

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

June 2008

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EVENTS & SERVICES

Date Friday 6th June
Event Erev Shabbat Service
Venue Quaker Meeting House,
Victoria Terrace
Time 7pm

Our monthly Erev Shabbat service will be held at the Quaker Meeting House.

Date Sunday 8th June
Event Erev Shavuot Service
Venue Columcille Centre,
Newbattle Terrace
Time 7pm

We will be noshing on cheesecake and plan to follow the service with a discussion -- or a chat, depending on how many people attend.

Date Saturday 21st June
Event Kabbalat Torah
Shabbat Service
Venue St Marks Unitarian Church
Castle Terrace
Time 11 am

This is the Kabbalat Torah service of our teenage members (Adam Barclay, Daniel and Joe Naftalin, Andrew and David Silk). Rabbi Mark will help the boys lead the service, after which there will be a kiddush. Please come along to support the boys!

Rabbi Mark will be up the weekend of 20-22 June. On **Sunday, 22 June**, the **Choosing Judaism** class will be held in the morning. The **Talmud Reading Group** will meet at 3pm that afternoon at the home of Joe Goldblatt and Nancy Lynner, 71 2f2 South Clerk Street.

EVENTS & SERVICES

Date Friday 4th July
Event Erev Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre,
Newbattle Terrace
Time 7pm

Our first service of July will be Erev Shabbat at Columcille.

Is it time for a barbecue yet?

Yes, we are planning a barbecue for the summer. This year there were not any available weekends in June, so we are targeting late August. Watch this space for more details.

The purpose of birth is learning.

The purpose of learning is to grasp the divine.

Abraham Abulafia

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Cheder
Sept 5th Erev Shabbat Service
A Date for Your Diary

For some time the cheder children have been working towards being able to lead an Erev Shabbat service. The objectives of this work are:

- To familiarise the children with the Friday night service and to improve their ability to follow it.
- To increase their understanding of the structure and meaning of the service content.
- To consolidate their Hebrew reading to date
- To improve their ability to follow and read other services (eg Shabbat morning)
- To empower the children and support their self-confidence by providing them with an opportunity to experience a sense of achievement and demonstrate their learning.
- To raise the profile of the cheder within the community.

The plan is that the children will be in a position to lead the service which takes place on Friday September 5th.

This is a big event for the children so it would be excellent to have as much support as possible. We will also be following the service with a family supper. A reminder will be issued closer to the time but ***please put the date in your diary now.*** Thanks a lot.

The cheder parents



In Guatemala

One of our members, Lauren Fox, is on an extended trip to Latin America with her partner, Lena. Lauren and Lena both work for Mercy Corps, an Edinburgh-based development charity that we supported in our last Kol Nidre Appeal. Their trip is a combination of development work and adventure. Check out their progress at landlinlatinamerica.blogspot.com

Having been working with Mercy Corps in Guatemala for the past few weeks, Lena and I thought that you may be interested to see some photos, and to hear first-hand about what Sukkat Shalom's Kol Nidrei appeal contributed to this year.

In Guatemala Mercy Corps works in the Alta Verapaz highlands, with a wide range of projects, including the resolution of land conflicts, assisting farmers in agrarian technique development, providing microcredit loans and improving the access remote mountain communities have to healthcare and education facilities.

Our role here has been primarily to visit a wide variety of projects, and write reports, updates and case studies on their progress. So if you would like to see more detailed reports, they will soon be available on the Guatemala section of Mercy Corps' website (www.mercycorps.org).

Hope you are all well, and look forward to seeing you on our return in June!

(Mercy Corps piece continues on p.3)



In Guatemala



This photo was taken at the first of a series of meetings in the village of Chiquibul. Villagers – land owners, labourers and tenants - are invited to attend and the aim is to educate, inform and discuss alternative methods to conflict resolution. Mercy Corps works with 2 local partner organizations to provide a neutral and secure space in which land conflicts can be addressed with the personal circumstances of both sides being taken into consideration. Land conflicts in Guatemala have been a serious issue since the 36 year civil war that ravaged the country, ending in 1996, and have freshly erupted this millennium in the wake of the 2000 Central American Coffee Crisis.



