

European Union for Progressive Judaism

August 2012 Newsletter

© European Union for Progressive Judaism

Leo Baeck College ordains rabbis at West London Synagogue

Three exceptional rabbis from three different countries were ordained Leo Baeck College at West London Synagogue on Sunday 1st July.

Rabbi Baroness Julia Neuberger, the Senior Rabbi at West London, began the service with Rabbi Dr



Rabbis Lea Mühlstein, Andrea Zanardo and Peter Radvanszki

Deborah Kahn-Harris, Principal of Leo Baeck College, giving an inspirational and heart-warming address. The three rabbis were Lea Mühlstein from Germany, Andrea Zanardo from Italy and Peter Radvanszki from Hungary. Lea has now taken up a post at West London Synagogue.

Remarking on the achievements of the three ordinands, Rabbi Dr Kahn-Harris, using the garden as a metaphor, said that the new rabbis were ready "to inspire others with love of Torah, to tend their congregations, to sink their roots deep into the Jewish community and in so doing sustain a healthy Jewish ecosystem."

The music for the occasion was provided by Rabbi Mark Solomon and the service was followed by a Kiddush for 250 guests.

For the first time highlights of the Leo Baeck College ordination ceremony were streamed live on the internet.

Progressive and Pro Israel Advocating for Israel, Combating Anti-Israel Bias in Europe

The EUPJ seminar originally planned for November has now been rescheduled for 18 – 20 January 2013 in Paris.

The seminar is intended to bring together leaders from Progressive Jewish communities throughout Europe to better understand how to defend against political, religious, social and media pressures aimed at Israel and its supporters.

Presentations will be made by international experts from Israel, United Kingdom, United States, Switzerland and France. Workshops and interactive discussions will be held between the speakers and the delegates about how the changing situation within the Middle East is affecting views towards Israel within Europe. Local issues affecting the delegates within their own countries will be addressed, especially anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism, and Israel.

Shabbat Services will be held at each of the major Progressive communities in Paris and there will be an opportunity to meet at places of Jewish interest on Shabbat afternoon.

We are anticipating a seminar cost of about €160 to cover all sessions and meals, excluding Saturday night. Airfare, local transport and accommodation will be extra.

Community leaders: hold the dates free for the weekend of 18-20 January 2013. More details and application forms will be provided in the next newsletter.

Michael Reik, EUPJ Vice Chairman

Joel Oseran, WUPJ Vice President

Fred Bouzy, MJLF Past President



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Kehilat Gesher
קהילת גשר

The French-Anglophone Jewish Congregation in Paris and Saint Germain en Laye

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From the Chairman

This time of year is for many people a time of holiday and travel. I write this within four hours of returning to London from Buenos Aires where I attended the annual conference of the WUPJ-Latin America. Before the actual conference there was a three-day tour of Jewish colonies founded in the late 19th century in a wide area of the pampas; the settlers were fleeing the pogroms in eastern Europe. Most of these settlements no longer contain significant Jewish inhabitants, but there are still some small communities sprinkled in the region. In most places there isn't a synagogue, and there are no resident rabbis, but people there are committed to keeping non-Orthodox Judaism alive. It was a very moving experience.

As we near the end of summer, and some of us in northern Europe will ask 'What summer?', we also approach the Days of Awe. My wish to everyone is for 5773 to be year of peace, health, and thriving Progressive Judaism.

Miriam Kramer, Chairman



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Go to www.eupj.org.

Read our **2011 Annual Report** and the EUPJ Newsletter archives [here](#).

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Torah from around the World



Every week, WUPJ emails *Torah from around the World*, a commentary on the Torah portion (Parashah) of the week by a rabbi from one of its congregations.

Click [here](#) to subscribe.

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האיגוד
העולמי
ליהדות
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WUPJ 36th International Convention Connections 2013 - Being the Difference 1 – 5 May 2013 in Jerusalem

Lamed vav tsadikim – According to Jewish tradition, the world rests on 36 righteous individuals but none of them are aware that they are among the 36.

