

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of  liberal judaism

March 2007

Chairman: Maurice Naftalin, chair@eljc.org
Secretary: Catherine Lyons, secretary@eljc.org
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EVENTS & SERVICES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Friday 2nd March</u>
<u>Event</u>	Erev Shabbat Service
<u>Venue</u>	Columcille Centre
<u>Time</u>	7pm

This service has been included in the Edinburgh Interfaith Festival brochure as an event. Therefore, we may have visitors who have never been to a Erev Shabbat service. Please be aware of new faces and help to welcome them.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunday 4th March</u>
<u>Event</u>	Purim Play
<u>Venue</u>	Columcille Centre
<u>Time</u>	4pm

Our Purim play is going to be a great production this year! We have an original and very inventive script from our writer-in-residence, Rohan Berry-Crickmar, to be brought to life by the young people of the community, directed by Lauren Fox. In the true tradition of Sukkat Shalom, (everything comes together at the last minute), we are still very much welcoming participation (please!). If you would like to take part, contact **Lauren Fox** on **07737 425880** straight away. And if you come to watch, please remember it is traditional to dress up for Purim - and to have a good time!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Saturday 17th March</u>
<u>Event</u>	Shabbat Service
<u>Venue</u>	St Mark's
<u>Time</u>	11am

After the service, we'll be having a some treats for kiddush to mark Ruzena's 70th birthday. All welcome.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Monday 2nd April</u>
<u>Event</u>	Communal Seder
<u>Venue</u>	Columcille Centre
<u>Time</u>	7pm


We will hold our 10th communal Seder with Rabbi Pete Tobias leading the service. All members should have received an ticket booking form by now but if you haven't and would like to attend, please contact **Gillian Raab** on **0131 226 6234** or **gillian.raab@googlemail.com**

Hosting the Seder takes a huge amount of work and every little bit of help is appreciated. Please offer your support in any way you can.

Catering practicalities

Just a note to remind everyone that we need to keep our supplies separate from those used by our host venues. Thanks!

Catherine Lyons


liberal judaism

The March-April edition of *LJ Today* is available to view at **www.liberaljudaism.org**. Copies will also be available at Sukkat Shalom services, or ring the community phone (0131 777 8024) if you would like one sent to you.

ELJC Welfare Support Line
07904 813162

"God doesn't look at how much we do, but with how much love we do it"

Mother Teresa

Chairman's Word

Our AGM on 4th February was a success in every respect: lots of people came, we had a nice time afterwards, all the posts were filled, and—most important of all—it was short! (and would have been shorter still if the chairman had, uh, been more disciplined). For me it marked a change in the life of the community; the initial excitement of our coming together has died down altogether, and now, while we still have plenty of energy and enthusiasm and are still growing and consolidating, we also need to look carefully at the traditions we are forming to make sure they are ones we choose, not just the product of inertia.

One venerable tradition we need to be rid of is that of too few people doing too much work. So I'm very glad to say that the new council is larger than the old one, and has new (and returning) faces on it. Please don't think that only council members can take part in the work of the community, but a large and active council is a sign of good health in itself. The new council is Bill Zachs, Catherine Lyons, Gillian Raab, Gordon Barclay, Jonathan Broadie, Lauren Fox, Marjory Broadie, Maureen Mackinnon, Maurice Naftalin, Nick Silk, Rebekah Gronowski, Ricky Hogg, Stephanie Brickman, and Steve Engleman. Stewart Green stepped down, with our thanks for his hard work in the past. To further ensure that we don't fall into routine ways of working, we are planning a strategy day for the council with Rabbi Aaron, who can be relied on to shake us up and throw new ideas into our thinking.

