

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

May 2006

Chairman: Maurice Naftalin, chair@eljc.org
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EVENTS & SERVICES

Date **Friday 5 May**
Event **Erev Shabbat Service**
Venue **Columcille Centre**
 2 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh
Time **7pm**

Date **Saturday 20 May**
Event **Shabbat Service**
Venue **St Marks Unitarian Church,**
 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh
Time **11am**

(Almost) Midsummer madness!

We're ringing the changes on venues for the beginning of June (for boring operational reasons). So please make a special note of these venues:

Date **Thursday 1 June**
Event **Erev Shavuot Service**
Venue **St Columba's by the Castle**
 Johnston Terrace, Edinburgh
Time **7pm**

As is traditional, we will be having a discussion after the service. All contributions of cheesecake will be welcome to see us through the discussion. Based on previous experience, it is likely that we will be finished by 10pm at the latest.

We are now expecting that Rabbi Mark will be with us on the weekend of 1st-3rd June. That means he will be with us for Erev Shavuot, so we should have a very interesting discussion session that evening.

Date **Friday 2 June**
Event **Erev Shabbat Service**
Venue **Quaker Meeting House**
 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh
Time **7pm**

Advance Notice

On **Saturday 17 June**, we will be holding our regular Shabbat service which will include the dedication of our new scroll dressings. The artist who made the dressings will be attending the service, and we will also be inviting some other guests, so it would be good if lots of members attended the service!

Summer Barbeque

We will be having our annual trip to Linlithgow for a BBQ on **Sunday 25 June**. It will be starting about lunchtime, and last as long as it lasts. Further details will be in the next newsletter. In the meantime put the date in your diary.

ELJC Website

We are still appealing to people to send us any photographs of Community events that may have been taken. We would be very grateful if you could share them. Please send them to webmaster@eljc.org.

ELJC Welfare Support Line
07904 813162

Opinions founded on prejudice are always sustained with the greatest violence.
Jewish Proverb

Bibles in the Halls of Residence

A decision has been made by the Students' Union that all Gideon Bibles will be removed from Pollock Halls - they have never been put into the new Halls of Residence at Chancellor's Court.

This has been a matter of great concern to many people and the Women's Interfaith Group has met with the Chaplain of the University (Rev Di Williams) to discuss what could be done. We feel that there should be at least something put in place of the Bibles for students who find themselves in a time of crisis or loneliness.

Apparently, the Students' Union has said that they do not wish any other books to be put in the place of the Bibles. What they have agreed to (in principle) is the placement of an A4-sized card with relevant phone numbers & Helplines etc.

In our discussions, we felt that there should be at least one text from each of our Faiths represented within the University which could give comfort in such times of crisis. Obviously these cannot be long texts but should be apposite and succinct.

If anyone has a particular text which they think is appropriate, would you please email me at - rebekahgronowski@hotmail.com with your ideas.

There will be some overlap - I suggest that these could be either from the Reform Prayer book(s) or from the Liberal Lev Chadash. I have to submit these by the end of May at the latest. Many thanks,

Rebekah

Mazel Tov

To Rebekah Gronowski's son who celebrate his 40th birthday on May 22nd.

Get Well Soon

To Ida after her recent illness.

Remembrance

Rebekah's mother's Yahrzeit is on 9th May.

Women's Interfaith Group

These meetings are held at Nicolson Square Methodist Church.

They start at 7.00 p.m. (with finger food) and end between 9.00 & 9.30 p.m.

The next meeting is **May is 24th** and the topic for discussion will be birthing rituals and reincarnation.

Why not go along and spend an evening learning about other faiths in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere?

Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation **Ceilidh**

The next Community Centre event will be a Ceilidh and Supper on **28th May**.

We have decided to have another option whereby anyone wishing to come for the ceilidh only (and forget the food) is very welcome to join us at 9pm for the cost of only £8 (includes soft drinks). We do, however, require payment in advance for either option.

If anyone would like to help with the catering for the weekend, then we need help on Thursday 25th May (evening), Friday 26th May (morning), Sunday 28th May (morning). Just contact myself or Hilary Rifkind if you are able to give a hand at any of these sessions.

For more information contact

Doreen Bowman

Communal Seder

Every year we say surely it can't get any bigger - and it does!! Over 100 people came together to share in a wonderful seder meal.

