



European Union for Progressive Judaism

April 2015 Newsletter

© European Union for Progressive Judaism

The EUPJ and WUPJ mourn: Yom HaShoah 5775/2015

Psalm 102

תפלה, לעני כי-נעטף-- ולפני יהוה, ישפך שיחו.
A prayer of the afflicted, when he fainteth, and
poureth out his complaint before the Eternal.

יהוה, שמע תפילתי; וישועתי, אליך תבוא.

O God, hear my prayer, and let my cry come unto Thee.

אל-תסתר פניך, ממני- ביום צר-לי: השא-אלי אָנְךָ; ביום
אָקרא, מהר ענני.

Hide not Thy face from me in the day of my distress;
incline Thine ear unto me; in the day when I call
answer me speedily.

כי-כלו בעשן ימי; ועצמותי, במוקד נחרו.

For my days are consumed like smoke, and my
bones are burned as a hearth.

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day
2015 (Yom HaShoah) took place on Thursday, April
16. On this day, the entire World Union family
mourned the tragic loss of life, the genocide that
occurred during World War II, which resulted in the
death of an estimated six million Jews.

The personal tragedies and unimaginable suffering
of those who perished are a searing reminder of
man's capacity for evil as well as indifference to evil.
Indeed, the solemn occasion is typically marked with
ceremonies that emphasise the importance of
remembering the atrocity and the power of passing
on the memories of survivors and their descendants
to future generations.

However, to "never forget" does not solely imply
remembrance, but also prevention. To remember
the Holocaust is to foster the understanding and
progress that will inhibit such genocide from
occurring again.

To quote Eli Wiesel: "I swore never to be silent
whenever and wherever human beings endure
suffering and humiliation. We must take sides.
Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim.
Silence encourages the tormentor, never the
tormented."

As people around the world reflect upon the numbing
numbers and indescribable evil, we must remain
ever vigilant in the ongoing struggle against
humanity's darkest impulses.

While the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust
are memorialised on the 27th day of Nisan, we the
living are tasked with combating racism and all forms
of bigotry, however and wherever they manifest.

By opposing discrimination and defending equality,
social justice and religious pluralism around the
world, we are acting out of a fervent belief that
survival is a privilege that entails obligations.

Psalm 29:11

יהוה-עז, לעמו יתן; יהוה, יברך את-עמו בשלום.

The Eternal will give strength unto our people; the
Eternal will bless our people with peace.

On behalf of the World Union for Progressive Judaism
and the European Union for Progressive Judaism,

Rabbi Daniel Frelander, President, WUPJ

Michael Grabiner, Chairman, WUPJ

Leslie Bergman, President, EUPJ

Miriam Kramer, Chairman, EUPJ



Breaking Out in Rio: CONNECTIONS 2015 Programme to explore Progressive Judaism's hot button issues

CONNECTIONS 2015, the World
Union for Progressive Judaism's
worldwide celebration of our
movement taking place May 13-16
in Rio de Janeiro, will feature a
compelling and challenging series
of breakout sessions that will
analyse virtually every aspect of
contemporary Progressive Judaism.
Learn more about what's in store
[here](#).

Ready for Rio? Online registration for CONNECTIONS 2015 is [now available!](#)



EUPJ Honorary Officers and Staff 2015

Honorary Life Presidents

Jeffery Rose
Ruth Cohen

President

Leslie Bergman

Vice-Presidents

Alex Dembitz
Sonja Guentner
Rabbi Dr Walter Homolka
Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris
Jonathan Lewis
Félix Mosbacher

Gordon Smith

Chairman

Miriam Kramer

Vice-Chairmen

Stéphane Beder
Michael Reik

Honorary Secretary

John Cohen

Honorary Treasurer

David Pollak

EUPJ Rabbinic Adviser

Rabbi Ruven Bar-Ephraim

Administrator

Deborah Grabiner administrator@eupj.org

Newsletter Editor

Arthur Buchman newsletter@eupj.org

Gillian Thomas, Assistant Editor



From the Chairman

The past month has been dominated, of course, by Pesach. During the preparations for our family Seder I found myself as always somewhat daunted by the workload but that was more than compensated for by realising that (ignoring time zones) people all over the world were engaged in the same activity. The menu and scale may differ but in essence we were all working toward the same end: a meaningful and culinarily-satisfying event. Now that the matzo season has ended it is time for other work.

