

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

November 2006

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Phone: 0131 777 8024
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EVENTS & SERVICES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Friday 3rd November</u>
<u>Event</u>	<u>Erev Shabbat Service</u>
<u>Venue</u>	<u>Columcille Centre</u>
<u>Time</u>	<u>7pm</u>

This is **Shabbat Lech L'cha** and as is traditional, a Student Rabbi from Leo Baeck College will be taking our service. His name is **Matt Durbin**, and after the service we will be having a family supper, at which we will be able to welcome Matt and he will have a chance to tell us something about Leo Baeck College. As usual, please bring a non-meat dish for sharing.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Friday 17th November</u>
<u>Event</u>	<u>Chavurah supper</u>
<u>Venue</u>	<u>Columcille Centre</u>
<u>Time</u>	<u>7pm</u>

As **Rabbi Mark** is with us this weekend, we are holding an additional event. This is a Chavurah meal. Rather than have a service followed by a supper, we will be having a communal Shabbat meal before which we will welcome the Sabbath, and during and after which we will sing a few songs and have a good time! So, please bring some food for sharing, and please try to arrive on time as we'd like to start our Shabbat meal as soon after 7pm as we can. We've also been told that there is the promise of a few 'treats' for both the young and not so young!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Saturday 18th November</u>
<u>Event</u>	<u>Shabbat Service</u>
<u>Venue</u>	<u>St Mark's Unitarian Church</u>
<u>Time</u>	<u>11am</u>

Please note that we only have access to the main church hall for this service and there is no access to the room at the back.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunday 19th November</u>
<u>Event</u>	<u>Choosing Judaism Class</u>
<u>Venue</u>	<u>The Raabs' house</u>
<u>Time</u>	<u>10am</u>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunday 19th November</u>
<u>Event</u>	<u>Cheder</u>
<u>Venue</u>	<u>The Raabs' house</u>
<u>Time</u>	<u>2pm</u>

We have yet to confirm details for the **Kabbalat Torah** and **Talmud Reading** groups; please contact Nick or Rabbi Mark who will let you know details as and when they are finalised.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Friday 1st December</u>
<u>Event</u>	<u>Erev Shabbat Service</u>
<u>Venue</u>	<u>Columcille Centre</u>
<u>Time</u>	<u>7pm</u>

Rabbi Mark will next be visiting us over the weekend of **15 – 17 December**, which coincides with Chanukah.



Lunch in the Succah

ELJC Welfare Support Line
07904 813162.

"Small minds discuss people. Average minds discuss events. Great minds discuss ideas"
- Unknown

A Word from The Chairman

People descended from Litvaks (Lithuanian Jews) often have a simple view of Lithuania. I shared it: a poor place, the place that we were lucky to escape from, the place where they murdered our families. But traveling there before Rosh Hashanah to explore family roots, I found a lot that my simple view didn't explain.

I went with my cousin Leslie Bennie to visit Vilnius—a great centre of Jewish life and culture before the war—and Telsiai, where our grandfather was born and spent his childhood.

Lithuania is full of contrasts: Vilnius brims with new money while Telsiai, in the provinces, is a cliché of post-Soviet de-industrialisation. The beautifully maintained monuments to “the partisans” contrast vividly with the melancholy neglect of the many Holocaust massacre sites. The strongest contrast of all was between the genuine enthusiasm and helpfulness of everyone we met in our pursuit of Jewish roots and our thoughts of the Lithuanian militia gangs who outdid even the SS in slaughter.

It seems extraordinary that modern Lithuania makes heroes of fighters on the side of Nazi Germany; what makes it even stranger is that this was not, and is not, an especially anti-Semitic country. How then can Lithuanians just “overlook” the murder of perhaps a quarter of the country's population? Partly it is because of their commitment to their national story, a narrative of centuries of oppression ending at last in redemption (when Lithuania was the first Soviet republic to become independent).

Such a narrative explains the world completely in terms of the oppressed nation and its oppressors. There may be other actors, but they are bit players, with the role of supporting one side or the other. In the Lithuanian narrative, the Litvaks and the Nazi German armies were both bit players. The story doesn't linger long over such “details”.