The 36th International Convention of the World Union for Progressive Jews offers the opportunity to be part of that difference that can change the world.

Connections 2013 - "Being the Difference" invites you to learn, explore, question, get involved and be inspired together with our WUPJ family from across the globe.

Save the dates!

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Liberal Jewish centre inaugurated in Toulouse



New home of the Toulouse Liberal Community

I was delighted to attend the inauguration, on 24 June, of the new premises of the Toulouse Liberal Community, AJLT-CJLT, both personally and representing the Lyon Liberal Synagogue.

First we toured the new home of the Toulouse community, the Roger Zimermann Centre. Patrick Laskar, the president, then briefly traced the steps that led to the fruition of the project and outlined the development of the life of this community. Next spoke Rabbi Pauline Bebe, who has served the AJLT-CJLT since its beginnings twenty years ago.

She presented the Liberal Jewish Movement, a movement in Judaism alongside others. She highlighted the notion of revelation through time, allowing for evolving interpretations as opposed to the notion of a sole revelation at Mount Sinai. She recalled that Talmudic and other interpretations of the basic tenets of Judaism have always been influenced by the local context in which Jews have lived and underlined the fact that Liberal and Progressive Judaism invite us to question what we do and to modify our practices when appropriate. Rabbi Bebe and Rabbi Tom Cohen then answered questions from the audience.

Next Dr Georges Benayoun, President of the Friends of the AJLT Association, gave a detailed presentation of the support that culminated in the new centre. Then several local VIPs were introduced: Madame Nicole Belloubet, representing the Midi-Pyrenees Region, MPs Madame Martine Martinel and Monsieur Jean Luc Moudenc and Madame Nicole Yardeni, President of the CRIF Midi-Pyrenees. I noted the great warmth, simplicity and sincerity of the speeches.

The tragic events in Toulouse last March could not be forgotten, but in the words of all who spoke, they became a further reason to go ahead with determination. The overall impression was one of joy at this step forward for the AJLT-CJLT.

Toulouse will host the next meeting of the French-speaking European Liberal Jewish communities in 2013 and all were invited to attend. The afternoon was rounded off by music with drinks and a sweet buffet, a fitting ending for this happy occasion.

Celia Naval

A sermon from Spain



Rabbi Pete Tobias

I recently returned from an extraordinary trip to Barcelona where I had been asked by the European Union for Progressive Judaism to be part of a *Beit Din* to meet with a number of Spanish people who had a sense of connection with Judaism – perhaps a grandmother who lit candles on a Friday night, or the presence of a menorah in the cupboard full of old family heirlooms.

I have heard stories from many sincere, devout individuals moved and affected by this mysterious connection they have felt, often since their childhood. Now, living in an age of relative religious tolerance, it is possible for these people to explore what they believe to be their Jewish past, and to reconnect with a heritage that had, perhaps, been transmitted in secret for generations, across five centuries....

With these stories I have been given numerous glimpses into the memories of the people whom it has been my privilege to meet in these past few days. A grandmother's insistence that it was forbidden to prepare a milk marinade for a piece of beef... A father's story to his young son of how his grandmother would light candles on a Friday evening... A strange nine-branched candelabra at the back of a shelf in a cupboard, hidden from view...

But the one line that stands out the most for me came from one young man who has now chosen to join himself and his family to the emerging Jewish community in a small town in northern Spain. When asked whether his parents had given any indication that there might be a family connection to the Conversos of five hundred years earlier, he shook his head. 'Not really,' he replied. 'But my mother told me of a recurring dream that she experienced. She dreamed that she was barefoot in a synagogue...'

This sermon... is dedicated ... to all those who have preserved their faith and their hope and who seek to keep alive our Jewish heritage. Amen.