During this past month the main emphasis has been on making arrangements for the EUPJ conference to be held in London next April. We are almost ready to make announcements about venues and keynote speakers so watch this space. In the meantime many of us are preparing to travel to Rio de Janeiro for the WUPJ's Connections 2015.

Miriam Kramer



How to Count the Omer

From the second night of Passover until Shavuot, we begin a period of counting known as Sefirat Haomer.

[Here's how it works.](#)

Rabbi Jill Jacobs



A clock for counting the Omer

Visit the EUPJ website at www.eupj.org.

Subscribe to the EUPJ Newsletter [here](#).

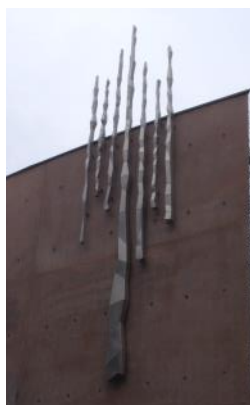
Read & download EUPJ Newsletter archives in English and French [here](#).

Read the Community Connections Newsletter [here](#).

Send us your feedback [here](#).

Synagogues everywhere

Progressive congregations and Shabbat services can be found nearly everywhere during your travels. Click on a blue link to find a synagogue near your destination.



GIL, Geneva

[Europe](#)

[Worldwide](#)

Letters to the Editor

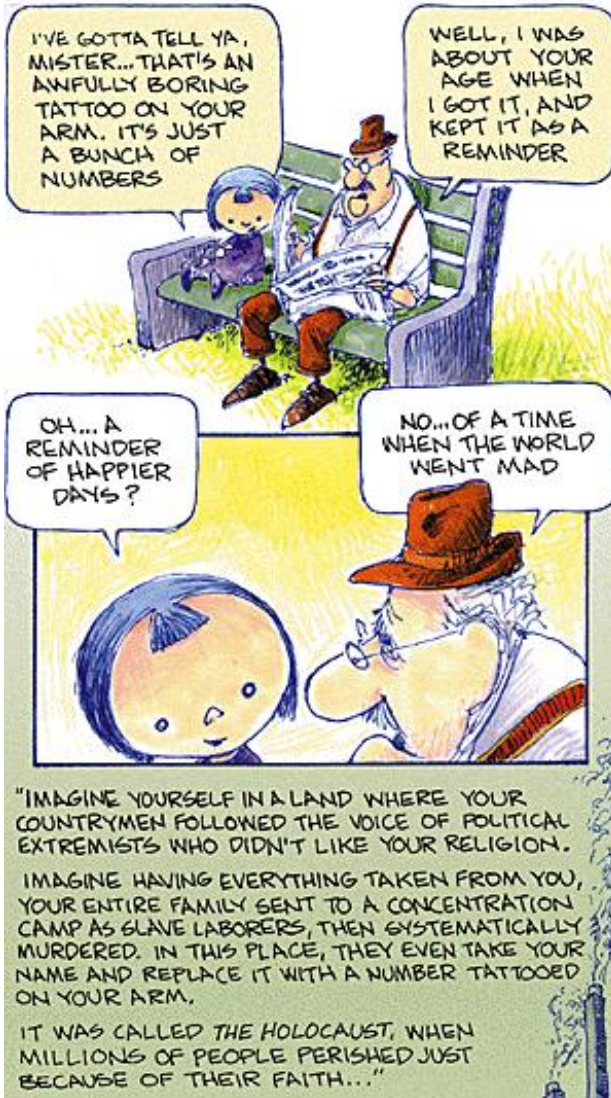
I really appreciate the enormous work you do every month for European Progressive Jews. I know that you spend hours and hours (where you could choose to sleep or do other work/leisure activities) trying everything you possibly can to inform us, educate us and more important perhaps, to make us all feel that we are a part of something far bigger than ourselves.

Anne Weimar, Denmark

Please support
Friends of Progressive
Judaism
in Israel and Europe.
They support us.
www.fpjie.org.uk



NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY



Yom HaShoah

The human spirit is the light of God. As we look at these lights, try to imagine six million candles, each one with the name of another Jew. Each one would signify a unique and precious soul, who struggled and had hope, who was part of a family, an orphan, a widow, or a widower. They worked, studied, took walks — the ordinary things of life....They all were part of the Jewish people. Each one suffered. Each and every one was murdered. They are lost forever, their light extinguished. We are the light now. Only by our remembering can they live again in our hearts and minds.

