

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

EVENTS & SERVICES

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

This is Shabbat Lech L'cha, when a visiting student Rabbi from Leo Baeck College usually takes the service.

Date Saturday 15th November
Please note changed schedule:
Rabbi Mark is visiting us on the second weekend of the month, rather than the third.

Event **Shabbat Service**
Venue **St Marks
Castle Terrace**
Time **11 am**

Shabbat morning service, led by Rabbi Mark.

Tea & Talmud, led by Rabbi Mark, will take place on **Saturday evening**, 15th November. For details, contact Lindsay Levy.

Sunday 16th November – Choosing Judaism class, 10am – 12pm

Date Friday 21st November and
Date Friday 28th November

Event **Kabbalat Shabbat Service**
Venue **Marchmont - St. Giles,
1a Kilgraston Road**
Time **6.15pm**

Following a pause for the High Holy Days, we are resuming our informal short (30 min) Erev Shabbat services, at a new venue. The mid-month e-mail will have further details, or telephone 0131 777 8024 or visit www.eljc.org/calendar for latest info.

November 2008

Chairman: Maurice Naftalin, chair@eljc.org
Secretary: Nancy Warren, secretary@eljc.org
Newsletter: Kristi Long, newsletter@eljc.org
Treasurer: Jonathan Broadie, treasurer@eljc.org
Membership: Gillian Raab, membership@eljc.org

Phone: 0131 777 8024

Web: www.eljc.org

EVENTS & SERVICES

Date Friday 5th December
Event **Erev Shabbat Service**
Venue **Columcille Centre,
Newbattle Terrace**
Time **7 pm**

On the weekend of 5th-7th December student Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich will be visiting us. Tanya came to Edinburgh earlier this year when she led our Seder and also conducted a Shabbat service. Details of the weekend are still being finalised, but will include:

Friday 5th December – erev Shabbat service followed by family supper at Columcille
Saturday 6th December – Shabbat service and a study session in the afternoon

6th December is also our Human Rights Shabbat (<http://bit.ly/hrs>). To contribute to this "Jewish celebration of social justice" contact Lauren Fox (0131 777 8024, or mail laurenfox@hotmail.com).

Usual services in December, *and*

Sunday 21st December – Chanukah celebration. Details yet to be finalised, but put the date in your diary now!

Jewish Calendar for November 2008

28th November -- Rosh Hodesh Kislev

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Consultation on Curriculum for Excellence

What should Scottish kids should learn about religion?

How should schools direct their moral development?

These questions are at the heart of a current Scottish consultation, within *A Curriculum for Excellence*, which is in development. The new curriculum aims to make children successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens, and effective contributors. A general theme of the new curriculum is decluttering: less will be prescribed and teachers will have more freedom to deepen their coverage. This decluttering may have a particular impact on children's exposure to minority religions.

To avoid superficial and potentially confusing coverage of too many religions and too many aspects, and acknowledging that local circumstances and expectations will vary, it may be appropriate in many primary schools to focus on a maximum of two world religions in addition to Christianity. (RME Cover Paper)

The curriculum is divided into Christianity, other World Religions, and, intertwined with those, the development of beliefs and values.

Draft 'experiences' and 'outcomes' for each age group (3 to 18) are articulated, from the child's point of view, in the draft materials for our review. For example, a child of 10-12 years will be able to say: 'Through investigating Bible stories, and other Christian stories, I can show my understanding of these stories.'

I represent the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities on the Scottish Joint Committee for Religious and Moral Education, and am working closely with Leah Granat

on synthesising SCOJEC's response to the draft documents. If you would like your opinions to be reflected in the response, please contact me. The Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation has kindly offered to provide the community hall, if enough people would like to meet and work together on input from Edinburgh. Since a number of interested people have kids, it might be hard to find a time that works for everyone, ad hoc meetings could work too. If people want to have an informal ELJC meeting, that's another option.

For details about the proposed curriculum, see: <http://tinyurl.com/rmecurric>

Any input, in person or in writing, would be really helpful. Please get in touch with me (preferably via info@eljic.org)!