Rabbi Pete Tobias



Old Spanish synagogue

Imams and Rabbis visit Wandsworth prison together

The first ever joint prison visit by a group of imams and rabbis took place Sunday 5th August. The visit was organised by the [Council of Imams and Rabbis](#), an initiative of the Joseph Interfaith Foundation, as part of its commitment to take positive interfaith relations to every stratum of society. Four rabbis and six imams took part.

Mehri Niknam, executive director of the Joseph Interfaith Foundation and convener and co-chair of the Council of Imams and Rabbis, said: "The Council of Imams and Rabbis is expanding its work and this was the first time that such an initiative has taken place. Because of the very positive response the visit received, the Council is now planning visits to other prisons."

Rabbi Danny Rich, Liberal Judaism's chief executive, who was part of the group, said: "This visit of imams and rabbis was an opportunity to demonstrate good relations in practice. It surprised some inmates who need to be challenged in their thinking and attitudes."

Our Olympic chaplains

Rabbis Maurice Michaels and Deborah Kahn-Harris were accredited chaplains to the recently concluded London Olympic Games.



Rabbis Deborah Kahn-Harris and Maurice Michaels

Click for news of our UK movements



Weekly D'var Torah from Leo Baeck

Click [here](#) to read and to subscribe to the weekly D'var Torah from Leo Baeck College rabbinical students and faculty.



Liberal Judaism's Chief Executive Leads Munich Memorial Service

Liberal Judaism's chief executive Rabbi Danny Rich led a special memorial Shabbat service in Stevenage on 31 July in honour of the 11 Israeli athletes murdered in Munich in 1972. The service, at North Hertfordshire Liberal Jewish Community, included *Kaddish*, *Yizkor* and the *Hatikvah*, as well as a special prayer for the occasion - written by Woodford Liberal Synagogue's Rabbi Richard Jacobi - during which the athletes' Hebrew names were read, followed by a minute's silence.



Rabbi Danny Rich

Rabbi Rich and the Stevenage community were joined by 21 other Liberal Jewish congregations which also held special prayers for the murdered athletes that Shabbat, praying - in the words of Rabbi Jacobi - that the victims' families' "forty years in the wilderness of loss may be helped in some way by the knowledge that so many congregations around the world are thinking of them on this Shabbat."

Liberal Judaism calls for greater effort in interfaith relations

In the wake of the recent upset in Jewish/Anglican relations when the Anglican Synod endorsed the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), Liberal Judaism's Board of National Officers is calling on the Board of Deputies of British Jews to redouble its efforts in the field of interfaith relations.

Liberal Judaism's chairman, Lucian J Hudson, and chief executive, Rabbi Danny Rich, have made a joint statement in which they lament that the rift came at a time of immense progress in interfaith matters.

Liberal Judaism has always placed great emphasis on the importance of interfaith work, and employs an interfaith consultant, Rabbi Mark Solomon, to develop, maintain and build on the movement's relationships with other faiths.

Email him at m.solomon@liberaljudaism.org.



Rabbi Mark Solomon

Rabbi Homolka gives sermon in Germany's National Cathedral

Rabbi Professor Dr Walter Homolka, Rector of the Abraham Geiger College, was invited to deliver the sermon on Israel in Germany's National Cathedral (the former Imperial Chapel) in Berlin on Sunday, 12 August.

Rabbi Homolka sketched the varied relationship between Judaism and Christianity over the centuries and the lack of tolerance exerted by Christianity even after the enlightenment. In the 19th century, the concept of the "Christian State" proved prohibitive in granting Judaism a somewhat equal position in the theological dialogue. Many Christian theologians held the position at the time that Jewish theology was not worth giving equal academic value and status. This is the reason why both the Breslau Jewish Theological Seminary and the Berlin Lehranstalt für die Wissenschaft des Judentums did not gain access to German universities as theological departments.

Only now has it been possible with the help of many Christian dignitaries to come to the point where a Jewish theological department at Potsdam University is about to be established. This is a late but welcome fulfilment of the request of Rabbi Abraham Geiger who held the opinion that Jewish emancipation will only be complete after rabbinical training will have

gained equal status to Christian ministerial training within the German university system.

