

Sukkat Shalom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Sukkat Shalom is a constituent of liberal judaism

September 2007

Chairman: Maurice Naftalin, chair@elj.org
Secretary: Catherine Lyons, secretary@elj.org
Newsletter: Kristi Long, newsletter@elj.org
Treasurer: Jonathan Broadie, treasurer@elj.org
Membership: Gillian Raab, membership@elj.org

Phone: 0131 777 8024

www.eljc.org

EVENTS & SERVICES

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

High Holy Days

*All services will be held at St. Mark's
Unitarian Church, 7 Castle Terrace*

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Wed 12/09/07 7pm St Mark's

Rosh Hashanah

Thur 13/09/07 11am St Mark's
The service will be followed by lunch and
Tashlich at the Raabs'.

Kol Nidrei

Fri 21/9/07 7pm St Mark's

Yom Kippur

Sat 22/9/07 St Mark's
Morning service 11am
Additional service 1pm
Break 2:30pm
Study session 3pm
Afternoon service 3:30pm
Children's service 4:30pm
Memorial service 5pm
Concluding service 5:30pm

We will break the fast together after the service at the Point Hotel, as we did last year. They will provide a fixed-price menu (two courses plus coffee) for £16.50. We need to know numbers as soon as possible; to book a place, please send an e-mail to info@elj.org (subject line: "Meal"). If you don't have access to e-mail, you can leave a message on the community phone at 0131 777 8024.

Sukkot

Sat 29/9/07 11am Columcille

Our Sukkot service will be held during the festival on Shabbat morning. This will be a family-friendly musical service led by Student Rabbi Anna Gerrard and Liberal Judaism Young Adult Worker, Avivit Katzil.

We plan to decorate the sukkah with greenery and fruit, so please bring some from your garden, allotment, or a shop. We will be decorating the sukkah from 9am and will start the service at 11am. After the service we will have some nibbles and fruit in the sukkah.

Please bring along some appropriate nibbles (hummus, cake, etc) to share. Help will also be required to dismantle the sukkah, although at the time of writing we have still to confirm details as Columcille may wish us to leave the sukkah up for a while.

Simchat Torah

Wed 3/10/07 6:30pm Quaker Mtg Hse

The service starts (and finishes!) earlier than normal evening services, so we hope as many children as possible will be able to attend. Any contributions of sweets for the children – and adults – to eat as we parade the scroll will be most welcome. Children are encouraged to make flags and bring them along.

Contents

Pg 2	<i>High Holy Days, further info Bar Mitzvah announcement</i>
Pg 3	<i>Chair's Word, Fringe news</i>
Pg 4	<i>Liberal Judaism</i>
Pg 5	<i>News and Happenings from the UK and Beyond</i>
Pg 6	<i>Letters, Announcements EHC Events</i>
Pg 7	<i>Recipe, Just for Kids</i>

The High Holy Days at Sukkat Shalom

Mitzvot

All members should have received a 'mitzvah invitation'. If you did not receive one, or if you would like to discuss any aspects of the mitzvot, please speak to Nick Silk.

Tickets and Security

For reasons of security, **ADMITTANCE TO ALL SERVICES WILL BE BY TICKET ONLY.**

All members will receive a ticket by post prior to the High Holy Day services. All visitors, including friends and relatives, who wish to attend services are requested to apply to the Secretary for a ticket. We suggest a £25 donation is made by those who are able to afford it **but it is our policy that no one will be prevented from attending services on the grounds of cost.**

We are putting together a security rota for the High Holy Days. The more people who volunteer, the less time each of us has to spend on the door!

If you would like to volunteer to help out with security, please contact Gordon Barclay on security@eljc.org.

Kol Nidrei Appeal

We will be having a Kol Nidrei appeal and all money collected will go to charity.

Memorial Service

If you have a relative whose name you would like to be remembered in the memorial service on Yom Kippur, please let Nick Silk have details (Hebrew name, English name and relationship; details provided last year are still on file).

