

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

November 2007

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

Date Friday 2nd November
Event Erev Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre,
Newbattle Terrace
Time 7pm

This will be our regular Friday night service.

Date Friday 16th November
Event Chavurah Supper
Venue Columcille Centre,
Newbattle Terrace
Time 7pm

We'll celebrate Shabbat with some food – please bring non-meat dishes to share – and some songs. We hope to start as close to 7pm as possible, so aim to come on time, if not early!

Date Saturday 17th November
Event Shabbat Service
Venue St Mark's Unitarian Church
7 Castle Terrace
Time 11am

Rabbi Mark will be with us this weekend and will lead the service.

The **Talmud reading group** will meet at St. Mark's from 3:00-5:00, concluding with Havdalah.

Date Sunday 18th November

On Sunday morning Rabbi Mark will be at cheder.

The **Introduction to Judaism** class will be held in the afternoon.

The **Kabbalat Torah** group will meet during the weekend.

Those involved in either of these events will be given full details. If anyone else is interested, please contact Rabbi Mark, Gillian or Nick.

EVENTS & SERVICES

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

Rabbi Mark is again visiting us this weekend. To celebrate Shabbat and the 4th night of Chanukah, we'll be having our regular service, at 7pm at Columcille, followed by a family supper – again please bring a non-meat dish to share - and celebration of Chanukah, so please bring along your channukiah.

Kol Nidre Appeal Reminder

Donations are still being accepted for the Kol Nidre Appeal. Details on the charities benefitting from the Appeal are in the October newsletter.

Cheques (made out to Sukkat Shalom) should be sent to Jonathan Broadie, 26 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh EH9 3HP.

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'Tent' Comes to Edinburgh



Liberal Jews have always been good at doing their own thing, and Tent is one of LJ's best examples of this.

Accommodating young adults of the community of all levels of interest, we met, predictably, on a Friday evening, in the pub. A private room of a pub to be precise, in the loft bar at the Outhouse, Broughton Street Lane. This was Tent's debut in Edinburgh, and most of us present had not been at a similar meeting before. But ever open-minded, we all gathered for an evening of relaxed company mixed with traditional Friday night sentiments.

The informal service led by student Rabbi Anna Gerrard, and Avivit Katzil of LJ was the perfect combination of beautiful music, softly sung prayers and relaxed reflection on the week just past. The mellow atmosphere was just right, and all of us really enjoyed the intimate opportunity to combine our common interest in observing the start of the Sabbath with meeting new people, sharing good food and generally having a good time.

I have to say that I had not been sure what to expect before I arrived. I'm not often a fan of combining my spiritual needs with people I don't know, or organised prayer in a pub. But Tent exceeded my expectations, requiring nothing of the individual except what each person felt comfortable contributing. And it was really refreshing to share an evening with young Jewish people in both a religious and a social setting at once.

Tent will be returning to Edinburgh a few times over the coming months, with the hope that we will get more young adults (people in their 20s and 30s) involved each time. We are hoping to organise a mid-week event in November, possibly combining a study-session with dinner and drinks, followed by more events that will be announced nearer the time. I really hope that the young adults of ELJC will embrace this opportunity to meet similar minded-people, and explore what Tent has to offer. Come with an open mind, an open heart, and bring a friend! - (the friend part is optional, but all are welcome!).

For more information, or to be kept in touch with what's going on, call or email me on 07737 425880; laurenfox@hotmail.com.

Lauren Fox

Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre Forthcoming Events

Chanukah dinner with musical entertainment - Saturday 8th December

Burns Supper - Sunday 3rd February

Supper/Panel Discussion - 16th March

For further information on any of the above or to find out how to get involved in helping out, contact Doreen Bowman or email jcc@ehcong.com.

A Word from the Chair

MITZVAH GORERET MITZVAH!

The Chairman's Word this month has been written with Lauren Fox, Social Action rep. on the Council. Cheshvan 5768 (the month we are in) has been named Jewish Social Action Month by KolDor, an organisation of the great and the good (see www.cheshvan.org). But we shouldn't let that put us off a good idea!

