



# European Union for Progressive Judaism

August 2013 Newsletter

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## Faith in Action 24-27 April 2014, Dresden EUPJ Biennial Conference and General Assembly

We hope that by now everyone has marked their diaries that they will be in Dresden from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Your committee has been hard at work since the date and venue were announced in Jerusalem and we are pleased to report that we have made excellent progress in securing our conference and hotel accommodation, a wonderful location to our gala opening ceremony, a truly impressive line up of speakers and a selection of workshop topics that will offer something for everyone. (continued on page 3)



New Synagogue, Dresden

## Rosh Hashanah 5774



Each day during the month of Elul, which leads up to Rosh Hashanah, the shofar is sounded at the end of the morning service. Our sages say it reminds us that these weeks are a time for thoughtful reflection.

Have I accomplished all that I wanted to in the past year? Have I shown enough attention to the people I care about? Can I do more to help others? Can I live generously?

May the sound of the Shofar call each of us to our true selves. With best wishes for a sweet, joyous and meaningful New Year.

*Shanah Tovah Umetuka!*

Rabbi Tom Cohen  
Kehilat Gesher, Paris

## 2013 Rabbinic ordination at Leo Baeck College

Leo Baeck College held its annual rabbinic ordination ceremony on Sunday 7 July. The service, at which three new rabbis from the College were ordained, was being held for the first time at Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue and witnessed by a packed congregation. Rabbi Aaron Goldstein of NLPS welcomed the congregation and expressed his delight at being able to host the event.

The three new rabbis, who all now have jobs in the UK, are Rabbi Esther Hugenoltz, born in the Netherlands and taking up a post as Assistant Rabbi at the Sinai Synagogue in Leeds; Rabbi Leah Jordan, born in the United States and taking up a post as Student and Young Adult Chaplain at Liberal Judaism; and Rabbi Benji Stanley, joining the rabbinic team at the West London Synagogue.

Rabbi Hugenoltz is expecting her first child next month. We wish *mazel tov* to Rabbis Jordan and Stanley who will be married in October in the US.

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L-R: Rabbis Deborah Kahn-Harris, Leah Jordan, Benji Stanley and Esther Hugenoltz

## EUPJ Honorary Officers and Staff 2013

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## New Year message from the Chairman

It hardly seems possible but we are already on the brink of a new year. What a year the past one has been! For me the highlight was probably Connections 2013 when so many of us gathered in Jerusalem for the WUPJ Biennial Conference. Although I am something of a veteran of these events, it never fails to move and impress me that we are so strong and vibrant.

In 5773 there have been (mostly) highs and (a few) lows. Among the former were the donation of a Torah scroll from Milan's Beit Shalom to Beit Krakow, the ordinations at both Abraham Geiger College and Leo Baeck College, the Francophone gathering in Toulouse, the UpJ annual conference in Spandau and the first Spanish rabbinic student in 500 years beginning his studies. The challenges have included ongoing legal proceedings in Poland and Hungary.

The outlook for 5774 is good and I am particularly looking forward to our EUPJ Biennial Conference in Dresden in April. I hope to see many of you there as a splendid programme is being devised.

It just remains to wish you all a year of sweetness, peace, and renewed commitment to our Progressive Judaism.

L'shanah tovah.



Miriam Kramer

Miriam Kramer, Chairman

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## Synagogues everywhere

Because a Judaism taken seriously doesn't take vacations, Progressive Shabbat services can be found nearly everywhere during your travels. Click on a blue link to find a synagogue near your destination.

[Europe](#) [Worldwide](#)



Beit Orim, Budapest

## Letters to the Editor

Again, another spectacular edition of the EUPJ Newsletter – it shows the depth and breadth of the European community's remarkable Progressive Jewish life. Kol haKavod!

Rabbi Gary M Bretton-Granatoor

Vice President, Philanthropy WUPJ

You've done another amazing job with the EUPJ newsletter! Thanks for your hard work and excellent results informing us all and keeping us in touch with our big Jewish family!

Rachel Dohme, Jüdische Gemeinde Hameln

This is an excellent newsletter -- full of information and photos. Mazel tov!

Jerry Tanenbaum, Chairman, WUPJ Yad B'Yad Task Force

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[www.fpjie.org.uk](http://www.fpjie.org.uk)





## Faith in Action

### 24-27 April 2014, Dresden

### EUPJ Biennial Conference

(continued from page 1)

In addition, we have a selection of optional tours and visits as well as easy access to the beautiful old city of Dresden and the impressive new synagogue of Dresden, all within a few minutes walk of our hotel.



Conference hotel in Dresden

We are planning to hold a rabbinic kallah from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April, and the young adults attending will have their own programme plus access to certain workshops and to eating with all delegates at the 4-star Hilton Hotel, Dresden. The Kurlander Palais will host our opening ceremony and there

will also be subsidies available for delegates from certain countries in order to make the cost of attendance more affordable.

We shall be publishing details of what will be available through this newsletter, on the EUPJ website and via marketing material which will be distributed via a band of country captains who have agreed to



Kurlander Palais in Dresden

act as publicity managers. In this way, we hope to involve delegates from as many countries as possible in leading and facilitating the workshops and to contributing to the multi-national nature of the conference.

Watch this space!

David Pollak, Conference Chairman

### New Community Connections Chair

Rabbi Janet Darley of South London Liberal Synagogue has been appointed the new chair of Community Connections, formerly known as Exodus 2000.

Rabbi Darley, originally from the United States, says she has been interested in the part of the world we now call the FSU ever since she 'decided as a high school student that it would be fun to learn some Russian.' She visited Simferopol a number of years ago and found it 'a wonderful experience. I was so impressed with the young people learning about their Judaism and with the support of older Jews now had the chance to worship again as they wished.'