Rabbi Homolka pointed out Schalom Ben-Chorin's reasoning that Judaism needs to learn to cherish God's revelation in the Christian context as much as Christianity needed to respect God's everlasting covenant with the Jewish people. On this basis Jews and Christians will be able to form an alliance for the betterment of the world (tikkun olam).

This occasion was the first time ever that a rabbi was given the privilege to preach from the pulpit of the "Berliner Dom".



Rabbi Professor Dr Walter Homolka
preaching in the 'Berliner Dom'

Chagigah 2012: the happiest Reform conference ever



Chagigah 2012

Chagigah 2012 saw over 270 people gather in Northamptonshire over the weekend, celebrating Reform Judaism together. In the words of Rabbi Lionel Blue, it was "the happiest Reform conference ever," and a strong sense of warmth, pride, optimism and inclusion permeated the event - which was also the biggest MRJ conference in a decade.

Representatives from three quarters of MRJ communities attended Chagigah, which featured wonderful, music-filled services and varied sessions with inspiring speakers and educators offering learning opportunities for all ages and levels. There were innovative and practical ideas and resources to take back to communities, with a strong focus on education and learning.

Shown at the closing of Chagigah 2012, here is a short film featuring the work of the Movement for Reform Judaism and our 42 communities across the country.

[View a gallery from Chagigah](#); you can also order prints and downloads of photographs.

[Read more here.](#)

German Parliament supports religious circumcision for boys

The World Union for Progressive Judaism, representing 1.8 million Jews in 45 countries around the world greets with joy and gratitude the resolution of the German Parliament supporting the resolution of the German Parliament supporting religious circumcision of boys. Such a law will bring great comfort to Jews around the world, and sends the important message that Jews will remain comfortable living in Germany and continuing to practice our ancient rite of initiation into our sacred Covenant with God.

The World Union wishes to express its particular gratitude to Chancellor Angela Merkel and those lawmakers who supported her for the sensitivity that led to her quick intervention on this matter.

Rabbi Stephen Lewis Fuchs, President, WUPJ

Michael Grabiner, Chair, WUPJ

Leslie Bergman, President, EUPJ

Dr Philip Bliss, Chair of Advocacy Committee, WUPJ

**Sonja Guentner, President,
Union of Progressive Judaism (UPJ), Germany**

15th anniversary for the Union for Progressive Judaism (UpJ Germany)

The annual conference of the [Union for Progressive Judaism](#) (UpJ Germany) was an exciting celebration of past achievements, current programs, and a glimpse to the future of Progressive Judaism in Germany. This tri-lingual conference (in German, Russian, and English) was held from July 19–22 in Berlin/Spandau, with close to 230 people gathering to celebrate the 18th annual conference marking 15 years of Progressive Judaism in Germany. Over 30 workshops were offered to conference participants, as well as inspiring worship services, truly “something for everyone”.

One of the highlights was the opening session on Thursday evening when Dr Jan Muehlstein, a long-time president of UpJ Germany, and Dr Leo Hepner, a supporter over many years of the Progressive Jewish Communities in Germany and a former Chair of the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ), received the Israel Jacobson Award for their influential work on Progressive Judaism in Germany.



L-r: Dr Verena Muehlstein, Dr Jan Muehlstein, Dr Leo Hepner, Regina Neupert-Hepner

The World Union was represented by Rabbi Joel Oseran, VP-International Development, who led several workshops and also spoke at the opening event. Miriam Kramer, Chairman of the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) and State Secretary of Saxony, Mr Erhard Weiman also spoke at the opening.

Rabbi Oseran, brought greetings to the gathering on behalf of the World Union's leadership, and praised the two honourees for their life-long service to Progressive Judaism in Germany, Europe, and throughout the world. "It has been my honour to work with both Jan and Leo for over 15 years", commented Rabbi Oseran, "two more dedicated, committed and modest role models for future generations to emulate could not be found. The EUPJ and the WUPJ have been truly blessed by their presence in our movement."