In Guatemala.

This little chap is at school in the mountain village of Volcancito. Today Mercy Corps staff are filling in for the teacher who is at a training event in the nearest town. The class is about the importance of washing your hands, and gets the kids to practice using soap and water, whilst learning why it is necessary. Not all of the children in the village come to school every day, as often they are needed by their families to help in the fields or at home with the animals and younger siblings.



The young lady in this photo has just received a box of twenty chicks which she purchased with the third installment of a series of loans in a micro credit scheme provided by Mercy Corps. This allows women to begin their own business ventures (this lady has chosen chicken-fattening) providing them with independence and autonomy, as well as supplementing their husband's farming wage. Most farmers in the region earn approximately 15 Quetzales per day, about 1GBP, on which it is extremely difficult to support a family – typically families in rural Guatemala have between 6 and 9 children.

The chicks she bought today will be fully grown in just 6 weeks, when she can sell them at the local market for a profit of between 32-48 Quetzales, 2-3GBP, which she will then reinvest in the process as the loan begins to pay itself off.

Lauren Fox

Chair's Word

My current reading is *Carved in Sand: When Attention Fails and Memory Fades in Midlife*, which says more than I really wanted to give away about what's going on in (or fading from) my mind just now. But concern about memory doesn't belong only to crumbling baby-boomers—for Jews, memory is central to the way we think about ourselves and about Judaism. The seder is a good example: there, we are each instructed to feel as though *we ourselves* had escaped from Egypt—memory recreated as experience.

There are other, less grand, kinds of remembering: for example, wouldn't it be useful to remember what we're actually supposed to be doing at any given moment? I used to be quite dismissive of people's difficulties (including my own) with this problem: it seemed to me that it ought to be simple enough to write down a list of what we want to do, and then just do each item on it in turn. I've struggled to carry this simple programme out for long enough to understand that the problem really is difficult, because actually it's the unyielding tip of a gigantic iceberg: the impossibility of concentrating on detail while at the same time keeping long-term perspectives and values sustained near the front of your mind. Without constant renewal, your sense of overall purpose quickly drifts and fades.

This reminds me of a line from one of my favourite books: "it is not particularly hard at all to be mindful... The effort is very small ... It is not hard, but we just do not remember to do it." Being "mindful" is the Buddhist idea that, to become less controlled by automatic reactions, we need to bring our awareness into the present moment by emptying our minds of intruding memories and fantasies. At first sight, this doesn't look much like Judaism (although Judaism, often ready to pick someone else's good idea, is starting to take it in). But there is one rather neat connection. The book I mentioned (*Living the Mindful Life*, by Charles Tart) talks about a "random teacher", a bell that would ring at irregular intervals to remind people going about their business to pause for a

moment and come to themselves. It's just because this is so out of place that it would work. That gives it something in common with many of our traditional rituals, like kashrut, which are actually *intended* to intrude on everyday life, for very much the same reason.

So there is a connection: in the parshah that the boys will read this month in the Kabbalat Torah service we are told to wear tzitzit: "*That shall be your fringe; look at it and recall all the commandments of the Eternal and observe them*". That's one possible random teacher, or as a Liberal Jew you can choose whichever other of our rituals work best for you. But if you're like most people, you should change it sometimes: the effectiveness of reminders is something else that seems to be carved in sand. And there's the real challenge (and the paradox): how to remember to change the very things that remind you to change!

Maurice Naftalin


Windows for Peace Edinburgh Summer School July 2008

Thanks to donations from several Trusts and to the generosity of many individuals, sufficient funds have been raised to enable Windows to bring a group of young people, aged 14 to 16, to Edinburgh for two weeks from 14 to 28 July.

I was fortunate to meet some of the girls when I was in Israel in April. They are a delightful group of Jews, Christian and Moslems, mainly from Tel Aviv, Jaffa and Bethlehem and will be accompanied by the group leader, Rutie Atsmon, three adult facilitators and a translator to help with Hebrew, Arabic and English.

