

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

October 2007

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EVENTS & SERVICES

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

Date Saturday 13th October
Event Shabbat Service &
Adam Barclay's bar mitzvah
Venue St. Mark's Unitarian Church
7 Castle Terrace
Time 11am

All members of the community are cordially invited to Adam Barclay's bar mitzvah, at **11am on Saturday 13th October** at St Mark's, 7 Castle Terrace; to a Kiddush at St Mark's immediately after; and to a buffet lunch at St Columba's-by-the-Castle, on Johnston Terrace, from about 1.30.

Rabbi Mark will be with us the weekend of 13-14 October, officiating at Adam's bar mitzvah.

Date Sunday 14th October

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

The **Kabbalat Torah** group will meet in the afternoon.

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 Saturday 20th October
Event Shabbat Service
Venue Quaker Meeting House
Victoria Terrace
Time 11am

This year, Shabbat Lech Lecha falls on 20th October. On this shabbat each year, student rabbis from Leo Baeck College are encouraged to "go forth", as Abram is commanded in the parsha, to tell progressive communities about the work of LBC. We don't have a confirmed arrangement yet, but we are likely to have a visiting student on that day.

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



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Report from the Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group

Jenni Campbell, Outreach Education and Services Manager for the Scottish Parliament spoke at the September meeting of the Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group on faith groups and the work of the Scottish Parliament.

She stressed how important it was for faith groups to become involved – in fact, the Parliament is very keen that we do engage with politicians, especially when it comes to bringing in new legislation which will or could affect faith groups and communities.

As individuals or as community groups, all of us may approach any MSP for advice or information on any issue involving us – it need not necessarily be our own MSP. There are many ways in which we may get involved. One of the keystones of the Scottish Parliament is that it is open and accessible to everyone. Involvement may be in person, on the Internet (www.scottish.parliament.uk), by signing online petitions, by raising petitions or even by offering evidence in cases being discussed where we may have some expertise or personal interest. This means that any of us, should we so put ourselves forward, can or may be called to a cross-party Committee meeting to give that specific evidence.

We, as a faith community, DO have a voice which may and should be heard in the Scottish Parliament. Please – do take an interest, make our MSPs accountable and GET INVOLVED.

Rebekah

Next Meeting – 31st October 2007
Venue: Nicolson Square Church
Time: 7.00 p.m. (vegetarian finger buffet) – talk at 7.30 p.m.

Topic: - 'Our Environment: How can we as Faith Communities play our part?'

The Scottish Interfaith Association (SIFA) is part of the National Interfaith network and is actively engaged in work with young people. As part of one of their projects they have produced a booklet on the environment, called 'Our sacred Earth'. If anyone is interested in a copy, please let me know – they are £3 each – it would be helpful if people want one to let me know so that I may order them all together.

Rebekah

The September issue of **Four Corners**, the newsletter of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, is now available online at http://www.j-scot.org.uk/Four_Corners/Four_Corners.html

Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre Forthcoming Events

Community Quiz

Sunday 28th October 2007 at 7 p.m.
Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road

Book your places now! Entry is £14 (£6 for students or children) if purchased by 14th October, £15 (£7 for students or children) after that date.

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, booking forms for the quiz or to find out how to get involved in helping out, contact Doreen Bowman or email jcc@ehcong.com

A Word from the Chair

I am writing this during Succot, with the High Holy Day services behind us. Sukkat Shalom's services were successful and well-attended, with student Rabbi Nathan Alfred widely praised for his fine singing. The community also owes a great debt of thanks to Nick Silk for much of the organisation that lay behind the smooth running of the services.

I want to take the opportunity of this month's newsletter to repeat what I said on Kol Nidre for our annual charitable appeal. It's good to be writing this during Succot; the tradition of the succah reminds us of the impermanence of our material possessions and our inescapable connection to nature. In a stimulating piece in this week's Jewish Chronicle, Jacob Neusner draws an analogy with the shanty towns of Rio de Janeiro, and finds a lesson in the contrast of the spiritual wealth of the shanty-dwellers with their material poverty.

As usual, we have nominated four charities; one for Jewish self-help, one for help to our host community, one connected with Israel, and one for world relief and development.