Adapted from *An Everlasting Name: A Service for Remembering the Shoah*



Rabbinic Kallah in Geneva



The EUPJ rabbinic kallah in session

The EUPJ Annual General Assembly in Geneva was followed by a two-day rabbinic kallah, a gathering of 22 EUPJ rabbis from 12 countries. The group welcomed the new President of WUPJ, Rabbi Danny Freeland, who studied with us and discussed his plans for the future of the Movement. It was a good opportunity for him to meet with us and learn about the concerns and programmes in the various countries represented.

The study sessions were led by Dr Jeremy Schonfield from Leo Baeck College (London) and Professor Admiel Kosman from Geiger Kolleg (Potsdam). A discussion on "Are the Jews Safe in Europe?" was led by Maître Alain Bruno Levy, the President of a Swiss organisation that deals with anti-Semitism and security in Switzerland.

The gathering also approved the setting up of the first European Assembly of Progressive Rabbis that will hopefully be associated with the CCAR. We were hosted by Rabbi François Garaï and Alex Dembitz at the invitation of GIL, the Geneva Progressive community.



Rabbi François Garaï

Alex Dembitz

Ruven Bar Ephraim as Rabbinic Adviser to EUPJ is taking forward the decision to set up the European Assembly of Progressive Rabbis, and further details will appear after a forthcoming meeting of rabbis involved in its founding. **Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein**

Passover at Bet Orim, Budapest



News from Sim Shalom, Budapest

On April 3 Sim Shalom held its Congregational Seder, one of the biggest events of the year. About 120 people attended, including several foreign visitors from the US, Canada, and Israel. We were saddened by the absence of our very good cantor, Miki Budai (see below), but were still led well by others with considerable musical talent. The most outstanding of these was our own Armin Langer, who is now in his second year of Rabbinical training at the Abraham Geiger College in Berlin. Armin comes to us once a month for practical training in leading the congregation's services and programmes under the supervision and mentorship of Rabbi Kati Kelemen.

He is very talented and does a wonderful job but he was not the only musical bright spot in the evening. Andic Milan, who had his adult Bar Mitzvah only a couple of months ago led a very spirited rendition of "Echad mi jodea". And last, but not least, Joseph Nagy accompanied all the songs on guitar.



Rabbi Kati Kelemen

Our cantor for more than 10 years, Miki Budai, has left us to go to a congregation in the Neolog movement, which is closer to Orthodox Judaism. It's a real loss for us since he has a very good voice, great spirituality, tremendous musicality, and a great interest in, and talent for, searching out beautiful liturgical music.

It was many months ago that we started to negotiate with the government on some substantial restitution for our financial losses that resulted from their taking away our registration as a religious institution four years ago. We got permission from the European Court of Human Rights to have an extension of two months to continue to negotiate after the government made a very low initial offer to us. In our officially submitted counter-claim with the amount we thought was due us, we asked for a reply by the end of March. Although we are still awaiting their reply to our claim, we expect to prevail. **Jess Weil**

Belgium



Yom Hashoah 5775 / 2015 in Brussels

The 72nd anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the halting of the 20th convoy of Jews deported from the Dossin Barracks (Malines) at Auschwitz was marked by the reading of the names of deportees and resistance fighters from Belgium. This took place from Wednesday April 15 at 18:30 until Thursday April 16 at 18:30.

A ceremony to commemorate Yom HaShoah was held Thursday April 16 at 18:30 at the Memorial to the Jewish Martyrs of Belgium in Anderlecht. As every year, the reading and the ceremony was broadcast live on Radio Judaica 90.2 FM.

Rabbi Abraham Dahan Mench 2015 videos

On Sunday 29 March The CCLJ (David Susskind Lay Jewish Community Centre in Brussels) awarded the Mensch of the Year 2015 Prize to Rabbi Abraham Dahan, who served Beth Hillel for many years. [Click here](#) for videos of the event and a longer report - all in French.



Rabbi Abraham Dahan

Jubilee Brit Matan Torah

As part of the celebration of the Jubilee of Beth Hillel, on Sunday 10 May at 18:00 we invite the entire community to celebrate the Brit Matan Torah, a celebration of giving of the Torah. This will mark the renewal Beth Hillel's commitment to the words and laws of the Torah with a ceremony led by Rabbi Marc Neiger under the chuppah.



IJC Seder a great success

The IJC had a great Community Seder on Friday April 3rd, a very warm and welcoming event. It was led by our new rabbi Ira Goldberg in a way that drew everyone in - children as well as adults - with a special Haggadah put together by Ira (and sponsored by Brian Doyle). The food was wonderful - cooked by our own Mark Silverstein. With 100 participants (we couldn't fit more), we also benefited from a very well-organised catering operation headed by Diane Vermunicht and supported by 25 volunteers. In true community spirit a large number of people stayed after the Seder to help clean up.

