

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

July 2007

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EVENTS & SERVICES

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

Date **Saturday 21st July**
Event **Shabbat Service**
Venue **Quaker Meeting House**
 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh
Time **11am**

(VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED)

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

Rabbi Mark will be leading the service and will be with us this weekend. Further details in next month's newsletter.

ELJC Support Group
07904 813162

"I have learned silence from the talkative, toleration from the intolerant, and kindness from the unkind; yet, strange, I am ungrateful to those teachers."

Kahlil Gibran

Bar-Mitzvah service 2nd June

I would like to thank both Sukkat Shalom & GRS for making my bar-Mitzvah service such a day to remember for our family. I would like to personally thank Rabbi Nancy & Rabbi Mark for all their advice and time.

Let's hope that it is not too long before our two communities get together again in celebration. Many thanks to all who shared in the day.

Ricky Hogg

Annual Summer Barbeque

On Sunday 24th June, despite the wet weather, ELJC enjoyed a 'Summer' BBQ at The Silk's home in Linlithgow. Over 20 of us enjoyed a superb spread of food, ably cooked by Nick and Phil, not forgetting to mention Kate's fabulous cakes! The children snatched dry windows of opportunity to trampoline outdoors while the more mature attendees wisely stayed indoors near the food. Once more, the Community thank Nick and Kate for opening their door and extending their hospitality to all.

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A Word from the Chair

Noa Marom, the Liberal Judaism shlichah (Israel emissary) has offered to organise a meeting for us with One Voice. One Voice is an initiative you might want to find out about, even if only so that you can enjoy the spectacle seeing me promote an organisation that lists IBM, the Chief Rabbi, and Ehud Olmert amongst its supporters!

What is One Voice, then? It's an organisation which aims to "amplify the voice of the overwhelming but silent majority of moderates who wish for peace and prosperity, empowering them to demand accountability from elected representatives and ensure that the agenda is not hijacked by forces of militant absolutism". They define themselves as a grassroots organisation, working face-to-face with people on both sides of the conflict. I'm particularly impressed by their work to pin down where a political consensus will be found; they are evolving a platform for agreement by subjecting a draft to repeated voting rounds by ordinary citizens. So far 380,000 people have signed up to the manifesto, and about a third have taken part in the voting. These numbers are composed almost equally of Israeli Jews and Palestinians. Last month, 14,000 Gazans added their names!

Can this really make any difference? There are plenty of reasons to think not. The proposals are not new by any means—they are only another variation of the "Clinton parameters" of the two-state solution. Another problem is that they are subject to interpretation: it's very difficult to phrase a platform in ways that will be understood identically by people on both sides. And, in practical terms, the extremists that One Voice intends to bypass are unlikely to stand idle in the face of a popular movement for consensus—some would say that they are already at work co-opting it! So the future for One Voice itself and its proposals is hardly certain.

But regardless of its formal success, it has already achieved a great deal in demonstrating the appetite for peace on both sides of the conflict. I've written before about how people locked in conflict have different narratives, and

how likely each side is to see itself as victim and unwilling respondent to the violence of the other. A central ingredient to this vision is a picture of "the other" as overwhelmingly hostile—"they all want to kill us", or "they all want to drive us out". You can hear these stereotypical (and, frequently, racist) generalisations from both sides of the conflict in Israel/Palestine. They are a product of the conflict as well as a cause of it, so breaking them down can't by itself end the conflict. But it can establish a vital principle—those "on the other side" are human beings too, our brothers and sisters, even when we differ most strongly.

Like us, they are ill served by their leaders and—also like us—their voices may be often drowned by the clamour of their extremists and hate-mongers. One Voice aims to amplify our joint voice above that clamour. So even if you don't agree with every detail of the platform, or if you have a distaste for some of its supporters, you can still think it is doing something very important.

Find out more at www.onevoicemovement.org.

If you want Noa Marom to bring One Voice representatives to a meeting here, let me know.

Maurice

Please consider helping.... situation still vacant

Following last month's appeal, there has been no notes of interest from anyone offering to take on the newsletter. I would ask people to seriously consider helping the Community in this area. This is a good opportunity for anyone involved in the ELJC to support and participate in the Community and is an ideal role if you are not keen on getting involved with meetings etc. but still want to help out in some way. If you would like to know more then please call **Clare** on **07876 536158** or email **newsletter@eljc.org**.