Liberal Judaism and the Make Poverty History Jewish Coalition have taken up the idea, with four themes, one for each week of the month:

- 1 Global poverty and trade & economic justice
- 2 Climate Change
- 3 Darfur
- 4 Global Citizenship

In this section you will find suggestions of mitzvot related to the first two of these themes, to inspire you to make a difference. Look out for more ideas and issues in next month's newsletter.

Global Poverty and Trade & Economic Justice are covered in an LJ flyer you can find at <http://tinyurl.com/2quxjs>. The proof text for the week is Leviticus 25:14: *"If you sell anything to your neighbour or buy anything from him, you shall not wrong one another"*.

These are amongst the ideas in the flyer:

Visit or write to your local MP, to urge them to help increase pressure on the government to cancel illegitimate debts, and to meet the promises, as yet unfulfilled, that were made at the 2005 G8 summit in Gleneagles. The info-packed *MP Lobby Pack*, with 3 specific requests, can be downloaded from www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/lobby. You can also send an e-mail to your MP via <http://tinyurl.com/2tqx6>.

Plan a Fairtrade event for Fairtrade Fortnight 25th February – 9th March 2008. Fairtrade producers and farmers from across the world will come to the UK to speak in communities during this fortnight. As a Jewish community already involved in Fairtrade, we should be hearing at first hand what it means for people at the other end of the production/consumption chain.

We can find out more, or book a speaker, at: www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved_fairtrade_for_night.htm

Environment and Climate Change

are covered in a flyer at <http://tinyurl.com/2uu7lf>. The quote for the week is Psalms 24:1: *"The Earth is God's and all its fullness, the world and all who dwell in it"*

The flyer suggests, among other mitzvot:

An easy one: **buy an LJY-Netzer eco-friendly Shopping Bag** for only £3!

To order contact: j.helfman@liberaljudaism.org

If you have missed the Jewish voice in environmental campaigns, **connect with the Jewish perspective on climate change**, and get practical tools and ideas on how to promote and practice care of our planet at:

www.biggreenjewish.org.

Take action against climate change, which is already taking its toll on life on Earth; many plants and animals have become extinct and thousands of people have lost their lives in natural disasters. The powerful coalition Stop Climate Chaos believes we can stop this process both by taking individual changes and putting pressure on our governments. Take three actions by clicking on: <http://tinyurl.com/2uh7sl>

Liberal Judaism is supporting Christian Aid's **campaign to strengthen the Climate Change Bill** now being debated in Parliament. Find out about CA's campaign, and why you should send in your old shoelace, at <http://tinyurl.com/2ruhdc>.

The **Earth Charter** is an International Declaration of Care for our planet. This can be used in discussion groups, and in cheder. Visit the website at: <http://www.earchcharterinaction.org/>

If anyone would like to get more involved as part of an ELJC Social Action Committee, then get in touch with Lauren: laurenfox@hotmail.com

Maurice & Lauren

A march and rally against the renewal of Trident will be held on Saturday, 3rd November, assembling at the Scottish Parliament at 11:30. More information can be found at <http://www.scotland4peace.org>

Members - Improve Your Hebrew!

We have been fortunate to have at last found a Hebrew teacher who is willing to teach a group of us. Her name is Yifat Haber and she is qualified in both as a teacher and in religious studies and has worked in an Ulpan in Israel.

We have arranged an initial series of 5 weekly sessions on Thursdays from 6pm to 7.30. These will be held in Lauren Fox's flat at the bottom of Easter Road starting this Thursday . That means the following dates:-

1st, 8th, 15th 22nd and 29th November

Yifat will be in Israel over Chanukah, and we will hope to arrange another set of lessons on her return in February.

Priority will be given to members and to those who will be able to attend all or almost all off the sessions. There will be a charge for any non-members who would like to attend if there is room.

If you would like to sign up for this series, please contact Gillian Raab (0131 226 6234 or 07748 678 551 or email at gillian.raab@googlemail.com).

Chanukah candles

Be prepared, Chanukah is early this year (4th December)! There will be boxes of candles for sale at the next two services (2nd and 17th November). Small ones for £1 and much prettier taller ones for £2.50. Contact membership@eljic.org or leave a message on the community answering machine (0131 777 8024) to reserve them.