Another tradition we are questioning is that of the Wandering Jew. We decided at the AGM to start looking for a home for the community, though we will only learn in due course what exactly that will mean. Everyone is invited to become involved in our search (see p. 3). This is a big decision for us: to have premises is both a danger and an opportunity. The danger is that financial and administrative overheads can drain the community. The opportunity is to strengthen our sense of common purpose and common identity with a physical focus. And the *ner tamid*, although of course every Jew should keep it lit in his/her own heart, will be an outward sign of our commitment to keep the eternal light in a world which sorely needs it.

Maurice Naftalin

YOUR Newsletter

This is your newsletter and you have a say in what it should look like. Is there too much information? Or not enough? Are there events happening that we miss? What do you want to read about? Is there any aspect of the newsletter that you don't like or any new features that you would like to see? PLEASE feel free to comment with ideas, suggestions (or anything else!). Email newsletter@eljc.org or call the Community phone to express your thoughts.

Mazel Tov

Rebekah's granddaughter gave birth safely last week to a little girl, Faith Mary

Happy Birthday

To **Rohan Green** who will be 9 on 21 March.

To **Ruzena Wood** who will shortly be celebrating her **70th Birthday**

Stay in Touch

Anat Kamenka has moved to Israel. If anyone wishes to write to her she would be pleased to hear from folk either by email or snail mail. Anat Kamenka, P.O.B. 1824, Jerusalem, Israel
email: anatka20@hotmail.com

Edinburgh Grand Opera

present

Nabucco by Giuseppe Verdi
21st- 24th March at 7.15pm at the
Edinburgh Festival Theatre

The opera, Verdi's third, is considered to be the one that permanently established his reputation as a composer. Nabucco follows the plight of the Jews as they are assaulted and subsequently exiled from their homeland by the Babylonian King Nabucco (in English, Nebuchadnezzar).

Invitation - St Mark's

We have received an invitation to a 'service of appreciation' for Andrew Hill, the minister at St Marks. Andrew is retiring at the end of March, and the service is on **11th March at 2.30pm at St Marks**, followed by tea and refreshments at the Point Hotel. If you would like to go, please contact Nick asap as we have to let St Marks know the number of guests (in theory, by the end of February; in practice, soon!)

The Community Security Trust



The CST is responsible for the protection of over 600 communal buildings, providing security at 1,000 communal events every year, and with 55 full time staff, 3,000 volunteers and 5

offices across the country, ensures the safety and security of a vibrant thriving Jewish community. Today the CST works to protect the Jewish community, not only against anti-semitism, but also against terrorist threats.

How you can help keep your community safe:

Volunteer: You can become a trained volunteer and help us keep communal events secure or you can participate in your school or synagogue security rota.

Report incidents: Report antisemitic incidents that have happened to you or that you have witnessed. These could be anything from antisemitic emails to verbal abuse shouted at you in the street.

In an emergency, contact the Police first on 999 and then the CST 24 hour number on 07659 160599. You can also report incidents online at www.thecst.org.uk

Donations: The CST provides all its services entirely free of charge. We rely solely on the support and goodwill of the Jewish community. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, would like to report an incident or would like to make a donation, please call the CST on **0141 577 8205**.

Tread the Boards

ACTORS are sought for a new production of **Fiddler on the Roof**. **Musselburgh Amateur Musical Association** is on the lookout for men to play roles in the musical, which is due to hit the stage in April. The association meets twice a week at the town's Burgh Primary School.

A Community Home

At the AGM, we talked about our next target for the community as having a permanent home. There was some general discussion about what this might mean but, while there were various thoughts, we didn't confirm any details. Rather we said that we would look to develop these ideas, and their consequences, during the year. So, would you like to be involved in developing these ideas? At the February Council meeting it was agreed that we should set up a Working Group to start thinking exactly what it is we want, and how we are going to get it! Nick volunteered to lead the Working Group, and we'd now like to get volunteers onto the Group. There are no restrictions on who can be on the Group, aside from a desire to progress our aim of getting a permanent home! So, if you would like to be involved, please contact **Nick**, by **17th March** at the latest, so that we can start to progress this next development of our Community.