It would be helpful if these details were given prior to Yom Kippur.

Further Details

Children

We do not plan to have a crèche during any of the services. However, we will have some 'worksheets' relating to the High Holy Days which children will be able to complete/colour in. For those parents wishing to take children out of the services and use the worksheets, there will be a separate room at St Mark's. However, there will be no supervision provided and as such parents who do wish to take children out of the service will have to provide their own supervision, since children must be supervised at all times. Obviously children are welcome to attend any of the services, but we would ask that parents ensure that the dignity of the services is maintained.

There is a service specifically for children at 4.30pm on Yom Kippur, to which children (and all adults) are invited.

Prayer Books

The Liberal Judaism prayer book *Machzor Ruach Chadash* will be used for all High Holy Day services. Some of you will already have copies of the machzor. If you would like to purchase a copy before the High Holy Days, please contact Nick. The cost of the book is £16.90.

The Sukkot and Simchat Torah services will use the 'usual' Liberal Judaism prayer book *Siddur Lev Chadash*.

Bar Mitzvah

All members of the community are cordially invited to Adam Barclay's bar mitzvah, at **11am on Saturday 13 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 leading the service.

A Word from the Chair

One of the more problematic parts of chairing the community is deciding what to do with the wide variety of correspondence which comes in. My default action is to take it to Council; that often works—and equally often doesn't, if the incoming item doesn't happen to strike a chord with any of the Council members present at a given meeting. So here is a column consisting of some of the correspondence I've recently received. If you are interested in anything I mention here, please get in touch.

There is a day **Limmud** in Newcastle on 28th October. Limmud is a cross-communal Jewish educational organisation, which organises annual conferences and day events in communities across the country (the third Glasgow day Limmud will be in February). The programmes of these events are extremely well-organised, varied and stimulating—I can't recommend the experience enough.

Reform Judaism (formerly RSGB) has a "**Northern Weekend**" every year, a conference which discusses contemporary issues from the viewpoint of progressive Judaism. (By "northern" they mean "north of England", but what can you do?) This year the theme is "Tikkun Olam: Care and Repair of the World", focusing on **Jewish responses to the crisis of the environment**. It will be on the weekend of November 23rd – 25th, and this year they will be accommodating children in a dedicated section of the venue (I think this means a creche).

The **Association of Jewish Refugees**, well known to many of our members, has written to remind us of their support and welfare work, and also to specifically ask whether we have contact with any refugees from Austria, as an emergency fund for short-term assistance has recently been established with support from the Austrian government.

Liberal Judaism's shidduch is a non-commercial organisation called **Mazal Tov** (slogan: "helping you find your partner in life"). Anyone Jewish can apply—you don't have to belong to a synagogue. Details at www.liberaljudaism.org/mazaltov.

I get regular news from the **World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ)**. Much of the work of the European Region of WUPJ is in fostering the growth of Progressive communities in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. There has been a remarkable upturn in recent years in the energy of Progressive Jewish life in these areas. If you would like to learn more about the role of WUPJ in encouraging this, go to www.wupj.org. I have back copies of their newsletters and reports as well.

As we approach the High Holy Days I wish all readers of the newsletter: Shanah Tovah and well over the fast.


Maurice

Out and About at the Fringe

Around 29 people from the ELJC enjoyed an excellent evening on 25th Aug. We began with a visit to watch two live monologues from Alan Bennett's Talking Heads series at the Freemasons Hall and followed that by commandeering the upstairs of Est Est Est for a good old chin-wag with Italian fare. For the size of our Community it was an impressive turnout and everyone certainly got into the Festival spirit of things.

It's quite encouraging that these social events are so well attended and certainly shows that not all things within our Community come in one religious flavour. Also, with the age ranging from 15 to the 90s we certainly try to be inclusive of all tastes. If you come across an event that you think could be enjoyed by a group and feel you would like to organise it, please let us know and we will publicise it via the newsletter. These social events are an excellent way to build new friendships and become involved in your Community.