Sukkat Shalom - Meetings of the Council

The dates of the next two Council meetings are Monday, November 19th and Monday, December 17th. 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, please get in touch with one of our Council members.

Jewish Parent Toddler Group

The Cross Community Toddler Group is a welcoming and inclusive group of parents with children under five who get together once a month. The aim of the group is to give the children a chance to play with other Jewish children and give the parents an opportunity to meet other Jewish parents with toddlers.

We get together Sunday mornings at 10AM in the community centre at the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation. Please feel to bring along Jewish books, toys and songs for sharing. We start at 10am with coffee and snacks. This is play time for the children. At 11:30am we are joined by the pre-cheder class for songs and Israeli dancing.


Dates for 2006-2007 are September 30th, October 21st, November 18th, December 16th, January 20th.

If you require further information or would like to be on the "Jewish Children's Activities," mailing list, send an email to Shari Cohn-Simmen at shari.cohn@ed.ac.uk.

Shari Cohn-Simmen

Limmud in Scotland

The Scotland day Limmud, *Expanding Horizons*, will take place on Sunday, 10th February at Hutcheson's Grammar School in Glasgow. A bus will be going from Edinburgh. To find out more about the planned speakers and activities, go to <http://www.limmud.org/day/scotland/>.



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Yism'chu CD from Brighton and Hove Progressive

Rabbi Elizabeth Tikvah Sarah and Andy Cable of Brighton and Hove Progressive Synagogue present "YISM'CHU: Celebrating Shabbat in Song", a new CD collection of contemporary and traditional melodies sung without accompaniment and ideal for those who enjoy singing or listening to Shabbat songs and for those who'd like to learn some more Shabbat tunes. For more information and an order form, go to


<http://www.brightonandhoveprosyanogogue.org.uk/CD%20order%20form.pdf>

Rare Claude Montefiore Recordings Available

Rare recordings of Claude Montefiore's voice have just been made available on the Liberal Judaism website. The recordings (in mp3 format) of Claude Montefiore's distinctive voice reading the Book of Jonah can be downloaded from http://www.liberaljudaism.org/Claude_Montefiore_recordings.htm

Support for the People of Burma

Recently, Burma went dark--the military shut down all internet, telephone and communication links with the rest of the world, cutting off the flow of information to the media and the world. Avaaz is working to support highly respected Burmese democracy and civil society groups by sending them crucial technical and humanitarian support. You can make a donation online at https://secure.avaaz.org/en/end_the_burmese_blackout/1.php?cl=33318912



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BOOK NOW BOOK NOW

Liberal Judaism's Biennial Weekend 4-6 April 2008

Booking forms are now available for the Liberal Judaism Biennial Weekend. The weekend with its theme "Creation and Creativity" promises to be an exciting one. This weekend offers the chance for Liberal Jews of all ages to meet together to study, talk, sing and pray.

To encourage attendance by our young adults whom we see as the future of our movement, we are offering a number of sponsored places to those aged 40 or below. Book now to secure one of these places at a savings of £100.

Worried about what to do with your children? The weekend will feature activities for all ages. There will be a supervised crèche for children under 3 and planned activities for children aged 4 to 8. There will also be a full LJY-Netzer programme for those aged 8 to 16 at a separate local venue.

Pick up your booking form from your community today or download it from the biennial website www.liberaljudaism.org/biennial .

Liberal Judaism on Jcom Radio

Liberal Judaism hits the airwaves again with a 15 minute broadcast at 7pm on Mondays, Nov 5th, 12th and 19th. To tune in, visit www.jcomradio.net

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

November 4 Professor Sam Cohn on *The Black Death and the Burning of the Jews*.

November 25 Tamar Yellin on *The Genizah at the house of Shefer*.

December 2 Professor Timothy Lim, on *Literary Artistry of the Book of Ruth*.