It's easy to criticise blindness like this, in someone else's story. When it's our own, though, it's different. Then what we want to know is: who was for us, and who was against? Then a simple view is indeed enough—like my view of Lithuania before I went, in fact. And another people's story, however tragic and moving, can become the inconvenient details of our own.

Maurice Naftalin

Kol Nidre Appeal

Sukkat Shalom has a proud record of generosity in responding to Kol Nidre appeals. I get a great deal of personal satisfaction from this, as it tells me that as a community we understand an important balance in what we are doing, between fulfilling our own religious needs and recognising our obligations to the world outside. As in other matters, however, we aren't always very punctual about our response, and Jonathan has mentioned that this year is no exception to the rule. He blames the incompetence of a Kol Nidre appeal that didn't mention where the cheques should be addressed! To put this right, please send cheques, payable to Sukkat Shalom, to **Jonathan Broadie, 26 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3HP.**

Our four charities this year are the **Jewish Blind Society (Scotland)**; **Maggie's Centres**, for support of cancer patients and their families; **Mercaz Ruth**, a programme of the Leo Baeck Education Centre to serve underprivileged children in Haifa); and **World Jewish Aid**, which channels aid to development programmes all over the world. Please give as generously as you can to these good causes.

Maurice Naftalin

New members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined this year:-

- **Katy Bromberg**, originally from the US, who has been attending Rabbi Mark's 'Introduction to Judaism' classes with her fiancée, **Alasdair Gray**. They have both been regular attenders at our services.
- **Miriam Vickers**, who many of you will know well as one of our regular attenders.
- **Hannah Schlesinger**, originally from Glasgow. Rabbi Mark recently blessed Hannah's marriage to Andrew Brodie. Mazel Tov from us all.
- **Kristi Long**, who has moved to Edinburgh from the US.
- **Lauren Fox**, a student originally from the Luton area, who has had a long involvement with ULPS, having been a leader in their summer camps.
- **Clara Spielman, Thomas Smith** and their children **Tanne** and **Dylan** who have moved here from Oxford.

Babysitting services offered



Nice Jewish woman available for evening babysitting of your treasured bairns! Competitive rates and plenty of experience; character references available on request. For enquiries or further information please contact **Hannah** on **07712 886 039**.

Editorial services available

Do you have an important written assignment such as a thesis, dissertation, essay or job/course applications? Concerned that your English spelling or grammar may let you down? Fear not as help is at hand! Professional editorial services available at competitive prices. For enquiries or further information please contact **Hannah** on **07712 886 039**.

Would you like to get the Edinburgh Star?

Edinburgh Star is a community magazine for the Edinburgh Jewish community which comes out three times a year. Although it has strong links with the Edinburgh Hebrew congregation it is not formally associated with it and as it states on the website (www.ehcong.com/TheStar.htm) it maintains a 'fierce independence from the Congregation'. It is very professionally produced and contains many articles that I am sure will be of interest to you. Several members of Sukkat Shalom have had articles published there and it has carried articles about us.

If you don't already receive it and you would like to then please email (membership@eljic.org) or leave a message on **0131 777 8024** and we will pass your address to the Star team. Although there is not a formal subscription, recipients are expected to send a donation towards its costs.



Mazel Tov

Adam Budd and **Nadine Cossette** on the birth of their baby **Dalya (Sadie)**, born on Rosh Hashanah, also the birthday of the world!

To **Maurice Naftalin** and **Catherine Lyons** for performing the duties of **Chatan Torah** and **Chatan Bereshit** so well.

To **Ida** who will be 92 years old on the 21st of November.

Get Well Soon

To **Miriam Vickers**. Best wishes from all the Community.

Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation

Chanukah dinner with entertainment - Saturday 16th December. Features Stephanie Brickman with her group 'The Yiddish Song Project'. More details to follow.