As usual Rabbi Pete Tobias helped create an educational, humorous and memorable evening. From Orli (aged 18 months) to Ida (aged 91) it was a real family event and one which hopefully everyone enjoyed.

Sincere thanks to Gillian Raab who co-ordinated the catering (& other arrangements) and to everyone who helped in any way ...including those who stayed behind to help clear away!



Let the meal commence!!!



Get ready to hunt the afikoman



We are asking everyone who has comments on the way the Seder went to let us know. These can be on any aspect of the event, either the service or the meal arrangements.

As it was the first time in a new venue, we need to learn as much as possible about how we can improve future Sederim still further. **Please send comments to info@eljic.org, or give them to any member of the council.**

Community Walk

After a lovely Pesach service incorporating an intriguing discussion about why the Jews were not prepared before the Exodus from Egypt, we had a chance to mingle and eat our fill of a variety of delicious dishes. As it was such a lovely day, we then went for a gorgeous walk in the Botanic Gardens, catching some early spring rays, which was a real treat!

Hannah Schlesinger



Launch of the British Friends of the Leo Baeck Education Centre Haifa

Lady de Rothschild, Michael Howard MP and Israeli ambassador Zvi Heifetz were among speakers at the launch on 2nd April of the British Friends of the Leo Baeck Education Centre – Haifa.

The centre seeks to break down barriers, to advance social justice, and give learning opportunities to children, almost from birth, without discriminating as to race, religion, disabilities or means. Carol Brauner, the Centre's UK development director, told the audience at The Liberal Jewish Synagogue that the Leo Baeck High School had grown to more than 900 pupils. In addition to their usual academic studies, pupils even have the chance to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The Centre recently received the Israel Prize for Education.

Leo Baeck Junior High School, with more than 750 pupils, has used the latest solutions for tackling violence in schools and enables children to reach the highest levels of academic achievement. There are some 100 children in the well equipped pre-school and kindergarten. The Centre also embraces the Lo key International Academy of Jewish Studies, which through its teacher training, workshops, study groups and international educational programmes encourages a positive Jewish commitment among non-orthodox Jews in Israel and the Diaspora.

Under the umbrella of the Leo Baeck Community Center, Arab and Jewish children at risk have an after-school Care and Learning section: the Kirby Spinal Clubhouse provides a haven for such children. As well as a sports center for the fit, there is a place for the elderly to meet, Beit-El Street.

At the heart of the education Centre are two synagogues: the Ohel Avraham Synagogue, founded in 1978, and the new Hugo Gryn Outdoor Synagogue and Gardens.

At the launch, Harriet Karsh, who chairs the British Friends, suggested several ways in which supporters could contribute to the newly

formed organisation. Of course, pennies (or shekels, as the case may be) are important, and Liberal and Reform congregations as well as individual congregants are urged to be generous, perhaps including BFLBC-H in their High Holy Day appeals and/or various fundraising activities, including donations in honour of birthdays or in memory of a loved one. But there were other ways to get involved: through committee work and administration and by spreading the word to friends and colleagues.

This year's Hugo Gryn Conference in Haifa will be held on Sunday 28 May. The theme is 'Excellence or Equality in Progressive Judaism?'. The British Ambassador, Simon McDonald, will welcome delegates prior to an opening address by Rabbi Mark Winer. Details from carol@leobaeck.org.il



Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

- Why do we count the days from Pesach to Shavuot?
- What does it mean to receive the Torah?
- Is Shavuot anything more than cheesecake and blintzes?
- Why keep on about the Scottish Parliament – they don't really listen to us – do they?
- And what is **SCoJeC** doing at the moment?

All the above questions will be answered on

7th May

At

Dundee Synagogue

from **10.30 am to 4.30pm**

Lunch will also be provided

*(Dundee Synagogue is on St Mary Place – for directions contact: Paul Spicker
01382 540 078)*

Please let us know if you'll be coming – we need to know how much food to bring for lunch!

For more information please contact **Leah Granat 0141 638 7550 / 07887 488 100**
leah.granat@onetel.net

Ephraim Borowski is the Director of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities. He used to be head of the Philosophy department at Glasgow University and is involved in activities far too numerous to list!