She also commented that 'travelling around Crimea and seeing the work needed at that time really brought home to me the importance of supporting the rebirth and continued growth of Progressive Judaism in the FSU.'

Rabbi Darley takes over the position from co-chairs Linda Kann and Lynn Levy. Miriam Kramer, chairman of EUPJ, said that they had done a superb job of chairing Community Connections and thanked them for their work over many years. 'I am certain that Rabbi Darley will build on their work.'



Rabbi Janet Darley

As for the job ahead, Rabbi Darley said 'I am pleased to have been offered the honour of chairing Community Connections and am looking forward to working with all those who are currently involved with this important project. I am lucky that I already know many of the rabbis serving these communities and hope we can increase the number of twinnings.'

### Community Connections Newsletter

The Community Connections Newsletter is now available on our website. To read it and to download a copy, just click [here](#).

### Leo Baeck College ordination

(continued from page 1)

The ordination service was conducted by Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, College Principal, Rabbi Dr Charles Middleburgh, Director of Jewish Studies and Dr Jeremy Schonfield, John Rayner Lecturer in Liturgy. The address to the ordinands was given by Dr Laliv Clenman, Lecturer in Rabbinic Literature. The music content was led by Cantor Zöe Jacobs.

The ordination also included the presentation by Jo-Ann Myers, Director of Jewish Education, of MAs in Jewish Education to Gwynneth Lewis and Irina Belskaia. An essay prize in memory of Professor Ludwik Finkelstein was presented to Gwynneth Lewis by Daniel Finkelstein, Executive Editor of The Times and the Rabbi John Rayner Student Prize was presented by Jane Rayner to Rabbis Lea Mühlstein and Peter Radvanski (in absentia).

Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris said 'The College is very proud of this year's ordinands each of whom has achieved the highest standards of academic and vocational work demanded by this important role in the community. They each bring their own unique and special character to interpret how they are going to carry this out in the wider world in what promises to be trajectories we will all follow with the utmost interest – we wish them well.'

## UpJ Germany's annual conference



UpJ Chair Sonja Guentner addressing the participants

Over 250 people representing 20 congregations came together in Spandau, Germany, from July 19-22 for the annual conference of the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany (UpJ), making it the UpJ's largest annual gathering to date. The full programme covered topics from Jewish music to liturgy and calligraphy. Also on offer for the first time was a special children's programme, enabling parents to participate fully while children attended their own sessions including Shabbat services. According to Miriam Kramer, EUPJ chairman, "there was truly something for everyone in the workshops covering many subjects in three languages held between the opening session on the Thursday evening to the annual general meeting on the Sunday morning."

Netzer madrichim held a parallel conference focusing on preparing for their forthcoming summer machaneh (camp) in the Ukraine while representatives of Jung and Judisch / TaMaR participated and coordinated their own upcoming summer program.

Guests from Israel, the US, UK, Russia, and Austria added an international flavor to the gathering. Miriam Kramer wished all of the participants a successful conference, deeply impressing participants with her fluent German and Russian. Shabbat was celebrated in a suitably festive fashion, with Rabbi Adrian Schell, assisted by Netzer leaders, ably leading the Kabbalat Shabbat service, and cantorial and rabbinic students from Abraham Geiger College leading an inspiring Shabbat morning services. The conference was accompanied by the upbeat songs and music of Cantor Boaz Davidoff of Israel. Also attending was Sofer and musician Neil Yuman (US).

Attending from Jerusalem, Dalya Levy, Executive Director of **ARZENU** – the international Reform Zionist Movement – brought greetings from the leadership of WUPJ and ARZENU. Dalya spoke about the importance of strengthening Progressive Zionism in Germany and about the unique opportunity for the UpJ Germany to become leaders in the renewed Zionist Federation.

Some 80% of the UpJ's communities consist of members who were born in the former Soviet Union and over the years the World Union has played an important role in sharing Russian language resource material and sending FSU based rabbis to teach at UpJ conferences.

## Through knowledge to faith Germany opens groundbreaking School of Jewish Theology

July 2013 Jewish Voice from Germany, p23

See a YouTube video [here](#).

More than twenty years ago, Rabbi Louis Jacobs (1920–2006) made a famous statement in an article titled 'Jewish Theology Today' where he regretted that "Certainly there is no department of Jewish theology, as there is of Christian, at any university." This statement has been made redundant. The Progressive Movement and Conservative Judaism have signed a contract with Germany's University of Potsdam to establish the School of Jewish Theology.



Rabbi Professor Dr  
Walter Homolka

Backed by the Brandenburg state, Potsdam University will offer BA and MA programmes in Jewish Theology leading to ordination by the liberal Abraham Geiger College or the conservative Zacharias Frankel College. Rabbinic training in both seminaries is monitored by the General Rabbinical Conference of the Central Council of Jews in Germany which, together with the German authorities for university education and public schools, sets the academic standards for rabbinical training in Germany.

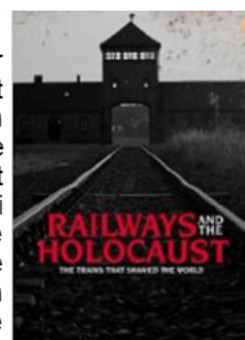
What appears to be a mere bureaucratic act happens to be a historic milestone in the development of European rabbinical training. Similar to the theological options open to pastors, imams and priests, Jewish theology will finally become a regular academic subject in Germany, receiving financial support from the state.

Rabbi Professor Dr Walter Homolka  
Rector, Abraham Geiger College at Potsdam University

## Mazal tov!

Congratulations to Rabbi Dr Walter Rothschild who has just contributed major articles to an illustrated book "Railways and the Holocaust: the Trains That Shamed the World". Rabbi Rothschild's introductory article is an excellent overview of the Holocaust. Though he is an expert of railways of Europe (and the Middle East), his article and this excellent book do not focus solely on Nazi deportation trains, but contains personal articles on life in Westerbok and Terezin. Available from W H Smith booksellers and for Amazon's Kindle.

Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein





## Hamelin news

Let's now turn the calendar page back to see what happened in June.

Our members had received a position paper concerning congregational funeral practices from our Senior Rabbi Irit Shillor in May. We asked Rabbi Yuriy Kadnykov to come and discuss the issues in the paper in Russian with interested members. There was ample time for questions and answers, and the members felt this was an important meeting and a valuable service provided by the congregation. Our wish was to explain our traditions in order to avoid misunderstanding in the event of the death of a loved one. We wish to express our thanks to Rabbi Shillor and Rabbi Kadnykov for their sensitive handling of this subject.

In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, we offered a day trip to Hildesheim. Quite a large group took part. The participants enjoyed a full programme, spanning both Jewish and Christian history. We thank the organisers, Polina Pelts and Hans-Georg Spangenberg.

Our congregation performed in this year's Cultural Festival in Emmerthal on June 22nd. Our choir "Shalom" as well as our newly formed Ukrainian group and our Israeli dance group, "Chag Sameach," delighted the crowds. Our congregation strives to do its part to promote dialogue and understanding between cultures and religions in our region.

The Interreligious Women's Group has chosen "Music in Religion" as this year's topic. There were three interesting presentations of Islamic, Jewish and Christian music in each religion's respective houses of worship. The series was drawn to a close with a final concert in our synagogue on Sunday June 23rd. It can be viewed as a small miracle that our sanctuary walls reflected the voices of Moslems, Jews and Christians as they sang their songs of worship and each other's.

We thank everyone involved in this valuable project, which showed that, if you will it, tolerance is as easy as do re mi.

Read our full e-newsletter [here](#). Rachel Dohme

## Netzer Hamelin June outing

The youth of our congregation look forward to their monthly get-togethers with Rabbi Adrian Schell. Enjoy these pictures from their June outing.



Netzer Hamelin June outing with Rabbi Adrian Schell



## Rabbi Shalom Ben-Chorin celebration



A joyful get-together after the celebration of the 100th birthday of Rabbi Shalom Ben-Chorin in Burda Hall: (l-r) Rabbi Tovia Ben-Chorin, Jan Mühlstein, Gigi Höhn, Regina and Jury Gewitsch. Photo: K Tsafrir

Rabbi Shalom Ben-Chorin, would have been 100 years old this July 20<sup>th</sup>. The IKG, Beth Shalom (represented by board member Alfred Daum), the Evangelical City Academy as well as the Catholic Board of the Munich region all cooperated splendidly in planning this event.

The prayers at Beth Shalom were very moving, led by Rabbi Shalom Ben-Chorin's son Tovia. The room was filled with the words and memories of the rabbi and with sonorous singing.



Rabbi Shalom Ben-Chorin

## Wearing white for the High Holy Days

Each year during the High Holy Days, there is a tradition of wearing white clothing. This year Beth Shalom Munich will have white clothing for all of our Torah scrolls thanks to a generous gift from the IKG Munich, whose president is Dr Charlotte Knobloch. Accompanying the move to our new premises, our biggest Torah scroll will have a cover with the representation of the Tree of Life - Etz Chayim - and the corresponding Siddur text. This Hebrew script is complemented by a Torah crown, a symbol of the Eternal, with two lions of Judah, the symbol the Jewish people. After consultation with our community, the design was designed by Eva Fromm, <http://www.bezalel-judaica.com>.





## Sun and Fun at Netzer Barcelona summer camp



Netzer Barcelona summer 2013

The World Union's International youth movement in Barcelona - Netzer Barcelona - recently held their highly successful two week long summer camp for 75 children, teens and madrichim. Netzer and TaMaR Spanish desk director Anabella Esperanza, who spent time at the camp and led workshops for the madrichim, reports that the theme was Jewish History and in addition to poolside fun, games, musicals and shows, dance competitions, many of the activities were related to different aspects of Judaism, Zionism, history and current events.

[Read more...](#)

## Fresh and 'delicious' news from ATID in Barcelona



**From Kneidalej to Burekas:** The Cook Book of Congregation ATID is already out of the oven!

During the last two years, Myriam Lisak, Emilce Trumper and Dina Zelman dedicated many hours collecting recipes from members, friends and families of the congregation. They write: "In this book you can find typical traditional dishes in different versions, accompanied by personal stories, and those more unusual recipes that very meaningful to all of us. The book includes old and recent family photos, some 'fusion' of mother and mother-in-law recipes, a son's favorite dish,... You can recover a lost recipe which someone else still cooks. Each one represents a family, a fragment of history and many emotions."

Superb research work recovered oral history through edible testimonies - served at our tables generation after generation. Bon appétit!

## Beit Din in Barcelona - June 2013

It was my privilege to co-chair (with Rabbi Reuben Bar Ephraim of Zurich) the third Beit Din that the European Beit Din has held in Barcelona. The third member of the panel was Rabbi Janet Darley of South London Liberal Synagogue. We were joined by Rabbi Rifat Sonsino, the visiting rabbi for Bet Shalom, one of our two congregations in Barcelona, the other being ATID. A leading American Reform rabbi, Rabbi Sonsino had been resident for a month, giving lectures and taking services as well as conducting weddings for the community. He was invaluable as a translator, as all but three candidates spoke no English. In this task he was joined by student rabbi Fabien Sborovsky of Abraham Geiger Kolleg, who has developed a close relationship with Bet Shalom. Dr Leo Hepner, the EUPJ Management Committee representative for Spain took notes and acted as secretary. Rabbi Jackie Tabick, the Convener of the EBD, had already travelled to Spain to interview the candidates and had given us background information to start our discussion with them.

