

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

March 2006

Chairman: Maurice Naftalin, chair@eljc.org
Secretary: Catherine Lyons, secretary@eljc.org
Newsletter: Clare Hogg, newsletter@eljc.org

Phone: 07891 439 646
www.eljc.org

EVENTS & SERVICES

Date Friday 3 March
Event Erev Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre,
2 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh
Time 7pm

This is a 'regular' service, and has also been advertised in the brochure of the International Festival on Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace.

Date Monday 13 March
Event Erev Purim
Venue St Mark's Unitarian Church
Castle Terrace, Edinburgh
Time 5.30pm - 7pm

Dress up, drink and be merry with us at our reading of the MacGillah. Please come in fancy dress and bring something to make a noise with! Hamentashen and drinks provided. Optional visit to one of many surrounding pubs afterwards to fulfill the mitzvah of getting just a bit drunk on Purim.

Date Saturday 18 March
Event Shabbat Service
Venue St Mark's Unitarian Church
Castle Terrace, Edinburgh
Time 11am

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

Date Wednesday 12 April
Event Community First Night Seder
Venue Columcille Centre
2 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh
Time 7pm

Our 8th communal seder will be held at a new

venue this year but with Rabbi Pete Tobias leading the service as usual. Further information, including prices and an application form, will be posted to members shortly. Volunteers are needed to assist in a small group to organise catering. Please contact Gillian to offer your help.

Date Saturday 29 April
Event David Silk's Bar Mitzvah
Venue St Mark's Unitarian Church
Castle Terrace, Edinburgh
Time 11am

After the service, Nick and Kate invite all members of the community for lunch at the Point Hotel. In order to help with catering arrangements, could you please let Nick and Kate know if you would like lunch (tel. 01506 845325, e-mail nick_silk@btinternet.com or even just speak to us!)

Welfare - Help Required!

We are still appealing for willing people to help support our Welfare function. If you could help -- all that is needed is a little of your time -- please get in touch with **Stewart** on **0131 228 4140**.

AGM

The Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community AGM was held on 29th January. Full minutes are available for viewing on the following link or by calling Clare on 01620 829618 who will post a copy to you.

<https://www.eljc.org/AGM06Minutes.pdf>

Serenity isn't freedom from the storm, but peace within the storm. --Unknown

First Sukkat Shalom Bar Mitzvah

On Saturday 11th February the first ever Liberal bar mitzvah in Scotland took place, and it was our very own **Joe Naftalin** who made history by reading from the Torah at the Columille Centre. The service was conducted by Rabbi Pete Tobias and attended by some 120 friends, family and community members. The bar mitzvah's grandfather Lionel Naftalin (91) made a moving speech while presenting a tallis, welcoming his grandson into a "*civilised religion*". Scottish klezmer ensemble "Celtica Shmeltica" entertained guests. Speaking about the experience, Joe Naftalin, said "*Being the first liberal bar mitzvah in Scotland feels like quite an honour. I feel like I'm making history and that makes me want to be a good jew, more than ever.*" Rabbi Tobias, who was Rabbi to the group during his time at Glasgow New Synagogue, said "*It was wonderful to be at the first bar mitzvah ceremony of a fully fledged community, which ten years ago was just an idea.*" A second Bar Mitzvah follows in April - **David Silk** is already hard at work preparing!

Stephanie Brickman

PS We've put the speeches (the good ones anyway), and some photos, on to Joe's barmitzvah website (www.naftalin.org/joe/bm). If you have any pictures of the day, please can you send a copy to Maurice.

Mazel Tov

To **Rohan Green** who will be 8 on 21 March. Have a good birthday Rohan!

Hebrew Lessons

Israeli teacher, currently a post graduate student in Edinburgh, is available to give Hebrew tuition for adults or children. Contact

Avi Aharoni 07944 389873 or
avia35@hotmail.com

For Info.....

Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation have a comprehensive website. All their events and many other useful items of information are on
www.ehcong.com

New Logo!!

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

..... finally has a new logo, designed by **Latte Goldstein** of Edinburgh design company, River Design. The brief for the development of the logo was drawn up by committee consisting of **Stephanie Brickman**, **Phil Wadler** and **Rebekah Gronowski**. They summed up the core values of the community as being progressive, inclusive and welcoming as well as having religious dignity and an element of festivity. Latte came up with several options for design which were then taken to council. the chosen design was worked into the logo we see today, of a celebratory figure dancing with a tallis thrown above him, reminiscent of a chupa or a shelter. To provide maximum flexibility Latte also created a typographic version with just the name of the community, which has a simple dignified look. It's impossible to please all the people all of the time when it comes to things like logos, so it took quite a while to arrive at the final version we have now. Latte showed great patience and professionalism and a deep understanding of Jewish issues throughout the whole process and we as a community would like to thank him. Thanks also to **Harry Rifkin** who had the chutzpah to convince Latte to do the job in the first place!