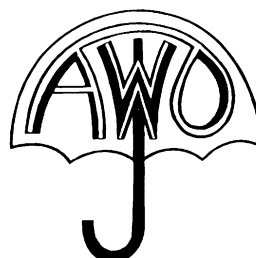
Doreen Bowman

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society Sunday 5th November at 8pm

Nicholas de Lange, Professor of Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Wolfson College Cambridge
"On translating Amos Oz"

Nicholas de Lange is a noted historian and translator whose research interests include the Greek Bible, the Jews of Byzantium, and Hebrew inscriptions of the Byzantium Empire. He has worked closely with Amos Oz since the early 1970s as his exclusive translator into English and has translated fourteen of his books. In the Marian Oppenheim Hall, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, 4 Salisbury Road.

The Association of Jewish Women's Organisations in the UK



....are having a Seminar in London on 9th November called 'From Weaving to the Web'. If anyone would like further details or an application form, please contact Clare. Cost is £11

Edinburgh Interfaith Week Week beginning 26th November 2006

‘What is the Point of Interfaith?’

This is a question which many people have asked me and which was discussed recently at a meeting of the AJR. It is quite a vexing issue for many people and there are those who feel that there is little point in learning about or getting to know other people of other Faiths. I find this particularly sad, as many of us have much in common with each other and we have a considerable amount to learn from each other in terms of customs, traditions, Festivals and inter-action with each other.

I was recently very privileged to have been able to take part in the Annual Interfaith Pilgrimage which took place on a Sunday afternoon in September. People of several faiths and of none met at the foot of Leith Walk and proceeded to go to Leith Parish Church where we were made most welcome by the Assistant Minister and two of the Elders. We were told something of the history of the Church itself and the role which it plays in the unique surrounding of the Port of Leith. Rev. Louise Duncan, who was a fellow student of mine at New College when we were both taking our Divinity degrees, also shared with us the vision of the future plans for which they have high hopes when the new housing development and environs come about within the next few years. The plans include a Faiths Resource Centre which will house resources and information on all the Faiths represented in Edinburgh – it will be a place where new arrivals may go and find out what options are available to them within Leith and in Edinburgh. I hope we will be able to contribute in some way to this Resource Centre and open up our Community to the Jewish newcomers who may arrive in our midst. It will be a wonderful opportunity for outreach into the wider Faith community.

On leaving the Parish Church we proceeded to the Sikh Gudawara where the Sikh Faith was explained (to those who could go up into the worship area of the Temple) and this was followed by ‘langa’ which is a shared lunch – much like our own shared family lunches or suppers following our own Services. I found this extremely interesting and was fascinated to hear about their daily reading of their Holy

Books and Scriptures by their priest. Again, the welcome and hospitality was most warm and friendly.

Our final destination was the Annandale St Mosque where, after a warm welcome, we were told something of the Muslim traditions, the prayer times and the reading or chanting of the Holy Qur’an. As was pointed out by the Imam, the three Abrahamic faiths have the same root in our ancestor Abraham and many of their traditions have grown out of ours and out of Christianity.

There are many Interfaith activities which take place during the year. During the Summer there was the Festival of Spirituality which took place during the main Edinburgh Festival. In February and March there will be the Fourth Annual Edinburgh Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality.

Many of us meet together to talk, to learn, to enquire of each other all about our Festivals, traditions, beliefs and opinions. In particular I have found the Edinburgh Women’s Interfaith Group most rewarding – it has been meeting now since June 2005 and is now well-established. From that very first tentative meeting we have grown and flourished and have truly been able to share our experiences of traditions and festivals and have seen how much many of these overlap or interweave with each others’ traditions. We have joined together for Peace Vigils and Peace Marches. I think especially of when the war broke out in the Lebanon, many of us from the Women’s Interfaith Group joined the Peace Vigil and Rally which met to express our dismay at what was happening on all sides in the Middle East. This was not a ‘pro’ or an ‘anti’ anything or anyone rally and march to the Scottish Parliament – it was an expression of human care and concern over the plight of the victims and their families on all sides.

These are the words I took with me on the day of the Peace Vigil –

“Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof”

“Justice, Justice shall you pursue.”

...cont...

We grieve and weep together for ALL the Children of Abraham and for the children of the Creator of all peoples.

We deplore the tragic loss of innocent lives, particularly of women and children.

