

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

January 2007

Chairman: Maurice Naftalin, chair@eljc.org
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EVENTS & SERVICES

Date **Friday 5th January 2007**
Event **Erev Shabbat Service**
Venue **Columcille Centre**
Time **7pm**

Date **Sunday 14th January**
Event **Cheder**
Venue **Stewart and Gina's**
Time **10am to 12am**

Date **Saturday 20th January**
Event **Shabbat Service**
Venue **Columcille Centre**
Time **11am**

Rabbi Mark will lead the service. After the service, there will be a break for lunch and the Talmud Reading group will start at 3pm, and conclude at 5pm with Havdalah.

Date **Saturday 20th January**
Event **Social Evening**
Venue **tbc**
Time **meet at 7pm and meal at 8pm**

We will be having a night out in Edinburgh. The venue has yet to be decided, but if you would like to come out for a drink, meal and a chat, please let Ricky (RickyHogg7@aol.com) know as soon as possible so that we can book somewhere big enough!

Date **Sunday 21st January**
Event **Introduction to Judaism Class**
Venue **The Raabs house**
Time **10am**

Date **Friday 2nd February**
Event **Erev Shabbat Service**
Venue **Columcille Centre**
Time **7pm**

As it is also Tu Bishvat, the new year for trees, we will be holding a 'Tu Bishvat seder' after the service. This 'seder' consists of fruit, nuts etc. so it will be an opportunity to have a 'nibble and a natter'.

Date **Sunday 4th February**
Event **AGM**
Venue **Columcille Centre**
Time **6pm**

A short AGM will be held and followed by a social event (with food of course!)

NB Please note that our Shabbat service in February will be on **Saturday 10th February (11am at Columcille) and NOT the following Saturday**. This is because Rabbi Mark is in Edinburgh that weekend giving a talk to the Edinburgh Literary Society

ELJC Welfare Support Line
07904 813162

Intolerance betrays want of faith in one's cause

Mahatma Gandhi

Glasgow Reform Synagogue Civic Service

Congratulations to Glasgow Reform Synagogue on the celebration of its 75th anniversary. The anniversary of the only Reform synagogue in Scotland, began on October 28 and kicked off a year of events with a civic service attended by dignitaries such as the Rt. Rev Alan McDonald, Moderator of The Church of Scotland, Archbishop Mario Conti representing the Catholic Church in Scotland, and Rabbi Tony Bayfield, Head of the Movement for Reform Judaism. The Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community was represented by Chairman, Maurice Naftalin.

The celebration highlighted the fact that, at a time of dwindling synagogue membership and declining Jewish populations throughout the UK, congregation numbers at the Glasgow synagogue has continued to buck the trend and is still growing.

Membership at GRS has doubled to 420 over the last 15 years, with congregants coming for services from around Scotland, including Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen.

In spite of its 75 year history, GRS just last month changed its name to Glasgow Reform Synagogue from Glasgow New Synagogue, which distinguished it from the numerous other Jewish establishments which once populated the city



Rabbi Nancy Morris with some of the dignitaries

Hebrew Lessons

These recommence on **Sunday 7th January 2007**. Venue(s) to be arranged.

Welcome

To new member **Robert Hael** from Perthshire

Happy Birthday

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

Yiddish Song Project

Sunday 14 January 2007
7.30pm (Doors open at 7pm)
The Lot, The Grassmarket, Edinburgh.
£7 (£5 concession)
Reservations - 07739 184 480

Warm up the New Year with a sheyn hartsig yidish lid! The Yiddish Song Project is appearing for the second time at The Lot following our sell out gig in September. The evening will feature some favourites of Yiddish Swing, Musical Theatre and traditional song. Singer Stephanie Brickman and pianist / accordionist Phil Alexander are joined by new band member Joanna Nicholson on clarinet.
www.yiddishsong.co.uk

Edinburgh Women's Inter-faith Group

Nicolson Sq Methodist Church
Undercroft Café

Wednesday 10th January 2007

Topic: How we all celebrate New Year in our traditions

Wednesday 7th February 2007

Topic: What our traditions of Spirituality are

Wednesday 7th or 14th March (tbc)

Topic: Possibly a showing of 'A Mother's Journey' - the film of Marsha Gladstone's return visit to Israel a year after her son Yoni Jesner was killed. This is a very moving film.

**International Holocaust
Memorial Day**
'The Dignity of Difference'

www.annefrankfife.co.uk

Come together with others from across Scotland to mark the end of the Anne Frank Festival and to reflect on International Holocaust Memorial Day.



Sunday 28th January at 6.00pm

Ticketed candlelight procession ending at the Town Square in Kirkcaldy. The Festival will then close with a moving and reflective performance event involving some very special performances and speakers

International Holocaust Memorial Day

VENUE: Adam Smith Theatre, Kirkcaldy
Sunday, January 28th 7.30 – 9.00pm

A moving and reflective performance event involving some very special performances and speakers.