Catherine Lyons

Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group

The meeting on the Holy Land had a very good attendance; we were very pleased to welcome many new faces. The method of active listening used in the meeting was also successful. As a flower was passed round the circle, so was the opportunity to speak, in confidence, and with no comments to be made nor contradictions or confrontations. It was a very moving experience for all who took part.

Future plans for the group include:

22nd November visit to St Mungo's Museum of Religions, Glasgow. Meet at St Mungo's by 11am for a guided tour. If travelling by train, take the 9.30.

26th November Topic - Women of Peace we honour. A sharing of stories of women involved in conflict resolution and peace making. Nicolson Square, 7pm, usual food arrangement.

Rebekah Gronowski

Chair's Word

Introducing this year's Kol Nidre Appeal, I mentioned that it was my last (at least for a while!), since our constitution requires a new chairperson from next January. I rather regret this, as the Appeal is one aspect of the job which has made me consistently proud of Sukkat Shalom over the years. The response to the first Appeal was excellent, and has improved with each year since. That alone tells me how worthwhile it has been to build our community, since this, more than any other single moment, is our communal pledge to Tikkun Olam, the healing of the world. I'm very privileged to have been associated with that.

Traditionally, we divide the appeal into four different categories, sharing the proceeds equally:

- A charity which works **within our host community**. This year, we have chosen Marie Curie Cancer Care (www.mariecurie.org.uk). Marie Curie's main concern, besides the research they sponsor into the causes of cancer, is the care and support of people who are dying of cancer. The needs of cancer patients and their families are, above all, for emotional support, palliative care, and surroundings which preserve their dignity. Marie Curie provide these needs both through home nurses and through the hospices they run. We saw the quality of their care at first hand this year, in the support and attention they gave to our dear friend Steve Engleman, *o"h*. Marie Curie's benefit from our Appeal will be a small token of our appreciation of their contribution to the dignity of his passing.
- A charity which works for **the Scottish Jewish community**. Cosgrove Care (www.cosgrove.co.uk) is our choice this year. Cosgrove support Jewish children and adults with learning difficulties or mental health problems—currently around 120 of them, with an age range of 3 to 83 years! They have a residential and a day centre in Glasgow, and they also provide outreach and support services. A core value is their cultural sensitivity—respect for the customs and beliefs of their service users is a vital element of care for vulnerable people (especially important now as their work widens to include people from outwith the Jewish community). Their proud claim is that they will never turn away from anyone in need.
- A charity **associated with Israel**. After hearing a conference presentation on the work of

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) (<http://bit.ly/phreng>), Liberal Judaism nationally recommended them as a beneficiary for Kol Nidre Appeals. PHR-Israel works to implement Israel's constitutional goals of justice, equality and mutual assistance both by provision of practical healthcare and by working to change the policies that are at the base of human rights abuses. They work with residents of Israel, and in the Occupied Territories, with prisoners and detainees, with refugees, and in the unrecognised villages of the Negev. They also act where medical ethics and human rights are challenged, as in the case of doctor participation in torture, basing their actions on the principles of medical ethics and on the application of international conventions to medical work.

- A charity for **world relief and development**. Tzedek is a Jewish charity which supports self-help development projects in some of the poorest parts of the world. The moving introduction on the website (<http://bit.ly/tzd-abt>) is worth reading in full, but in brief, it says: "Jews have a basic responsibility to be fair and act in a just way. Being fair means sharing out what you have with those who have less, and even in the current crisis any of us has unimaginably more than people of the villages and squatter townships of Africa and Asia. Our small change can mean big change to the lives of others. More, Tzedek recognises that the people it works with are resourceful and resilient and that they are almost always in the best position to know what would work for them better than it does. Tzedek wants to listen to them and simply help them to help themselves. That, after all, is what Maimonides defined—many hundreds of years ago—as the highest form of Jewish charity." The 2008 Yom Kippur Appeal is a great summary (<http://bit.ly/tzd-apl>) of Tzedek's perspectives and current activities. Please contact us for a paper copy if you need one.

I can't think of a better way to finish than to quote the Tzedek intro: "The Torah predicts in its earliest blessing to the Jews that we will be blessed and that, through us, all the peoples of the world will be blessed. Time now to work to make that a reality!" I have never felt more enthusiastic in recommending the beneficiaries of our Appeal. Please send cheques, made out to "Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh", to Jonathan Broadie, 26 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3HP. Thanks!