Jenni Campbell is the Outreach Service Manager at the Scottish Parliament and travels all over Scotland providing sessions for schools, community groups and the voluntary sector. The Interfaith programme is an important aspect of her work as the Parliament wants all faith groups to engage with and participate in the work of the parliament.

Maureen Sier is the Development and Education Officer for the Scottish Interfaith Council. This work takes her all over Scotland and her remit is to help ensure that Scotland is a just and inclusive country and that the faith communities of Scotland build bonds of friendship.

Leah Granat is the Public Affairs Officer of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities – the person who keeps asking you to write articles for Four Corners!

Ephraim, Jenni, Maureen and Leah will be running sessions about Shavuot and the Scottish Parliament and these will be followed by a short SCoJeC meeting.

An experienced B'nei Akiva leader will run a crèche and activities for children (but please let us know the ages of your children in advance so we can make sure they will be catered for).

Four Corners Newsletter....

.....is now available to view online at
<http://www.j-scot.org.uk/4corners/issue9.pdf>
If you would like a hard copy posted, please call me on 01620 829618 and I'll be happy to send you one.

Clare

Barmitzvah Boy

An Orthodox Jewish couple are wondering what to get their son for his upcoming Barmitzvah. So when he gets home, they ask him:

"So, David, what would you like for your Barmitzvah?"

He replied, "I would love a motorbike!"

When David had left the room the Jewish couple talked about this amongst themselves. They had no idea what a motorbike was! So, they went down to their synagogue and told the Orthodox Rabbi that their son wanted a motorbike for his Barmitzvah but they didn't know what it was.

"I have no idea!" he said to the couple's surprise. "You'll have to ask the Reform Rabbi down the road."

So the couple walked down the road and asked the same question to the Reform Rabbi. But his reply was the same as the Orthodox Rabbi:

"I don't know! You'll have to ask the ultra-mega Reform Rabbi further down the road."

So, the couple walked further down the road and found the ultra-mega Reform synagogue. They walked inside and said to the Rabbi there:

"Our son wants a motorbike for his barmitzvah but we don't know what one is...can you help us?"

And the ultra-mega Reform Rabbi replied, "Woah, woah, woah, slow down a bit! First things first: what's a Barmitzvah?"



Gary Rhodes' Fairtrade Banana Fritters with Bitter Chocolate Sauce

Serves 4

Ingredients

Banana Fritters

300 ml (10floz) sweet cider
100g (4oz) plain flour plus a little extra for coating
25g (1oz) caster sugar
4 Fairtrade bananas, peeled
Vegetable oil for deep frying

Chocolate Sauce

300g (10 oz) Fairtrade Dark Chocolate, chopped
150g (5 oz) unsalted butter
75 ml (3 floz) double cream

Instructions

To make the fritter batter, mix the cider, flour and sugar together. Cut each of the bananas horizontally into 4 lengths and lightly flour each piece. Dip them in the batter and deep fry in hot oil for about 5 minutes until golden and crispy. Drain well.

To make the chocolate sauce, place all the ingredients in a bowl over simmering water until the chocolate has completely melted. This sauce must be served warm.

To serve, place the fritters on a plate and pour the chocolate sauce next to them. Alternatively serve the chocolate sauce separately and decorate the fritters with a sprig of mint.

Harvey's centre of excellence



PC SEARCH: Harvey Kaplan, director of the Scottish Jewish Archive Centre, searches the centre computer for photos.

ONE of the many things on my 'To Do' list is to learn more about my ancestors as well as the history of the Jewish community in Scotland. The obvious place to start is the Scottish Jewish Archive Centre. I decided to make a start on my research so I went along to the centre to visit director Harvey Kaplan.

In the early 1980s there was an exhibition run by the Gorbals Fair Society. The Jewish community was contacted to participate and Harvey Kaplan volunteered to help prepare something. It prompted the question of why there was nothing permanent in the community. The Glasgow Jewish Representative Council agreed to adopt the project. A committee consisting of Harvey, Kenneth Collins, Jack Miller, Leslie and Sydney Naftalin and others was formed and requests were made for material. Garnethill Synagogue's offer to make a room available was greatly welcomed. Being the oldest synagogue and communal building in Scotland it seemed the ideal location. In 1987 the Scottish Jewish Archive Centre was formally opened there. They now have two rooms - an office/store and a display room - containing a wide range of material.

