

# SUKKAT SHALOM

EDINBURGH LIBERAL JEWISH COMMUNITY

## January 2006

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[www.eljc.org](http://www.eljc.org)

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



Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

### EVENTS & SERVICES

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

**Date** **Monday 9 January**  
**Event** **Council Meeting**  
**Venue** **tbc**  
**Time** **7pm**

**Date** **Saturday 21 January**  
**Event** **Shabbat Service**  
**Venue** **Columcille Centre,  
2 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh**  
**Time** **11am**

With National Holocaust Memorial Day on Friday 27th January, our Shabbat service in January will recognise this time. Thus while the Shabbat service will be a 'regular' one from our normal prayer book, siddur Lev Chadash, there will be additional readings during the service to mark the occasion.

**Date** **Sunday 29 January**  
**Event** **AGM**  
**Venue** **tbc**  
**Time** **7pm**

**Date** **Friday 3 February**  
**Event** **Erev Shabbat Service &  
Family Supper**  
**Venue** **Columcille Centre,  
2 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh**  
**Time** **7pm**

Rabbi Mark will be taking the service which will be followed by a family supper. Further details of Rabbi Mark's itinerary will be in next month's newsletter.

**Date** **Saturday 11 February**  
**Event** **Barmitzvah of Joe Naftalin**  
**Venue** **Columcille Centre,  
2 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh**  
**Time** **11am**  
This service will be followed by kiddush and buffet lunch. If you would like to attend, please can you email [chair@eljc.org](mailto:chair@eljc.org) to advise. There will also be a party in the evening starting at 7.30pm at the Braid Centre, 1 Nile Grove, Edinburgh.

### Kaddish Reminder

It's a custom in our services for the service leader to ask before Kaddish if the congregation has 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.

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

Please do not hesitate to call if you need assistance.

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*He used to say, Better is one hour of repentance and good works in this world than all the life of the world to come; better is one hour of refreshment of spirit in the world to come than all the life of this world.*

**Sayings of the Fathers**

## Sukkat Shalom Torah Dressings

The celebration marking the arrival of our Torah scroll in September 2004 was one of the highlights of our first year as an independent community. It will not have escaped anyone's notice, however, that since it arrived it has remained a little unadorned: it had no breastplate or rimonim. When we raised funds for the scroll we knew we also needed to dress it and a proportion was kept aside for this purpose. To our surprise and pleasure, this was supplemented by an unsolicited and very generous donation from the Apelt and Lazarus Charitable Trust, which specified it should be spent on a special breastplate. This allowed us to be more ambitious, and we decided to commission something unique for our community instead of buying 'off the shelf'. It also meant we could support a contemporary maker of Judaica: a rare breed.

Council established a working group (Gillian and Charlie Raab and myself) to research the options. We carefully considered several silversmiths making Judaica and narrowed the choice to three. We wrote to them, introducing our community and explaining what we were looking for: ornaments that were contemporary in feel, to reflect the newness of our community, with clean simple lines rather than highly elaborate (though we were interested in introducing colour and texture). We suggested drawing inspiration from our name, 'Sukkat Shalom'.

Two artists indicated interest and sent portfolios of previous work. Council agreed on Tamar de Vries Winter, an exceptionally talented artist specialising in enamelling. Because of the nature of her work she normally works to a higher budget, but she was very keen to work with us on our commission and agreed to take on the challenge of our smaller budget.

The task took nearly a year, having to be fitted round Tamar's other commitments including a major commission from the V & A Museum for a Kiddush cup for its Sacred Silver Gallery: we're clearly in good company!

Tamar says she believes what she has created for us is celebratory, contemporary, fresh and non-ostentatious, which is the impression she

has of Sukkat Shalom. We hope you like the ornaments and that they will soon become part of our identity alongside the other wonderful work that has already emerged from this community. They made their debut at the first Shabbat service conducted by our new part-time Rabbi, Mark Solomon, on 17 December. Council is planning a special inauguration ceremony for them in the spring and we hope the artist and the donors might join us to celebrate.

*Elizabeth Goring*



*The Kiddish cup above is a sample of Tamar's work*

For more information on Tamar, visit [www.studiofusionegallery.co.uk/winter.html](http://www.studiofusionegallery.co.uk/winter.html) or [www.enamellers.org/winter.html](http://www.enamellers.org/winter.html)

## Happy Birthday ....

Mazel Tov to Joe and Ben Naftalin who will celebrate their birthdays on the 8th and 9th of February.

Also a Happy Birthday to Nick Silk for 5th Feb.