*Thank you
Clare*

Council and Community Communication

At the last council meeting, on 11th June, we left behind our usual routine of discussing usual business, and instead spent the evening thinking in rather broad terms about where our community is going. You may remember that Rabbi Aaron Goldstein visited us a few weeks ago. Well, his visit had a purpose beyond providing his company for a very pleasant evening at the Royal Scots Club. He spent much of the following day with the council in a wide-ranging discussion about directions for ELJC.

A central focus of this discussion was working out how we could improve communication between community members who are on the council and those who aren't. The group of people running ELJC remains more or less the same, while the membership grows. Increasingly, council members are under some pressure, and new members and old members don't easily get to know one another. We need to consolidate: to integrate better and build a strong base for a better resourced community.



Aaron came up some good ideas for this; one of them was to ask **Monique Blake** (pictured left), the outreach administrator at Liberal Judaism, to help us out with a job that we have been wanting to do for a long time, but none of us has ever found the time for: gathering some basic

information about who we are—Hebrew names, birthdays, jahrzeits, and so on. Monique has been working for Liberal Judaism for twenty years, so she understands our situation very well.

To hardworking council members, it feels like a huge gift to have a professional's time devoted to building our community. With her help, we hope to develop a plan for establishing ourselves as a better resourced congregation. So don't be surprised if you get a phone call some time in the next few weeks from Monique, seeking to gather information—and ideas!—to help strengthen and build the community.

Mazel Tov



To **Rabbi Pete** on his recent wedding to **Robbie**. Their intimate wedding at home was shared with their 3 sons. Best wishes from all at ELJC.



To **Dan, Lorraine** and **Elkan Hershon** on the safe arrival of **Isak Roland** on May 16th in Newcastle. We hope to see them all soon in Edinburgh.

DETACHED/SPECTRUM

Drawings, watercolours and paintings by
Miriam Vickers



*Image: Plaza Real, Barcelona,
watercolour, 50 cm. x 40 cm*

**Patriothall Gallery @ WASPS,
1d Patriothall, Hamilton Place,
Stockbridge,
Edinburgh EH3 5AY**
opposite Stockbridge Library.
Tel No. 0131-226-7126
Contact address: mirivick@yahoo.co.uk

Saturday 30th June - Tuesday 10th July
Days of opening : Tuesday to Sunday
Hours of Opening : 12 noon to 6pm



The Edinburgh Festival
fringe

Have you seen anything in the Festival or Fringe brochures that caught your eye or that you could recommend to other members of the Community? If so, let us know and we'll pass on the details in the August Newsletter.

Sukkat Shalom's Festival excursion

I am organising a festival excursion in August for the Community and would like to get as many people as possible together. I will begin to get in contact with community members over the coming weeks to inform of which show we will be attending and to provide details of the restaurant we will be going to. Maybe afterwards we could go onto a bar to finish off (Spiegel tent perhaps?) If you want to save me looking you up and you are interested then call me. (mobile number **07962 076017**) Getting numbers is the key so please give me a ring ASAP.

Ricky Hogg

Accommodation Required

A poet called **Leah Thorn** has contacted us to see if she and perhaps a colleague who is performing with her could find lodgings for a week during the festival with a Jewish family. She admits that this is a hutzpahdik request, but would just like to stay with a Jewish family and is happy to pay. She gave her contact details in the message but you can find them more easily on her web page www.leahthorn.com where you can also read some of her poems and see her picture.

During the summer, we often get requests from Jewish visitors to Edinburgh for help with accommodation. They usually want to come to services as well, though that doesn't always work out. Sometimes they offer to pay! If you think you could ever offer a night's lodging to any of our visitors, please get in touch. It's fine to restrict your offer to women only (or men only). If you can help in any way, please call the Community phone on **07891 439 646**

Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation Community Centre

There are 2 walks planned this summer. The first is a guided tour of the **Royal Mile** by **Sidney Caplan**. This will be held on **Thursday 12th July at 7pm** and the numbers will be limited so make your booking early. A donation of £5 per head is suggested - all proceeds going to the Community Centre.

The other walk will be held on **Sunday 8th July**. It will start at around **10am** and be approximately 8-10 miles ending up in a pub or teashop. The precise location and logistics of this walk are still to be agreed, but, once you register an interest, you will then be included in all planning emails. Once again, a £5 donation is suggested for the Community Centre. Further details will be provided to all those interested in either of the above walks.

Doreen Bowman

Out and About

The **Beancross Hotel** in **Falkirk** (just off the motorway) has been taken over by an Israeli consortium. They are going to hold a concert on **Sunday 19th August at 7.30 pm** They are bringing from Israel **Daviel Ahaviel**, a fantastic fusion of Scottish, Irish, Jewish and Hungarian music. They are hoping to get people from both Edinburgh and Glasgow. Keep this date free in your diary. Further details will follow when available.

