

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

March 2008

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EVENTS & SERVICES

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

Please join us for our erev Shabbat service.

Date Thursday 20th March
Event Purim
Venue Columcille Centre,
Newbattle Terrace
Time 6-9pm

A Purim to make you hide behind the sofa. Starring who you ask? That's right! Hamentaschen! Purimspiel! Exterminate!

Date Saturday 22nd March
Event Shabbat Service
Venue Quaker Meeting House
Victoria Terrace
Time 11 am

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

The service will be followed by a family supper. Please bring a non-meat dish to share.

EVENTS & SERVICES

We're Having Visitors

Over the weekend of 16-18 May we will be having some visitors from Rabbi Mark's synagogue in London, LJS, come to visit us. This weekend is also one when Mark is up, so as well as having our regular Shabbat service on the Saturday, we will be having a chavurah supper on Friday evening and a social event on the Saturday night. Further details will be in next month's newsletter; in the meantime put the date in your diary!

Events for Your Diary

tent will be coming to Edinburgh on the 30th May. Venue and activities are still TBA. These will be in place for you to look over in the April newsletter. If you are interested then please contact Avivit direct (as per flyer) or Ricky on 07962076017.

It's not too early to start planning for **Pesach**. Our community seder will be Saturday, 19th April, and we need volunteers! See page 5 for details.

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**Yiddish Film Season
at the Filmhouse
Sunday 23 Mar — Sunday 13 Apr**

The films chosen for this short season are all landmark Yiddish films. Showing in the Yiddish Film Season are:

***The Dybbuk* (1937)**

Sunday, 23rd March

Based on the celebrated play by S. Ansky, this Yiddish film classic reflects his deep perception of the shtetl's religious and cultural mores, as well as insightful appreciation of its hidden spiritual resources. Arguably the most artistically important of all Yiddish films, *The Dybbuk* uses expressionist sets to create a film as powerful and haunting as the great films of the German Expressionist period.

The film will be introduced by Barry Davis, lecturer in Yiddish language, literature and film at the London Jewish Cultural Centre.

***Teveye* (1939)**

Sunday, 30th March

Maurice Schwartz's adaptation of the classic Sholem Aleichem play centers on Khave, Teveye the dairy-man's daughter, who falls in love with Fedye, the son of a Ukrainian peasant.

The film will be introduced by Elaine Samuel from the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society.

***Yiddle with His Fiddle* (1936)**

Sunday, 6th April

A classic folk comedy and the most commercially successful musical in the history of the Yiddish cinema, *Yiddle With His Fiddle* is a charming film about wandering Klezmer musicians, starring Molly Picon, consummate comedienne of Yiddish theatre, vaudeville and film.

The film will be introduced by Ellen Galford from the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society.

***Long is the Road* (1948)**

Sunday, 13th April

Written by Israel Becker, this is the first feature film to represent the Holocaust from a Jewish perspective. Mixing neorealist and expressionist styles, the film follows a Polish Jew and his family from pre-war Warsaw through Auschwitz and the DP camps.

The film will be introduced by Heather Valencia of the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society.

See any three or more films in this season and get 15% off!

www.filmhousecinema.com/seasons/yiddish-cinema/

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

To introduce the Yiddish Film Season, Barry Davis will give a talk entitled "**Yiddish film: Between East and West**" to the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society on **Sunday 23rd March at 8pm** in the Marion Oppenheim Hall, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation Community Centre, The Synagogue, 4 Salisbury Road. Cost is £3.

**Edinburgh Jewish Community
Centre**

Jewish Film Evening

'**Left Luggage**' starring Isabella Rosselini, Chaim Topol and Miriam Magolyes. Set in Antwerp in the early 70's, a young student secures a job as nanny for a Hasidic family, whose world and lifestyle are alien to her. Through her relationship with the family she gains unexpected insight into the lives of her own parents, concentration camp survivors. (English.)

Sunday, 16th March

7pm

£12 adults; £8 children

Light buffet supper included

For more information, contact Doreen Bowman, bowman@globalnet.co.uk

The UK Jewish Film Festival Tour Comes to Glasgow

Sunday 2 March 3.30pm

Sweet Mud

In a kibbutz in the 1970s, Dvir, a 12 year old boy faces the harsh demands of the collective while struggling to make room for, and bring happiness to, his emotionally unstable mother. Without a father around and living away from his mother in the children's house, Dvir is determined to help his mother find solace and start a new life. Based on the personal memories of writer-director Dror Shaul, this accomplished film cuts through the romantic idea of the kibbutz, focusing on the individual struggle to find love and fulfillment within the rigid rules of this community.