According to Irith Michelsohn, UpJ's executive director, "the conference was a huge success, not only in the interesting and inspiring workshops, but also during the breaks the participants had a lot of possibilities to discuss issues." The worship services were well-attended, and – as is customary in Progressive Jewish conferences – lively and spirited. The next annual conference is July 11–14, 2013, also in Spandau/Berlin.

Jewish Community of Hamelin

Fifty days after Passover we celebrated Shavuot. As always it was a joy having our Rabbi, Irit Shillor, who is always eager to join us in the happiness of the holidays and share with us the spirit of the Jewish festivals. On Shavuot we celebrate the giving of the Ten Commandments, which over generations have become the cornerstone of every modern society.

Rabbi Shillor presented each commandment during our breakfast after morning services, helping us to find a personal connection to each one. This offered new dimensions and insights for every participant. We also shared traditional holiday dairy foods, such as cheesecake, adding a delicious touch to food for thought.

Our rabbi also took part in the international women's meeting, which our community hosted. The topic was "Moses." Jewish, Christian and Muslim women exchanged their views on the historic figure Moses, and it was fascinating to hear the different perceptions in each religion.

Our community offers every member a place to gather spiritual strength through our Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat morning services. Coming into the quiet, peaceful and beautiful sanctuary adds to the joy of Shabbat. Meeting other members, singing and praying together, and laughing and eating gives us gives us strength for the coming week. Our community blossoms with joy when Rabbi Shillor, rabbinical student Adrian Schell or community members lead them in prayer. Therefore, we invite everyone to join us for regular Shabbat prayer!

The English textile artist Jane Hewison visited us in June.

Jane's work graces our synagogue, and her embroidered blue velvet pieces are a delight. On this visit she added a new element to our Torah reading table. Thank you very much, Jane, for your lovely work!

Faina Pelts organized a very interesting presentation on "Jews in Bad Pyrmont." Together with our sister community, we learned important historical facts from city archivist Mr Willicke. Presentations such as this one remind us that we are descendants of Jews who once lived in this very region and were Judaism's witnesses long before us.

[Read our full newsletter here.](#)

Rachel Dohme



Rabbi Irit Schillor

Twinning & other news

Members of our Community Connections twinned communities in the UK, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus have had a busy year. Each of our 17 twinings operates in its own way as there are so many possible aspects to these relationships. What everyone seems to value is the opportunity it gives them to learn about a Progressive Jewish community in a distant country – to see how Shabbat and festivals are celebrated there, to find out how the synagogue is run, what activities or study opportunities are available, and of course to get to know the people there.

Some of our UK synagogues are able to help by collecting and sending items of Judaica or educational materials to their twin communities. Others have fundraised for specific projects such as enabling seminars for lay leaders or youth members to take place, sponsoring Bar/Bat Mitzvah Kiddushim, or even contributing to the renovation of dilapidated rooms.

Group visits are very popular and these provide a wonderful opportunity to meet and get to know twinned community members. In April, a large group from Maidenhead visited Lviv, Ukraine; in June a group from Odessa came on a memorable return visit to their twin community in Edgware.



"Clowning around" at Beit Simcha in Minsk (Photo: Trenton Talbot)

And last month, Rabbi Sasha Lyskovoy and Rabbi Leonid Bimbat, two Moscow-based rabbis who both trained originally at the Leo Baeck College in London were hosted at the Middlesex New Synagogue (MNS). MNS has links with the Moscow communities and is now looking to develop these further, so they were delighted to meet the two guest rabbis over Shabbat.

There are many small communities in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine who would love to have a twinning link with a European synagogue community. Please can visit our website and read our newsletters at <http://www.eupj.org/exodus-2000> or contact us at exodus2000@eupj.org for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Ann Etkind

Community Connections National Co-ordinator

Sim Shalom Budapest member Peter Radvanszki ordained as rabbi

Following up on last month's report on the simcha's of two adult Bar Mitzvah's in Sim Shalom, the news this month is of an even bigger simcha, the ordination of a Sim Shalom member as a Progressive rabbi, plus the prospect that this will happen again in just a few years.