Stephanie Brickman



ELJC Welfare Support Line
07904 813162



**Limmud Scotland & the
Scottish Jewish Archives Centre**

invite you to travel on a

Glasgow Jewish Journey –

Garnethill, the Gorbals, Giffnock

Another chance to take our trip back in time –
be entertained & informed!

Sunday 12th March 2006 from 2 - 4.30pm

(leaves from Giffnock)

Tickets: £10, concessions £5

Boarding by pre-booked ticket only

Phone Fiona Brodie on **0141 638 2023**

Jewish Book Week

Produced by
Jewish Book Council



The book week takes place between Saturday
25th February - 5th March 2006 at the Royal
National Hotel, Bedford Way, London.
Full programme details can be found at
<http://www.jewishbookweek.com>

A book tour will also take place with details of
the Scottish leg below.

Glasgow, 5 March, 1.30pm-5pm

**UJIA, Eastwood House, Fenwick Road
Giffnock, Glasgow G46**

**Jeremy Isaacs
Naomi Alderman
Hirsh Goodman
Alan Kaufman
Emma Richler**

Enquiries: Bev Taylor, 0141 577 8200

suzanne.freedman@ujia.org

Tickets £8

In association with the UJIA

Edinburgh Wizo

We are part of a world wide non-political group
founded in the UK 85 years ago and provide
much needed funding for social work projects
throughout Israel. Our membership is open to
all and to raise funds we have 3 winter ladies
lunches in member's homes. Forthcoming
events are :

22nd Feb

Bridge tournament in the Shul hall, at 7.30
£30 per table. Contact Kate Goodwin, 0131
668 2113

4th March

Supper with a speaker again in the Shul hall.
The speaker is Edward Green and he will be
talking about the Queen's Jewels

Cost is £15 and please contact either Kate or
myself (0131 447 2947) if you wish to join us.

11th June

Lunch/Garden party at the home of Edward
and Marylla Green , Innerwick House, Ellisland
Road. 12.30 This is a ticketed event (for
catering purposes) and they will be available
from 22nd Feb from Kate or myself. A children's
ticket will be £5.

For further info on our events, on Wizo
membership please contact me. Looking forward
to meeting some new faces!

Sylvia Donne

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

Mar 5 Colin Shindler *The Triumph of Military
Zionism: Nationalism and the Origins of the
Israeli Right.*

Colin Shindler's book, with the same title, is to
be published this autumn. Expert on the history
and politics of Israel, he is the author of
*Ploughshares into Swords? Israelis and Jews
in the Shadow of the Intifada;*, *Israel, Likud and
the Zionist Dream: Power, Politics and Ideology
from Begin to Netanyahu;* *The Land beyond
Promise: Israel, Likud and the Zionist Dream.* .

Mar 19 Beyond the Pale; Klezmer music and
other entertainment - a programme fit for
Purim.

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

Four Corners Newsletter

The latest edition of **Four Corners** (the newsletter of the Scottish Council for Jewish Communities) is available to view on <http://www.j-scot.org.uk/4corners/issue8.pdf>

If you would like a printed copy, please let Clare know and she'll arrange to get one posted to you.

Letters

Dear LJ member

The Friends of Progressive Judaism in Israel and Europe FPJ

Its time that I brought you up to date with the Friends of Progressive Judaism, now known as **FPJ**.

The FPJ have been affiliated to the Reform Movement for some years now, and we feel that a balanced relationship requires us to be formally affiliated to Liberal Judaism as well, rather than continue the *de facto* affiliation that has existed for a very long time.

Affiliation gives us more "clout" in pursuing our twin objectives of education and fund raising, which of course can only effectively take place within the two movements. And I am sure you would agree that strengthening Progressive Judaism in Israel, continental Europe and the former Soviet Union should not only have the approval of Liberal and Reform Judaism in the UK but also be of benefit to and enhance the reputation of the two movements here (albeit indirectly).

We are planning this summer to re-launch the FPJ, modernising our image and becoming more "up-beat" in the hope of being able to raise much larger sums of money.

Last September we held another of our "Evenings with" hosted by Harrow and Wembley Synagogue. The theme was "Our twin in Kyiv" and we had an enjoyable and informative talk given by Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith.

Our next "Evening", planned to take place at the LBC-CJE on March 23rd, has the theme

"A FUTURE AND A HOPE - THE TASKS OF DEVELOPING PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM IN EUROPE".