Maurice Naftalin

Celter Schmelter at Fiddle Festival 2008

Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh. Sat 22 Nov
4pm Ballroom

Gica Loening - fiddle, Lewis Powell- Reid -
accordion, Fraser Watson - poik, Jenny Hill
- double bass

Echoing the sound of the human voice, Klezmer, the wedding dance music of old Eastern Europe, conveys a feeling of "laughter through tears". Celter Schmelter, Scottish based Klezmer ensemble evoke that heartfelt tension between joy and sadness of the Jewish shtetl wedding. Celter Schmelter have been the social glue of many Scottish/Jewish gatherings, weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, and festivals around the country. From irresistible dance tunes, to poignant, a-rhythmic doinas, let the music of Celter Schmelter transport you to the old world of the Klezmerim – to a world of passionately felt music, simple, haunting, and played from the heart.

Workshop Klezmer Fiddle

Sat 22 Nov , West Drawing Room, 12 -
1.30

Gica Loening

Learn some tunes from the Eastern European Jewish wedding dance repertoire. This workshop will focus on the ornamentation, phrasing, and simple chordal accompaniment that gives this idiom its distinctive sound. Gica has studied Klezmer for eight years, and founded both Edinburgh's Belle Star Band and Celter Schmelter. A community music practitioner and musician, she teaches fiddle for Scots Music Group and Fun Fiddle.

For more information about Fiddle 2008, see www.scotsfiddlefestival.com.

UK Jewish Film Festival

The UK Jewish Film Festival will take place 8th - 20th November in London. A wealth of films and special events are planned. For details, see the Festival website at

www.ukjewishfilmfestival.org.uk/

A selection of films will tour the UK later in the year, with stops in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Details on the Scottish dates and venues are not yet available, but we'll update you via the newsletter once the details are known.

News from the ELJC Council

We have had long discussions on the council about the future of the **Sukkat Shalom communal seder**. Last year the seder was a big success from the viewpoint of the people attending, but behind the scenes the great majority of the work was done by only a couple of people, and the event made a big loss for the community. We need to do things differently next year: *either*

- we will have many more volunteers (we need a minyan—10—with two of them willing to co-ordinate)
- or it will have to be professionally run, and will be much more expensive and less inclusive.

Can you volunteer to help? It will cost 5-10 hours of your time, in the preparation and actually running of the seder (which is on April 8th, 2009). The seder is one of our best and oldest traditions: please help to save it as an event for everyone!

November features the **return of the informal Kabbalat Shabbat services** (see announcement on page 1). These services will be held on the weeks that we don't normally meet—in November, those will be 21st and 28th.

The next Council meeting will be held on 10th December. If there are any issues you'd like to raise, please contact a member of the Council.

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society Season 5769

The new season at the Lit kicks off on **2 November** with a talk about Glasgow artist Hannah Frank by her niece, **Fiona Frank**.

The acclaimed Jewish artist Hannah Frank's haunting black and white drawings are resonant of the Art Nouveau period, with a hint of Aubrey Beardsley and Jessie King. Hannah took up sculpture in the 1950s, studying with Benno Schotz; and her drawings and sculpture were exhibited in the Royal Glasgow Institute, the Royal Academy, and the Royal Scottish Academy, throughout her artistic career. Hannah Frank continued to produce sculpture till her early 90s. In 2002, aged 94, she moved to Glasgow, and in 2008 celebrated her 100th birthday. Her niece Fiona will provide an illustrated retrospective of her aunt's work.



Garden (1932) by Hannah Frank

For the opening meeting the doors will open at 7pm when tea and biscuits will be served with the talk starting at **7.30pm**.

The next talk, on **9th November**, will be by **Susannah Heschel**, well known author and professor of Jewish studies. Many of you may know her writings including her very influential reader, *On Being a Jewish Feminist*. Her talk on the Aryan theology of Nazi Germany will coincide with the anniversary of Kristallnacht.

All talks will be at the Community Centre on Salisbury Road on Sunday evenings. Annual membership is £12 per person and individual meeting attendance is £10.