I want to thank all our volunteers for putting in the effort to make this Seder so successful. I also want to thank Rabbi Ira for leading the Seder and presenting the Haggadah readings in such a pleasurable and enlightening way. I already look forward to next year's Seder.

Steven Brummel, President
International Jewish Center



Pub Purim Party in Brussels



IJC Brussels Purim Pub Party in full swing

The IJC organised its first ever Pub Purim Party to reach out to Jewish young professionals working and living in Brussels. The event took place in the Old Hack Pub, right across the street from the Berlaymont building, the European Commission's headquarters. The party was a big success, attended by about 30 people including IJC members, students and young professionals living in Brussels, Leuven and even Amsterdam. People brought masks, crowns, hats, moustaches and graggers (noisemakers). Everyone came in a spirit to celebrate and make a lot of noise. IJC's Rabbi Ira Goldberg led the reading of the Megillah.

Shir Hatzafon in Copenhagen Purim party photos tell the story



Children's costume contest at Shir Hatzafon



Adult costume contest at Shir Hatzafon



Childrens' workshops at Beit Polska

Beit Polska invites all children ages 5 to 12 to a series of educational workshops dedicated to Judaism entitled "Cultural Jigsaw".

The first meeting on 28 March was dedicated to the holiday of Passover, and children learned about the origin of this holiday and its traditions. They also learned Israeli dances, Hebrew songs and the basics of the Hebrew alphabet. The children created their own Seder plates using the art of decoupage, and each participant took his or her plate home.

Participants also entered the Synagogue where they met with Rabbi Gil Nativ and witnessed the taking out of the Torah from Aron HaKodesh.

The next meetings are 25 April at 10:30-13:30; 23 May at 10:30-13:30. All workshops will be held at Beit Warszawa. If you are interested, please contact us at: office@beit.org.pl or (22) 885 26 38.

Shehecheyanu in Krakow



Rabbi Tanya Segal and Beit Krakow's first wedding

On Nissan 12, 5775 (April 1) the Progressive Jewish Community of Krakow had many reasons for saying *Shehecheyanu*. At 5pm in the 15th century Synagogue - Die Alte Schul (the oldest standing synagogue in Krakow and one of the oldest Jewish heritage sights in Poland) a young couple - Magda Koralewska (a Krakow native and President of Beit Krakow) and Michael Rubinfeld (a Canadian theatre artist with Polish roots) stood together under a chuppah. It was not only the first wedding at Beit Krakow or the first wedding conducted there by Rabbi Tanya Segal, but actually the first Progressive chuppah in Krakow since the war and the first wedding in Poland ever to be performed by a woman rabbi. It was a big day for the Jewish community in Krakow who gathered in large numbers in the synagogue and for the newlyweds for whom this personal contribution to Jewish renewal in Poland was particularly meaningful.

The newlyweds said, "We all know the darkest aspects of recent Jewish history in Poland. What we forget is that Poland was once the home for 90% of the Jews in the world. And although the more recent history was tragic, we may not forget the 10 centuries of Jewish culture, thought and tradition in Poland. This Jewish history still continues and grows stronger every day. Holding our wedding there is an opportunity to contribute something that will resonate deeply for contemporary Jewish life. This wedding is an opportunity for the past and the present to come together in a way that can only be possible in Poland."

After the beautiful and moving ceremony the newlyweds and their guests marched in festive procession through the streets of Kazimierz, Krakow's old Jewish quarter, accompanied by the Mojse Band, to a local Israeli restaurant where the simcha lasted till the break of dawn.

Rabbi Tanya Segal
www.beitkrakow.pl

United Kingdom

Leo Baeck College Rabbinic programme

The 2014-2015 academic year saw three new students start the Rabbinic Programme: Cantor Gershon Silins, Daniela Touati and Igor Zinkov.

2014-15 was the academic year in which we took stock of our curriculum and teaching schedule and made some modifications based on detailed feedback from students and faculty about individual modules. We accept that the five years of rabbinic training are, unavoidably, very demanding on students and the detailed communication that we have with students and faculty enables us to identify areas where some degree of amelioration is possible.

2015 marks the second time a student cohort will visit Haifa. The programme, which has been modified according to the experiences of the first student cohort, is under the directorship of Rabbi Dr Golan Ben Chorin.