The first is **Jewish Care Scotland (JCS)** (www.jcarescot.org.uk). JCS is dedicated to helping Jewish people in need throughout Scotland (although their focus is on the major Jewish population concentration in Glasgow, they also do very effective outreach). "Need" comes in many forms: including health problems—mental or physical, difficulties of older people, problems from debt or bereavement, housing problems. Whatever form need takes, Jewish people in Scotland can turn to JCS for help. They call on local councils when they need to, but they themselves provide many services including benefit advice, day centre support, meals on wheels and home care. Beyond professional work, they are also a model of self-help—their volunteering network draws support from more than a hundred people. We have found them very responsive to Edinburgh needs too—it's good to know they are there when times are hard for people in our own community.

Our "host community" charity, still being formed, is to support an **after-school (and holiday play scheme) club at St. Crispin's School**. The children at St Crispin's have severe mental and physical disabilities. For families with such children, the problem of arranging care in the hours after school and

in the holidays is enormously difficult. If not solved, it prevents parents from keeping a job. Partly because of the stresses of looking after disabled children, many of those in St. Crispin's are in one-parent families in difficult circumstances, so the after-school club is a lifeline.


The provider of the St Crispin's club withdrew during the summer, and the parents are now organising to become their own provider. Of course there are many problems, funding high amongst them. Money from Sukkat Shalom could make a real difference. (For full disclosure, I should say that my family is very much involved in the club. But the nomination for it came from another council member, and received unanimous support from the council).

In Israel, the **One to One Project** (www.one-to-one.org) was originally set up to help disadvantaged immigrant families in Israel, but now provides vital support to children and families in need. They also support coexistence projects and work to support families and communities trying to maintain their Jewish identity in the former Soviet Union. A constant theme in their work is provision of safe and secure environments for homeless and deprived children. Among the many projects they support are: an after-school centre which brings together Arab and Jewish children in a mixed area of Yafo; a martial arts programme promoting inter-religious and inter-ethnic tolerance and understanding in young participants from Israel and the Palestinian Territories; and orphanages for Jewish and non-Jewish children in terrible circumstances, abandoned in Odessa and Kiev.

For world development and relief, we have chosen **Mercy Corps** (www.mercycorps.org.uk). Mercy Corps works in disasters, conflict situations, chronic poverty and instability to help communities recovering from war or social upheaval to transform their own situation. Their experience is that when communities set their own agendas, raise their own resources and implement programmes themselves, their successes result in the renewed hope, confidence and skills to continue development. Although they have no religious affiliation, their core values, based on a belief in the intrinsic value and dignity of human life, are very much in harmony with ours. Sukkat Shalom council member Lauren Fox works for Mercy Corps and recommended them as a beneficiary.

Cheques should be sent to Jonathan Broadie, 26 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh EH9 3HP.

Maurice



liberal judaism

Social Action Month

Sign up now for our Jewish Social Action Month 'Cheshvan' (13th October 2007 - 10th November 2007) and receive four action-packed emails that will make a difference. Dedicate only a minimum of 10 minutes day to Tikkun Olam and help the less fortunate people around the world. For more information, see the Liberal Judaism website.

Liberal Judaism Support for the Burmese People

Jewish tradition teaches that all humans were created B'Tzelem Elohim - in the image of God - and thus all have equal rights.


We urge that all available resources are used to assist Burmese democracy activists dedicated to nonviolent opposition to the regime, in their efforts to promote freedom, democracy, and human rights in Burma . You can sign an emergency petition to the United Nations by clicking on this link:

http://www.avaaz.org/en/stand_with_burma/tf.php.

News on the CMJR

Rabbi Danny Rich has begun a one-year course at the Centre for the Study of Muslim-Jewish Relations (CMJR) in Cambridge. The course is entitled *Studies in Islam, Judaism, and Muslim-Jewish Relations*, and leads to a University of Cambridge qualification. Rabbi Rich will join a variety of students one morning a week, with the first module covering the topic "Islam and Muslim Perceptions of the 'Other'".

Learn more about the Centre, and the course, at www.cmjr.org.uk.



liberal judaism

COMING SOON COMING SOON

Liberal Judaism's Biennial Weekend 4-6 April 2008

Every two years, Liberal Jews from throughout the movement come together to experience the unique atmosphere of the Liberal Judaism Biennial Weekend. Take this opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new friends by learning, talking, singing and praying together.

This year's theme "Creation and Creativity" will allow us to explore both arts and sciences as Liberal Jews, through an exciting range of workshops, practical sessions, panel debates and after-dinner presentations.

