



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

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## SUKKAT SHALOM EDINBURGH JEWISH COMMUNITY: JULY 2004

Shalom! It was wonderful to see so many of you at the RSGB presentation; it was an interesting evening leaving us with much to consider. You'll find notes in this newsletter and also dates for the ULPS presentation – I hope to see you there. Among other things, this newsletter also features an exciting musical initiative.

Many thanks to Kate and Nick Silk for hosting the enjoyable and well-attended BBQ; the rain held off especially for Sukkat Shalom. A raffle on the day raised £50 for the Sefer Torah fund - congratulations to Blanche on winning the raffle and thanks to Ida for her generous donation of the prize.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter. Contributions to the August newsletter are welcomed at [ssedin\\_news@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ssedin_news@yahoo.co.uk): deadline is **23 July**.

*Regards, Hannah*

### **THURS 1 JULY - 7.30pm Steering Group 5 Derby Street, Edinburgh**

This is the group - open to all members - set up at the AGM to consider all the options for how we can proceed as a community. There is a short report in this newsletter on the progress of the steering group, and more detailed information on the website: [www.ssedin.org](http://www.ssedin.org).

### **FRI 2 JULY - Erev Shabbat Service, 7pm Homeroyal House, 2 Chalmers Crescent, Marchmont, Edinburgh**

Please arrive in good time; if you are early press "5" then "4" then "call". Unfortunately we can't let you in after 7.10pm without prior arrangement.

### **FRI 30 JULY - Erev Shabbat Service, 7pm St Columba's Episcopal Church, Johnston Terrace**

The service will be led by Rabbi Aaron Goldstein, Outreach Director for Liberal Judaism

### **SAT 31 JULY - ULPS Presentation and Shabbat Service, 10am St Columba's Episcopal Church, Johnston Terrace**

This will follow the format of our service-lunch-study days except with two discussions sessions, one after the service as usual and one before, starting at 10am, followed by the service at 11am. Please bring a contribution of food for lunch – there will be no heating facilities but plates and cutlery will be provided. The afternoon shiur will finish about 3pm.

Please see page 3 for further details of the discussion sessions.

***\*It is important that as many people as possible attend this session\****

Affiliation is probably the most important decision we will take as a group, so please come along

### **FRI 6 AUG - Erev Shabbat Service, 7pm Homeroyal House, 2 Chalmers Crescent, Marchmont, Edinburgh**

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**  
**Times for High Holyday Services**  
**St Columba's Episcopal Church, Johnston Terrace**

Erev Rosh Hashanah, Wed 15th September – **7pm**      Kol Nidrei, Fri 24 September – **7pm**  
Rosh Hashanah, Thurs 16 September – **11am**      Yom Kippur, Sat 25 September – **11am (all day)**

**PLUS**

Sukkot, Fri 1st October – **4pm**: build the sukkah, **6/6.30pm**: early service  
Simchat Torah, Wed 6 October: time and venue to be announced (not St Columba's)

**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

All Edinburgh members and members of Glasgow New Synagogue living around Edinburgh have received a letter requesting them to renew their membership and pay an interim subscription. Almost everyone has responded, but **if you have forgotten it is not too late to do so**. We will be able to set a budget for this year after our meeting in September which will decide on affiliation. At that point the balance of this year's subscription will be decided.

In previous years many non-members have sent us donations towards our costs. These are always welcome, as would be any donations towards the costs of our own scroll. Please send donations to

Gillian Raab, 10 Ainslie Place, EH3 6AS, 0131 226 6234 ([RaabGillian@aol.com](mailto:RaabGillian@aol.com))

who can also answer inquiries about membership matters.

**CONCERTS & EVENTS**

**Concert**

**Russian, Yiddish & Hebrew songs**  
**Raisa Abelskaya - poet, singer & bard**

**25 JULY, 8pm -Salisbury Road Synagogue**  
**Suggested donation: £5 (£2 unwaged)**

Raisa Abelskaya is a Russian Jewish poet and singer from Ekaterinburg, where her literary concerts have been a big success. During July she will be in Edinburgh attending the Scottish Universities International Summer School (SUISS), which brings together young people from all over the world to study English literature. The summer school tries to open its doors to students who would not be able to come without support, including Jewish students from the Former Soviet Union (FSU).

Donations for the concert will be used to support other Jewish students from the FSU to come to SUISS.