Rabbi Dr Charles Middleburgh, Dean



RSY-Netzer Day Camp

RSY-Netzer are delighted to announce that booking for Day Camp this summer is now open. There are three camps; two in London and one in Manchester.

[Read more](#)



Jeneration in Prague

Last month a group of students visited Prague with Jeneration. It was "a truly fantastic experience" as Sophie Lipton, a Jeneration fieldworker explains.

[Read more](#)

Edinburgh news

The April issue of our newsletter, [Lulav](#), is now published. This issue sees the launch of our new Care Team, in the form of Joe Goldblatt and Des Shanko. I would also like to highlight news of the Interfaith Manifesto from the Jewish Council for Racial Equality, which we have signed up to along with Liberal Judaism, the Movement for Reform Judaism and many other organisations.

About Pro-Zion

Pro-Zion is the UK-based organisation that works to support Progressive Judaism in Israel and to promote Israel in Progressive Jewish Communities in the UK.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



Click the logos for news of UK movements



Sign up for the Day of Celebration

Liberal Judaism's biggest event of 2015, the Day of Celebration, takes place on Sunday June 7 at The Liberal Jewish Synagogue with the theme of Israel. Sign up now to hear keynote speakers including Rabbis Miri Gold and Ofek Meir, as well as a senior Israeli VIP.

Matchmaker service starting up

Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, Senior Rabbi of England's Movement for Reform Judaism, is launching a website that will serve as a conduit, both online and off, where lonely men and women, both straight and gay, can meet. If relationships develop, the couples can then discuss religious home issues and other problems with qualified rabbis.



Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner

There are 42 Reform Judaism congregations in England, Wales and Scotland, but it is not clear how many will be involved as part of the matchmaking service or when the service will begin.

Shirei Chagigah is 9-12 July

Shirei Chagigah is the new name for the Movement for Reform Judaism's biennial music conference. It means 'songs of celebration' and reflects the celebration of music and prayer which we will enjoy over this very special weekend. Faculty confirmed include Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller, Noah Aronson, Cantor Zöe Jacobs, Merri Arian and Rabbi Noam Katz.

This celebration of music and prayer incorporating the MRJ Choirs Festival will give you the tools and experiences to learn about and enjoy Jewish music and *t'fillah* (prayer). This is an opportunity to learn from the world's foremost experts in the field of Jewish liturgical music. Through a series of workshops and services you will explore the use of music to enhance religious services, learn new melodies and choral harmonies for traditional prayers - and be part of a remarkable community.

Shirei Chagigah is not only for people who love to sing! For the first time we will be adding an extra dimension by having a programming stream dedicated to those in our communities who lead Shabbat services. Our Shaliach Tzibbur course is designed for you whether you have been leading services for many years or whether it is something you would like to start doing.

In addition the MRJ Choirs Festival will take place on the Sunday from 10am to 5pm and be run by Viv Bellos, Director of Music at Alyth, and aims to enthuse, encourage and inspire synagogue choirs of all abilities from around the country.

[Find out more and book your place today!](#)

Germany

News from the Youth Department - Netzer



The winter *Machaneh* (Youth Camp) was a great success and thirty young people and young adults have registered for this year's spring *Madrichim* (Youth Leadership) Training Seminar - which will take place in Hannover.

At Purim four *Madrichim* supported the communities in both Hannover and Munich, offering activities for the children.

In the meantime, preparations are under way for this summer's *Machaneh*. There will indeed be three *Hadracha* (Leadership Training) seminars beforehand, nevertheless we are already planning the main programme outlines, together with excursions and the main content themes.

We have over 20 *Madrichim* who want to go to the *Machaneh*. In addition there are *Madrichim* from Holland and Australia who want to support the team. Plans are already being established for another memorable *Machaneh* in the beautiful mountains of Austria.

The *Machaneh* is already two-thirds booked up - whoever wants to be there had better register quickly. Information and Registration can be found at www.upj-netzer.de.

We look forward to seeing you!

UpJ news

In the summer we will have our annual convention in Spandau from July 2nd to July 5th. During the convention we will be deeply engaged with the topic of Israel. The establishment of diplomatic relationships between the Federal Republic of Germany and Israel is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2015. We will host high-ranking Israeli representatives and experts in various fields, who will examine this important event from different points of view. There will be many workshops as well as the chance for the informal exchange of ideas and thoughts. Parallel to our convention, the by now traditional children's convention with its own specific programme will take place. The details for all this can be found in our wonderfully multifaceted newsletter.