We interviewed 20 candidates in two full days. They were a great credit to the dedicated and thorough teaching (mostly by Skype) of Jai Anguita, whose candidates were spread all over the country and hundreds of kilometres apart. The candidates' knowledge was excellent, although the two babies we accorded Jewish status had little to say! About half of the group claimed to be *annusim*, descendants of Jews converted to Catholicism way back in the 15th century. Their stories included accounts of grandmothers lighting candles on Friday night behind closed shutters, never pork in the house, never mixing meat and milk, never eating bread at Easter, etc. Once explained as "old family customs", these were now revealed as evidence of family origins.

Several of the candidates told of great anti-Semitism in Spain and opposition to them converting. All were prepared to face these problems, the expense and, in some cases, time to travel hundreds of kilometres to Barcelona to achieve their goal of joining a religion that made sense and gave them comfort and a feeling of belonging.

The *giyurim* stayed over in Barcelona for a joyous Shabbat. On Friday night they were presented with their certificates and on Saturday morning, in the medieval synagogue in the heart of former Jewish Barcelona, were given their first *aliyah*.

The EUPJ is most grateful to Jai Anguita, the inspired teacher, and Rosina Levy, the dedicated administrator of Bet Shalom, without whom this Bet Din and our current expansion in Spain would not be possible. Exciting plans are being made to greatly expand our work throughout Spain: watch this space.

AND, one evening during the Beit Din, the Federation of Progressive Jewish Communities in Spain was formed. The initial full members were our EUPJ members of ATID, Bet Shalom and Asturias. Leaders also came from newly formed communities in Cadiz, Seville, Madrid and Galicia - all working towards full membership in this federation and in the EUPJ. Again, watch this story develop!

[Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein](#)



## Rabbi Rebecca Qassim Birk leads Swedish weekend

Come and enjoy a fun and educational autumn weekend at Glämså together with Rabbi Rebecca Qassim Birk from Finchley Progressive Synagogue in London from 27 to 29 September.

Our theme: Jewish inside, outside Jewish? The challenges of Jewish identity building in a non-Jewish world. Can Jewish 'things' help or hinder?



Rabbi Rebecca Qassim Birk

We begin Friday evening with Kabbalat Shabbat and then hold Saturday worship service in English, Swedish and Hebrew. During Saturday and Sunday you can choose to participate in workshops with content tailored to the participants, for example songs to sing on Shabbat and other holidays, baking challah, building a Sukkah.

For the young ones - we focus on "doing" inside and out with Swedish-speaking leaders

For adults - seminars and discussions

Additional ideas? - feel free to contact us

Sleeping: we all live in the house New P that is winterised and has 40 beds with dining and recreation facilities.

Dining: we have hired a skilled cook, Fay Gorosch, who will serve meals with class and variety as well as snacks.

Cost: participants pay the cost of food, 550 SEK per adult, 300 SEK for children under 12.

Register as soon as possible and specify the number of adults and children with ages to [eva-britt.henmark@comhem.se](mailto:eva-britt.henmark@comhem.se). Note that places are limited. We will provide detailed program, exact times and prices for bus travel.

## Mazal tov, Sandra and Adam!

Rabbi Sandra Kviat and Adam Driscoll were married on Sunday, 28th July in the English countryside during a weekend long celebration with family and friends.

Sandra is the first and only Danish Progressive rabbi. Shir Hatzafon, Progressive Judaism in Denmark, wishes all blessings and happiness for the bride and groom.



Sandra Kviat and Adam Driscoll

## The Karen Morris Memorial Trust

Some EUPJ members may remember me as the European Region administrator over ten years ago and organiser of the Barcelona Conference in 2002. I am grateful for this opportunity to tell you a little bit about the Karen Morris Memorial Trust, the charity we set up in loving memory of my daughter who passed away in September 1998, losing her year long battle against chronic myeloid leukaemia.

Christina Rossetti wrote: *We will grieve not rather find, strength in what remains behind.* And this is certainly what we have tried to do.

Karen was a very popular RSY Netzer youth leader and was one of the young adults who brought Reform Judaism to Szombatiya in Hungary in the early 1990s. To acknowledge Karen's love of Judaism and her commitment to the young, the Trust has funded the compact edition of the MRJ siddur which is given to all British young people going on Israel tour and up to university.



Karen Morris

The KMMT was set up in June 1999 to continue Karen's fundraising legacy and now funds three Karen's Homes from Home for leukaemia patients and their families: at Hammersmith in London, Addenbrooke's in Cambridge and the Churchill in Oxford hospitals.

In addition the KMMT currently fund six positions - clinical support nurse, complementary therapists and counsellors - at other leading haematology departments in England, complementary services which would not otherwise be available but which are so much appreciated. Alleviating the emotional pain has been proven to improve the patient's physical state.

The KMMT is about to embark on a major fundraising drive to ensure that we are able to meet these and future applications. To date we have raised over £1.7 million but it is never enough particularly with the NHS cutbacks in the present economic climate. The applications are many; we are only limited by the money in the bank!

For information about the [Karen Morris Memorial Trust](http://www.kmmt.org.uk) please write to [info@kmmt.org.uk](mailto:info@kmmt.org.uk). Sylvia Morris

## LBC seeks fundraiser

Leo Baeck College is seeking to recruit a Fundraising Co-ordinator to work with our Fundraising and Development Manager. This is a three-day a week position. We would be grateful if you would pass this information on to anyone you know who might be interested in the position. Full details including the job description and application form are also available on <http://www.lbc.ac.uk/Work-for-us/>. Tel: +44 (0)20 8349 5621 • Email: [rhona.lesner@lbc.ac.uk](mailto:rhona.lesner@lbc.ac.uk) Rhona Lesner



Leo Baeck College  
At the Heart of Progressive Judaism

## Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein is new president of Liberal Judaism



Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein

On Tuesday 9 July at Liberal Judaism's council meeting and AGM, Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein, EUPJ Rabbinic Adviser, was elected president of Liberal Judaism. He was preceded by Baroness Rabbi Julia Neuberger, who stepped down when she took up the pulpit at West London Synagogue.