They have an intensive programme to follow for the summer school but will have some free time to explore Edinburgh, to meet some local young people and hopefully encounter some Harry Potter characters. There will be an exhibition and open day, details of which will be announced shortly.

Judy Sischy



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Burma Cyclone: WJR Appeal


With estimates of over 22,500 killed and more than one million people affected by the cyclone in Burma on Saturday 3 May, World Jewish Relief – in its capacity as the charity that channels the UK Jewish community's response to international disasters – has launched an Emergency Appeal to raise critical funds for the Burmese victims. You can donate at www.wjr.org.uk or by phoning 020 8736 1250.

Friends of Progressive Judaism AGM

Friends of Progressive Judaism are to hold their 2008 AGM on 13th July at 3pm, the Montagu Centre. Email admin@fpjie.org.uk for more information. Paul Usiskin will be the guest speaker after the formal meeting.

Last call for Machaneh Kadimah

LJY-Netzer's Machaneh Kadimah – our summer camp is filling up. If your children are aged between eight to 15, don't let them miss out. They can come and enjoy swimming, football, arts, sports, singing, dancing, discos, bonfires, days out... The list is endless but best of all, they will meet people their own age and make friends to last a lifetime. Dates: 27 July – 10 August 08. Location: West Sussex. For information contact v.kaufman@liberaljudaism.org.



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Digital Photos Requested for LJ Archive

The Liberal Jewish photo archive has many prints, spanning a range of years. The archive is now calling for digital images, specifically photos showing people, buildings or artefacts relating to any Liberal Judaism event or relating to a significant congregational event, eg an anniversary, induction or consecration.

An email address has been set up for this purpose:
liberaljudaismarchive@gmail.com.

Labelling information [place, occasion, people, photographer, date, any other note] needs to be provided with the photos sent in, and it will be helpful if this can additionally be inserted in the properties [metadata] of the photo. Any queries should be addressed to Hon. Archivist Bryan Diamond at bcdljs@yahoo.co.uk.

LJS Archive Assistance Wanted -

Cataloguing assistance is needed in the Archive of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, London NW8, to review, weed and list papers of previous rabbis. Travel expenses and modest remuneration available. Simple computer word processing ability desirable. Apply to the Archivist Bryan Diamond bcdljs@yahoo.co.uk.

'tent' Tunisia Trip

Join us as we embark on an 11-day journey across Tunisia . Part group trip, part independent travel, you will need to be up for a real adventure. From ancient medinas to tranquil beaches, Saharan landscapes to Turkish baths, stunning synagogues to trendy marinas. the trip costs £200 plus flights and approx. £100 spending money, don't miss out! Contact Anna on a.gerrard@liberaljudaism.org. The trip is suitable for 20s-30s.

Become the Leader You Want to Be — Jewish Leadership in a Changing World

This year the Leo Baeck College Summer Institute will be helping participants to study Jewish Leadership in a Changing World. The flexible study programme will be held in Finchley from 1st to 3rd July.

There are so many changes taking place - in the world, in society, in our communities and indeed in ourselves - that leaders and educators will benefit from learning to respond to parallel changes in power, authority and guidance.

Study sessions will be led by two esteemed resident scholars. They are **Rabbi Steve Greenberg**, a modern Orthodox rabbi and Senior Teaching Fellow at the National Jewish Centre for Learning & Leadership in New York; and **Colin Quine**, a Senior Organisational Analyst at the Grubb Institute.

The wide range of sessions available includes:

- **Shabbat as the Source and Destination**
- **Reflecting on Leadership Belief and Practice**
- **Re-enactment: The Experience of Change in Judaism**
- **You are the Leader you have been Looking For ...**
- **Change as an experience in Individuals and Organisations**
- **Working for Ourselves, our Community and our World**

The sessions on all three days start at lunch-time (allowing participants to go into their workplaces in the mornings if necessary) and continue until early evening, with meals included. The cost is just £120 for two days or only £150 for all three - employers or organisations may subsidise participation as a professional development opportunity.

An Early Bird Discount of £15 is available for all candidates booking and paying by Monday 2nd June.