Ricky Hogg



liberal judaism

Doroteinu Wants to Hear From You

The Doroteinu (Our Generations) project has been very successful in involving people of different generations in participating synagogues for a number of years. Like Liberal Judaism itself, Doroteinu is always evolving and it is now being reviewed by a small working party.

As part of a drive to ensure that Doroteinu's services meet the requirements of Liberal Judaism's communities, the working party has developed a questionnaire for you to fill in and return to us. We are be very grateful for your help in this.

An electronic copy of the questionnaire can be found at

www.liberaljudaism.org/doroteinu.htm

For more information or a paper copy of the questionnaire, please contact

Lina Fajerman (Chair of the Doroteinu Working Party)

Liberal Judaism

The Montagu Centre

21 Maple Street


London W1T 4BE

email: doroteinu@liberaljudaism.org

Social Action Reminder

Don't forget that Jewish Social Action Month begins on Cheshvan (beginning Shabbat 13 October) . By pledging a minimum of 10 minutes a week for four weeks, you can join Jews around the world in tikkun olam. Of course, longer actions that can also be taken!

To sign up, please send an email to socialaction@liberaljudaism.org or phone **0207 5801663** to add your name to the list.



liberal judaism

'tent' comes to scotland

friday 28 september at 7:30pm

calling all people in their 20s & 30s to
join us to

sing, share and eat friday night dinner
at a local venue

in edinburgh city centre

for details and booking call avivit on

07866 501 787 or

a.katzil@liberaljudaism.org

'tent' is...an informal community that provides an innovative approach to exploring and expressing Jewish identity. 'tent' is fully inclusive and welcomes all Jews and their friends to events that reflect the many ways in which Jewish identity can be expressed in a modern society.

Social Action Assistant Vacancy at Liberal Judaism

LJ Social Action urgently requires someone to help us deliver our Autumn programme of activities and prepare our 2008 work. If you are available for at least 12 hours per week, are interested in social justice, a sound and organized administrator and effective communicator, we'd love to welcome you to the team at the Montagu Centre in London. This would be for an initial short-term contract, with the possibility of an extension into 2008.

For details, please contact Elvira Museri, e.museri@liberaljudaism.org or check www.liberaljudaism.org/work.

News and Happenings

President of Liberal Judaism Appointed Advisor to Prime Minister

Britain's new Prime Minister has appointed Liberal Judaism's President, Baroness Julia Neuberger, as his advisor.

A Liberal Democrat peer, Baroness Neuberger will advise Gordon Brown on matters related to volunteering.

Baroness Neuberger said, 'I'm honoured that Prime Minister Gordon Brown has invited me to take up this advisory role for his new government. Volunteering is central to tzedakah, tikkun olam and, indeed, what it means to be a Jew. I hope that more and more people, both in the Jewish community and beyond, will continue to ask themselves what more they could be doing to help improve the world for all of its inhabitants'.

Are you interested in volunteering?

There are many organisations seeking volunteers with a wide variety of skills. The Volunteer Centre Network helps to match up potential volunteers with organisations.

You can get more information about the Volunteer Centre Network at www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk

Or contact your local Volunteer Centre. In Edinburgh, call 0131 255 0630 or stop into the Volunteer Centre office at 45 Queensferry Street Lane.

Names Sought for Roll of Honour

Martin Sugarman, Archivist of AJEX Jewish Military Museum, is drawing up a Roll of Honour of Jews who served in the Fire Service or as Firewatchers in World War II or since. If you or anyone you know has served, Martin asks that you contact him to give names, photos and details. Tel. 0208 986 4868 after 7pm ONLY; day time at work 0207 963 4123; or email

martin.sugarman@westking.ac.uk.

Student from Israel Looking for Work

Galya Umansky currently lives in Beer-Sheva, Israel, and works as a librarian at Ben-Gurion University library. In September she is coming to Edinburgh to study at the art school for a year and knows no one in Scotland.