Paul Zatz, Member of the Executive of the European Region of the World Union for Progressive Judaism will speak. Another "Evening" is planned for September to be hosted by Birmingham Progressive Synagogue.

A new initiative was taken last year; we held a Chanukah appeal for the Leo Baeck Education Center-Haifa for the "Lunch and Learn" which raised over £2,000.

Our AGM is to take place at the LJS on 15th June, when Rabbi David Wilfond from Israel will be our keynote speaker.

Following the sad loss of Rabbi John Rayner last year, we are delighted to announce that Rabbi Dame Julia Neuberger has honoured us by agreeing to become a patron.

The British Friends of the Leo Baeck Education Center-Haifa

I am sure many of you will have heard about our independent subsidiary group, the **BFLBEC-H** that was formed last summer. This new organisation is being launched on April 2nd. Its purpose is to help raise the considerable sums LBEC needs for its vital work. LBEC will be producing the necessary publicity material and initiating the required marketing.

British Friends will operate under the "umbrella" of FPJ. Officers of FPJ are and will remain members of its independent committee. All monies raised will be channelled through FPJ who will be responsible for authorising and controlling expenditure and transmitting funds direct to LBEC.

Initially, Harriet Karsh is chairing the committee.

Jane Greenfield

פורים

Family Activities

A list of activities that will make your Purim a one to remember.

The mitzvah of sanctifying the festival (KEDUSHAH):

The custom of setting a festive table and holding special meals during the day as well as at night. (PURIM SE'UDAH - Purim feast).

The custom of eating HAMANTASHEN

The mitzvah of hearing the readings of the Megillah and reciting the proper blessings (3).

The mitzvah of saying the SHEHECHYANU blessing (1 of the 3).

The mitzvah of reciting BIRKAT HAMAZON with the additional blessing AL HANISSIM (on the saving miracles of Purim).

Attend services on Shabbat ZACHOR (the Shabbat of Remembrance), one week prior to Purim, Remember the evil ones who sought to destroy the Jewish people. Contribute or work to stop anti-Semitism and in particular, neo-Nazism.

The custom of fasting on the day preceding Purim (TASANIT ESTHER - the Fast of Esther) to share in the heroic, but anguished, deed that Esther did for her people.

The mitzvah of honoring the divine in human relationships:

Tell and discuss the story of Purim, sing songs, etc., as a family or with friends.

Send portions of food (2 minimum) to friends and relatives (SHALACH MONES or MISHLO'ACH MANOT). Give something to at least one friend. Bring the gifts in person and express to your friends how much their friendship has meant to you.

Give TSEDAKAH to the needy (MATTANOT L'EVYONIM - gifts to the poor).

Donate three half-dollars to the synagogue to commemorate the donation of the three half-shekels to the Temple.

Act on the meaning of Shabbat ZACHOR and Purim by aiding Syrian Jews/Jewry in Arab lands/the Falashas.

Think of any place in the world where genocide is taking place, be it against a Jew or non-Jew, and do something to stop it. Write or protest or send money to strengthen that struggle against genocide.

The mitzvah of study:

Study and discuss the Book of Esther prior to or during the festival.

Compose a Purim Torah (a satire on Rabbinic learning). Use humor to learn and to teach about Judaism.

The mitzvah of rejoicing:

Tell jokes and cheer people up.

Sing Purim songs.

Blot out the name of Haman during the reading of the Megillah with a GRAGGAR (noisemaker) and by shouting, stamping feet, etc.

Really let yourself go -- live it up and rejoice -- at your Purim feast. According to the Talmud, one should drink alcoholic beverages until one can no longer distinguish (AD LO YADAH) between the names of Mordecai and Haman.

Dress yourself and your children in costumes for the Megillah reading.

Send SHALACH MONES to friends and family via children in costumes.

Put on a PURIM SCHPIEL (a satiric Purim play), elect a Purim rabbi, hold a Purim carnival.

Set up a group of Purim players, travel from home to home and entertain people with brief skits or invite some groups to your home for such skits. (You may choose to raise money through these performances for a good cause.)

Recipe for Hamentaschen

Ingredients

2/3 cup butter or margarine
1/2 cup sugar
1 egg
1/4 cup orange juice (the smooth kind, not the pulpy)
1 cup white flour
1 cup wheat flour (DO NOT substitute white flour! The wheat flour is necessary to achieve the right texture!)
2 tsp. baking powder
Various preserves, fruit butters and/or pie fillings.