This year the Summer Institute will be held at Avenue House - a beautifully restored, mid-Victorian listed mansion set in glorious grounds to inspire and encourage all those attending. And as a special atmospheric bonus, rumour has it that the estate even has an underground tunnel, with a resident ghost!

The Summer Institute brochure and booking form can be found on the College website www.lbc.ac.uk - or call Madeleine Turner on 020 8349 5603 to find out more and book your place.

Small Communities' Shabbaton in Lincoln

The seventh annual Small Communities' Shabbaton will be hosted this year by the Lincolnshire Jewish Community at Jews Court on Steep Hill, Lincoln, 13 September 2008.

This event, jointly sponsored by the Movement for Reform Judaism, Liberal Judaism and the Dept of Education and Professional Development at Leo Baeck College will provides an opportunity to meet and spend Shabbat with members and leaders from Liberal, Reform, Masorti and Independent communities.

Places are limited, so you're encouraged to register your interest now. For further information, contact debi.penhey@lbc.ac.uk or 0208 349 5620.

Visit from LJS

On the weekend of 16-18 May, we hosted visitors from Rabbi Mark's London synagogue. The weekend included a chavurah supper, a kiddush following the Shabbat service and a ceilidh that evening. A good time was had by all, as you can see from the photos.



The two chairs



Chavurah supper



Chavurah supper



Dancers at the ceilidh

Members' Exchange

Do you have something you'd like to buy, sell, trade? Want to announce an achievement, or just share a bit of news with others in the community? Send contributions for the Members' Exchange to the editor at newsletter@eljc.org.

Some time ago Maurice Naftalin recorded Rabbi Mark singing some of his favorite tunes, mainly from the Shabbat service. These are now available on the ELJC website, at www.eljc.org/audio

An American visiting professor at the University of Edinburgh, her husband and two daughters (7 and 9) will be in Edinburgh for the fall semester, 2008, and are looking for a house or flat to rent. Prefer the area just south of The Meadows - The Grange, Marchmont, etc. The family needs 2 to 3 bedrooms, washing machine, dishwasher, internet access, a quiet location, and space for writing. Please contact: Susannah.Heschel@Dartmouth.edu

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. The next meeting will be 11th June.

ELJC Support Group
07904 813162

Blintzes are of Hungarian origin. This one was adopted as a specialty of Shavuot, when it is customary to eat dairy dishes.

For the Pancakes

1 cup (150 g) flour
1-1/4 cups (300 ml) milk
2/3 cup (150 ml) water
1 egg
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon oil plus more for greasing the pan

For the Filling

1 lb (500 g) curd cheese
1/2 lb (250 g) cream cheese
1/2 cup (100 g) or more sugar, to taste
Zest of 1-1/2 lemons
3 egg yolks
A few drops of vanilla extract (optional)
3/4 cup (100 g) currants or raisins soaked in a little rum for 1/2 hour (optional)

2-3 tablespoons melted unsalted butter
Confectioners' sugar to sprinkle on (optional)
2 teaspoons cinnamon to sprinkle on (optional)
Sour cream to pass around

Add the milk and water to the flour gradually, beating vigorously. Add the egg, salt, and oil and beat the batter until smooth. Leave to rest for 1-2 hours.

Heat a preferably nonstick frying pan--with a bottom not wider than 8 inches (20 cm)--and grease very slightly with oil. Pour about half the pan around until its entire surface is covered with batter. The batter and the resulting pancake should be thin. As soon as the pancake is slightly browned and detached, turn it over with a spatula and cook a moment only on the other side. Continue until all the batter is used and put the pancakes in a pile.

For the filling, blend the curd and cream cheese with the sugar, lemon zest, egg yolks, and vanilla, if you like, in a food processor. Then stir in the raisins, if using.

Take each pancake, 1 at a time, put 2 heaping tablespoons of filling on the bottom half, fold the edge of the pancake over the filling, tuck in the sides so that it is trapped, and roll up into a slim roll. Place the rolls side by side in a greased oven dish. Sprinkle with butter and bake in a preheated 190C oven for 20 minutes.

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 June. Please email all contributions to newsletter@eljc.org.