Peace is learned in the home – children learn to live in peace at their mothers' knees.

“Radaf Shalom v'lo Milchamah!”

Strive for Peace and not War!

We are all mothers, wives, grandmothers and great-grandmothers.

Listen to our silent voices!

Inter-faith is about listening – listening to each other and actually hearing and taking notice of what others have to say. We have much to learn!

Rebekah

(A full brochure of all events is being produced and can be accessed through Edinburgh Inter Faith Association by contacting the General Secretary, **Victor Spence** at victor@eifa.wanadoo.co.uk)

CTPI Baillie Lecture

**Jewish and Scottish
- the threads and the tartan**

Dr Ephraim Borowski, Director of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and former head of Philosophy Dept, Glasgow University Chair: Dr Cecelia Clegg, Director, Centre of Theology and Public Issues

Will be held on **Tuesday , 28 November 2006 5.30pm** in Martin Hall, New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh. Further information: ctpi@ed.ac.uk or Tel: 0131 650 7991

Edinburgh Interfaith Women's Group

29 November: Edinburgh Inter Faith Women's group will host a meeting to explore religious festivals, particularly those around the theme of light. (7 pm venue tbc).

Archivist Wanted

Are you tidy and organised?

An Archivist is required by our Community to collect, collate, store and preserve information about the

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community.

This undertaking would not entail vast amounts of work but is an important and worthwhile role.

If you are interested and would like more information please contact **Ida** or call the **community phone**.

ELJC Boat trip to Inchcolm

Aiming to incorporate more social events into the ELJC calendar, some members enjoyed a trip to Inchcolm Island on Sunday 8th October. With Gordon Barclay acting as a superb guide, there was also the opportunity to learn a thing or two about the island and some history surrounding it. A big thanks to everyone who helped organise what was a successful day out for all!




It went that way!



The sermon on the mount!

Have you any ideas for social events / day trips etc. that could be enjoyed by the Community?
Let us know!



liberal judaism

Be Older and Bolder

... in six practical three hour sessions

Looking to the Future is a group for people in later life who are making changes and want to explore the possibilities in this new stage in their lives. What will you get out of the programme?

Take stock of your present situation

See things from a fresh perspective

Make plans for your future

Learn to listen and give feedback

Fees are £75 for this pilot programme of 6 monthly sessions. This fee is subsidised by Liberal Judaism. The programme will be run by Lina Fajerman (BA Hons) who is a chartered member of the Chartered Institute for Personnel Development, and is Vice President of Bet Tikvah synagogue. If you want to find out more, there is a free Introductory Session on **Thursday 16 November from 10.30am to 12.30pm** at Liberal Judaism, The Montagu Centre, 21 Maple Street, London W1T 4BE. To book your place call **Judy 020 7631 9824**. For further information call **Lina 020 8504 3125**

NPLS Goldstein Tours To Romania

Thur 10TH May to Sun 20TH May 2007

Rabbi Dr Andrew and Sharon Goldstein are always looking for places of Jewish and general interest, and Romania certainly has much to offer. A history of great anti-Semitism, yet also times when Jews were protected. Existing Jewish communities and buildings that survived Communism due to its last President Ceauşescu's unusual attitude to the Jews, allowing them to make Aliyah (with a charge on their head), keeping diplomatic relations with Israel, installing Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen as an MP ... yet of course all the time exerting dictatorial power and impoverishing his country. The Jewish community is dwindling; better to see active synagogues now before they become just empty buildings.

Eleven days (ten nights) visiting major Jewish and general tourist sites in **Piatra Neamt** (a wooden synagogue of Baal Shem Tov), **Iasi** (used to be called Jassy) with many Jewish

sites, the painted monasteries of **Bucovina, Tirgu Mures, Sighisoara** and **Brasov** in Transylvania with many references to the Dracula legend, and **Bucharest** with its active Jewish life and interesting architecture.