Please contact Gillian Raab for further details: [RaabGillian@aol.com](mailto:RaabGillian@aol.com)

**Jointly sponsored by the Edinburgh  
Jewish Literary Society and Sukkat  
Shalom**

**Stephanie singing in the Edinburgh  
Festival**

Keep an eye out for Stephanie this August as she'll be performing in this year's Fringe Festival. Full details will be in the August newsletter but in the meantime keep a space in your diary around 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Edinburgh Festival August 2004**

Are you involved in any Festival events this year? Do you know of any Jewish shows that will be in the Festival, or any particularly good companies that you would recommend from previous festivals? If so, send in a notice with details of the show for the August newsletter (**deadline 23 July**). Reviews of shows seen are welcomed for the September newsletter (**deadline 23 August**) which will - hopefully - come out before end of August, in time to catch the last few performances of the festival

## AFFILIATION REPORTS

On 16th June we were joined for an evening meeting by Rabbi Amanda Golby and David Jacobs. David is RSGB Director of Synagogue support and Rabbi Amanda is currently support Rabbi at Hendon Reform Synagogue but has previously been Rabbi at Southport Reform and Nottingham Progressive synagogues. As I'm sure you all know, the purpose of the meeting was for members of Sukkat Shalom to find out more about Reform Judaism; approximately 30 people attended. The meeting took the format of an initial introduction by David, concentrating on the 'practical' side of things - what support could RSGB provide to a small community such as ourselves. The intention was that we would initially focus on these aspects then move on to more religious questions. However, it rapidly became clear that such a demarcation was not possible, and a wide range of questions covering all manner of topics were asked.

Some of the topics covered were what level of fees we would have to pay to RSGB and what support they would provide us, be it financial, general help with our development or specific support for cheder and adult education. We also discussed a variety of religious/doctrinal issues, such as status (matrilinearity and patrilinearity), the role of the mikvah and mixed burials, and other topics such as support for bar/bat-mitzvot children and indeed parents! The evening finished with an informal chat, and from the feedback I have received everyone found it a most useful event. Interestingly, the feedback from David and Rabbi Amanda was also positive - I think it was 'harder' than they expected but they certainly appreciated the interest and sincerity of everyone present and were also impressed by the number of people who attended.

A full report of the meeting is on the website and is also available on request.

*Nick Silk*

### **Reflections on the RSGB visit to Edinburgh**

On the plane home Rabbi Golby commented that the best educational sessions are when teachers and pupils learn from each other: we certainly found the evening stimulating and felt we had learnt much from the dialogue and the question and answer session. Judging by the detailed questions raised, and your responses to our replies, the community is already on a sound footing.

The Jewish experience may be just beginning for some community members while others may be some way down the trail of their Jewish journey, seeking not only advice and guidance on their particular issues but also seeking answers as a community - it felt that the Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh Jewish Community was gathering strength from unity of purpose.

Just to remind ourselves, there were questions about resources for the community available from the Manchester and London offices, material for the cheder coordinator, who would lead religious services (both on Shabbat and on the chaggim) and questions relating to Jewish status, identity, conversion, mikveh and much more.

It is impossible to summarise the 2-hour session in this short note: if there are further follow-up questions please do not hesitate to contact Rabbi Golby [amanda.golby@totalise.co.uk](mailto:amanda.golby@totalise.co.uk) or David Jacobs [david.jacobs@reformjudasim.org.uk](mailto:david.jacobs@reformjudasim.org.uk)

Lastly can we thank you for your warm welcome and your hospitality.

*David Jacobs*

### **Union of Liberal & Progressive Synagogues (ULPS) Presentation**

Following the visit of RSGB to discuss Reform Judaism, we look forward to the visit of members of Liberal Judaism at the end of July. On **Friday 30th July** we will be holding an Erev Shabbat service conducted by Liberal Judaism's Outreach Director, Rabbi Aaron Goldstein, and on **Saturday 31st July** we will be holding a Shabbat service, again conducted by Rabbi Goldstein with help from Rabbi Mark Goldsmith (chair of the ULPS Rabbinic Conference). These services will use Siddur Lev Chadash (the ULPS siddur).

We will also be holding **discussion sessions** before and after the Shabbat service, to cover both religious/doctrinal and practical issues in a similar way to what we did with RSGB. The shiur on "where Liberal Judaism stands" will be led by Rabbi Mark Goldsmith and the practical session by Nigel Cole, deputy chair of Liberal Judaism.

**\*It is important that as many people as possible attend this session\***

Affiliation is probably the most important decision we will take as a group, so please do attend.