Community Workshop Silk Painting with Salt

Barbara Morningstar of the Montreal reform congregation will be leading a workshop to teach us these techniques. She has done projects with her community such as ark curtains, tallitot, chouppot, challah or matzah covers or scarves. The illustration below is a Chuppah.

It will be held on the **afternoon of Saturday 26th May**. So we can plan for the correct numbers **please register** your interest by emailing membership@eljic.org or by leaving a message on the community phone 0131 777 8024



Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

Rabbi Mark's talk on "Islamic influences on Jewish spirituality" was received with acclaim by a packed audience at the Literary Society on 11th February.

David Mazower

Dreams of Glory

how the Jewish Workers of Whitechapel built themselves a Yiddish Opera House in 1912.



David Mazower is a journalist with BBC World Service Radio in London, where he edits the daily talkshow *World Have Your Say*. He is the author of *Yiddish Theatre in London* and numerous articles on Anglo-Jewish history,

Jewish art, and Yiddish culture. Current projects include a book on Yiddish culture in Britain, and an exhibition of Jewish folk art from the Islamic world. **11 March**

Oron Joffe

Hebrew and Aramaic - a Friendly Embrace.

The speaker was born and raised in Israel. He read Ancient Semitic Languages and Biblical Studies at the Hebrew University. He now works as a Senior Computing Adviser at the University of Stirling. His talk will cover the fascinating and intimate relationship between Hebrew and Aramaic from the First Temple Period to modern times. **25 March**

Marian Oppenheim Hall, The Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road, at 8pm sharp.

Edinburgh Women's Inter-faith Group

**Nicolson Sq Methodist Church
Undercroft Café**

March 28 Spring festival and food

April 25 The film '**A Mother's Journey**' about the Jewish mother from Glasgow, Marsha Gladstone, on her visit to Israel a year after her son, Yoni Jesner was killed in a bomb blast and one of his kidneys was given to a Palestinian little girl. This is a beautiful and very poignant film and shows her meeting the little girl and her family.

Inter-Faith Conference 23rd March 2007 Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

Jewish, Muslim and Christian speakers will be contributing to a conference on war, violence and religion, organised by St Aloysius College, Glasgow, in conjunction with Heythrop College in London.

Heythrop's Principal, **Dr John McDade SJ**, will be one of the speakers, alongside **Dr Jonathan Gorsky** from the Council for Christians and Jews, and **Dr Mohammed Ali Shomali**, a graduate of the Islamic seminary of Qum.

The conference will explore the views and teachings of the three great monotheistic religions on war and will provide the opportunity for delegates to discuss how religion is used and abused, and its relationship with both conflict and reconciliation.

War, Religion and Violence will be held between 10am and 3pm in the Strathclyde Suite. **More information and tickets are available from St Aloysius College in Glasgow, telephone 0141 332 3190.**

Tickets: £10

'Step by Step'


Rabbi Rose from the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation has invited any members of our Community who wish to do so to join his 'Step by Step' class, an introduction to Judaism from an Orthodox perspective, which he is holding on Sundays at 5 p.m. in the Shul. Those who know something, little or nothing at all about Judaism are all going to be welcome. Please contact him rabbi@ehcong.com if you wish to go.

Interesting Websites

www.haruth.com/JewsUKScotland.html

www.tikkun.org

www.jewishbookweek.com/2007



liberal judaism

Climate change - our responsibility to act.

The scientific assessment published on 2 February 2007 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that human activity is almost certainly causing global warming.

We are aware that human life will be lost, species will become extinct and that there will be widespread social upheaval. The evidence is on the table. It raises real concern about whether we can pass a healthy future to our children and our grandchildren, *l'dor v'dor*, from generation to generation and whose responsibility it is to respond to this challenge.