Rebekah

Our Community's Visit to Newstead, near Melrose



Learning about the Roman Fort at Newstead

On **Saturday 16th June**, nineteen of us from our Community – all ages from eight to ninety-two, drove down to **Newstead** to the home of one of our members, **Isobel King**. We had been there before two years ago and she very kindly extended an invitation to us again.

Many of you will know that, on that day, the weather during the drive down was very wet and misty, especially on the hills, but we were not deterred. We arrived in Newstead to find that it was dry and we all went to the Village Hall for our Shabbat Service. On our arrival we found that Isobel had very kindly prepared tea, coffee and scones for our refreshment which was most welcome – it gave us a chance to 'gather out wits' before the start of the Service. As always, 'Jewish time' prevailed (so what's new?) and we started the Service at about 11.15 (or thereabouts). Our Service was very ably taken by Nick and the theme from Torah was the story of Korach from the Book of Numbers and the Haftarah was from I Samuel 11:14 – 12:11.

We were very fortunate to have with us the Head of the Spiritual Support Team (Chaplaincy) of the Borders General Hospital, Rev. Ron Dick and his wife, Margaret. They were most welcome visitors and were pleased to take part in our Service.

After the Service we went across to Isobel's lovely cottage where we made kiddush and were able to indulge in the various culinary

delights which were on offer. We all took a savoury main course and one or two other 'goodies' and Isobel treated us to some very delicious desserts and cheese-board. Wine and soft drinks were enjoyed by all and this was followed by tea and coffee.

After we had eaten, the weather had cleared up enough for some folks to go for a long walk with Isobel and her lovely dog; others stayed behind to 'chill out' and generally tidy up. We were most grateful to the folk who stayed behind to clear up in the Village Hall also where we had left some of our belongings and the chairs etc. Apparently Newstead has 'its own microcosm of weather' according to Isobel and, sure enough, as we drove home, the weather closed in again and the journey was wet and very misty/foggy. Thankfully (as far as I know) we all arrived home safely.

We would like to thank Isobel so very much for her very kind and generous hospitality – the day was a delight. We will look forward to another visit sometime in the future.

Rebekah



David and Daniel



liberal judaism

Liberal Judaism's Response to UCU's Proposed Academic Boycott of Israel

Background: on 30 th May 2007, delegates of the first meeting of the new University and College Union voted by 158 to 99 for a comprehensive and consistent boycott of all Israeli academic institutions.

Liberal Judaism is categorically against the boycott and believes that it is a retrograde and negative action which will ultimately damage the peace process by inhibiting dialogue with the very people most likely to push for change.

As Liberal Jews, our response to the proposal is to strengthen our commitment to positive action, in accordance with our prophetic commitment to *tz'dakah*, social justice and peace. In addition to recommending a range of ways for individuals to express their concern at the proposed boycott in a targeted manner, we pray that this will be an occasion not for despair but for a renewal of our commitment to all peace initiatives directed at establishing the conditions for peaceful coexistence between Palestinians and Jews in Israel.

What you can do

- Directly support a positive peace initiative by joining Liberal Judaism's campaign to fund places for 100 underprivileged Arab and Jewish young people on the interreligious/intercultural summer camp run by the groundbreaking ArabJewish Center in Acco:
www.liberaljudaism.org/pdf/OneIn100;
- Visit the official Stop the Boycott website:
www.stoptheboycott.org or email the campaign organisers at: support@stoptheboycott.org;
- Urge all Liberal Jewish academics to oppose the boycott and direct them to the petition on the website of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East: www.spme.net;

- Write to, phone or visit your MP to ensure they have added their name to the Early Day Motion (number 1603) against this boycott. If they have already added their name, ask them to hold a joint meeting with their local Further Education College or University to ask them to make a public statement against this boycott. The motion can be seen at this website:
tinyurl.com/3dor2d.

Find your local MP by using this simple website: www.upmystreet.com/commons//;

- Urge all Liberal Jewish students to oppose the boycott and direct them to the petition organised by students in the UK and which currently stands at 23,103 signatories:
www.petitiononline.com/stopucu/petition;

- Keep Liberal Judaism's head offices informed of your own community's actions against the boycott and towards peace so that we can coordinate our efforts to maximum effect. Email a.mankowitz@liberaljudaism.org.

See 'Letters' on page 7 for more opinion on this matter.