The Centre collects items relating to all Jewish communities in Scotland - both past and present. That includes Ayr, Dunfermline, Falkirk, Greenock and Inverness which all had functioning communities in the past with synagogues and a minister to lead services - albeit sometimes in unusual places. Services in Ayr were held at the Invercloy Hotel.

Amongst items held are documents, books, synagogue artefacts, ceremonial keys, trophies and assorted objets d'art. Harvey said: "We are interested in the complete Jewish experience in Scotland including businesses and the whole range of organisations - religious, welfare, youth,

cultural, charitable, sporting and educational." Everything has been catalogued on PC and a database holds records on more than 28,000 Jews who have lived in Scotland.

The main sources of information have been shul registers, records from all Jewish cemeteries in Scotland, from Inverness to Greenock and census records. The Centre is constantly busy and in demand. Harvey said: "Material comes in all the time. Hardly a week goes by without me receiving something from members of the community, visitors to Open Days and Jewish visitors to the city.

"I'm getting more and more enquiries from people doing research from all over the world. There were 40 enquiries in the first quarter of this year from school pupils doing projects, students writing dissertations and others. There has also been a lot of media interest including the recent Andrea McLean TV footage and an article for The Big Issue this month on the Jews in Scotland." The Archive Centre tries to work with different organisations in the community - helping them with displays for anniversaries or projects or publications. It is mutually advantageous as more material is gained for the Centre.

As the community shrinks Harvey gets called in when buildings close down so that the interiors and exteriors can be photographed and material saved for posterity. Although a large collection has already been gathered, Harvey pointed out that as much material and information as possible is wanted. He said: "We want people to give more information and documentation - originals or copies. Everyone has a story about their family - when, how and why they came here. We are relying on these stories being handed down."

It's clear that the Archive Centre has a lot to offer and that there is a great deal more information still to be ingathered. I'm certainly looking forward to a return visit to do some research and hope to be able to take some material on my antecedents with me.

There is a booklet available from the Centre - Glasgow Jewish Journeys, which costs £2 or £2.50 if posted.

If anyone has any material or information to pass on, they should contact Harvey Kaplan at the Scottish Jewish Archive Centre, 129 Hill Street, Glasgow G3 6UB or email him at harvey@hkaplan.freeserve.co.uk

By Sharon Mail

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Jewish Telegraph Group of Newspapers
www.jewishtelegraph.com**

Palestinian Film Festival

Edinburgh Filmhouse
Lothian Road, Edinburgh

Friday 12th May to Saturday 27th May

From the Filmhouse programme:

"The capacity of cinema to represent complex political and cultural issues in new and challenging ways makes it the perfect medium to look at the situation in Palestine. The selection of films in this season distinguish themselves for their aesthetic qualities, made either by filmmakers of Palestinian origin or addressing the issues and concerns within that nation. Dr Kamran Rastegar acted as the programming consultant and co-organiser of the festival."

Waiting

Fri 12 May only

Divine Intervention

Sat 13 May only

The Inner Tour

Sun 14 May only

Arna's Children

Mon 15 May only

Hopefully For the Better

Tue 16 May only

Since You've Left

Wed 17 May only

Thirst

Thu 18 May only

Edward Said: The Last Interview

Sat 27 May only

**For full details of all films, visit
www.filmhousecinema.com**

Ticket Deal

See any three programmes in the Palestinian Film Festival for £12/£7.50 concession, or all eight for £24/£16 concession.

Paradise Now

The film *Paradise Now* is showing at the Cameo (Home Street, Edinburgh), until Thursday this week (and might be retained). Linda Grant, whose new book on Israel is just out, has written this about it:

"What a fantastic film! It's one of those films that people argue about, never having seen it, on the basis of what they imagine it is - in this case that it 'glorifies suicide bombers.' It does nothing of the sort. It just cuts through all the nonsense that's talked about this subject, letting a real Palestine emerge, more ordinary, more human and more complicated than the usual slogans. I hadn't expected it would make me laugh, but it did, and I hadn't expected the ending to be so perfectly judged. See it."

.....**STOP PRESS**.....

Mazel Tov and a warm welcome to the newest member of the Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community - **David Silk**. David celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in the presence of family and friends from as far away as France. The sun shone and a very happy day was had by all. Thanks to the Silks for their hospitality.

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 24th May**. Please email any contributions to newsletter@eljic.org.