Honi the circle maker was once walking on the road when he saw a man planting a carob tree. He asked him, 'How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?' The man replied, 'Seventy years.' Honi answered 'Are you quite sure that you will live another seventy years to eat its fruit?' The man replied, "I myself found fully grown carob trees in the world; as my forebears planted for me, so I am planting for my children." Babylonian Talmud (Ta'anit 23a)

Liberal Judaism, as a founding member of the MakePovertyHistory Jewish Coalition, working to eradicate global poverty, upholds the obligation *Tzedek tzedek tirdof* – Justice, justice shall you pursue, in order that you may live...(Deuteronomy 16:20). We understand that the developed world must ration its carbon dioxide emissions to prevent global warming accelerating beyond our control and also to ensure that poorer countries have a just share in the energy needed to maintain even a basic standard of living.

As Liberal Jews, we will take action:

To educate ourselves about climate change, to speak with others about what we are doing and to teach our children.

To travel carefully, consider video conferencing, use public transport, share our cars and walk.

To consider air travel carefully and to reduce flying. It would be physically impossible for the whole world to fly as much as the UK currently does. Yet the worst effects of climate change are predicted to be in the under developed countries whose people fly little and produce the least emissions. There is a real question of justice here. *We consider the responsibility set out in the Kohelet Rabah midrash: When God created Adam, God led him around the Garden of Eden and said to him: "Behold My works. See how wonderful and beautiful they are. All that I have created, for your sake did I create it. Now see to it that you do not spoil and destroy my world, for if you do, there will be no one to repair it after you."*

Our actions affect people and it is our responsibility:

To save energy at home: to switch to a renewable energy supplier, buy energy efficient appliances, insulate, turn down heating a little, switch off standby electricity (including the microwave) and use a LJYNetzer Recycle shopping bag. To make our communities and their buildings environmentally friendly and aware.

To reduce carbon emissions at source as far as possible and then offset our remaining essential carbon emissions. Carbon offsetting schemes such as tree planting, support for low carbon technologies or use of DEFRA carbon offset advice are not an alternative to our reducing emissions or a cure for climate change but choosing an effective offset can raise awareness and also reduce the impact of our actions.

'And God saw all which had been made and behold it was very good' (Genesis 1:31).

The earth is very good and with the assistance of sufficient numbers of responsible humans it will remain so.

*Rabbi Danny Rich
Chief Executive
Liberal Judaism*

Call of the Shofar

In September I took a holiday in Nice. It was still morning when I arrived at the hotel. After unpacking, I went onto the veranda; looked down at the street. It was already heaving with briefly-clad humanity: a sea of flesh and gaudy colours. A while later, lured out by the sun, I joined the idle, unhurried crowd; and was soon in a sun-induced stupor.

Suddenly I was jerked back to reality; there, in the middle of the throng, was a totally out-of-context figure: bearded, hatted and dressed in black. Tassels flying, he walked hotly and hurriedly: his face, it seemed, wrapped in mystical thought – or was he merely late for an appointment? What, dear heaven, was a chassidic Jew doing in this crowd? I felt no kinship with the figure; in truth more a touch of irritation. Somehow he disturbed my anglo-saxon demeanour. Could he and I really be of the same blood? With a slight, almost callous shrug I dismissed the thought. I was here on holiday; the beach, and a cooling swim, beckoned.

Next day the mystery deepened: I saw three more chassidim. They walked separately, but all within the vicinity of the hotel; going with short, urgent steps towards some mutual destination. It happened next day, and the next. Whenever I stepped out of the hotel, chassidim, quite oblivious to the world around them, would be hurrying to some unknown destination. Now more curious than irritated, I wondered where these people were going. A dim, distant memory of the Haggadah erupted into my consciousness.... 'The wicked son asks: What does this service mean to *you*?' I dismissed it.