On July 1, Peter Radvanszki, having completed the rabbinical course of study at Leo Baeck College, was ordained as a rabbi in the West London Synagogue.

Peter's parents and grandparents were important founding members of Sim Shalom Con-



Rabbi Peter Radvanszki

gregation. His grandparents were Holocaust survivors. The meeting in 1992, where it was decided to apply for government recognition of the community as an association, was held in his grandparent's flat. So Peter grew up in the middle of the early development of Sim Shalom.

After graduating from the Gymnasium of the Lauder Jewish Day School, Peter earned a university degree as an electrical engineer and then turned slowly toward Jewish studies. He first studied in Israel, learning Hebrew on a kibbutz and then turning to more serious Jewish studies at Pardes in Jerusalem. Following that he was accepted at the Leo Baeck College in London, which has trained many of the rabbis of the Progressive movement in Europe, including our own Rabbi Kelemen. As a practical part of his studies, he often led services at various synagogues in London. And then during the past year, Peter served as the rabbi of the Progressive congregation in Toulouse, France, gaining further experience. Soon there will be more information about Peter on Sim Shalom's website, www.sim-shalom.org.

And, as if producing one new rabbi were not enough for such a small congregation, Armin Langer announced at his Bar Mitzvah last month that he intends to enroll next year in the rabbinical program at the Abraham Geiger College in Berlin, which also trains Reform rabbis. So in another 5-6 years we can expect that another freshly minted rabbi will appear on the European scene to help rebuild the greater Jewish community that was so nearly destroyed in the Shoah.

Sim Shalom is very proud to be contributing in this way to the revival of Jewish religion, culture and life in Europe.

Jess Weil

Hundreds experience new Jewish culture in Poland through the Beit Krakow Progressive Community

The 22nd Festival of Jewish Culture – the largest European Jewish culture festival – took place in July in Krakow, Poland. This was not the first time that Beit Krakow participated in this festival, but it was the first time that progressive services were officially included and advertised in the Festival program along with Orthodox services. The two Shabbatot of the Festival drew over 800 people who celebrated Progressive Shabbatot in Krakow and helped inaugurate Beit Krakow's new project – the Musical Shabbat, which was joined by visiting NFTY groups. The Musical Shabbat project aims to create spiritual musical reflections deeply rooted in chazanut, texts and contemporary music.



Musical Shabbat with Rabbi Tanya Segal and the Mojse Band in Galicia Museum. [Click for YouTube clip](#)

During the Festival, Beit Krakow (with the support of the L A Pincus Fund for Jewish Education in the Diaspora) presented Midrash Lab, which comprised five modern art midrashim (interpretations) conceived by young Jewish Beit Krakow artists via drama, photography, film, music and graphic arts and corresponding to one of the Five Megilot. The installation was shown in the unique space of the Galicia Jewish Museum, with each midrash set in its own niche and also forming a dialogue with the other installations.

The audience experienced the Eikha through music, the Book of Ruth through a film, paintings entitled "The Words of Kohelet in Images", photographs relating to the Song of Songs, and an actress improvising on themes from Esther.

The Midrash Theatre segment included two performances: "To dance with Chopin in Galicia" by Israeli dance legend Rina Schenfeld, in which the famous 73-year-old Israeli dancer and choreographer of Polish roots brought unmatched energy and artistic skill that transformed the space of the Galicia Museum into a world of dance and poetry – and "The Mysteries of My Grandma" – a

collaboration of Beit Krakow artists based on true stories of Beit Krakow members and friends dealing with the complexity of the Polish-Jewish reality and Jewish identity in today's Poland.