THIS IS A STRICTLY TICKETED EVENT

For more information and to book, contact **Heather Gibson**, on **01592 414892** or email annefrank.festival@fife.gov.uk

**Scottish Council of Jewish
Communities**

The latest edition of the Four Corners publication are available to view at <http://tinyurl.com/ydbxfs>

If you do not have web access and would like a printed copy, please contact Clare.

Advance Notice

The **4th Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality & Peace** to be held from **7th February - 11th March 2007**
Please go to website www.mesp.org.uk for full information.

The 2007 Middle East Festival One

World Peace Concert

The Queen's Hall, 87-89 Clerk St, Edinburgh.
Date/Time: **Saturday 10 February 2007**
6.30pm-10pm. Doors open 5.30pm.
Indian snacks served by Suruchi Indian Restaurant from 5.30pm-6.30pm in the bar.
Cost: £8/£6 (Concessions). A two-ticket offer of £14/£10 (Concessions).
Contact: Booking Hotline on 0131 668 2019, or in person at the Queen's Hall.
Queen's Hall Website: www.thequeenshall.net

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

Naomi Alderman



'Disobedience': The author discusses her novel and describes how she came to write it. The winner of this year's prestigious Orange Award for New Writers, the author's novel provides a rare glimpse into the world of Britain's Orthodox Jews. She grew up in the Orthodox Jewish community in Hendon, where she now lives. She is a graduate of Oxford University and the University of East Anglia's Creative Writing MA.

Marian Oppenheim Hall, The Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road, January 28 at 8pm sharp.

Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre Committee

Just a Jewish Minute!

Based (loosely!) on the well-known Radio 4 show, can our panel members speak without Hesitation, Deviation or Repetition for a minute? Come along and find out!

Sunday 4th February 2007

**Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Rd
7.30pm**

£14 adults students/children £8

(£12.50 (£6 student/child) if purchased by 21st January)

Contact JCC, 4 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh EH16 5AB by **29th January 2007**, or email jcc@ehcong.com for details



Unravelling Israel

Mondays, 7pm-9pm

15 January to 12 February 2007

The Montagu Centre, 21 Maple St, London
Cost: £40 for full course or £10 per session

A five week course where experts will examine the political and religious strands that shape debate about Israel

- How far has Israel come politically in nearly 60 years?** Daniella Peled, Foreign Affairs Editor of the *Jewish Chronicle*, Paul Usiskin of Peace Now UK
- Israel's contribution to the world and the role of the Israeli Embassy** Ronit Ben Dor, Head of Public Affairs at the Israeli Embassy
- Jewish moral values in Israeli life** Dr Jonathan Rynhold, Bar-Ilan University
- Is peace attainable?** Yossi Mekelberg, Royal Institute of International Affairs and Professor Manual Hassassian, Ambassador to the Palestinian General Delegate
- Israel advocacy** Paul Usiskin

Optional eight-day educational tour of Israel
15-22 April 2007

Cost: £799 half-board including flights

To book contact Noa Marom

shlich@liberaljudaism.org

020 7631 9834

"Belief"

Rabbi Elizabeth Tikvah Sarah was interviewed by **Joan Bakewell** on **BBC Radio 3 on Wednesday 27th December 2006 from 9.30pm-10pm.**

Rabbi Elizabeth Tikvah Sarah was the first Rabbi in the UK to enter a civil partnership; celebrated in March this year at the Brighton and Hove Progressive Synagogue, which she leads. The interview formed part of a series called 'Belief', in which Joan Bakewell talks to artists, thinkers and other public figures about what they believe and why. In a society where the arena of belief has become increasingly personal and subjective, yet religion remains a significant influence in society, she explores in conversation with her guests the influences that have shaped them, the ideas they have about life's big questions and how what they believe affects both their personal and working lives. You can hear the interview, or read the transcript (but hurry - only for a few days more!), at

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/programmes/belief>

where you can also hear the interviews with other leading cultural, religious and scientific figures. If you do not have web access and would like to read the transcript, please contact Clare who will send you a copy.

I'm Jewish, my partner isn't

A seminar for all those in mixed-faith relationships, whether they be at the initial stages of their relationship, recently engaged or long married. The object is to discuss sympathetically and constructively the issues that arise, and examine the various options open to those concerned. Topics will include the wedding day, home life, children, family/in-laws, funeral arrangements, as well as the various compromises and negotiations that are often necessary. Admission is £2.50 per person and open to both Jewish and non-Jewish partners alike. There will also be a special group for parents of those in a mixed-faith relationship. It will take place on **Sunday 14th January at 2.30 pm** (till 5.45 pm) at the Sternberg Centre, 80 East End Road, London, Finchley, N3. You can just turn up on the day...although it helps gauge numbers if you call in advance - for further information or to book a place, call 01628-671058 rabbi@maidenheadsynagogue.org.uk

Israel and Environmental Issues

Jerusalem, the hills surround her, and so at any rate on my latest visit did a thick layer of ozone pollution. Visible as a red/purple band on the horizon. Often noticed in its immediate mild effects producing sore eyes, thirst, dry throat, skin etc. ground level ozone is in fact seriously damaging to human health, to crops, and also damages materials. It is formed, by the photochemical action of sunlight on car exhaust fumes.