On the final morning of my holiday, coming round the corner, I bumped into one. He mumbled a gruff apology, then made to hurry on. But before he could, I heard my voice greeting him: 'Shalom Aleichem'. He stopped dead; looked at me wide-eyed, his hands and body shaped into a question. Who was this ill-dressed stranger giving him our time-honoured greeting? it asked. I explained, in my rough French, that I was 'un juif anglais'. His eyes lit up, his face beaming. He shook my hand fervently; asked my name. 'Josef', I replied, instinctively giving my Hebrew one. In a mixture of French, English and gestures – the *lingua franca* of world Jewry – we talked. Suddenly he said: 'Let me show you our lovely Shul.' Ah! so that was the object of their ant-scurrying.

As we went along I asked myself: why had I got involved? However, before I could debate this unsettling question, around the corner it came into view: a lovely tucked-away greystone building, shaded by palm trees. 'Un juif anglais', he proudly announced to some dark-skinned girls seated under a tree, as if he'd caught some exotic species. He led me into an ante-room, gave me a kippah, and then to my consternation, announced: 'Let us lay tefillin'. It had been many years since I had performed this ritual. He helped me; although I remembered more than I thought possible.

As he put away the Tefillin, I noticed a shofar lying on a table. 'Come', he said, following my eyes' direction. 'I shall blow the shofar'. He picked it up; began those evocative blasts. I imagined a bird's-eye view of our situation. We presented, I thought, an incongruous picture; He bearded and black-garbed, blowing the ram's horn, looking messianic; I dressed in shorts and casual shirt, with my fair complexion and face clean-shaven looking, I considered, more anglo-saxon than semitic. But 'anglo-saxon' or not I was stirred by the sound. The blasts of the shofar had evoked memories of my traumatic childhood, yes, but at a deeper level they were vibrant and summoning.

Afterwards he accompanied me onto the street; giving me, as we stood on the pavement, a heart-warming hug. His beard tickled my face, and I gave a reminiscent smile. An old rabbi's beard at cheder, in the Polish part of my childhood, had tickled me in the same manner as we bent over Hebrew texts. He begged me: would I please, please come to a gathering at the Shul that evening? There would be food and drink: merriment. It was good to be invited: to have the prospect of a welcome. I looked forward to the evening.

But I didn't go. The fact was: the whole experience had been more than evocative; it had been an upheaval. Emotions, personal and tribal, which had lain dormant for many years, had been stirred. All day I drifted about Nice, thoughtful and sombre; in the evening lying on my hotel bed. And when I boarded the 'plane next morning, I was still deeply introspective. Much had happened, I realised, in the past twenty-four hours.

Roy Hyams

4th Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality & Peace

**Venue: Scottish Storytelling Centre
43-45 High Street, Edinburgh
Date: Friday 2nd March
Time: 2.30pm.**



An afternoon of tales and story sharing from the great faith cultures of Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Hosted by Donald Smith. Contact and Tickets: 0131 556 9579,

www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk

**Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation
4 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh
2nd and 3rd March**

Guests are welcome to attend Erev Shabbat (5.30pm) and Shabbat (10.30am) services at the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation. Please confirm attendance in advance.

Cost: Admission Free. Everyone Welcome.
Contact: Jackie Taylor, 01324 612126.

**Facilitators: Sister Joan Chittister and Saadi Shakur Chishti (Dr Neil Douglas-Klotz).
Venue: St John's Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh.
Date : Tuesday 6th March
Time: Doors open from 6.30pm. Forum: 7pm onwards.**

In last year's bestselling book, *The Tent of Abraham*, three key religious thinkers wrote about the story of Abraham as a way to deepen Muslim/Christian/Jewish understanding. Two of the authors will speak this evening (Rabbi Arthur Waskow could not be present): Joan Chittister, OSB, a lecturer and best-selling author of numerous books, including *Called to Question*, and Saadi Shakur Chishti (Neil Douglas-Klotz), an internationally known Sufi Scholar and writer, who lives in Edinburgh, author of *The Sufi Book of Life and Blessings of the Cosmos*.

