

SUKKAT SHALOM

EDINBURGH LIBERAL JEWISH COMMUNITY

November 2005

Chairman: Maurice Naftalin, chair@eljic.org
Secretary: Catherine Lyons, secretary@eljic.org
Newsletter: Clare Hogg, newsletter@eljic.org
Phone: 07891 439 646



www.eljc.org

The High Holy Days are past, and their sequels in Succot and Simchat Torah; the New Year is begun. The services marked a new stage in our development: we seemed to ourselves and to our visitors to have become an established community. Our student Rabbi for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Eli Freedman, surpassed our highest expectations in the dignity and warmth he gave to the services. His sermon on Yom Kippur was exceptional, and gave the best support I could have wished for the Kol Nidre Appeal (a hint here if you have not written your cheque yet!)

Now we can look forward to the new year and to new events in our community, starting with the first visit of Rabbi Mark Solomon next Friday. I believe this will be the beginning of a new stage for us: in Mark we will have our own Rabbi in a real sense, with all the possibilities for continued development that that implies. I am looking forward eagerly to welcoming him next Friday.

Maurice

EVENTS & SERVICES

Date Friday 4 November
Event Erev Shabbat service
Venue Homeroyal House,
2 Chalmers Crescent
Time 7pm
Rabbi Mark Solomon leading.
If you are early press "5" then "4" then "call".

Date Sunday 13 November
Event Cheder
Venue Catherine & Phil's house
Time 3pm - 5pm

Date Saturday 19 November
Event Shabbat Service
Venue St. Mark's Unitarian Church
Castle Terrace, Edinburgh.
Time 11am

It is traditional at this time of the year for Leo Baeck students to visit synagogues and lead services. This year our service on the 19th will be led by Larry Becker; it would be nice if we had a good turnout!

Date Sunday 20 November
Event Cheder
Venue Catherine & Phil's house
Time 3pm - 5pm

Date Monday 21 November
Event Council Meeting
Venue tbc
Time 7.30pm

Date Sunday 27 November
Event Cheder
Venue Catherine & Phil's house
Time 3pm - 5pm

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

**Remember the ELJC
Welfare Support Line is
07904 813162.**

Please do not hesitate to call if you need assistance.

*'A man is only as good as what he loves'
Saul Bellow, 'Seize the Day'*

Kol Nidrei Appeal

A reminder about the Kol Nidre Appeal, which will remain open for some weeks. As usual, cheques should be payable to Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh and sent to Jonathan Broadie at 26 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh EH9 3HP. The charities this year are :

- Cosgrove Care, a Glasgow-based Jewish charity which supports adults and children with learning disabilities and mental health issues, within their own homes and the community
- Capability Scotland, one of Scotland's leading disability organisation. They provide a range of flexible services to support disabled people of all ages in their everyday lives.
- World Jewish Aid, which acts on behalf of the UK Jewish community to provide aid to those in need anywhere in the world regardless of race, religion or nationality. We will ask WJA to direct our contribution this year towards development projects rather than disaster relief.
- Hadassah Medical Centre, the Jerusalem-based hospital which has pioneered the development of health care standards and practices in Israel. It endeavours to forge links between peoples of all nationalities, races and religion who come to its doors for healing.

Clive Lawton Lunch in Edinburgh

Clive is best known as co-founder of Limmud. He is also active in academic life and in various Jewish charities, a columnist for Jewish newspapers, a magistrate and chair of North Middlesex University Hospital. Perhaps more to the point, he is a wonderful speaker, reliably entertaining and thought-provoking!

He will be speaking at a community lunch at EHC, Salisbury Road, on Saturday 4th November at following the shabbat service. *All Sukkat Shalom members are welcome.* There will be a small charge, please book ahead with **Jackie 01324 612126**

Scotland Day Limmud **Sunday 6 November**

There is so much of interest at this event for both adults and children. If you don't already have information and would like to attend, please email Scotland@limmud.org, call **0141 577 6729**, or visit www.limmud.org/scotland.

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

The Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society was founded in 1888 with the purpose of bringing British culture to the Jewish immigrant population of Edinburgh. In the 117 years since then it has broadened its aims and become a discussion forum for a wide variety of topics covering every area of culture and history with a Jewish connection. For full details of events, please visit www.eljs.org. The next two events coming up are as follows. Lit meetings are held at 8pm in the Marian Oppenheim Hall, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, 4 Salisbury Road.

Nov 13 Jenni Calder

David Daiches: An Edinburgh Legacy.