Rabbi Goldstein began his career as a pulpit rabbi at Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue (NPLS) in 1970, where he is now emeritus rabbi. He is also chair of Liberal Judaism's Bet Din. Together with his indefatigable wife Sharon, he founded the Kadimah summer camp, which remains phenomenally successful to this day. He ran Liberal Judaism's education department for 20 years, even while devoting himself fully to the task of enabling NPLS to grow, such that it is now one of the largest of Liberal Judaism's 39 communities. A co-editor of Liberal Judaism's machzor, Machzor Ruach Chadashah, Rabbi Dr Andrew also co-edited, with Rabbi Dr Charles Middleburgh, the High and Holy Days anthology of readings for the Days of Awe.

Liberal Judaism's chief executive, Rabbi Danny Rich, said: "Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein is one of the most successful congregational rabbis in Liberal Jewish history. He was the founding rabbi of Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue, serving it for more than 40 years. Assisted by his wife Sharon, the community has grown to be the second largest and one of the most innovative in our movement. By personal example and professional leadership Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein has modelled the 'thoughtful Liberal Jew', and I have no doubt he is the best candidate we might have found to fill the post of Liberal Judaism's president."

The movement's chairman, Lucian J. Hudson, said: "We elected Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein as president with acclamation. Rabbi Dr Andrew lives and breathes Liberal Judaism, and is an inspiration to us all. He sees the big picture and how our movement can contribute to the growth of Progressive Judaism in the UK and internationally."

## Jewish Volunteer of the Year award



EDRS leaders including Mitch Wax (3rd from r)

Edgware and District Reform Synagogue (EDRS) President Mitch Wax was named Jewish Volunteer of the Year at the inaugural Norwood Stars Awards at an evening reception on Thursday 4th July. The Norwood Stars Awards, chaired and presented by Rachael Davis-Stollar, were launched this year to honour Norwood's exceptional volunteers and those involved in community engagement activities.

Mitchell Wax won the Lady J Star award for his extensive contribution to Norwood over the years, travelling from London to lead Norwood's Shabbat Services at Ravenswood on a monthly basis and revising all of the siddur and prayer books - and so much more.



## Rabbi Danny Rich on equal marriage

Read Rabbi Danny Rich's August 13th article in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz about equal marriage and Liberal Jews' place in the good fight.

[Click here](#) to read 'The chuppah awaits: Liberal Jews drive the U.K.'s equal marriage campaign.'



Rabbi Danny Rich



## Leo Baeck College's Summer Institute Thinks Outside of the Box



Leo Baeck College Summer Institute seminar

Rabbis and leaders of Progressive synagogues in the UK gathered for the sixth annual Leo Baeck College Summer Institute for Jewish Leadership. The Institute has become an incubator for innovative development of the future of Progressive Judaism. The two-day seminar, facilitated by Rabbi Richard Jacobi, began in conversation with Bishop Stephen Cottrell, whose "Hit the Ground Kneeling" served as the basis for the rest of the seminar. Participants considered the qualities and attitudes that promote good leadership and then spent time in focus groups, unpacking some of the more challenging problems in their community while thinking Jewishly to "Doing the Undoable".

Participants from 21 Reform and Liberal communities had enthusiastic responses. Rabbi Monique Mayer, from the Bristol Progressive community, said that "This Summer Institute has caused a paradigm shift in the way I see leadership and has provided practical guidance to difficult communal issues." Stephen Ross said, "A fascinating insight into how Jewish values can impact the day-to-day running of our organisations". And Kathy Harrington said, "The Summer Institute created an oasis of time to step back, reflect on what matters most, connect with others and discover together genuinely new ways of thinking and doing... It was inspiring!"

The Institute this year was generously hosted at Radlett and Bushey Reform Synagogue and included rabbinic students from Leo Baeck College and rabbis and lay leaders from across the Liberal and Reform movements in the UK.

For additional information please contact Rabbi Maurice Michaels on [maurice.michaels@lbc.ac.uk](mailto:maurice.michaels@lbc.ac.uk).

## Click for news of UK movements



The Movement for Reform Judaism

## LJY-Netzer interfaith Moroccan tour



LJY-Netzer and Salaam Shalom youth in Morocco

LJY-Netzer, the youth movement of Liberal Judaism, co-led an interfaith tour of Morocco last month with the Bristol organisation, Salaam Shalom. The trip came about because of a grassroots desire to combat negative attitudes and beliefs that segregate people and create barriers to community cohesion. Twenty-five Jewish and Muslim young people took part.

The eight-day tour took in key historical sites as well as visiting interfaith projects. As a result of the tour Salaam Shalom is producing an educational resource pack which will be taken into schools as a way of educating against Islamophobia and anti-Semitism.

Sam Cohen, LJY-Netzer movement worker, said: 'Young people need to be provided with the opportunity for open and frank conversations around race and faith. Britain is a diverse country, but too often communities live parallel lives – this tour showed that differences are not a negative – but instead should be celebrated.'

Shabana Kausar, manager of Salaam Shalom, said, 'This was a fantastic opportunity for young people from perceived conflicting communities to come together to challenge the negative attitudes that either they, or those around them, may hold. The role young people play in challenging misconceptions and stereotypes of the 'other,' is a powerful one. Young people need to be presented with safe spaces to address these issues; this tour enabled the group to learn new skills that they were then able to bring back to Bristol and London.'

You can see a video [here](#) and photos from the trip on [Salaam Shalom's Facebook page](#).

## Leo Baeck College weekly D'var Torah

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



## EUPJ Newsletter en français

Click [here](#) for the French edition of past EUPJ Newsletters, translated by Celia Naval.

## Vocal Ensemble KOLTOV

For the upcoming High Holy Days in the month of Tishri, KOLTOV, the vocal ensemble of Beth Hillel in Brussels, is preparing music to accompany the liturgy of austere celebrations. It is our tradition at Beth Hillel that everyone is welcome to sing in community during Tishri.



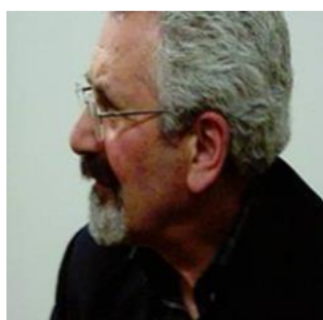
Beth Hillel synagogue

Do you love to sing, but singing in the shower gives you more satisfaction? Or do you want to find the melodies of your childhood holidays and traditions? Join the ensemble KOLTOV, harmonized sweetness led by Martine Cohen, a professional singer and voice teacher. The last meeting took place on Sunday, July 21 at 17:30 at Beth Hillel.

Please contact us for the future Sunday afternoon schedule.

## Norbert Lipszyc at Kehilat Gesher

On Monday June 24th, Norbert Lipszyc, a computer consultant specialising in health applications, spoke at Kehilat Gesher. Also a journalist and host on Radio J, in 1985 he created and chaired the French section of SPNI (Society for Protection of Nature in Israel).



Norbert Lipszyc

Norbert Lipszyc explained that the world is rediscovering what the Talmud teaches us about the economic organisation of the world, namely the need to maintain balance and thus regulate markets while leaving them free. This is particularly the case for all aspects of sustainable development and environmental protection. In Israel this means that powerful NGOs in this sphere are working in cooperation and not confrontation with the political and economic actors. This does not mean that everything is perfect, but Israel has developed a model that could be applied in arid areas as well as in developed countries. Water is the most striking example.

The well attended and much appreciated presentation was followed by a light buffet.

## Sons of Abraham 20th anniversary

The Sons of Abraham group turns 20 in September. Keren Or Lyon invites everyone to celebrate with us these 20 years of research in all brotherhood: Buddhists, Jews, Christians and Muslims. Meet up on September 29 from 9:30 to 16:30 at our friends, "Our Lady of the Homeless". You will feel welcome at the Chardonnière - 65 Grande Rue in Francheville. More information [here](#).

## Rockin' Rabbis on Bastille Day

**Les Rockin' Rabbis**  
LA REVANCHE !

LE DIMANCHE 14 JUILLET À 17H00 AU CENTRE MAAYAN

Le Centre Maayan réunit sur scène, 19 ans après leur premier concert les célèbres LES ROCKIN' RABBIS alias

Sami Feldman & The Bluesberry Jam au Centre Maayan

Avec Rabbi Sami Feldman, guitare et chants (Los Angeles)

Rabbi Aaron Rubinstein, clavier (Memphis)

Rabbi David Lazar, saxo (Stockholm)

Rabbi Tom Cohen, guitare basse (Paris)

Pascal Basile, batteur (Paris)

PAF : 10 euros ou plus !

Réservation au 01.55.28.83.84

Kehilat Gesher

Centre Maayan 10-14 rue Moule 75011 Paris  
Métro: Richard Lenoir Tél: 01 55 28 83 84  
www.cpm.org mail: contact@cpm.org

« Au profit du développement de Kehilat Gesher et du Centre Maayan »

In Paris, Kehilat Gesher held a rock concert which featured Rabbis Sami Feldman (LA), Aaron Rubinstein (Memphis), Davis Lazar (Stockholm) and Tom Cohen (Paris). See a fun YouTube [video here!](#)

## A weekend in Jewish Alsace

The CPJL invites you to a long weekend, "Jewish Alsace", organized by the travel company Valiske, from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th October. The programme is available [here](#).

During this extended weekend you will discover one of the most interesting regions of France and its unique Jewish heritage. Alsace is the only French region with a continuous Jewish presence since the Roman era up to the present time. In the Middle Ages, Alsace saw the birth of Yiddish. Today, Alsace has a large and vibrant Jewish community, the third in size in France after Paris and Marseille. Alsace is a reservoir of Jewish heritage, one of the richest in the world with more than 200 historical sites to visit.



Pfaffenhoffen Synagogue

Itinerary: Obernai, Rosheim, Roswell, Strasbourg, Pfaffenhoffen, Ettendorf, Imbsheim, Buxwiller, Ingwiller, Souffelweyersheim.

Cost: €380 double room / extra €100 single room, which includes: two nights in a three star hotel in the centre of Strasbourg, full board (three meals a day, except breakfast on day one and dinner on day three), travel by private car, entrance fees to museums and exhibitions, fees and gifts for players and personalities met. There is a €30 organisational fee to Valiske. This trip is reserved for CPJL members. The expenses of the trip Lyon-Strasbourg are not included (carpooling is possible).

If you are interested please write very soon to Jean-Paul Joseph at [jeanp.joseph@orange.fr](mailto:jeanp.joseph@orange.fr). Registration closes on August 31st.



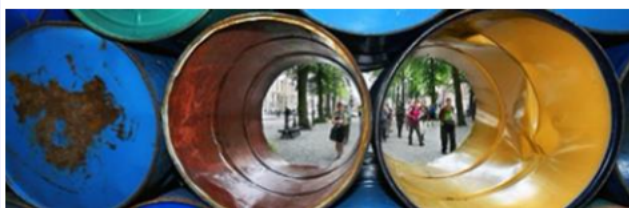
## New president in The Hague



The Liberaal Joodse Gemeente (Liberal Jewish Congregation) at The Hague, the Netherlands, has a new president.

On 17th June, after a term of nine years, Frank Cohn (front left) gave the gavel to Ohad Topper with the support of former presidents (left to right): Henk Wagenfeld, Ernst Numann and Henry Hopp. Photo: Ido Menco.

## Tour of The Hague Sculpture



The Cultural Committee of LJG Hague invites you for a tour of The Hague Sculpture, Sunday, September 1, 16:00 (please be present at 15:45)

Place: Pulchri Studio, Lange Voorhout 15.

Admission: €3.00

This summer The Hague Sculpture is presenting a major exhibition, RUSSIA XXI - Contemporary Sculpture from Russia. A monumental work stands on the Lange Voorhout. The participating artists are established names and new talents. In the past 40 years there has been a very interesting development in sculpture - as ideological and social debates are conducted in full force throughout the Russian art world - but here this is still virtually unknown. This is the first major retrospective of contemporary Russian sculptures in the Netherlands.

Our programme: If we get more than 20 participants, we will try to form a second group. You may temporarily be placed on a waiting list. After the tour we will have refreshments at Bodega De Horn. The tour lasts one hour.

If there is sufficient interest, we can also try to organise a tour in English.

Register NOW, preferably by e-mail to [info@ljgdenhaag.nl](mailto:info@ljgdenhaag.nl) or call the LJG Secretariat at 070 -750 46 80.

## A message from the President of Beth Shalom, Milan

I am looking forward to wonderful year as the President of Beth Shalom. Elections were held in early June after the annual General Assembly. Below are the board members who will serve until June 2015.

Beth Shalom's Board, 2013-2015: Lori Kaplan - President, Carey Bernitz - Vice President, Michael Golding - Treasurer, Joe Schwarz - Secretary, Carol Ross, Tony Aghib, Flavio Alazraki, David Ross - Honorary President.

We begin Rosh HaShanah on the eve of September 4<sup>th</sup> with both a new rabbi and a new president. Rabbi Stephen Fuchs has an impressive CV and has held many important positions in the Jewish community. He is a brilliant speaker, a wise scholar, and an esteemed rabbi. I am none of those things. Instead I bring my love for Judaism, my concern for the well-being of Beth Shalom and my dedication and determination to help Beth Shalom thrive and grow and become increasingly more visible within the Jewish Community in Italy.



Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

Recently the State of Israel announced it would recognise reform rabbis. This is an important step in Progressive Judaism after 25 long years of battle. This recognition greatly influences Beth Shalom and I hope that together we will join in building an even stronger community for Progressive Judaism here in Milan.

Lori Kaplan



## Erev Pride at Or Chadasch, Vienna

Our strength lies in our diversity! For the 16th time Or Chadasch, the Liberal Jewish Community of Vienna, held an "Erev Pride" service on the occasion of the Christopher Street Day event on Friday 28 June. All were welcome to take the opportunity to celebrate with us. As a progressive Jewish congregation, Or Chadasch sees the message of equality and the equality of all human beings as the central message of the Jewish religion. We demand respect for all people regardless of their sexual orientation.

In order to enlarge our activity for Erev Pride, this year on the same evening (one hour before Shabbat service) we hosted a book sale called Queer Corner for the benefit of the Or Chadasch House of Learning Library. This library has a long wish list and benefitted from the evening's support. There was also the opportunity for sponsorship of individual acquisitions by the library. Furthermore, we have accumulated many good books that we would like to share.

Afterwards there was Kiddush with a buffet.



### Beit Polska and shechita

On behalf of Beit Polska, the Union for Progressive Jewish Congregations in Poland, we are publishing the statement below:

Beit Polska, the Progressive Jewish community of Poland calls upon the Sejm to permit the preparation of kosher meat. Progressive Jews have developed their own views and practices of Shechita. Shechita is defined as being mindful that care of all animals during slaughter must cause minimal pain and stress. We recognize that Shechita performed with skill and care can be swift and painless. We appeal to the Polish parliament to ensure that this ancient religious rite is maintained in a free and democratic Poland. Any form of religious discrimination is to be deplored.

We propose that a study commission be appointed to clarify any questions and make recommendations for procedures so that these values are upheld. Members of our Progressive community are qualified and ready to participate in such a commission.

For many Jews, eating kosher meat is an essential religious imperative that has been Jewish custom for thousands of years. As with the Muslim custom of eating similar Halal meat, eating unkosher meat would and could never be countenanced.

We Progressive Polish Jews join with the World Union of Progressive Judaism representing 1.8 million Jews in 45 countries in affirming the principle of religious freedom and religious tolerance.

**Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak, Rabbi of Beit Polska,  
the Union for Progressive Jewish Congregations in Poland**  
**Piotr Stasiak, President of Beit Polska,  
the Union for Progressive Jewish Congregations in Poland**  
*Editor's note: Read the WUPJ statement [here](#).*

### A musical Shabbat at Beit Warszawa

On 19th and 20th July, Beit Warszawa held a special musical Shabbat when the Friday night service was led jointly by Cantors Anna Silverman from Warsaw and Anna Klein from the United States. Anna Klein also delivered the sermon during the service. The Saturday morning service was led jointly by Cantor Anna Klein and Cantor Piotr Mirski.

In October 2013 Beit Warszawa is opening a course for cantors and prayer leaders - Shlich Tzibur. For more information please contact our office at 22 885 26 38 or at [office@beit.org.pl](mailto:office@beit.org.pl).

### Re-joining the Family - Progressive Judaism in Poland

by **Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak, Introduction by Judy Manelis**  
From *Kulanu*, v. 20, #1, Spring 2013

There is a miraculous and heartwarming revival of Jewish life now underway in Poland

The surprising story of individual Jews and small communities, who are finding their way back to Judaism in the geographic heart of the Holocaust, is a testament to Jewish survival and Jewish spiritual endurance. Hopefully, in the future, visitors will not only visit sites connected to the Holocaust, but will visit a small but determined Jewish community just now emerging. [Continue reading](#).

### Sim Shalom celebrates 20 years

Sim Shalom finally celebrated the 20th anniversary of its official foundation in 1992. It was a bit belated because so much of our energy for the past two years has gone into fighting against the loss of our present recognition by the Hungarian government. But we did it at last, with a serious look back at the early days of the community. In the early years of the congregation many young British Progressive Jews helped the Hungarians enormously in learning how to practice Judaism by coming to Budapest on Jewish holidays and for long weekends and teaching by example how to celebrate the holiday or Shabbat. One of the other products of these many trips was not a few romances, and even several marriages.

Some years after our founding, one of these young married couples made several video interviews with both the British and Hungarian participants to produce a record of what they had all been so active in creating. So our anniversary was celebrated by watching a half dozen of those videos. There was much reminiscing by those who had been present to help the newer members more fully understand what it had been like back then, when at every visit something new was learned, or some new tradition was started. For me, who came to Sim Shalom well after this time, it helped a lot to learn the origins of much of what we now do on a regular basis.

Then a week later, we honoured a much newer tradition, participation in the Budapest Gay Pride celebration. For the second year in a row, the Budapest Progressive community held a special Shacharit service to recognise and join in the Gay Pride movement. The three congregations of Sim Shalom, Bet Orim and Moses House held a joint service in the JCC known as Balint House. One of the main organisers was Armin Langer, a Sim Shalom member who had his adult Bar Mitzvah a year ago, and who will start the Rabbinical training programme at Abraham Geiger College in Berlin this fall. Armin lead the service, which was attended by about 150 people. There weren't enough siddurim to go around! A Sim Shalom member, Anita Cantor, read the Torah, and our own Rabbi Katalin Kelemen delivered the sermon, connecting the week's Haftarah portion to the rapid progress that is taking place all around the world in the expansion of the acceptance and legalisation of gay rights and practices. Many Sim Shalom members took part in the Gay Pride March through the centre of the city that afternoon.

**Jess Weil**



**Budapest Gay Pride celebration**



WORLD  
UNION FOR  
PROGRESSIVE  
JUDAISM



האיגוד  
העולמי  
ליהדות  
מתקדמת

## WUPJ Calendar

January 2 – 9, 2014, Jerusalem

[Roswell Seminar for Social Justice](#)

February 13 – 23, 2014, Jerusalem

[Beutel Seminar for Progressive Jewish Leadership](#)

April 24-27, 2014, Dresden, Germany

[EUPJ Biennial](#)

## The Anita Saltz Center Seminars

Paul Liptz and I need your help spreading the word about our upcoming seminars. Your assistance is critical to the success of these programs. Paul and I are counting on you to help us find qualified participants from your communities and regions.

**NB:** Need-based subsidies are available for both.

### The Roswell Seminar for Social Justice

**January 2-9, 2014.** This Seminar is an intensive 10-day program run in cooperation with the **Israel Religious Action Center** of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism in which participants explore issues of religion and state in Israel as well as socioeconomic issues and also engage in social action projects. The seminar delves into the basis of the Jewish concern for a just society, then goes out into the streets of Jerusalem and Israel to turn that vision into a reality. Seminar participants will wrestle with the issues of religion and state, and debate what it means to be a Jewish country and a democracy at the same time. They will learn about the often hidden plight of the poor, the hungry and the homeless, going beyond the statistics to encounter the real people involved. The cost of the Roswell Seminar is \$500 US.

### The Beutel Seminar for Progressive Jewish Leadership, February 13-23, 2014.

The Beutel Seminar is a prestigious ten-day seminar in Jerusalem run by the Anita Saltz International Education Center. The seminar is housed in Mercaz Shimshon-Beit Shmuel, the headquarters of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. It overlooks the dramatic walls of Jerusalem's Old City. The seminar offers the opportunity to study ancient texts and history; discuss current political and social issues; explore spiritual pathways and concepts of Jewish leadership - all within a Progressive Jewish context. Participants must be recommended by their community (i.e. rabbi, Jewish professional and or local lay leader) for their dedication and commitment to their communities (past and future). The cost of the Beutel Seminar is \$1000 US.

Please let me know if you have questions about the programs. Details and application forms are available on our [website](#). Thank you for your support!

Rabbi Steve Burnstein, RJE, Director

## Sonja Guentner elected to WUPJ board

There is joy in the progressive Jewish communities in Germany. In Jerusalem on 5 May, representatives of more than 1,200 liberal Jewish communities in 48 countries with approximately two million members elected the president of the [Union of Progressive Jews](#) in Germany (UpJ), Sonja Guentner, 43, to the Executive Board of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ). The WUPJ is the international umbrella organisation of the world's largest religious grouping within Judaism.

The UpJ represents 23 progressive communities in Germany and three affiliated institutions. On page four of this newsletter, you can read more about the UpJ and their recent annual general assembly.

Sonja Guentner, who took office at the UpJ almost two years ago, was previously chairman of the liberal Jewish community in Cologne and is the managing partner of the Cologne International Peace School, a non-profit inter-religious private school. She also leads the National Association of Jewish communities in North Rhine-Westphalia and is a vice president of the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ).

**NB:** Next month, we will introduce Stéphane Beder, elected to the WUPJ board at the same time.



Sonja Guentner

## Torah from around the World



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

To subscribe, please click [here](#).

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