In addition to Rina Schenfeld's performance, the audience also had the opportunity to experience this unique artist during two lectures and a dance work-

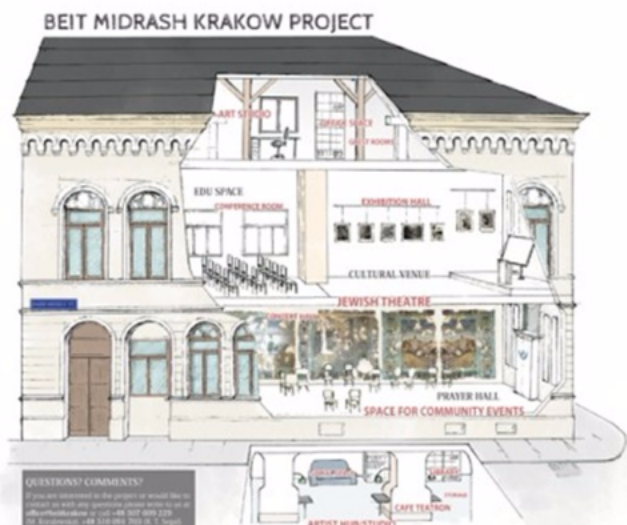


Rina Schenfeld with captivated audience in Krakow. Photo by Elzbieta Schonfeld

shop. Beit Krakow's initiative to invite Rina to Poland in celebration of her 70 years on the stage was possible thanks to the support of the Israeli Embassy.

Beit Krakow's participation in the Festival was very successful in gaining the recognition for the community by the organizers and partners and in creating interest from the Polish and international audience in the rich program we put together.

Encouraged by these successes Beit Krakow is increasing efforts to secure the future and long-term sustainability of the Jewish Progressive community in Krakow and will focus its energies on raising funds to renovate the Beit Midrash and turn it into a home for community life, living Judaism, modern Jewish art, and creative study. To join us in our efforts please contact us at office@beitkrakow.pl and become part of the Jewish renewal in Krakow! Any support makes a great difference here.



Future appearance of the Beit Midrash in Krakow

Summer at Beit Warszawa

In July we had the pleasure to present Gosia Margalit Kordowicz with a certificate confirming her graduation from the second year of the lay cantor's program. From now on, Gosia will be able to lead not only Shabbat services, but also other High Holy Days celebrations. We are very proud of her and wish her all the best in her studies in the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Mimi Sheffer, Cantor, Shatz.pl



Rabbi David Seidenberg at the
March of Remembrance

We also had the wonderful opportunity to host Rabbi David Seidenberg in Beit Warszawa. Rabbi Seidenberg held Step by Step and Shatz.pl classes, as well as Shabbat and Tisha b'Av services in which many had the chance to participate. On July 22, the anniversary of the beginning of the deportations from the Warsaw Ghetto, he took part in the March of Remembrance organized by the Jewish Historical Institute.



Brussels IJC cultural event

A talk will be given by Martin Mauthner on his book, "German Jewish Writers in French Exile" - a really fascinating topic.

Saturday, 8 September, IJC House, 7.30 pm.



Rabbi Gil Nativ and Zivah Nativ arrive in Poland

The Boards of Beit Warszawa and Beit Polska are proud to announce that on August 13 we welcomed Rabbi Gil Nativ and his wife Zivah. We look forward to their work with us over the next three years and perhaps, beyond. With Rabbi Nativ's arrival we open a new chapter in the history of Progressive Judaism in Poland.



Rabbi Gil Nativ

We express our thanks to Rabbi Burt Schuman for his work. Rabbi Schuman continues to follow our activities from his new home in Pittsburgh, PA.

Rabbi Nativ is an accomplished teacher and congregational leader. Among his specialties is his teaching of Talmud. For many years he taught rabbinical students at the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati and Jerusalem and the Masorti-Conservative movement's University of Judaism (now, American Jewish University) in Los Angeles. He has led Israeli and American congregations in both movements. Mrs Nativ is an accomplished teacher specializing in Hebrew language and in teaching children with learning challenges.