## STEERING GROUP REPORT

The Steering Group (SG) continues to meet monthly. This group, which is open to all members, is planning the summer and autumn activities of the community in preparation for the general meeting of 12th September, at which we will formally elect a council. The next meeting of the Steering Group is on Thursday 1st July. There have been two main developments since the last report:

- *Constitution* At the last SG meeting we formally adopted the draft constitution, and have now finally been able to submit ourselves to the Inland Revenue for charitable status and so that we can organise our own finances independently. Almost everything in the constitution is available for amendment, however, and we are currently organising a mailout which will contain the draft and a summary of the issues which are under discussion – and everyone will be able to add their own. We will discuss amendments and re-adopt the constitution at the meeting of 12th September.
- *Affiliation* The RSGB meeting was well-attended and felt to be very useful. We want the our meeting and services with Rabbi Aaron Goldstein, representing ULPS, to be equally successful, but we are aware that the dates (30th/31st July) will not be possible for everyone. Please do come if you are in Edinburgh – these events have a vital role in helping to prepare the community for a very important decision. At the least we plan to record the discussions so that members who can't be present can gather some of the atmosphere.

Working groups are also making progress on our other main tasks: organising for the cheder, the Sefer Torah and its completion ceremony, the High Holy Day services (which will have real singing, we hope!), and burial arrangements. And these are just the main issues! If you want to take part, please get in touch with me or with any of the working group convenors.

Maurice

## NOTICES

### **Congratulations!**

Sukkat Shalom wish  
Anna Raab & Tim Dover

a **big** 'Mazel Tov'  
as they celebrate their  
marriage this month

### **Tesco introduce new Kosher food section**

Rumour has it that the Newington Tesco now boasts a kosher food section; this is in addition to Sainsbury's established section at Cameron Toll. Perhaps Tesco heard of Sukkat Shalom's new independent status and responded to Edinburgh's growing Jewish needs?!

### **Shabbat Angels**

Talmud, tractate Sanhedrin 119b reads:

*Rabbi Yose Ben Yehudah said: "Two angels, one good and one bad, accompany every man from synagogue to home on Erev Shabbat. If he enters his house and finds the candles lit, the table set, and his bed made, the good angel exclaims, 'May it be thus next Shabbat as well!' and the bad angel must respond 'Amen' in spite of himself. If the case is otherwise, the bad angel exclaims, 'May it be thus next Shabbat as well' and the good angel must respond 'Amen' in spite of himself."*

A lovely midrash; a modern, tongue-in-cheek version is rather different:

*Two angels accompany every man and working woman home from work on Erev Shabbat. He enters his house and as usual it is about half an hour to go before Shabbat comes in and nothing is done. He turns to the two angels and says 'Hey, you two, don't just sit there, stop chatting and help me get ready for Shabbos.'*

## MAKING MUSIC WITH SUKKAT SHALOM

### **Sing along with Sukkat Shalom choir**

There are many good voices in our Community. I would like to invite you to join our Sukkat Shalom Choir. Our main task, and it will come round very quickly, will be to prepare some music for Erev Rosh Hashanah/Rosh Hashanah, the High Holy Days & Simchat Torah. It would also be good if we can contribute something for the Siyyum Ha Torah Service. As we are very new I would suggest that we don't try to do too much too soon – if we can do one or two choral pieces but spend the rest of our energy making sure we can lead the singing for the congregation during the Services that would be most helpful to everyone – we also need to be singing the same tunes. I know there is a wide variety of tunes which all of you know but I think it would be wiser to stay with the tunes known by the majority of our members rather than learn too many new melodies.

I have approached one or two members already – I am particularly keen that this will be a mixed choir so we do need some gentlemen please – then we should be able to manage some easy four-part pieces (SATB). One or two folk have already indicated that they might be willing and may be prepared to do a solo if required. You do not have to be an opera star (in fact, 'Prima Donnas' need not apply!) Joking apart, the main thing is enthusiasm and a willingness to take part. You may think you cannot do this but if you are willing and would like to come and see me for a 'try out' of your voice, I would be delighted to see you. We will all need to rehearse together and this may need to be on a fairly regular basis, say fortnightly, at a time to be mutually agreeable. I propose that we sing A Capella (that is, unaccompanied – the use of an instrument would need to be discussed with the whole community). If you wish to be a member of Sukkat Shalom Choir, please contact me indicating what voice you are (Soprano, Alto, Tenor or Bass). Happy singing!