Jenni Calder is the daughter of the late David Daiches, son of Rabbi Daiches. Her daughter Gowan Calder, a playwright and an actress, will read a selection from David Daiches extensive work. He wrote of his childhood in Edinburgh and of its Jewish community in *Two Worlds*. He became a distinguished scholar particularly of Scottish literature and culture. Among his appointments was the first chair in English at the University of Sussex. Jenni Calder has recently published *Not Nebuchadnezzar* (Luath Press) a book about the search for identity.

Nov 27 Susannah Heschel

Dartmouth College, *title to be announced.*

Susannah Heschel is an expert on German-Jewish history, and is visiting New College, Edinburgh. She will speak on the nineteenth century Jewish thinker Abraham Geiger. Susannah Heschel holds the Eli Black Chair in Jewish Studies and is an associate professor in the Department of Religion at Dartmouth College in the United States. She is a social activist for the marginalized in Jewish society and daughter of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

Happy Birthday

To Ida who will be 91 years old on the 21st of November. Mazel Tov!!!

Cheder

Our next block of cheder classes will be on the 13th and 27th of November, and the 4th of December. The topic for this block is 'the torah' and Catherine and Gillian will be leading the classes. The classes will be from 3pm - 5pm at Catherine & Phil's house. In addition, all the children are asked to attend the torah service on Saturday 19th November. As noted elsewhere in the newsletter, that service will be led by a student Rabbi, and we will be asking him to specifically explain some of the themes covered during the cheder classes and link them what takes place during the service.

Conversation on 'Ethics for the New Millennium' His Holiness The Dalai Lama, Prof. Sheila MacLean and Richard Holloway

The Edinburgh Interfaith Association and The City of Edinburgh Council are delighted to announce a public event at the Edinburgh Usher Hall during His Holiness's short stay. This event is a conversation between **His Holiness The Dalai Lama** and Prof. Sheila MacLean, Director of the Institute of Law and Medical Ethics at Glasgow University. The event will be chaired by former Bishop of Edinburgh Richard Holloway.

Date : Saturday 19th November
Time :10.00am - 11.45am
Venue: Edinburgh Usher Hall
Box Office: 0131 228 1155
Tickets: £14.00 (+ £1 booking fee)

Something lighthearted.....

A rabbi, a priest, and a vicar are chatting about how they divvy up charitable donations they've collected.

The priest says he draws a circle on the floor, then throws the money up in the air. Whatever lands in the circle, he says, he gives to God, and whatever lands outside the circle, he keeps.

The vicar says he also draws a circle on the floor and throws the money in the air - but whatever lands outside the circle, he gives to God, and whatever lands inside the circle, he keeps.

The rabbi looks at them and says "Who needs a circle? I throw all the money up in the air and... whatever God wants, he keeps!"

Your Letters

Sharing

At a few recent Shabbat services we have been invited to 'share' good experiences from the past week either with all present or with whoever is sitting next to us. We are not sure what the origins of this practice are but we suspect they are North American and perhaps evangelical Christian.

In her old age a relation of ours, accompanied by her friend who was also hard of hearing, went on a group holiday in the USA run by a non-Jewish group. On the last night they were invited to what they misheard as a 'sherry' party to take place in a clearing in the woods. When they got to the clearing their disappointment at the absence of sherry was heightened by their embarrassment at the expectation that they would be 'sharing' their personal thoughts with all present. We feel this kind of embarrassment too at our 'sharing' sessions.

When God rested on the seventh day he had seen that his work was good. But we are not all so lucky. Shabbat joy follows the working week; we don't have to reflect on the past week and much less 'share' it with other people.

Recent innovations in some of our services have been introduced with no prior discussion and lead to a feeling of entrapment in those who find them inappropriate. If there are to be changes in our services we would like to see some discussion of them before they are implemented.

Gillian and Charles Raab

Chocolate in the sukkah: tell your MP why!

Summer in the Meadows may seem like history, but Make Poverty History and trade justice are gaining momentum, in the UK, around the world, and noticeably in the Jewish community.

Jews have been eating and drinking fair trade products in sukkahs across the UK and in the US. Israelis are buying fairtrade coffee from South America and fairtrade Palestinian olive oil. American Jews are buying kosher fairtrade coffee from the Abayudaya Jewish Community in Uganda. In the UK particularly we have ample opportunity to accelerate change every time we go shopping. In *HaAretz* following the July meeting, Tamara Traubmann described the wealth of fairtrade good available in the UK:

In Europe, fair trade is already a fashion. It was also a linchpin of the Live 8 concert that was held on Saturday before the summit of the wealthy countries. A visit to food shops in London, for example, reveals a plethora of fair trade products. The selection is especially large in Oxfam shops and other charity shops scattered throughout England, but it is also present in chains like Sainsbury's, the second largest grocery chain in England. In the stores of the chain it is possible to find coffee, tea and bananas from democratic cooperatives in South America. An entire shelf is devoted to chocolate.