The old city, whose narrow alleys need car traffic like the proverbial hole in the head, is a clear case for an outright ban on cars, as is any historic city centre, and quite a few have benefited from complete pedestrianisation. Suburban Jerusalem, which now crowns her hills with many mostly tasteful, well-built, and fairly expensive housing estates does have a completely car-dependent lifestyle, just like any suburban lifestyle anywhere - but nicer, of course, since this is Israel.

Shomrei shabbat have got public transport as well as all shops completely closed for the full extent of shabbat. I welcome this, but cars are banned only in some observant eruvim. So only the poor and car-less, and the very observant have to stay within easy walking on shabbat. In fact the Israeli family shabbat would be hard to organize without a car, since family members now live miles apart, and car and phone are almost necessities for the maintenance of family life.

Israel in fact has prided itself on its efficient relatively congestion free road system, and road building continues at a pace to gladden the heart of any Daily Telegraph reader. Perhaps the messiah also has some solutions to the car/suburb problem. Small electric or bio-fuel cars are clearly going to be part of the solution. Cleverer planning of key journeys and locations : home/ work/ family/ friends/ school/ leisure/ shops so that more frequent venues are within walking distance, or the service home-delivered is tricky and not yet part of the normal remit of planners and developers who basically want to maximize capital return on a piece of land usually by building and selling houses or offices on it, and not by designing lifestyle nodal intersections to minimise car use.

Shoals of monet private taxis (unlike the more organized sherut shared cab routes) driving round in circles looking for fares could clearly be organized into cab ranks, save petrol and save pollution and congestion. I expect its just the Israeli temperament that loathes simply sitting, even in a car, doing nothing but driving round in circles is not good for anyone. Public transport in Israel is good. So much for the argument that UK drivers would all stop driving if only.. public transport..etc. Israel has good public transport - and very high car use.

Until Hizbollah bombed and burned many areas of natural beauty and wildlife and environmental protection especially in the north Israel also had a commendable acreage of nature reserves and some excellently designed hiking in woods and forest as well as desert. KKL has done excellent work preserving, and now needs funds to restore and regenerate these nature reserves and amenities.

Israel is also environmentally aware and to be commended on high-tech solutions to energy water, and pollution problems, far more so than most of her neighbours. However, very little recycling evident, at least as far as domestic garbage goes. But its also true that the Israeli lifestyle is still relatively frugal and non-wasteful - this is of course a halachic position too, and i did see battery recycling points which are still rare in UK, commoner in Europe.

The potential Middle East water shortage now looks serious to me - very unusually dry autumn and winter so far. That of course is down to us all, globally, and our personal, and national, contributions to climate change. Why so much rain should now apparently be diverted to already wet northern latitudes like Scotland from drier Mediterranean, sub-saharan and other arid areas which need the rain remains a to me obscure area of the divine plan, on which I'd welcome the views of Israeli water experts. Not without reason will desertification be one of the issues Israel pursues at the UN this year...

Anat Kamenka Algazi



Coffee, Pecan and Raisin Whirls

250g bought puff pastry
 60g raisins
 finely grated zest and juice of 1 orange
 60g unrefined (golden) Fairtrade sugar
 ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 40g pecans
 15g melted butter
 1 egg, beaten
 1 tablespoon warmed runny Fairtrade honey

For the icing:

75g icing sugar
 1 teaspoon instant Fairtrade coffee granules,
 dissolved in 1 tablespoon boiling water (or use
 1 tablespoon made-up strong Fairtrade
 espresso coffee)

First put raisins in a bowl with the orange juice and leave to soak for 1 hour.
 Preheat oven to 220°C/425°F/gas mark 7.
 Roll out the puff pastry to a square, measuring about 24cm. Brush with melted butter, leaving a 2cm gap down 2 parallel edges.
 Mix sugar well with the cinnamon and orange zest. Break pecans into pieces about the same size as the raisins and mix into the sugar.
 Drain the raisins and add to the sugar mixture.
 Spread onto pastry, avoiding the gap along the 2 edges. Brush the gaps with beaten egg.
 Starting with one of these edges, roll up tightly like a swiss roll. Seal the edge as tightly as possible, using more beaten egg. With a sharp knife, slice the roll into 2cm wide rounds.
 Place on a baking tray and brush top and sides with more beaten egg. Bake for 25-30 minutes until golden brown.
 Brush tops with warmed honey straight from the oven. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.
 Make up icing by beating the coffee into the icing sugar until smooth. When pastries are cool, drizzle with icing.

Makes about 9 whirls

Shooting Star

A young Jewish man calls his mother and says, "Mom, I'm bringing home a wonderful woman I want to marry. She's a Native American and her name is Shooting Star."

"How nice," says his mother.

"I have an Indian name too," he says. "It's Running Deer" and I want you to call me that from now on."

"How nice," says his mother.

"You should have an Indian name too, Mom."

"I already do," says the mother. "You can call me Sitting Shiva."



Colouring Picture



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 Wednesday 25th January. Please email any contributions to newsletter@eljic.org