Nazi era

On
Monday 10 March 2008
Meet for coffee before the visit
10.15 – 10.45 am
at
Liberal Judaism
The Montagu Centre
21 Maple Street
London W1T 4BE

We will then walk to the Wiener Library (a 10 minute walk) as a group from the Montagu Centre.
The visit will end around 1pm

To book your place and for further details phone or email:
Lina Fajerman on 0208 504 3125 or
l.fajerman@ntlworld.com

Tu B'Shevat

The cheder held a lively Tu B-Shevat seder earlier this month.



Flat Exchange Opportunity in Jerusalem or Exeter

Kate Sapir writes:

I am planning to visit Edinburgh at festival time 2008. I am interested in arranging fairly cheap accommodation for myself and 2 others (all ladies over 50).

I wonder if you know anyone who might be interested in a flat exchange, either in Jerusalem (Israel) or in Exeter (UK). We all have nice homes.

If you are interested, contact Kate by email at katesapir@hotmail.com.

ELJC Support Group
07904 813162

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, 25th February. Please email all contributions to newsletter@eljc.org.

Welcome New Members

Joe Goldblatt and Nancy Lynner have just joined our community. Joe and Nancy recently relocated to Edinburgh from Philadelphia. Joe recently assumed a new post at Queen Margaret University where he teaches event management. Nancy has worked in not-for-profit programmes and taught three-year-olds at their synagogue in Philadelphia. Joe's comment on hearing that their memberships had been approved by the council was "that is a relief, otherwise I would have had to found a third Edinburgh shul."

Welcome to Eva Vierbovska and Helen Ford, who have joined our community following their mikvah. Their Hebrew names are Hava Esther (Eva) and Hadassah Ora (Helen). Rabbi Mark mentioned at their welcome service that Hadassah and Esther are two forms of the same name, which is appropriate since they have been great support to each other during their studies.

Thanks from Eva Vierbovska

I would like to express a special thanks to all community members who supported me over the past year, making my path to Judaism really exceptional and moving. Since I attended my first service in June 2006 I have always felt that this is the best place and the best people to help me to convert. And I have never changed my mind. A very special thank you goes to Gillian and Charlie Raab. Thank you for your warm hospitality, for your continual support, your friendship and all the help you have given me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Eva Vierbovska

Burns Supper

The first-ever ELJC Burns Supper held on 19th January was a resounding success. Thanks to all who contributed and made this such a special evening.



David Nelson prepares to recite the Ode to a Haggis



Nick Silk and Rabbi Nancy



Rabbi Mark sings



Our main speaker, Dr. Gerry Carruthers, delivers a wonderful address to The Immortal Memory



Charlie Raab proposes the Toast to the Lasses