<http://tinyurl.com/7a4ws>

In our own sukkah, Oxfam's fairtrade chocolate chip cookies were gobbled up. On the packaging of every fairtrade product you can read about a farmer whose life is improved by your purchase. Sometimes it's hard to grasp what's actually happening in our name that makes such poor people dependent on our fair trade purchases.

The problem is not that international trade is inherently opposed to the needs and interests of the poor, but that the rules that govern it are rigged in favour of the rich. The human costs of unfair trade are immense.

If Africa, East Asia, South Asia, and Latin America were each to increase their share of world exports by one per cent, the resulting gains in income could lift 128 million people out of poverty.

... **When developing countries export to rich country markets, they face tariff barriers that are four times higher than those encountered by rich countries.** Those barriers cost them \$100bn a year - twice as much as they receive in aid. Oxfam *The Trade Report: Rigged rules and double standards*

On 2 November there will be a mass lobby of parliament ahead of the WTO meeting in Hong Kong in December. The MPH Jewish Coalition will be there. Objectives are to get your MP to lobby the Trade and Industry Secretary and to sign a trade justice early day motion.

If you'd rather stay in Edinburgh and save the fossil fuel, write to your MP. Here's what I'm sending him, based on the MPH mass lobby materials:

On Wednesday 2 November thousands of make poverty history campaigners will come to parliament to lobby for trade justice, not free trade. As one of your constituents who cannot come to London I would like to voice my concerns about the forthcoming World Trade Organisation Ministerial and encourage you to take action.

The UK Government has said that liberalisation should not be forced on poor countries. The World Trade Organisation Ministerial meeting in December is a chance to turn this rhetoric into reality. It is imperative that poor countries have the right to choose trade policies that will help them end poverty, respect workers' rights and protect their environment.

In particular please lobby Trade and Industry Secretary Alan Johnson to get the Government to use its influence within the EU to:

* *Allow developing countries to use trade policies to protect their vulnerable farm sectors and promote their national industries.*

* *Allow countries to choose the best policies for poor people and the environment in services such as water, health and education. Please sign the Trade Justice Early Day Motion tabled by John Battle in the week beginning 10 October. Yours sincerelycont*

.....cont

Here's the Early Day Motion and where you can find out more about it

That this House believes that Trade Justice is vital if we are to make poverty history; notes that December's World Trade Organisation (WTO) summit presents a key moment in the Doha Development Round; believes that the UK Government should not push developing countries to open up their markets, but should respect their right to decide on trade policies that will help them end poverty, respect workers' rights and protect their environment; and calls on the Government to work with its partners in the European Union to change the European Commission's approach in order to ensure that WTO agreements allow developing countries to use trade policies to protect the livelihoods of their poor farmers and develop their own sustainable economic strength, and to choose the best policies for poor people and the environment in services such as water, health and education. <http://tinyurl.com/8xsb2>

To kvetch is human; to act divine. Drink the coffee, eat the chocolate, and write to your MP!

Catherine Lyons

Letters for publication are welcomed as are responses to those published.

The deadline for the next newsletter will be Wednesday 23 December 2005.

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



Chocolate cake

*A recipe from TV cook Michael Barry
Serves 12*

Ingredients

175g (6oz) plain flour
3 tablespoons Fair Trade cocoa
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
150g (5oz) Fair Trade golden caster sugar
1 tablespoon black treacle
2 eggs
150ml (5fl oz) vegetable oil
150ml (5fl oz) milk
apricot jam, cream or butter icing to finish

Method

Preheat the oven to 160 degrees C / 325 degrees F / Gas mark three and grease two 18cm (7in) cake tins. Mix all the dry ingredients together in a food processor and whizz the ingredients until thoroughly blended. Add the liquid ingredients and process again, scraping the sides of the bowl until everything is thoroughly mixed-in. If you do not have a processor, you can do this by hand. Pour the mixture into the tins and bake in the oven for 45 minutes. Cool and then sandwich with apricot jam, cream or butter icing - whichever you prefer.

This recipe is from Oxfam's Fair World Cookbook, published by Cassell, 1997.