### **Calling All Instrumentalists**

I'm sure that there are a good few instrumentalists out there – are you 'hiding your light under a bushel'? If so, please come out from underneath your bushel and give us all the joy of your music! I'm sure that, between us, we have a veritable 'Parley of Instruments' at Sukkat Shalom! Why not get in touch with me & tell me what you play? I would be really delighted to hear from any of you; if you've ever fancied playing in an ensemble and never quite got round to it, now is your chance.

Contact [Rebekah@v2.me.uk](mailto:Rebekah@v2.me.uk) or 'Hatikvah', 17 Walden Terrace, GIFFORD, Haddington EH41 4QP

## OTHER REPORTS

### **Women's Spirituality for Peace - report**

On 5th June the Chaplain of Edinburgh University, Rev. Di Williams, chaired a panel of women from different faiths who spoke and ran workshops on the theme of 'Women's Spirituality for Peace'. The event was well-attended with around 60 people from all faiths (and men too). What was quite evident was that, despite never having met or had any consultation prior to the forum, all four speakers had picked up on the same basic themes. The over-arching theme within this particular topic was that of the home and family being the nurturing ground for educating children in the ways of peace and non-violent conflict resolution. Another common element was the view that, in order to spread peace and to teach peace, one had to be at peace within oneself – this was of paramount importance and on it rested to whole structure of peace. Some of you will have seen in an email the subjects of the four workshops – to name but two, 'Women taking the power to fight against the use of trident missiles' and 'Mothers of the Middle East, unite' which was intended to explore the ways in which mothers on both sides could untie together to prevent the widespread bloodshed of so many Muslims and Jews. In the end we had to finish our workshops long before we had finished discussing ideas!

The consensus opinion was to continue meeting in such ways to explore each other's faiths and viewpoints. It was suggested that each faith group invite the others to our various communities and share experiences and study together our various Scriptures. This was a very successful meeting of many faiths and will, hopefully, lead to more in the future. If anyone would like a copy of my text please let me know. I am submitting it to the Edinburgh Star, but you can read it now on our community website.

*Rebekah*

## Cancer Research UK – Race for Life

Well, I did it! Hopetoun House was buzzing on the 13th June with the sound of 2000 women who were warming up ready to set off for their 5k run, walk, or in my case wheelchair-push around this course.

It was a lovely day and not too hot; parts of the course were tough at times and I had the disadvantage of being at the back of the field when it set off. I shall know better next year - yes, I'm planning to do it again! We warmed up to a workout provided by the team from the Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness Club (which is why I was at the front before the race) then everyone turned round to start racing. Anyway, I needn't have worried – although I couldn't get a good run at the 'up' hills I made up for it by racing full speed at the 'down' hills. When the hills got too tough the women around me at the time were very good and took turns in pushing me up the hills. I finished the course in 57.2 minutes, a personal best for me.

Many, many thanks to those of you who have been so very generous in your sponsorship – between you and my other friends over £300 has been raised. So a BIG THANK YOU from Cancer Research UK. I raced in memory of six members of my family who have died from cancer and to celebrate the life of my new daughter-in-law, Sue, who has survived having had a tremendous battle against it.

*Rebekah*



Rebekah at the start of the race!

## MORROCAN GRILLED FISH BROCHETTES

### Ingredients (serves 4–6)

- 5 garlic cloves, chopped
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ –1 tablespoons salt
- 2–3 pinches cayenne pepper
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh coriander/parsley
- 1 ½ lbs firm-fleshed white fish, e.g. haddock/seabass, cut into 1–2 inch cubes
- 3–4 green peppers, cut into 1–2 inch cubes
- 2 lemon wedges, to serve

### Method

- 1) Put garlic, paprika, cumin, salt, cayenne pepper, lemon juice and coriander/parsley into a large bowl and mix together. Add fish and toss to coat. Leave to marinate overnight or for at least 30 mins, although preferably 2 hours, at room temperature or chill overnight.
- 2) About 40 mins before you are going to cook the brochettes, light the BBQ: the BBQ is ready when the coals have turned white and grey.
- 3) Meanwhile, thread the fish cubes on to wooden or metal skewers, alternating fish with pieces of pepper. If using wooden skewers soak them in cold water for 30 mins to prevent them burning.
- 4) Grill the brochettes on the BBQ for 2–3 mins on each side or until the fish is tender and lightly browned. Serve with lemon wedges.

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