Only 45 places, so book now by obtaining a brochure and booking form from **Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue on 01923 822592** or email judith@npls.org.uk

Shalom Radio with Rabbi Pete

Shalom FM, the Jewish radio station is back from **October 29th – November 26th 2006**. The schedule, at www.shalomradio.co.uk, includes a weekday "Liberal Judaism Hour" (lasting 15 minutes!), presented by **Rabbi Pete Tobias**. According to the publicity, "it will provide a uniquely Liberal perspective on a variety of Jewish issues and promises to stimulate and challenge". It will air around **6.40 pm Monday to Thursday**. Listeners are encouraged to e-mail their comments to rabbipete@shalomradio.co.uk. It will broadcast on 101.4 FM (around Hendon) but can also be heard live online at www.shalomradio.co.uk.

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

The AGM of 'Four Corners' - the Newsletter of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities - is to be held at the EHC shul in Salisbury Rd on **Nov 26th 2006**. If you intend to go, please notify Leah Granat on leah.granat@onetel.net as soon as possible for the catering numbers, or contact ScoJeC at j-scot@j-scot.org or by telephone on **0141 577 8208** for details. (The Four Corners website is shown below) - www.j-scot.org.uk/Four_Corners/newsletters ELJCs shown on the following page http://www.j-scot.org.uk/Communities/Edinburgh_both.html

ADVANCE NOTICE

ScoJeC is hosting an inter-communal Chanukah Party at Lochpilhead on December 17th from 2.00 - 6.00 p.m.. Further details may be obtained from Leah Granat. They hope as many people as possible from all Scottish Jewish Communities will be able to go.



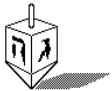
Chanukah Word Search

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O L I V E O I L A T K E
 H Z X E Y U O Z G V I A
 H A L L E L S Y P E S F
 S J M E Z N I H S L L T
 A I Z M A C C A B E E T
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CANDLE
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 HALLEL
 HAMMER
 HAY
 KISLEV
 LATKE
 MACCABEE
 MENDRAH
 MODIN
 NUN
 OLIVE OIL
 SHAMASH
 SHIN
 SYRIANS
 TEMPLE



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Boom Boom

Four Jewish women are having lunch at a nice restaurant. The waiter comes over and asks, "Is anything alright?"

A man walked to the top of a hill to talk to God. The man asked, "God, what's a million years to you?"

And God said, "A minute."

Then the man asked, "Well, what's a million dollars to you?"

And God said, "A penny."

Then the man asked, "God ... can I have a penny?"

And God said, "Sure ... In a minute."

A strained voice called out through the darkened theatre, "Please, is there a doctor in the house?!" Several men stood up as the lights came on. An older lady pulled her daughter to stand next to her, "Good, are any of you doctors single and interested in a date with a nice, Jewish girl?"



Crumbly Banana Squares

175g Fairtrade sugar
 175g margarine
 225g self raising flour
 100g porridge oats
 2 medium Fairtrade bananas, mashed
 25g sultanas (or similar)
 Caster sugar

Warm your oven to 200°C

Cream the sugar and margarine together Cut in the flour and oats to make a crumbly mixture. Sprinkle half into a baking tray (12 by 8 inch) and press down lightly. Spread over the bananas and sprinkle the dried fruit. Sprinkle the rest of the mixture over and again press down lightly Bake it for 25 to 30 mins until golden. Sprinkle with caster sugar.

Wait until it cools (if you can) and cut into appropriately-sized chunks. Eat !

Apology

Sincere apologies to all those who receive the newsletter by post. The October issue was sent with insufficient postage and the Royal Mail wasted no time in making people aware of this. Sorry to all those concerned.

Clare

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 22th November. Please email any contributions to newsletter@eljc.org

Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre Committee

**AN EVENING OF ISRAELI
(and other national folk)
DANCING**

Back by popular request!!

**Another opportunity to come and have a go
(or sit back and watch!) with Jane Mackenzie**

Fun for all!!

No partner required!!

**Saturday 18th November 2006
Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road
8 p.m.**

£8 students/children £4

Refreshments included

Name -----

Address -----

Tel -----

No of tickets -----

Amount enclosed -----

Please complete this coupon and send with cheque made out to 'Jewish Community Centre' to
Doreen Bowman, 24 Cammo Grove, Edinburgh, EH4 8EX by Monday 13th November 2006.