Sonja Guentner
UpJ President

Read the UpJ newsletter

Union progressiver Juden in Deutschland (UpJ), the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany, publishes a newsletter in German, now with English translation. Read and subscribe to it [here](#).

New Rabbi for the Liberal Jewish Community in Hamburg

The Liberal Jewish Community in Hamburg (LJGH) is pleased to announce the engagement from February of Rabbi Dr Moshe Navon, who will be the new Liberal Rabbi for Hamburg.

In Israel Moshe Navon studied at the Orthodox Shalom Hartmann Institute and at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. In 2002 he gained his PhD at Hebrew University in Biblical Studies and in 2007 he was ordained as Rabbi.



Rabbi Dr Moshe Navon

Since then he has been involved in the reestablishment of Jewish communities and rabbinic training in the states of the Former Soviet Union, and for the revival of Liberal Judaism in Germany. He is especially interested in interfaith dialogue. Rabbi Dr Navon teaches at German universities, has officiated as community rabbi in several Liberal and 'Einheitsgemeinde' communities, and is a member of the Allgemeine Rabbinerkonferenz.

In September 2014 the LJGH celebrated its tenth anniversary. On this occasion Rabbi Dr Navon officiated for the first time as the community's rabbi. The position has been financed for the first six months from donations and the community is already looking for sources for more stable financial support.

Bettina Wagner

Public Relations Officer

Liberaler Jüdischer Gemeinde Hamburg eV

Visiting Kiel? The UpJ is there.



Jüdische Gemeinde Kiel

Spain



Pesach in Southern Spain



Pesach Seder at Bet Januká

We wanted to share an image from our Pesach Seder. We celebrated Passover in a family setting and fulfilled the mitzvot of the season: telling the story of the Exodus, transmitting faith in God and His Providence, and experiencing freedom as if we personally had left Egypt. On this night we felt the inherent spirituality of this past event, and we remembered that we are a people conceived in the most difficult of conditions, in a setting of miracles, and with a timeless nature like no other people.

Deborah Rios Rey, Bet Januká

Read our newsletters, numbers [12](#) and [13](#).

[Congregacion Bet Januká, Rota \(Cádiz\)](#)

Bet Januká thanks

The Bet Januká congregation of Andalucía would like to extend a very warm and grateful thank you to the board and constituent members of the EUPJ present in the Assembly in Geneva for accepting our community as an associate member of this union. Marcelo Langer, our representative at the meeting, felt very welcomed by the entire group and was extremely pleased to accept this honour in the name of all the members of Bet Januká. We look forward to cooperating on projects with congregations in Spain as well as from other member countries of the EUPJ.

Additionally, we would like to share with you the wonderful experience we had with Rabbi Alona Lisitsa, the rabbi for the conversion process in Spain, during her recent visit to Rota for Shabbat HaGadol. Not only did she share Kabbalat Shabbat and Arvit Shabbat services with us, she also led Shabbat morning services and an interesting study session covering the Haggadah for Pesach. Later in the evening we shared a session on the meaning of our Havdalah ceremony in which we bid farewell to Shabbat and enter the new week. It was quite an effort for Alona to do all this in such a short time and to explain everything in Spanish as well as English. We look forward to her next visit to Spain. She always brings the sun on her visits, and we were fortunate to celebrate these events at the Hotel Playa de la Luz in Rota (Cádiz). **Deborah Rios Rey**

High Schools visit Beit Emunah



Pérez de Ayala Institute students visiting Beit Emunah

As part of our educational activities that promote and show the Sephardic heritage and Judaism in Spain, we have welcomed two groups of students from different high schools. Accompanied by their teachers, the students participated in lively discussions. They also visited the library, the synagogue and our mini-museum at Beit Emunah. Most of their questions concerned the prohibitions of kashrut, which is what they find most difficult to imagine (Asturias being a region that considers a meal without pork as no meal at all). They also asked about the observance of Shabbat and the use of electricity and technology. We firmly believe that such visits provide a positive view of Judaism are very beneficial for everyone.

Pesach at Beit Emunah



For Pesach, the members of our *Kehillah*, together with a few *chaverim* visiting from other provinces, celebrated Kabbalat Shabbat, prayed the *arbit tefilot* and held our communal Passover Seder.