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## Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

**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 honorary 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."

**Feb 5 Ross Bradshaw**, Nottinghamshire County Council, *Jews in the Spanish Civil War*. Ross Bradshaw is the literature development officer for Nottinghamshire County Council. He is also the publisher behind the imprint *Five Leaves* which has in its eclectic list a small range of Jewish titles. He was offered the manuscript of *The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon*, but generously referred the author to a larger American publisher who could deal with a large print run. This year is the 70th anniversary of the Spanish Civil War.

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

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

The deadline for the next newsletter will be Wednesday 25 January 2006.

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



## Biennial Weekend Update

**"Judaism without Borders?"**  
**The Cheltenham Park Hotel,**  
**Cheltenham, 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

In addition to the fabulous range of talks and workshop sessions that will be offered by our rabbis and lay leaders, we will be welcoming some outstanding guest speakers to our Biennial weekend this year. In this update bulletin, I would like to tell you about two of these: Roger Lyons and Edward Kessler.

Roger is perhaps best known as a former President of the TUC and Joint General Secretary of Amicus. His tireless work for decades in the trade union movement reflects a deep commitment to social justice. This commitment manifested in other ways as well: Roger was a founder member of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, an observer for the first free elections in South Africa, and was involved in the Mississippi Civil Rights Project in 1965. He remains an active campaigner against the BNP. He will be sharing both his memories and his hopes with us.

Edward is Founding Director of the Cambridge Centre for the study of Jewish-Christian Relations and Bye Fellow of St Edmund's College. He is a leading thinker in contemporary Judaism and Jewish-Christian Relations and writes for The Times, The Jewish Chronicle, The Tablet as well as The Church Times. Although Edward has written and edited several books, we are particularly interested in his latest project, a book to be entitled *What do Jews Believe?* (Granta Publications). We hope that some of his research will help us to address the question of what is, and is not, embraced within our Jewish framework today.

For more information about the weekend, visit: [www.liberaljudaism.org/biennial](http://www.liberaljudaism.org/biennial).

See you at the Biennial! - *Rabbi Janet Burden*

## **3rd Edinburgh International Festival on Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace**

**8 February to 12 March 2006.**

The festival has many excellent events but some worth highlighting are;

- **The One World Peace Concert.** 18th Feb at the Queen's Hall. 6.30pm £8/£6
- **Between Assimilation and Difference: Aspects of Jewish identity in the Ancient World** by **Professor Gary Gilbert.** 19th Feb at the Salisbury Rd Synagogue. 8pm
- **Tales and Music of the Spirit with Beth Bahia Cohen and Peter Vallance,** 1st March at Augustine United Church. 8pm £8/£6
- **Professor Tariq Ramadan lecture - Islam and the West in a Quest for a Just and Peaceful World.** 2nd March at The Queen's Hall. 7.30pm £7/£5
- **Yasmin Levy Concert.** 5th March at The Queen's Hall. 8pm £14/£12
- **Forum. Can Judaism, Christianity and Islam speak the same civic language?** 8th March at Martin Hall, New College. 7pm Free

*For more information please refer to the full programme of events on <http://www.mesp.org.uk>*

### **Burns Supper**

The Jewish Community Centre Committee will be hosting a Burns Supper on the evening of 29th January. An application form is enclosed and should be completed and returned (with payment) as soon as possible - it's a popular event!

*Further to a request from a member of the community, here's the recipe for*

### **Ricky's Challah!**

Makes 2 large loaves.

300ml warm water  
675g strong white flour  
1 sachet easy blend yeast  
50g sugar or 2 rounded tablespoons honey  
1 ½ teaspoon salt  
3 tablespoons sunflower oil  
2 large eggs

Mix all the dry ingredients together thoroughly in a large bowl. Now add all other wet ingredients and mix until all are combined. Remove from bowl, place on a floured surface and knead for 4 or 5 minutes until dough is tight and springy with a silky feel. Grease a large bowl with oil and turn the dough in it to coat it. Cover with clingfilm and leave somewhere warm to rise for at least two hours.

Bash dough down and knead once again for 2 minutes.

To make a 3-strand plait. Divide dough into 3. Flatten each piece with a fist then roll up into a 'swiss roll'. Flatten again, roll up as before and shape into a ball - this greatly improves the texture of the loaf. Roll each ball into a 12 inch strand that tapers slightly at each end. Join the three strands together at one end. Plait in the usual way. Arrange on a greased tray.

Cover with a clean tea towel and allow to rise for an hour or two.

Gently brush loaf with an egg wash mixture and sprinkle with poppy seeds.

Preheat oven to Gas 8 (450F or 230C). Put the bread in the oven and immediately turn the temperature down to Gas 6 (400F or 200C). Bake for 25-30 minutes or until bottom sounds hollow when tapped.