Galya says, 'I have a lot of experience working in customer service and doing clerical jobs, have brilliant references and am not averse to working in a restaurant. I'll have to begin working as soon as possible in order to pay for my own expenses. If you know of someone looking for a reliable and responsible worker, I would be grateful if you would let me know. I speak English, Russian and Hebrew fluently'.

If anyone has any contacts or suggestions, please contact Jackie Taylor at 0773 429

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

I am responding to Mr Waang's intemperate letter in which he calls Israel's democratically elected politicians 'fascists'.

I have recently vacated office as Honorary Treasurer of UCU.

My recent e-mail to the Union's General Secretary makes my own views crystal clear:

'It is sad that certain British academics seek to emulate the German boycott of the 1930s. Perhaps another Krystal Nacht would please them even more. ALL official boycotts are immoral'.

I would only add that, for Liberal Judaism, indeed for any Jew, not to vehemently oppose any boycott of Israel or its universities would be irremissible dereliction.

Yours

G Allen

Newsletters of the Future

What would you like to see in the newsletter? Do you have ideas or suggestions? Particular topics of interest Are you interested in writing articles or contributing occasional or regular material for the newsletter? Would you like to try your hand at writing 'Just for Kids', or sharing recipes?

Over the next few months I'll be exploring ideas for expanding and developing the newsletter. Any suggestions, please contact Kristi Long at newsletter@eljc.org

Mazel Tov!

To Joel and Samantha Marks on the birth of their son, Zachary Ryan Marks, on 2nd August. Both Samantha and Zachary are doing well, and hope to be at shul so that Zachary can meet the congregation soon.

Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation

Community Centre

Upcoming Events

The community centre has an exciting programme of events planned over the next few months, so be sure to put the dates in your diary now. Look out for further information!!

Sunday 28th October 2007

The return of the ever-popular Quiz Evening!!

Saturday 8th December 2007

Chanukah Dinner

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

ELJC Support Group
07904 813162



Mango & Avocado Salad with Sticky Balsamic Vinegar

Ingredients

Generous handful of pine nuts
Olive oil for toasting
2 small Fairtrade avocados (not too ripe)
3 small or medium, ripe Fairtrade mangoes



Serves 4

Method

Mix the pine nuts with a little olive oil and place in the oven on a baking tray to toast for five minutes, or until nicely golden.

Meanwhile, peel the avocados and mangoes and slice them lengthways into generous pieces. Mix and arrange them on a plate – but avoid damaging the delicate fruit.

Add a generous squeeze of lime juice, a drizzle of the stickiest balsamic vinegar you can get your hands on, and scatter the toasted pine nuts on the top.



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, 26th September. Please email add contributions to newsletter@eljc.org.



Sukkot

After Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, it might seem like the holidays just don't stop coming. Pretty soon after, there's another one -- Sukkot.

Sukkot is an agricultural festival, and in Biblical times the Israelites would make a pilgrimage to the Temple to bring the first fruits of their harvests.

Sukkot also reminds us of the time the Israelites wandered in the desert.

To remind ourselves of God's gifts, both the protection God provides for the Israelites in the desert and the good things of the harvest, we build and decorate a sukkah. Sukkah actually means 'booth', and it's a little hut built from wood, greens and other materials.

You can decorate the sukkah with pictures, ornaments, lights, or all kinds of things. How would you decorate a sukkah?

During the holiday you can camp out in a sukkah and eat meals or snacks there. People also invite Biblical guests, like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah to join them in the sukkah while they eat or just hang out. This is called ushpizin. You can also think of other famous or important people you'd invite to the sukkah. Who inspires you? Who would you like to have a snack with in your sukkah?

Did you know that Sukkot is also sometimes called *z'man simhateinu*, which means 'time of our joy'? With the fun of building and decorating your sukkah and inviting all the famous people from the Bible or history to hang out with you there, it's easy to see why!