This year, as a new feature, our "musician in residence" Judith Silver will contribute an extra dimension to our weekend. We will also take the opportunity for an early celebration of Israel's 60th Anniversary. The programme, overall, will follow a similar style to the one that was such a success in 2006. Join one of our creative services, enjoy the community marketplace, and take advantage of the superb hotel facilities. We return in 2008 to the popular venue of 2004, the Tortworth Court Hotel, Wotton-under-Edge, near Bristol.

Watch for your booking form and take advantage of the "Early Bird" booking period by signing up by 31 January. Don't be left out!

For more information visit www.liberaljudaism.org/biennial

News and Happenings

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

The Society will open its 120th year with a lecture by Rabbi Professor Marc Saperstein, Principal, Leo Baeck College on **Sunday, 21st October** at 8 pm in the Marian Oppenheim Hall, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, 4 Salisbury Road.

Professor Saperstein's subject will be "*Literature in Jewish Sermons*".

Marc Saperstein is the author of five books and more than 50 articles on various aspects of Jewish history, literature and thought. Prior to becoming the Principal of Leo Baeck College in 2006 he held prestigious positions at three American Universities. He is widely recognised as perhaps the pre-eminent authority on the history of Jewish preaching. In his talk he will review some examples of medieval Jewish preachers using some rather dramatic narratives (from external literature) to exemplify their points, and examples of the use of poetry by modern British preachers from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Future Events

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*.



Culinary Etrog Delights

by: Leslie Bunder and Caroline Westbrook

During the festival of Sukkot, we're busy shaking our four species – the Lulav (Palm Branch) Etrog (Citron, Hadassa (Myrtle) and Aravah (Willow branch).

Once the festival is over you may not be able to make much use of the greenery but the etrog is, after all, a species of citrus fruit, and hence is edible and ideal to use in cooking.

With an etrog costing £10 or more, you certainly want to get your money's worth from it, so here's our recommendations of what you can do with this biblical fruit:

1. Etrog tea. A variation on lemon tea, simply make your cuppa as normal, but instead of putting in milk or lemon, cut up your etrog and add a slice instead.
2. Bake a lemon cake, using zest from the etrog instead of lemon. You could also use it in cheesecake (yes, we know it's not Shavuot, but since when did a Jew turn down cheesecake?).
3. Candy it. Make candied fruit in the way you would normally, using slices of etrog instead of lemon or orange.
4. Make etrog chicken. A variant on the popular Chinese dish lemon chicken, there's no reason why, with enough etrogs, you couldn't make your own Sukkot-themed version of this dish.
5. Drinks. As well as hot drinks, a dash of etrog in apple juice is very refreshing. It can also be added to other juice drinks – or if you want a celebration tippie on Simchat Torah, then vodka and etrog make a perfect combination. Or try it with a shot of tequila if you're really daring, and make an etrog slammer.

New Journalism Prize

The Jewish Book Council and *The Jewish Chronicle* are delighted to announce the establishment of the Chaim Bermant Prize for Journalism in memory of the author and journalist, who was a leading light of *The Jewish Chronicle* for forty years until his death in 1998. The first award will be presented at Jewish Book Week in February 2008.

THE PRIZES

The prizes will be open to all journalists, but the subject must have relevance to Jewish themes and/or Israel. There will be two categories:

Published journalist

The winner in this category will be chosen by the judges on the basis of outstanding achievement in the field of journalism, and will receive £3,000. Candidates may be nominated either by themselves or by others, whether private individuals or publications.

Aspiring journalist

This is open to anyone between 18 and 30 on 31st October 2007. Candidates should submit a previously unpublished non-fiction article of between 500 and 1,000 words. The winner will receive £1,000, and the opportunity to have an internship at *The Jewish Chronicle*. An edited version of the article will be published in *The Jewish Chronicle*.

TO ENTER

The closing date for entry for both prizes is 31st October 2007. Entries, nominations and articles should be sent to Nicole Gordon either by email to journalismprize@thejc.com or by post to 25 Furnival Street, London EC4A 1JT.

Welcome to our New Members!

David Nelson and Nancy Warren

Wayne Russell

and to

Kate Lebow, Naomi (aged 6) and Jacob (aged 2) arrived from Charlottesville Virginia, along with Naomi and Jacob's dad, Andrew Lawrence

Best wishes to Hannah Kenner in her new venture - a six month spell working at the Beshara School

Rabbi Tarfon taught: "It is not your responsibility to finish the work [of perfecting the world], but you are not free to desist from it either".

— *Pirkei Avot* (2:16)

ELJC Support Group
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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, 19th October. Please email all contributions to newsletter@eljc.org.