2008

Nov 02: Fiona Frank: *Hannah Frank, Glasgow artist*

Nov 09: Susannah Heschel: *Aryan Theology*

Nov 30: *Debate on Jewish issues in stem cell research*

Dec 7: Scottish Council of Jewish Communities: *Jewish Women: Looking Backwards ... Looking Forwards*

2009

Feb 01: Margaret Brearley: *Nazism and Nature; some roots of the Holocaust*

Feb 22: Musical evening

Mar 08: Purim event: *Jews behaving badly*

Mar 22: Claire Ungerson: *The Rescue of Jewish men from Germany in 1939*

Apr 05: Joachim Hemmerle
Yiddish puppet theatre

Visiting Lectures at the Edinburgh University School of Divinity

Gifford Lecture - Sir Jonathan Sacks,
Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew
Congregations of the Commonwealth

Why does Faith Survive? (5.30 pm, 17
November 2008, Playfair Library, Old
College); abstract at <http://bit.ly/jslecture>

**Gunning Lecture - Professor
Susannah Heschel**, Dartmouth College

The Jewish Fascination with Islam:
*Abraham Geiger, Ignaz Goldziher,
Muhammad Asad, and Maryam
Jameelah* (Tuesday 11 November 2008
5pm–6.30pm, Martin Hall, University of
Edinburgh New College, Mound Place)



Kristallnacht 70 Years On

Join Liberal Judaism for a special commemorative service 70 years after the terrible events of Kristallnacht on Sunday, 9th November, 5.00pm at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue. The service will consist of readings and recollections from those who had personal experience of the tragic events, as well as a reading of Martin Goodman's renowned work, *Kristallnacht: Prelude to Destruction*. The musical emphasis will be on composers whose music would have been familiar to the Reform congregations in the 1930's as well as music by composers who emigrated from Europe during the Holocaust, such as Max Janowski and Henrich Schalit. Andrea Hess, the founding cellist member of 'The Raphael Ensemble' will also be playing.

Passport to Liberal Judaism

The Passport to Liberal Judaism has now been launched on the Liberal Judaism website. The scheme is for people aged 20 - 35 who would like to become more involved with Liberal Judaism without committing to one particular community and who are you prepared to pay a modest amount to associate themselves with Liberal Judaism values and practices. The Passport to Liberal Judaism offers benefits such as discounts at Liberal Judaism and 'tent' events, access to all Liberal Judaism communities and complimentary tickets to High Holy Day services. For more information or to apply please go to www.liberaljudaism.org/passport.



World Union of Progressive Judaism Tour of Israel

The WUPJ is organising an 11-day study seminar in Jerusalem and the Negev, providing an in-depth experience of major issues affecting the state of Israel and Progressive Judaism today. The trip begins two days after the conclusion of the WUPJ Biennial, which will be held in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Dates for the trip are 25th March - 5th April 2009, and the cost is \$1800. For more information or to reserve a place, contact karenmichael@europeanregion.org.

Going Travelling in Europe?

If you're looking for a Progressive synagogue whilst travelling in Europe, check the WUPJ website for affiliated communities, or email Karen at karenmichael@europeanregion.org.

Leo Baeck College Welcomes Dr Ron Wolfson to Conference

Leo Baeck College will be hosting a conference, *Open the Door: Making Your Community and Classroom Welcoming* with Dr Ron Wolfson on Sunday, 15th February in London. For details, email pamela.hartog@lbc.ac.uk or call 0208 349 5620.

Our Crowd

By Joe Goldblatt

Call us a crowd, a clan, a tribe, a mob or just a wonderfully diverse and fascinating community, the group of people who comprise our ELJC are a special bunch. When I was a wee lad in the United States, my mum would describe her Jewish friends who had immigrated to America from Europe as part of 'our crowd'. This was a commonly used term of endearment among the Jewish immigrants in New York City. Although my mum was originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, her special Jewish friends were still part of 'our crowd'.

Throughout the long and storied history of Scotland we have celebrated and sometimes feared our famous clan families. This summer, in a new event entitled 'The Gathering', we will see the largest clan gathering in the history of our country as part of Scottish Homecoming 2009. Clans define the family unit in Scotland and throughout the Scottish diaspora.

Similarly, the aboriginal people of Central Australia whom I have interviewed, simply refer to the members of their many diverse language groups as mobs. Their customs may vary from mob to mob, but they are fiercely loyal to one another within each mob grouping.