Thursday 6 March 9pm

Gorgeous!

Described as “‘Sex and the City’ French style”, love is the theme as a group of young, beautiful Sephardic women interweave their days with laughter and flirtation, followed inevitably by their Jewish mothers, popping in and out to chase and scold them about their frivolous lives. Fun with witty one-liners and great joie de vivre.

Saturday 8 March Pre-screening reception 8.30pm, Film 9.00pm

Keeping up with the Steins

This coming of age ‘bar mitzvah comedy’ is a warm and funny satire of some of the more ridiculous excesses of party themes versus religious rites. The Steins' bar mitzvah is the epitome of bad taste with a Titanic themed party, complete with a ship, icebergs and even a Kate Winslet looka-

like. Next is the turn of Benjamin Fiedler who has to choose a rival theme. As the guest list is being compiled Benjamin defies his father's wishes and secretly invites his grandfather, who has been estranged to the family for more than 25 years.

Sunday 9 March Bagel Reception 2.15pm, Film 3pm

Encounter Point

‘Reconciliation’, says Robi Damelin, whose son was killed by a Palestinian sniper in 2002, ‘might sound eccentric to you, but it is not, it works’. Focusing on the fascinating attempts by bereaved people from both sides of the Israeli Palestinian conflict to meet, talk and find new ways of living together, this heartrending documentary goes beyond the news headlines to the courageous and painstaking path of ordinary people who beg for a different future.

All films showing at the Grosvenor Cinema, Ashton Lane, Hillhead, Glasgow

Social Event Planned — Boys' Night Out

Sat. 8th March

It's been a good few months since the last Boys' Night Out. A good few reminders have been hinted my way therefore I am organising a little outing on the above date.

Sorry about the short notice but the most suitable date seems to be the 8th March.....so check your diary and Shekels and get in touch with Ricky on 07962076017.

It will be Italian fare with time/meeting place TBA.

Call me ASAP so I can get numbers for booking.

Ricky Hogg

Chair's Word

When I'm describing our community to newcomers or outsiders, I often find myself using the adjective "young" to explain what we are like. It's only in the last couple of weeks that I've thought much about this slightly odd use of the word—after all, in terms of our age profile we're not exactly the Saatchi synagogue (whose website, I notice, is at www.coolshul.org – why didn't we think of that first?!). So if we're (mostly) not terribly young people, why call our community "young" instead of, say, "new"?

In terms of Jewish tradition, of course, there's plenty of precedent for this. Judaism focuses as much on the behaviour and welfare of the ultimate Jewish community—the Jewish people—as it does on the nature of the Jewish God. So it's natural to place community at the centre of our religious life, and even to elevate Jewish communities to the status of people in terms of their place in the cycle of life.

I was led to these thoughts by the events of the last month. In the first few years of our life as a community we have been fortunate in our experiences—once we were over our community's birth trauma, at least! We have shared the joy of family events such as births and Bnei Mitzvot, and of communal events, like the adoption of the community's own scroll. But if for a human being the experience of loss is an inescapable part of growing up, I suppose it must also be so for a community. Steve Engleman's death last month took from us a dearly valued friend and colleague, and gave to us our first communal bereavement. Our collective sense of loss was plainly felt at the funeral, beautifully conducted by Rabbi Mark, and in the tributes paid by friends at the shiva house.

But the community is not a passive bystander in the face of death. We have an important role to play, besides mourning

our own loss. The procedures around a burial, evolved over centuries to show respect for the dead person, bring what has happened into a kind of normality by establishing the connection of this event with the wider community, both in space and time. In this way, we have had the opportunity for a great *mitzvah*, to provide support for Steve's family, and to make sense of what otherwise can seem a randomly tragic event. I've felt that it was a privilege, for us collectively and for me personally, to have been able to take part in this, Steve's last gift to us. A bittersweet experience, this growing up.

Maurice Naftalin

Yom Ha'azmaut

The UJIA will be organising Yom Ha'azmaut celebrations in Glasgow on May 8th at the Carmichael Hall/ Eastwood theatre in Giffnock (5.30 - 9.30pm). It is to be a young people and family event with a variety show.