An Anniversary Concert

To mark the 20th anniversary of the death of Hans Gál
featuring
Ensemble Hans Gál
Thursday 1st November, 2007, 8 p.m.
Stockbridge Parish Church
Edinburgh

The composer Hans Gál was born near Vienna in 1890. Following considerable success in the 1920s, he was appointed Director of the Conservatory in Mainz in 1929. Hitler's accession to power in 1933 led to his instant dismissal and the banning of all his works. He returned to Vienna, but was again forced to flee by Hitler's annexation of Austria in 1938. He emigrated to Britain and settled in Edinburgh, where he remained active until his death in 1987.

Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group

The next meeting is on **28th November** (venue to be confirmed). The topic will be "Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking". A number of organisations are looking at this important issue so we, as women of faith, will be considering it from our own faith perspectives to see if there is anything we can do effectively. 25th November is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women so this will be an appropriate & relevant topic.

Rebecca Gronowski

Personal Security Issue

Signing on-line petitions against anti-Semitic websites

Our contact at Lothian and Borders Police, Andy Doig, has brought a problem to our attention and has asked me to alert the community. He writes:

"There are several, perhaps numerous anti Semitic websites on the net. Every so often these are identified by well-meaning individuals and an online petition is started to have the ISP or search engine removed from their web page or search lists.

"The problem arises where people put their details on this petition and send it off into cyber space. Their details then become available to anyone and can be used for whatever reason they feel fit.

"Unfortunately, a member of the Jewish community in Edinburgh ...signed one of these petitions and their name along with the others on the petition, appeared on a anti-Semitic website. The list was then called "SHITLERS LIST" ...and the list was then used to assist in identifying Jewish names.

"The site is hosted in the USA where many of these offensive websites are. This basically renders the British authorities powerless to do anything about it."

It is an individual personal decision to sign on-line petitions against this sort of website, but the message is that these petitions rarely achieve their aims, and by signing them your personal details may be open to abuse.

Gordon Barclay

ELJC Support Group
07904 813162

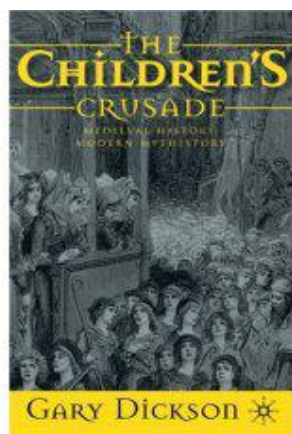
Honours for Gary Dickson

On 11th October, Sukkat Shalom member Gary Dickson was honoured by his fellow historians when a *Festschrift*, (a volume of learned articles or essays by colleagues and admirers serving as a tribute, especially to a scholar) was launched at the University of Glasgow. The volume is entitled, *Images of Medieval Sanctity: Essays in Honour of Gary Dickson*. Our Community extends its congratulations to him.

Gary, an Honorary Fellow in History at the University of Edinburgh, retired as a Reader from that Department in 2004, having directed The Antiquary Visiting Scholars Programme from 1981-86. No stranger to academic honours and distinctions, he delivered a series of eight Wilde Lectures in Natural and Comparative Religion at Oxford University during the academic year 1996-7 on the theme of 'Medieval Pentecostalism'. He was elected to Membership of the prestigious Institute for Advanced Study, School of Historical Studies, Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A., 1997-98.

His latest book, *The Children's Crusade: Medieval History Modern Mythistory*, which will be published by Palgrave in mid-November, has already attracted very substantial praise from distinguished scholars at Cambridge, Princeton and Yale. Copies can be pre-ordered from the publisher or Amazon.co.uk.

Steve Engleman



Congratulations

to **Katy Bromberg** and **Alasdair Gray** who had a Jewish wedding in Ann Arbor (USA) on 26 August 2007. Alasdair attended a full year of Rabbi Mark's 'Introduction to Judaism' classes in preparation for Jewish married life. Rabbi Robert Levy, who was Katy's rabbi throughout her childhood, pointed out that they had technically been married three different ways according to Jewish law, so it's a good thing they were prepared!



r'fuah sh'leimah

Our prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Steve Engelman and his wife, Kathie, following Steve's recent surgery.

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 **Friday, 23rd November**. Please email all contributions to newsletter@eljc.org.