Musicians sought for Kadimah

LJY Netzer are organising a day focused on Am Yisrael on Kadimah summer camp. We are going to look at the Jewish people around the world through music, dance and drama. If you know any musicians who have expertise in world Jewish music to run workshops on Kadimah Summer camp or actors who are able to run drama work shops and dance teachers who can specialise in Jewish dance from around the world then please contact **Jenny Walton**. J.walton@liberaljudaism.org or **0207 631 0584**

Action for disabled

Liberal Judaism is setting up a **Disability Action Group**, with honorary officer **Roz Bott** taking on the new portfolio. Please contact r.bott@liberaljudaism.org if you would like to get involved.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Clare

Currently the argument about boycotting Israel, in one way or another, is very heated, with accusations of anti-Semitism and of collaborating with an oppressive occupation being thrown to and fro. In this atmosphere it is more important than ever to try to separate facts and opinions, so I was disappointed to see that Liberal Judaism has failed to do that in the response (see page 6) to the UCU (University and College Union) boycott call. LJ's response opens with the statement that the UCU conference called for "a comprehensive and consistent boycott of all Israeli academic institutions". In fact although the conference resolution is indeed favourable to a boycott, it didn't call for a change in union policy; instead it asked the union leadership to take various steps to get the issue discussed in union branches. (The text of the resolution is available at <http://tinyurl.com/328b4e>.) The proposers wanted the issue discussed because they believe discussion will build support for their case, but in practice there are a number of strong practical reasons why UCU will not ever officially back a boycott.

On the wider issue, I think the campaign against the boycott is making a big tactical error. In last week's Jewish Chronicle, Jonathan Freedland hit the nail on the head with his comment that campaigners against the boycott seem to be trying to hold back a "flood" of "global desire" to see the Palestinians get a state of their own on the territory that Israel has occupied since 1967. Seen like this, UCU opinion in favour of a boycott—and other support that is already following—is just a rivulet of that flood. Campaigning against a boycott without addressing this fundamental issue is just trying to turn a flood back, and in the long run that can't work.

Maurice Naftalin

Have an opinion? Let me know your thoughts and I'll publish them next month. *Clare*

Silk Painting workshop

Barbara Morningstar, from a Montreal reform congregation introduced a few ELJC members to the art of silk painting. Very interesting technique, and easy to do once we had tried it. The use of salt with the dyes produces moiré like effects that are only revealed when the silk dries.



The green silk used to cover the scroll was one of our products. We also attempted to make a larger item to use as a bimah cover. But we are not quite happy with the result. The design was not thought through enough before we started, though some of the individual effects were amazing. Now we have the skills we hope to review this and perhaps use parts of it to make something suitable. Any others who would be interested to learn about this too, please let us know (email info@eljic.org).

Gillian Raab

Rosen is chosen



Outspoken critic of Israel and prolific children's novelist and poet **Michael Rosen** has been appointed the fifth children's laureate.

Rosen, who has written over 140 books succeeds Jacqueline Wilson and will hold the title for two years. "I hope that I'll be able to boost all children's reading for pleasure but also to give a special lift to the wonderful diverse world of poetry for children," he says. "I see my job as Children's Laureate being an ambassador for fun with books."



Exotic Golden Rice

Ingredients

200 gm	FAIRTRADE brown basmati rice
200 ml	FAIRTRADE tropical juice
200 ml	water
3 ml	salt
2 cm	fresh root ginger
5 cm	FAIRTRADE cinnamon stick
100 gm	pine kernels
15 ml	light soy sauce

Method

Wash and drain the rice. Peel the ginger and grate fine. Pre-heat the oven to Gas Mark 4.

Cooking

Toast the rice grains in a non-stick pan over medium to high flame to drive off the moisture, and then, keeping the grains moving all the time, brown them over medium to low heat. This takes 5 to 10 minutes.

Put the hot rice into a pan and add the juice, water, salt, grated ginger, and cinnamon. Cover and bake in the pre-heated oven for about 1 hour (until all moisture has been absorbed).

Towards the end of the cooking, gently toast the pine kernels in the non-stick pan over medium flame, and once they are golden brown, add the soy sauce.

Assembly

Remove the cinnamon sticks, and mix the pine kernels into the rice just before serving. Serve hot as a side dish. The dish will stay hot in a slow oven for 15 minutes after the allotted cooking time, and without coming to harm, but do keep the lid on.



Noah



With such bad wet weather, maybe it is most appropriate to have a picture of Noah to colour this month!!!!



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 July. Please email any contributions to newsletter@eljc.org