Method

Blend butter and sugar thoroughly. Add the egg and blend thoroughly. Add OJ and blend thoroughly. Add flour, 1/2 cup at a time, alternating white and wheat, blending thoroughly between each. Add the baking powder with the last half cup of flour. Refrigerate batter overnight or at least a few hours. Roll as thin as you can without getting holes in the batter (roll it between two sheets of wax paper lightly dusted with flour for best results). Cut out 3 or 4 inch circles. Put a dollop of filling in the middle of each circle. Fold up the sides to make a triangle, overlapping the sides as much as possible so only a little filling shows through the middle. Squeeze the corners firmly, so they don't come undone while baking. Bake at 350 degrees for about 15-20 minutes, until golden brown but before the filling boils over! Traditional fillings are poppy seed and prune. Apple butter, pineapple preserves, and cherry pie filling all work quite well.

The number of cookies this recipe makes depends on the size of your cutting tool and the thickness you roll. Use a 4-1/4 inch cutting tool and roll to a medium thickness, and get 20-24 cookies out of this recipe.

.....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....

CONGRATULATIONS to Francoise Robertson who has just celebrated the arrival of another grandchild who was born in Sydney, Australia.



liberal judaism

CAN WE DO IT? YES WE CAN!

**Another great competition sponsored
by LJ Generations Committee**

If you, or anyone in your family or congregation has a creative hobby, enter examples of your work into this new competition.

The winning entry will be used in the design of a Liberal Judaism Rosh Hashanah greeting card.

If you draw or paint; work in wood or metal; sew, knit or crochet; make jewellery; work with glass or acrylic; practice calligraphy, origami or photography; make tapestries or statues, we want to see your work.

There will obviously have to be some exceptions - we can't accept perishables like food items or ice carvings, and we have to say sorry if your hobby is dry walling or forestry.

But otherwise, we welcome all types of handicrafts, from every age group, and there will be prizes for the best entries both from individuals and from Synagogue Activity Groups.

Closing date is 30 April 2006, and entries will be displayed, and the winners chosen at the LJ Biennial Conference at Cheltenham in May.

Please take or send entries to

Alan Lester	OR	Corrine Oppenheimer
NPLS Oaklands Gate		22 Riverside Dr
Northwood		Solihull
Middlesex		B99 3HH
HA6 3AA		

Each entry must have a completed entry form - available from your Synagogue, or download from the LJ website (www.liberaljudaism.org)

We will do our best to return entries in good condition, but this may not always be possible.

Choir of London concert

As part of its tour to Jerusalem and the West Bank in 2004, the Choir of London performed the world premiere of the specially-conceived "Jerusalem version" of Sir John Taverner's Lament for Jerusalem". This stunning work is based on a combination of Christian, Islamic and Jewish texts which ties in very closely with the choir's inter-cultural aims. This performance marks the release of the choir's performance of the Lament on CD, alongside the world premiere of a major new work for choir and orchestra by the leading young composer Tarik O'Regan, with whom the Choir already has a close relationship.

In conjunction with the British Council, East Jerusalem, the Choir of London is inaugurating a bursary scheme to enable talented young Palestinian musicians to participate in summer music programmes in the UK, and this concert is one of two (the other being in London) to mark the launch of this scheme.

John Taverner *Lament for Jerusalem*
Tarik O'Regan *Triptych*
Phillipe de Monte *Super flumina Babylonis*
William Byrd *Quomodo cantabimus*
Conducted by Jeremy Summerly

St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral
Palmerston Place, Edinburgh
11 March 2006, 7.30pm
Tickets £13 (conc £10 Child £3)
Box Office (Queen's Hall): 0131 668 2019
Boxoffice@queenshalledinburgh.org

The flight of the Rabbis

Thirteen Rabbis were on their way to Jerusalem when their flight ran into a big thunderstorm. One of the Rabbis immediately called over a stewardess. Wanting to calm her nerves, he said, "Could you please tell the pilot that everything will be all right because there are 13 very religious men aboard this plane." A few minutes later, the stewardess returned from the cockpit. She told the Rabbi, "Our pilot said that although he was pleased to learn that we have 13 holy men aboard this flight, he would still rather have just one good engine."

3rd Edinburgh International Festival on Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace 8 February to 12 March 2006.

The festival is now in full swing but there are still a few events that might be of interest to people.

- **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>

Chase some rainbows

March and April are a really good time for seeing rainbows - here is the beracha in case you don't know it:

*Baruch atah adonai elohanu melech ha-olam
zocher haberit ne'eman bebrito vekayam
bema'amaro*

Stephanie

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 22 March 2006**. Please email any contributions to newsletter@eljc.org or post to Clare Hogg, 4 Meadowpark Court, Haddington, EH41 4HT