**The 2007 Middle East Festival Conference
Lecture with Chief Rabbi David Rosen.
Title: Religion and Peacemaking in the
Middle East.**

**Speaker: Chief Rabbi David Rosen.
Chair: Rev Prof Frank Whaling.
Venue: Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation,
4 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh.
Date : 7th March 2007
Time: 7.30pm for 8pm-10pm.**

Event Description: Rabbi David Rosen is the President of IJCIC, the International Jewish Committee that represents World Jewry in its relations with other world Religions. He is Director of the Department for Interreligious Affairs and Director of the Heilbrunn Institute for International Interreligious Understanding of the American Jewish Committee.



The evening will consist of an hour-long lecture, followed by thirty minutes of panel response, followed by thirty minutes of audience questions and discussion. Cost: £6. To book in advance, contact: Tickets Scotland Ltd, 127 Rose Street, Edinburgh (220 3234)

Please note, however, that The Edinburgh Jewish Community has been given 50 complimentary tickets. To reserve tickets, which can be collected at the door on the night, please email Hilary Rifkind: h.rifkind@blueyonder.co.uk, with your name and the number of tickets you require. (If you don't have e-mail, ring the ELJC community phone).



Scrummy Fair Trade truffles

You need:

- One 150g packet of fairly traded milk chocolate
- One and a half tablespoons of condensed milk
- Half a teaspoon of vanilla essence
- 100g butter
- 75g caster sugar
- Spare caster sugar to coat the truffles.

What to do:

Melt the chocolate and butter together and mix in the vanilla essence. Then add and stir in the condensed milk and sugar, then put it in an airtight container and leave it in the fridge till it's firm. Don't worry if the mixture separates slightly – just roll it altogether when you make the truffles later. Later, take a teaspoon of the mixture and roll it into a ball. Then roll the ball in the spare caster sugar.* Store your truffles in the fridge. *As an alternative, you could roll the truffles in desiccated coconut or chocolate hundreds & thousands.

Top Ten Reasons for Celebrating Purim

by Kenneth Goldrich

1. Making noise in shul is a MITZVAH!!
2. Levity is not reserved for the Levites
3. Nobody knows if you're having a bad hair day. You can tell them it's your costume
4. Purim is easier to spell than Chanukah, I mean Hanukah, I mean, KHanukah, I mean Chanuka, I mean the Festival of Lights.
5. You don't have to kasher your home and change all the pots and dishes.
6. You don't have to build a hut and live and eat outside (but you could volunteer to build a new Purim booth for next year's Carnival)
7. You get to drink wine and drink wine and drink wine and you don't even have to stand for Kiddush (I guess you can't!)
8. You won't get hit in the eye by a lulav
9. You can't eat hamantaschen on Yom Kippur
10. Mordecai - 1 ; Haman - 0 !!!!



Purim Wordsearch

O V A S H T I T S A V A B
 A H C E D R O M R U P M A
 D M G A L L O W S R U E Q
 D A N Q U E T H R E R G U
 E T M H A V A M A H I I S
 S A O S E H A A A T M L I
 O N R O E S H S U S A L M
 N O D R B A N Q U E T A E
 A S E I R H H A D U E S G
 M L C E O C I S H L O A I
 H E H V S A A D A R L S L
 C Y A H A M A N I A S H L
 A Y I S H S A E P P P E A
 O O Y A P U V R I U M K H
 L N B H A H M A N A R E R
 H I U C S C Q H I M M L A
 S M I A T A A N I S L O M
 I V H A M A N T A S H E N
 M C N A H S U H S B E Y O
 A G R O G G E R V A S H T

Achashveirosh, Adar, Banquet, Esther Gallows, Grogger, Haman, Hamantashen, Matanos Levyonim, Megillah, Mishloach Manos, Mordechai, Purim, Seudah, Shekel, Shushan, Taanis, Vashti

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 21st March. Please email any contributions to newsletter@eljc.org**