The Nativs are avid folk dancers and active in the work of Limmud. During the month of July the Nativs were preparing to move to Warsaw. Rabbi Nativ also attended the prestigious Hartman Seminar in Jerusalem.

We welcome them and wish them every success in their work.

Piotr Stasiak

Chair, Fundacja Beit Warszawa
Jewish Progressive Community of Poland

Jewish news on line

The first international Jewish news channel "Jewish News One" - JN1 - has been broadcasting 24/7 on line for over a year.

Channel JN1 sends a wide range of current affairs in four languages: English, French, Russian and Ukrainian, and soon in Spanish and Arabic. JN1 is an independent and non-governmental channel, which does not belong to any political force. Their slogan is: "Informing opinion, expanding horizons."

Watch JN1 [here](#) and get it for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#).



Rabbi Lerner's message to the community of Milan

Just Between Us



As a congregation, Beth Shalom must have many questions to ask:

This unknown Rabbi Lerner from Canada – who is he? How does he think?

Might someone from Great White North change our lovely Italian climate?

Can a Montreal Canadien ever become a fan of il calcio?

Indeed, I would like to introduce myself, but even more than that, I'd like to know about you as individual Jews, as Jewish families, and as a congregation in Milan. To accomplish the introduction, let me say that after serving two congregations over 40 years – Mt. Zion Temple, St. Paul, MN, and Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom, Montreal, QC, I've retired as of July 1st, and just as I looked forward to living Reform Judaism in the unusual milieu of French Canada, so I look with anticipation and with equal fervor to helping develop Progressive Judaism in Italy, as does my wife, Loren, a professor of art history who finds Italy an artistic Eden.

For insight into my world view, if you'd care to read the Israel blog from my last winter's sabbatical, you'll find it at <http://www.maradatrafromjerusalem.blogspot.ca/2012/01/my-second-freedom-ride.html>

As to climate change, my chief desire is to make your high holidays and winter in Milan even warmer in their Jewish spirit, and perhaps that can best be accomplished by your sharing your own hopes for the congregation's advancement in Judaism. Ideas for study together? Thoughts about what our services need in the coming year? Involvement that you personally would like to have? I would welcome your communication on these or any other areas that your rabbi can uplift.

Be in touch with me at: rabbilerner@hotmail.com, or by phone at +1 514 937 3708. In the meantime, I'm advancing my knowledge of Italian the better to be of service to the synagogue. I do look forward to hearing from you, and to meeting you at High Holiday time.

Oh, as for the Canadiens – if you had a hockey team with a recent record like Montreal's, you could become a fan of A.C. Milan or Milan Inter very quickly.

Vi auguro una buona stagione estiva.

B'shalom,

Rabbi Leigh Lerner

Liberal Jews in Switzerland

The Platform of Liberal Jews in Switzerland (www.liberaljews.ch) is the national organization representing our constituent Progressive Jewish communities in Switzerland and is active in all matters affecting the public position on Liberal Judaism in Switzerland.

In its July newsletter it summarised recent activities together with other Jewish organizations

- ◇ meeting with the Swiss supermarket chain Migros re contentious labelling issues of West Bank / Palestinian products
- ◇ meeting with government representatives on issues of religious freedom, laws on asylum, security
- ◇ Inter-religious dialogue with Swiss women's organizations
- ◇ communication with the President of the International Olympic Committee (based in Switzerland) on recognizing the terrorist attack on Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic Games in 1972, by a minute's silence at the London Games

Leslie Bergman, President, EUPJ



יד ושם Yad Vashem

Yad Vashem seeks Dutch items for identifying and archiving

The Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem, is looking for reels of film taken in Holland between 1933 and 1945, Jewish or not.

The Yad Vashem films archive seeks materials about Jewish communities, shops, people known as Jewish, family films, ceremonies, parties, holidays – or anything else. From these reels we hope to find Jewish persons' names and identify them.

We really need your help to spread this request for this great purpose. Please send all replies to sima.moass@yadvashem.org.il

Sima Moass, Yad Vashem Films Archive