Details of the event and possible transportation will be included in the April newsletter.

Learn to Read Hebrew in a Weekend, Friday 14th Mar– Sunday 16th Mar

Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue will be repeating its highly successful crash course in Hebrew, led by Rabbi Aaron Goldstein.

For more information please call the synagogue office 01923 822592

Edinburgh Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace

1st – 11th March 2008

The Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace is underway, and continues through 11th March.

Professor Seyyed Hossein Nasr, world-renowned Islamic scholar, will deliver the **2008 Festival Lecture, Spiritual Approaches to Peace and Ecology in the Islamic World**, on **11th March at 7:30 pm**.

Other highlights include a concert, A Jewish Journey through Song, Music and Story, with Chana Sophia Yaffe and Tirtza Singer at 7pm on Thursday, 6th March.

There is also an essay competition associated with the Festival.

As part of the 2008 Middle East Festival process the submission of essays of up to 2,000 words in two categories, each under an associated theme are invited:

1. School Students. Essay Theme: 'Spirituality and Global Citizenship.'
2. University Students and Adults. Essay Theme: 'Spirituality and Peace.'

Essays submitted by school students should be submitted through their school on their behalf. The essays should be submitted by 11 March 2008 to the following:

Contact: Neill Walker,

mesp2008@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

Further information and a full schedule are available online at www.mesp.org.uk/

A Lecture on Behalf of Wellspring's 30th Year Celebration

Professor Jonathan Seckl, Director of Research at the University of Edinburgh's College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, will deliver a lecture entitled "**Early Life Stress, Steroids and the 'Programming' of Body, Brain and Behaviour**".

This talk will explore the effects of stress and stress hormones during pregnancy on the developing foetus. The potential for long-term 'programming' of the offspring's risk of diseases will be explored in the context of events such as the Nazi Holocaust and the September 11th 2001 atrocity.

Date: Tuesday 18th March 2008
Time: 7:30-9pm

Venue: St Brides Centre, 10 Orwell Terrace, Dalry, Edinburgh. The cafe will be available for food and drink from 7pm.


Cost: £8 Concessions: £6

For further information or to purchase tickets, please contact:

Moira Armstrong, Administrator, 'Wellspring', 13 Smith's Place, Edinburgh EH6, 8NT, Tel: 0131 553 6660, mail@wellspring-scotland.co.uk

The proceeds from this Lecture will help Well-spring finance:

- *Subsidised Low Fee Scheme*
- *Counselling for victims of Domestic Abuse*
- *Counselling Children and Young People*




liberal judaism

New Liberal Judaism Initiative - Educator in Residence: 1st - 6th April

Shelley Kedar, Director of Professional Development of Jewish Educators at the Lokey Academy , Leo Baeck Centre, Haifa . We are delighted to announce that Shelley Kedar (a former schlicha at Liberal Judaism) will be available in London, Brighton, Birmingham and Bristol, for a series of lectures and discussions for communities and consultations for teachers bringing her expertise support and ideas for learning and teaching about Israel for all members of our communities. Email j.thwaites@liberaljudaism.org for more information.

Be a Part of European Day of Jewish Culture

Don't miss the chance to put your community on the map by being part of a day that takes place all over Europe celebrating the cultural and historical heritage of Judaism on 7th September 2008. This year, the theme is Jewish music. Communities interested in being part of the programme (and included in the brochures for the European Day of Jewish Culture, which have a wide cross-communal and interfaith circulation) should be in touch with the organisers before the end of March. Email valerie2bello@yahoo.co.uk or feel free to call Liberal Judaism's PR/Communications Officer, Alex, on 020 7631 9831 if you would like to discuss further.



liberal judaism

Liberal Judaism Biennial Week- end 4th – 6th April 2008

“Creation and Creativity”
Exploring Arts and Sciences as
Liberal Jews

If you have not yet registered for this year's Biennial weekend, this is your last chance. Don't miss out on the exciting programme planned for our national meeting! Booking forms and programme details are available from the Liberal Judaism website at www.liberaljudaism.org/biennial or by calling Penny Bernal at 01923 855367.