As in every year we observed the rite to remember and pass on to future generations our memories as we relived the arrival of freedom and the ability to choose between good and evil, to differentiate us from our oppressors through time and history. It was a very special Seder. Everyone read from the *Haggadah* and joined in the singing, securing a link in the chain of tradition at this most symbolic festival. May God grant us a long life to continue celebrating our traditions in brotherhood and harmony. Amen

A big family Pesach in Barcelona



Seder at Bet Shalom Barcelona

Catalan, Spanish, English and Hebrew, four languages made everyone feel at home in the Seder of Bet Shalom Barcelona. Our celebration was shared with friends, family members, visitors from all over the world, representatives from the local government and kids. For the second consecutive year Chazanit Romina Reisin was part of the Seder, guiding our community to remember slavery and enjoy freedom. "It was an opportunity to create together an exciting, meaningful, participatory, and cheerful Seder", said Romina.

Activities began a day before Pesach with a study session about the missing character in the Haggadah, where people learned why Moses was not mentioned in this story and why was he left out of the remembrance of this day. The week ended with *Mimona* a traditional Sephardi day to break the chametz fast together.

On the Seder night so many people helped to create a familiar and close atmosphere. All this could not have been possible without the efforts of volunteers, the Board of Directors and donors.

Bet Shalom also welcomed Rabbi Andrew Straus from the Central Synagogue in New York, who was visiting with his family and was happy to share that he learned two new traditions from this Seder. We are happy to inspire and create unforgettable moments of Jewish culture, life and traditions for our community and everyone who visits us in the heart of Barcelona.

Italian Correction

Was this an 'April Fool' joke, and were you wondering if anyone would spot the slip? Re: the heading 'Open Door to Jewish Women at Beth Shalom, Milan' on page 14 of the March EUPJ Newsletter. It should have read Wisdom, not Women.

Apologies to Beth Shalom Milan and our readers with thanks to Celia Naval, editor of the French translation of this newsletter, for spotting this unintended error. To date, she is the only one writing to us about it.

Editor

Marcia Falk on line in Spain

Apart from being a Passover tradition in Judaism, at Bet Shalom it is also a custom to study Shir HaShirim, the Song of Songs, every year from a different perspective. This year we held a joint videoconference with Bet Shalom Barcelona and the Reform Javurah of Madrid.

It seemed like the official beginning of spring on *Chol Hamoed Pesach* when [Marcia Falk](#), a scholar,



Marcia Falk

liturgist, artist and poet presented *The Song of Songs, Love Lyrics from the Bible* (also her book's title). Marcia gave us all a new appreciation of Shir HaShirim with explanations and recitations in both Hebrew and English.

Our deepest thanks to Marcia Falk for enriching this collaboration project, and especially for her inspiring words - both spoken and written.

Pesach and Mimona in Madrid

In the small but active Reform Javurah of Madrid, Pesach was a great experience. Taking advantage of Chazanit Romina Reisin's visit to Madrid, we celebrated a Kabbalat Shabbat HaGadol with her, including our *Give away your chametz* campaign from Mitzvah Day 365 and discussing *Moshe and the Haggadah* with Romina.

Our Seder for children and adults included our own Haggadah. The children had chocolate and sweets which added to their impressions of the story, while adults exchanged family customs, gave voice to actual testimonies of oppression in their countries of origin and made a flamenco version of *Had Gadya*.

For Chol Hamoed we shared with Bet Shalom Barcelona a Shir HaShirim videoconference with Marcia Falk. We concluded our Javurah's Pesach with a typical Moroccan Mimona, with mofletas, cakes, café shachor and bowls of flour and lima beans - symbolising prosperity.



Mimona treats in Madrid



ULIF COPERNIC
Union Libérale Israélite
de France

Copernic piano recital

On Sunday 29 March at 6 pm ULIF Copernic presented internationally renowned pianist Edna Stern, who has recorded several critically acclaimed CDs. She played two of the most beautiful Beethoven sonatas and also the works of two Czech Jewish musicians interned in Terezin.



Edna Stern

Programme: Ludwig Van Beethoven: Pathétique Sonata and Appassionata Sonata, Karel Reiner: Sonata For Piano, Gideon Klein: Sonata For Piano.

Edna Stern is regularly invited to perform at prestigious venues and festivals in Europe, and teaches at the Royal College of Music in London and is in residence at the Théâtre Impérial in Compiègne.

The Garden of Eden and Paradise at Kehilat Gesher



Jacques Neuburger

The theme of this year's lecture series by Jacques Neuburger is The Garden of Eden and Paradise. The seventh session on Monday 13 April was titled 'The masculine and feminine, exteriority and interiority'. The remaining Monday dates are 4 May, 1 June and 29 June, all at 17:30.