So, whether you define ELJC as a mob, a tribe or a community, this new column will introduce you to the people who comprise 'Our Crowd'. If you know of someone who should be interviewed or if you would like to be interviewed for 'Our Crowd' in future editions of the ELJC newsletter just send me an email at jgoldblatt@gmu.ac.uk. Welcome to 'Our Crowd'!

Our Crowd Has 10 Questions for Rebekah Gronowski

1. What is one thing ELJC members may not know about you that you wish to share?

I have very wide and varied musical qualifications and experience. I'm not just an enthusiastic amateur. I have been a professional musician, having played 'cello in many orchestras both in London and in the Provinces. I have taught music profes-

sionally both privately and in schools and I was Head of a County Music School. I have also conducted orchestras and choirs and have been a Church Organist and Choir Mistress.

2. What is your favourite Jewish song?
'Sheleg Al Iri' – (Snow on My City) by Naomi Shemer and 'Eli, Eli' by Hannah Senesh because they both evoke very special personal memories for me.

3. Who are your favourite Jewish composers, authors and performers?
My favourite composers include Felix Mendelssohn, Ernest Bloch, Gustav Mahler, Burt Bacharach and Leonard Bernstein and Gerald Finzi.

As for performers, I admire Artur Schnabel, Rawicz and Landauer, Fritz Kreisler, Yehudi Menuhin, Yitzhak Perlman, Jascha Heifetz, David & Igor Oistrakh, Isaac Stern, Maxim Vengerov, Gil Shaham, Joshua Bell, Pinchas Zukerman, Mischa Maisky, Raphael Wallfisch, Mike & Bernie Winters, Sophie Tucker, Anne Shelton (yes, I am old enough to remember them), Ofra Haza and Barbra Streisand. Performers with whom I have actually played in an orchestra include Vladimir Ashkenazy and Steven Isserlis.

The authors whom I admire are Chayyim Nachman Bialik, Amos Oz, Yehudah Amichai and, of course, Baroness Rabbi Julia Neuberger.

4. Which Jewish personalities would you like to have dinner with?
Baroness Rabbi Julia Neuberger and Rabbi Lionel Blue and maybe Steven Isserlis.

5. What is your favourite Jewish food?
I love my own version of gefilte fish with a special secret ingredient. The Hungarian violinist in my ex-husband's string quartet used to say it was the best he had ever tasted. But then again, how do you choose only one favourite Jewish food?

Cont on p 8

Our Crowd, continued

6. *What are your favourite travel destinations?*

Crete and Rhodes

7. *What is your favourite Jewish memory?*

Having the courage to make my bat mitzvah at sixty and having my eldest son come up from England to celebrate with me!

8. *What do you like best about ELJC?*

Watching it grow from very small beginnings into a varied, lively, vibrant, thriving and caring community.

9. *When you think of ELJC, in your opinion, how would you describe our community using adjectives and verb?*

Adjectives: Warm & welcoming.

Verbs: Growing and thriving.

10. *Finally, using the adjectives and verbs listed above, how would you describe ELJC in one sentence?*

ELJC is a warm and welcoming community which is growing rapidly and will be thriving long into the future of Scotland's Jewish Life.



Rebekah

ELJC Support Group
07904 813162

The Exchange

Do you have something you'd like to buy, sell, trade? Want to announce an achievement, or just share a bit of news with others in the community? Send contributions for the Members' Exchange to the editor at newsletter@eljc.org.

Membership News

We are delighted to welcome Norman and Wendy Crane as new members. Norman and Wendy are former members of Manchester Reform Synagogue. Norman, who has an MA in Jewish Studies, has run the Cheder and taught B'nei Mitzvah classes and those for potential converts in Manchester.

Anna and Tim Dover have moved to Perthshire to open their first restaurant which has just gained a silver award from Eat Scotland; see their web site <http://www.theroostrestaurant.co.uk>.

Finally, many thanks to those of you have returned your **pink membership information** forms. ***To anyone who has not done so yet, please can you send them in soon so we can prepare and distribute the members' directory.***

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, 21st November**. Please email all contributions to newsletter@eljc.org.