A private visit to the Wiener Library - a hidden gem in the Heart of London

Monday 10 March 2008
Meet for coffee before the visit
10.15 – 10.45 am
at
Liberal Judaism
The Montagu Centre
21 Maple Street
London W1T 4BE

To book your place and for further details phone or email:
Lina Fajerman on 0208 504 3125 or
l.fajerman@ntlworld.com

Hamantaschen

A recipe for triangular Purim cookies

By Joan Nathan

Makes about 36

2/3 cup pareve margarine or butter
1/2 cup sugar
1 egg
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
2 1/2-3 cups sifted unbleached all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
Dash of salt

1. Cream the shortening with sugar. Add egg and continue creaming until smooth.
2. Add the vanilla. Stir in the sifted flour, baking powder, and salt until a ball of dough is formed (a food processor is excellent for this).
3. Chill for 2-3 hours, or overnight.
4. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
5. Taking 1/4 of the dough, roll out on a lightly floured board to a thickness of 1/8 inch. Cut circles of dough with a drinking glass or round cookie-cutter. With your finger put water around the rim of the circle. Fill with 1 teaspoon poppy-seed or nut filling and fold into three-cornered cookies. (Press two sides together, and then fold the third side over and press the ends together.)
6. Bake on a well-greased cookie sheet 10-16 minutes, until the tops are golden.



Purim Sweets

Feeling ambitious and want to try something unusual? Check out this recipe for [Debla](#) (Libyan Purim Roses).

Don't feel like baking? Falko Konditormeister on Bruntsfield Place confirms that they will have kosher hamantaschen for Purim.

Want to Make Some Noise for Purim?

Have you ever wondered how to make your own gragger? The authors of *The Jewish Catalogue* suggest a couple of options.

One is a good project for children — and for adults without power tools! Try putting some stones or hard beans [or jelly beans] between two paper bowls or aluminum foil cups. Seal the circumference with staples and decorate.

If you have tools and feel ambitious, why not try your hand at the Franklin Gragger? The detailed instructions can be found at www.myjewishlearning.com, in the Purim section.

ELJC Support Group
07904 813162

Matzoh balls anyone?

Yes; it's that time of year again! Our **seder** will take place **on the first night of Pesach: Saturday 19 April, at Columcille.**

This year it will be led by Tanya Sakhnovich, a rabbinical student from Belarus. And that's not the only change from past seders.

After 12 years of Gillian's grand productions, the rest of us have finally learned how to do it! Nancy Warren, our new secretary, is organising the tickets. Joe Goldblatt, Nancy Lynner, Ellen Galford and I have formed the catering team.

We need volunteers!

Call Joe and Nancy if you want to join us. To volunteer for the same job you had last year --- or choose a new task --- send email or call Joe and Nancy.

To get your seder tickets, send Nancy Warren the form that accompanies this newsletter.

Joe and Nancy's phone number is: 0131-662-9759 To contact the seder team by email: info@eljc.org

Catherine Lyons

Donation Sought -- Lockable Cabinet

We have been told that we can have some storage space at Columcille, where we can store prayer books, wine etc. and not have to schlep them around all the time. We have been advised that a lockable cabinet would be best, so does anyone have one they would like to donate? I've been asked about dimensions, but when I was last at the top of the stairs where I was told we could have the cabinet, it was a case of making space as opposed to there being any specific dimensions! I would have thought that something like a wide-ish filing cabinet with three drawers would be

about the right size. If you think you have something suitable you'd like to donate, please get in touch with Nick.

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 or call the shul's information line for the date and time of the next meeting.

The members of Sukkat Shalom are saddened to note the death of our valued community member, Steve Engleman.

A full memorial will appear in the April newsletter.

May his memory be for a blessing.

Personal Thanks

Steve Engleman's family (wife Kathie, daughters Hannah and Heather) extend sincere thanks to Edinburgh's Sukkat Shalom community for their help and support in laying Steve to rest on 21st Feb 2008, in the first of the community's burial plots in Dean Cemetery.

Particular gratitude is due to the members of the burial group and the officers of the community for their guidance and help with practical arrangements, We also thank warmly the many others who offered solace and especially Rabbi Mark Solomon for leading simple, beautiful and moving services. Steve's life was much enriched latterly by coming home to a Jewish community, and he would have been delighted by the multi-generational attendance.

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 Monday, 24th March. Please email all contributions to newsletter@eljc.org.