Jacques Neuburger is a teacher and researcher who played a leadership role in teacher training and inspection within the French national education system after studying literature, psychology, logic and linguistics.

EUPJ Newsletter en français

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

Beth-Yaacov
בית יעקב



Sparks of Hebrew at AJTM

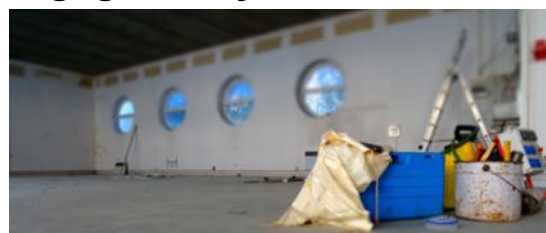
Wednesday 6 May at 20:00, Yaël Yotam will give a lecture on the theme "Jerusalem of Gold, Yerushalayim Shel Zahav", a linguistic, literary and historical study of the famous songs of [Naomi Shemer](#).



French translation help needed for EUPJ Newsletter

This is an appeal for someone to translate into French, the articles relating to Germany and the Eastern European countries. Possibly also Italy. In view of the ever-expanding newsletter, reflecting the very welcome surge in interest in Progressive Judaism in Europe, and many other demands on her time, your translator needs an extra head to satisfy the demand. Please contact Deborah Grabiner at administrator@eupj.org. **Celia Naval**

News from Keren Or, the Liberal Synagogue in Lyon



After a very tough start to 2015, we're packing up and leaving - no, not to go to another country, but leaving our old rental premises to occupy new premises which we have bought and are adapting for the move, which should occur before the summer. If you'd like to take a look at the project, please follow the link below. Should you feel inspired to help and encourage us to build an attractive centre for Liberal Judaism in Lyon, every little gesture will be highly appreciated! Pending the invitations for the autumn inauguration, we'd be delighted if your interest prompted you to click on one of these links! You can choose between English and French.

www.maschulanous.com/en/
www.maschulanous.com/fr/

WORLD
UNION FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



האיגוד
העולמי
ליהדות
מתקדמת

Changing Minds: July's Bergman Seminar for Progressive Jewish Educators now open for registration

Every year, the Bergman Seminar turns Israel into a giant classroom for Progressive Jewish Educators from across the globe. This 10-day professional development seminar, based in Jerusalem, is carefully crafted to provide maximum impact on the work of formal and informal Jewish educators. This year's Bergman Seminar, being held from July 2 to 12, will incorporate art, culture, spirituality, liturgy, Hebrew, history, politics, text study, Jewish values, pedagogy and more.

Together, the various components of the seminar will address the critical challenges facing the Jewish people, encounter creative projects addressing these challenges and encourage participants to develop their own initiatives.

Designing and implementing the Bergman Seminar is the [Saltz International Education Center's faculty](#), which includes some of the most accomplished scholars and educators in the world.

While this programme is highly regarded for its calibre of speakers and educational content, the magic of the seminar is the diversity of its participants. Last year's seminar attracted exceptional Jewish educators from South Africa, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Argentina, Israel, Australia, Panama, France and the United States.



Sign up for the [Bergman Seminar for Progressive Jewish Educators](#) today! Tell educators in your community about this unique opportunity.

See the Beutel Seminar video [here](#).



WUPJ Calendar

May 13-16 - Rio de Janeiro

[Connections 2015, WUPJ 37th Biennial Conference](#)

May 28-June 7 - Israel

[The Israel Study Kallah](#)

July 2-12 - Israel

[Bergman Seminar for Jewish Educators](#)

October 7-22 - Israel and Poland

[Israel - Poland Mission](#)



CONNECTIONS 2015

To secure your place at the event that's written on the calendars of Progressive Jewish people around the world, [click here](#) to visit the CONNECTIONS 2015 website.

Taking place May 13-16 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the WUPJ's 37th International Convention will bring members of our far-flung family together to learn about the inspiring vision of our movement's future via a wide variety of educational and entertaining sessions that will touch on the hot button issues affecting Reform, Progressive and Liberal Jews everywhere.

Ready for Rio? Register on line [here!](#)



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](#).



Subscribe to WUPJnews

[Sign up for WUPJnews](#) to receive on-going updates about our communities around the world.

Like WUPJ on [Facebook](#).

IMPJ Newsletter

Click on [this link](#) for the newsletter of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism.