



European Union for Progressive Judaism

October 2015 Newsletter

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Or Chadash Vienna turns 25



In celebration of the 25th anniversary, the liberal Jewish community of Or Chadash in Vienna invites you to attend the festivities on 1 November at 4:00 pm in the Jewish community space, Robertgasse 2. Our Motto: *"Learning from our journey, growing toward the future"*.

A reception with sparkling wine concludes the celebration. Further information will follow with a festive invitation. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact us at info@orchadasch.at.

Third Francophone Progressive gathering in Brussels



LeDor VaDor לדור ודור
De génération en génération
Pour un judaïsme en phase avec son temps

On 13, 14 and 15 November the third meeting of Francophone Liberal Judaism will be held in Brussels in partnership with the World Union for Progressive Judaism, the Liberal Belgian Israelite Community, Beth Hillel, the Federation of Liberal Judaism and the European Union for Progressive Judaism. Downloads: [Flyer](#) · [Programme](#) · [Hotel](#)

Chairman's Message

The summer is over, we have marked the *chagim* of Tishri, and now theoretically it's back to business as usual. The strange thing about EUPJ is that, in fact, there was no lengthy break from our activities and much happened during the past three months. For example, our efforts in the courts of Hungary certainly did not go on vacation and there could be a definitive outcome in the near future.



Miriam Kramer
Chairman, EUPJ

The organising committee of next year's EUPJ Biennial

Conference has been at work non-stop to make the arrangements for what will surely be a memorable event. The theme is Building Bridges – Progressive Judaism in the Modern World. There will be two important anniversaries celebrated: in 1926 the WUPJ was founded in London and in 1956 Leo Baeck College came into existence. Registration is now open at our website, www.eupj.org, and I urge all our readers to register quickly: do not forget that we had to close registration for our last conference in Dresden because of its popularity.

The plight of refugees from numerous countries has touched the hearts of us all and at EUPJ we have taken some action. The umbrella organisation World Jewish Relief (WJR) has been at the forefront of assisting people, regardless of their nationality or religion, and EUPJ has not only made a donation but has also set up a channel for our members – both individual and institutional – to do the same. Simply transfer whatever amount you can to the EUPJ account (details are on our website) and cite WJR as the reference. We will then send the money straight to them. You don't need me to remind you that as Jews we have a particular obligation to help people in such dire times.

Miriam Kramer



Save the date and
register now for
early bird rates

14-17 April 2016 in London

[Click here](#) and see page 3 for
more information.

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Gillian Thomas, Assistant Editor



Please distribute our newsletter to your EUPJ community's members

One of the best ways to increase awareness of the possibilities for living a Progressive Jewish life is to share this newsletter with all the people on your EUPJ community's mailing list. This gives all members, friends and supporters the opportunity to see what other communities do and to generate ideas for enhancing your own community's range of activities. The diversity across our European Progressive organisations is enormous, so spread the word.

We encourage all of our EUPJ synagogues to appoint one person who will be in charge of forwarding this newsletter every month. Choose your chair, a board member, administrator, webmaster or any volunteer with proper access to your membership database. Just as you regularly send your own announcements, send this newsletter out to your complete mailing list. Your recipients will be glad and your community will benefit from the synergy that comes from so many people getting inspired.

As the sneaker company slogan says: 'Just do it!'

Arthur Buchman
Editor

Into the heavens with the Union, part 2



On 24 July I flew on a British Airways Airbus A-321 identified as G- EUPJ! "Lo baShamayim Hi"? **Rabbi Walter Rothschild**
Last month we ran this item. This month we have the photo.

Visit the EUPJ website at www.eupj.org.

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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.

[Europe](#)

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Lev Chadash, Milan

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Friends of Progressive
Judaism
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They support us.
www.fpjie.org.uk





REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

European Union for Progressive Judaism Biennial Conference

Save the date and [register now](#) for the EUPJ Biennial Conference from 14 to 17 April 2016.

“Building Bridges” is our conference theme. Bringing people together is at the heart of what we as Progressive Jews focus much of our work around - building bridges in our own communities, with those of other faiths, with the displaced and with the wider world. It is against this backdrop that the EUPJ Conference team is planning an event that will leave you feeling inspired, informed and ready to return to your communities with new ideas and energy.

On behalf of the EUPJ leadership and the Conference team, I would like to invite you to join friends, colleagues and Progressive Jews from across the world in London next April to learn together, pray together and to be part of a truly inspiring four days.

Being part of the 2016 EUPJ Biennial will:

- Bring you to London to experience an opening ceremony that is being held at Guildhall, one of London’s most iconic, historic and beautiful buildings
- enable you to immerse yourself in a weekend of learning, debating and sharing of ideas from our speakers and teachers. There are sessions on anti-Semitism, a sociological perspective of European Jewry, the refugee crisis and our relationship with Israel. We’ll be focussing on Sephardi Jewish tradition in our communities, best practice for engaging young adults, celebrating Jewish music and culture - and more.



Guildhall

- ensure that you experience varied and inspirational tefillah and Shabbat learning with Shacharit services at the conference venue, Kabbalat Shabbat at **West London Synagogue** and Shabbat morning service at the **Liberal Jewish Synagogue**. Shabbat afternoon offers “lunch and learning” followed by additional possibilities and ends with Havdalah.



WLS



LJS

- celebrate both the **60th anniversary** of Leo Baeck College and the **90th anniversary** of the World Union for Progressive Judaism with a Shabbat morning sermon by LBC Principal, Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris and an address by WUPJ President, Rabbi Daniel H Freeland.



Rabbi Kahn-Harris



Rabbi Freeland

- be an amazing four days to be with friends in our European communal home here in London.

[REGISTER TODAY](#) to attend the conference.

I look forward to welcoming you to London in 2016 to build bridges and to build Progressive Judaism across Europe.

John Cohen
On behalf of the Conference team

Book now to take advantage of the EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT. All bookings made before 31 JANUARY 2016 will benefit from this opening offer.

Registration Open for Women's Leadership Seminar

London, April 12-14

From April 12 to 14, 2016 the [Women of Reform Judaism](#) (WRJ) in cooperation with EUPJ and WUPJ will be convening the inaugural Wilkenfeld International Women's Leadership Seminar in London. The purpose is to help Progressive Jewish women from around the world learn leadership skills and to encourage them to take on leadership roles in their home communities. Travel and registration subsidies are available. There will be limited spaces.



Participants will:

Learn the "why" and "how" of leadership.

Meet Reform and Progressive Jewish women from around the world.

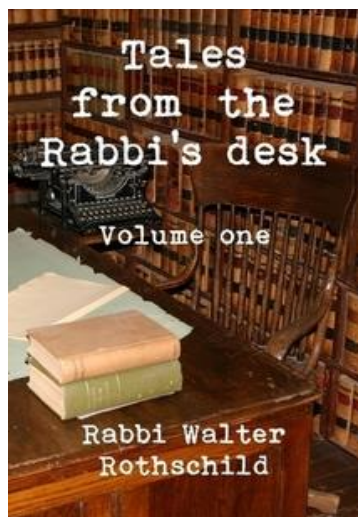
Establish a new global network.

Develop skills useful in their own communities.

You can access online information and registration [here](#). Registration is \$500, including Tuesday & Wednesday hotel and meals, through Thursday lunch. Applications with a letter of endorsement are due by November 20: [here](#). Questions: Abi Winter at awinter@wrj.org

*Attendees are encouraged to extend their stay and participate also in the EUPJ Biennial Conference, **Building Bridges**, as advertised on page 3.*

Tales from the Rabbi's Desk



I am pleased to announce publication - in various formats - of a selection of my rabbinic short stories. These are classed as 'not true but authentic', i.e. they are fiction but based to a large extent upon events and experiences. To what extent? Well, that varies.

But I hope they will be both informative and entertaining. And I hope to sell a lot! A warning: If these do sell well, then I have

plenty more awaiting publication.

Links: [The paperback](#) / [pdf version](#) / [e-Book](#)

Rabbi Dr Walter Rothschild

Some Jewish wisdom

There are two things that are forbidden to worry about: That which it is possible to fix, and that which is impossible to fix. What is possible to fix - fix it, and why worry? What is impossible to fix - how will worrying help?

Rebbe Yechiel Michal of Zlotchov, the Tolna Rebbe

WORLD
UNION FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



האיגוד
העולמי
ליהדות
מתקדמת

Israel's Latest Terror Wave: The WUPJ Responds

A rash of stabbings and other terror attacks on Israeli citizens have increased alarmingly over the past few days. The World Union for Progressive Judaism, proudly headquartered in Jerusalem, condemns these acts. The cruelty of those who attack innocent civilians and children on their way home from school seems to know no limit.

The WUPJ mourns with the families and loved ones of the victims of these latest terrorist attacks.

During dark times like these, there is a powerful urge to hate and to inflict collective punishment on "the other." However, we cannot let extremists set the agenda for the rest of us. There will only be peace once the fundamentalists no longer perpetuate this cycle of hate.

The worldwide Reform Movement continues to pray for an end to the violent acts, meant to plant fear in the hearts of every Israeli citizen.

These acts will not deter us from our efforts to strengthen the Jewish people and the State of Israel. We must not allow fear to rule us.

The WUPJ international leadership has gathered in Jerusalem to express solidarity with the citizens of Jerusalem and Israel. The meetings of the World Zionist Congress continued as planned with a full complement of Reform Jewish leaders from around the globe. Our brothers and sisters in Israel need - and deserve - our support in these challenging times. They are not alone.

Rabbi Daniel H Frelander, WUPJ President

Carole Sterling, WUPJ Chair

Dr Philip Bliss, WUPJ Advocacy Committee Chair

Letters to the Editor

Dear Deborah & Arthur,

Now that I am not so intensely involved in the everyday affairs of EUPJ, I must say how I value the Newsletter. It really is superb and gives a picture of a most active Movement right across Europe. Kol Hakavod.

Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein

Excellent as ever. Great front page article from Leslie and page after page of positive news from across the region. Many thanks and keep up the good work.

David Pollak

A Happy & Sweet New Year to you [Deborah] and to Arthur Buchman. Keep up the good work.

Austin Beutel

Dear Arthur and Deborah,

I do wish to commend you on the latest edition of the EUPJ newsletter. It gives a really broad and positive picture of our work across Europe.

Rabbi Danny Rich

Spain

Rabbi Alona Lisitsa's High Holy Days visit to Spain, 2015



Fira Lisitsa reading from the Torah during mincha

This year I served the Chavura of Madrid, and Bet Januká of Rota, who joined us in Madrid, for Yom Kippur. Beit Shalom in Barcelona also benefitted from EUPJ generosity, and I went there for Shabbat Sukkot and Simchat Torah.

The Chavura and Yael Cobano did very impressive organisational work, renting a very beautiful and elegant space in a very central location of Madrid and printing the machzorim.

As Yael leads the Chavura I proposed that we lead the services together. We went through the whole machzor and planned participants' involvement: reading texts in Spanish, leading the melodies they know, preparing a study session or blowing the shofar.

It was very moving and exciting for me personally to lead the first full Reform Yom Kippur services in Madrid, a capital and a city of much potential for congregational development.

A young girl who made Aliyah to Israel and returned to the family for vacation played the melody of Kol Nidrey on the cello as an introduction to the service. Kol Nidrey was the most attended service, we were about 50.

There were some children of different ages present, therefore I invited them with their parents to the bimah where we spread the tallit over the children and blessed them. I also invited children to lead the congregation in the Shema.

For the majority of the participants, even Jewish, it was the first time they experienced a full Yom Kippur service. And as there were some English-speakers present, I lead the services in Spanish and English.

After the shacharit service and Torah reading, we had a creative musaf text study session. I had planned it for 45 minutes, but we stayed for more than an hour and a half as people were interested and eager to continue and shared many very personal stories.

After a late mid-day pause we started again with the a limmud prepared by a member of the Chavura. At mincha my younger daughter Fira read from the Torah, which got everybody excited. We thought it would be nice for the youngsters to see a peer reading the Torah to encourage their more active participation. The haftarah from Jonah was read by seven women in Spanish while children showed

puppets they prepared with their madricha for accompanying the story. I also invited everybody who wished to try to sound shofar with us and several people came to try. After havdalah we had a communal break-fast meal.

It was more than rewarding to hear from almost everybody there how meaningful, uplifting and enriching this experience was for them. My efforts to



Havdalah with Rabbi Alona Lisitsa and Yael Cobano

involve actively as many people as possible, to teach about the day, its meaning and liturgy, to create a liberal and egalitarian service with strong traditional roots and content were rather successful according to all their feedback.

We were received very cordially in Beit Shalom. I led Kabbalat Shabbat with Maria Prieto Manzanares and presented a drasha, this time in Spanish. We did a blessing for children in the end of the service. Then we proceeded to the Seudat Shabbat with Kiddush and full birkat hamazon. Great food and a really family-like atmosphere in Bet Shalom were all wonderful treats.



Blessing Bet Shalom's American guests

For Simchat Torah there were three couples who were guests from the USA. I invited these couples to light candles and provided a special blessing for them. This service was in both English and Spanish for the benefit of the guests. We had much dancing and simchah, singing and Torah reading with a short Dvar Torah. The congregants commented that they really felt much joy and celebration.

For both occasions we were about 30 people. The atmosphere in the congregation was very warm and welcoming.

Rabbi Alona Lisitsa

Spanish EUPJ communities join interfaith pilgrimage

The least expected experiences in life can sometimes be the ones best lived, and the Interfaith Pilgrimage for Peace and Social Justice this September has been one of those experiences for the Jewish participants from the Bet Januká and Bet El communities. It has truly enriched our lives. We are very pleased to be able to enter into dialogue and to get to know each other between members of the monotheistic religions, and more so in this environment of mutual respect.

We all have different roads to travel and different forms of honoring our same Creator, and in this encounter we have learned how the other religions manifest this. There was a great participation effort on everyone's part in the activities sponsored by each confession. We are especially happy for having discovered more uniting points than dividing ones. This has reiterated the fact the differences are not bad. You just have to know how to live with them and of course respect them.

It was a pleasure, as a way to participate in this encounter, to explain what the Jewish New Year is, and the meaning of its symbolic foods, as well as the tashlich custom. We enjoyed sharing the sound of the shofar and talking about it as an important mitzvah during the High Holidays. We also explained the meaning of the Day of Atonement in the Jewish calendar, and we realised that deep down, we all share the desire to forgive and to be forgiven for our transgressions against the other in the world.

We want to extend our gratitude to Pedro Alvarez for making this a successful conviviality, and also to the nuns in the Benedictine monastery of Santa Maria de Carbajal. The meeting with the Bishop of Leon, Don Julián López Martín was important due to his involvement in the project, just as John XXIII until the current day Pope Francis have promoted interfaith dialogue.

We hold the sincere hope to share in this type of experience again in the future.

Deborah Ríos Rey, Bet Januká

High Holy Days at Bet Januká



Celebrating at Bet Januká

In the Bet Januká community we celebrated the beginning of the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah with the due joy and festivity, but also reflecting the duality of happiness and humility. We began with delicious round challa, which symbolises the circle of life, as well as the other special and sweet foods, all the meanwhile teaching their meaning to the younger ones present. We had the honour of receiving the Honorary Consul of Israel in Cádiz, Huelva and Extremadura, Salvador Pascual Sanchez-Gijon and his charming wife, Doña Maria del Mar Rozas Gonzalez.

After a month of spiritual preparation, we all met in a happy but also solemn environment when it came time to sound the shofar. The shofar and its four calls remind us of our humbleness before Adonai and as we confront our own actions. The intention of the shofar is to wake our souls again from their slumber, and to remind us that among all the things in the world that we cannot change, we can change our own actions.

In the afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashanah, we celebrated the Tashlich ceremony, symbolically throwing our transgressions to the sea in the Bay of Cádiz, to remind us of our actions and to correct our errors, thereby to refocus our direction for the New Year. As said in Micah 7:19, "God will take us back in love; God will cover up our iniquities, You will hurl all our sins into the depths of the sea." We should remember that we can do the same for ourselves and each other.

Deborah and Ahuvah

[See photos and a video of sounding the shofar here.](#)

Inspiration and tradition in Bet Shalom Barcelona

For second year in a row Chazanit Romina Reisin, led Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services in Bet Shalom Barcelona, sharing with the community her energy, enthusiasm and knowledge, teaching the little ones and reminding us all of the true meaning of these gatherings. Following the community's Seder for Rosh Hashanah, full of symbolic foods and good wishes for the next year, we closed with the celebration of Tashlich, held at a Barcelona. Beach with full Mediterranean atmosphere.

Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, the board and the support of the EUPJ, Bet Shalom moved with great satisfaction and kavanah throughout the High Holidays. We arriving at Yom Kippur with a full house, plenty of emotions and gratitude, fasting together and sharing every moment from Kol Nidre to Neilah, with space for Jewish meditation and shiurim.

Bet Shalom celebrated, renewed, played the shofar, hugged each other, forgave and even cried. At the end we joined our hearts once more to be a sacred community of chosen people.



Torah reading with Chazzanit Romina Reisin

Czech Republic

Ninth annual Czech Shabbaton



Czech Havdalah with Cantor Ivan Kohut (with wine) and Rabbi Joel Oseran (3rd from right)

Jews from throughout the Czech Republic gathered from August 28-30 to celebrate their ninth annual Shabbaton Conference. This year's event took place in the city of Jecin, located about 90 km Northeast of Prague, a region referred to as the "Bohemian Paradise". The purpose of the Shabbaton is to provide the opportunity for Jews to come together for worship, study, discussion of current issues facing Czech Jewish communities and to strengthen their resolve as Progressive Jews in a country that is still led by an Orthodox Chief Rabbi.

Earlier Shabbatonim were funded through the generous contribution of Jim and Liz Breslauer who over a decade ago understood the need to help the emerging Jewish communities in the Czech Republic - most specifically Beit Simcha in Prague. For the past several years, however, support for the Shabbaton has been provided by the EUPJ with a contribution made available from the Roswell Fund for Central/Eastern Europe.

This year's guest speakers were Rabbi Joel Oseran, Vice President, International Development for the WUPJ and Professor Paul Liptz, Director of Education for the WUPJ Saltz Center. Our Shabbat worship services were led by Beit Simcha spiritual leader Ivan Kohut.



Reciting Kaddish at a Czech Jewish cemetery

In addition to Shabbat and Havdallah services, the Shabbaton provided a number of additional learning and touring opportunities for the more than 50 participants. Professor Liptz presented a comprehensive review of issues facing Israel in the Middle East, which generated considerable discussion. Rabbi Oseran discussed the progress of Progressive Judaism in Israel over the past few years as well as engaging in discussion regarding the issue of conversion and how the EUPJ can be of assistance to those candidates interested in conversion where no Progressive congregation exists. The model of teaching conversion classes through Skype, as is presently conducted in Spain, was discussed as well.



Czech Shabbaton workshop and service
[See many more wonderful photos here](#)

Another, more unusual workshop topic was entitled, "Jewish Humour within the framework of Halacha", taught by David Maxa, a native of Prague now a rabbinical student at Geiger College.

With fewer than an estimated 10,000 Jews in the Czech Republic today, the need to engage each and every one of them in Jewish life becomes critically important. The Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic is one of the few European national bodies to recognise officially the status of Progressive Judaism, which is a most important accomplishment. The future of the entire Czech Jewish community depends upon the extent to which Progressive Judaism will grow. In the past 10 years, numerous synagogues and other Jewish buildings have been restored and renovated using generous funding from the European Union. But the real work ahead is to restore and renew the spirit of the Jewish people in the Czech Republic – people to fill the renovated bricks and mortar with life and a future. This is the mandate of the EUPJ/WUPJ – to this we are committed.

Rabbi Joel Oseran

IJC and Beth Hillel celebrate Sukkot together in Brussels



On September 27, the International Jewish Center (IJC) and the Belgian Liberal Congregation of Beth Hillel held a very successful joint service to celebrate Sukkot. For the first time ever, IJC's Rabbi Ira Goldberg and Beth Hillel's Rabbi Marc Neiger were both present to lead the Sukkot service and celebrations in English and French.

Both communities were well represented with as many children present as adults (some as young as three months!)

Relations between IJC and Beth Hillel continue to become closer while each congregation maintains its distinct identity.



IJC meets Israeli Scout Group

Zofim is the Israeli Scout Movement. Earlier in the summer, an Israeli Zofim group contacted the IJC to ask for assistance in organising their trip to Leuven and Belgium. We were able to connect them with a bus company and security people in Brussels. On August 7, they invited the IJC to join them at De Kluis near Leuven (a place the IJC has used for school retreats) for a short Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by dinner Scouts-style. Brian Doyle and the Echikson family represented IJC, together with some Israelis who regularly attend Leuven services. We told the 70+ Zofim present about the IJC, about Jewish life in Belgium and enjoyed their warm hospitality.

LGBT group launches in Brussels

A few enthusiasts have decided to launch an initiative similar to ones already existing in France, the UK, Germany and the Netherlands. Our primary aim is to get together on a regular basis, celebrate Shabbat and holidays, have joint sessions with Beth Hillel and the IJC on religious and cultural topics, collaborate with other Jewish LGBT groups in Europe, the USA and Israel, and reach out to other LGBT faith communities in Belgium. If you're interested, join our [Facebook page](#) or email David Weis at dalw1984@gmail.com or Gianluca Pacchiani at gianluicapacchiani@yahoo.it.



High Holy Days photo essay: Shir Hatzafon in Copenhagen



Rachel Yatzkan sounds the Shofar



Breaking the fast



In the Shir Hatzafon sukkah

Tikkun Olam at Sim Shalom

I wrote in September that Sim Shalom was starting to work with other civil organisations in Hungary to do what it could to mitigate the difficulties that the refugees are facing here, much of it due to the very unwelcoming policies of the Hungarian government. Since some of you have very generously contributed to support our efforts, this month I continue to report on what we have been doing.

It has become more difficult to do anything for most of the refugees, since the government is very effectively blocking them from entering Hungary. But then on some days, they are given swift passage through Hungary to the northern borders where they can transit to Austria and toward Germany. The situation changes from day to day. So the crowds of thousands camped out at the train stations in Budapest, needing food and water and diapers and soap, are no more. But some of them are stuck in camps outside the city, waiting to be classified as to their refugee status. So now we are working through organisations which are on the scene in those places who can tell us what they need.

So far we have collected almost \$2,000 for this work, approximately half from our own members and half from those of you abroad who have wanted to be involved. We bought and delivered 40 rain jackets, 50 pairs of rain boots, 23 tents, 500 raincoats plus food and beverages. We especially thank everyone who made a donation for this project.

Jess Weil, Treasurer



Tikkun Olam at Sim Shalom, Budapest.
Cartons of donations ready to be delivered to refugees

High Holy Days at Sim Shalom

Budapest's Sim Shalom congregation celebrated the Jewish New Year in grand style. Due to the large turnout for the annual Erev Rosh Hashanah, Sim Shalom has been celebrating the New Year at a local hotel. This year, 5776, Sim Shalom welcomed special guests that included six students from the United States who were spending a semester abroad in Budapest. Most of the visitors also showed up for Yom Kippur, which took place at Sim Shalom's own synagogue.

For Sukkot, Sim Shalom joined forces with the [Israeli Cultural Institute](#). Both organisations set up a large Sukkah and Rabbi Kati Kelemen, founding member and spiritual leader of Sim Shalom, led the programme along with Abraham Geiger College student rabbi Armin Langer.

Finally, on the night of October 4, Sim Shalom celebrated Simchat Torah, dancing with the Torah before doing the reading of the last and first verses of the scroll.

Simchat Torah at Bet Orim 5776

[Click here](#) for many Facebook photos of this joyous occasion. Many thanks to Rabbi Ferenc Raj for posting the link.



Simchat Torah at Bet Orim Budapest 5776



New series at Lev Chadash Milan

Lev Chadash Milan has inaugurated a new lecture series of meetings discussing Italian Judaism and the influence it has had on Italian society. The series opened on Sunday 11 October with a well-attended talk by historian Claudio Vercelli about "A reciprocity interrupted: Italian Judaism from the Albertine Statute to fascism".



Claudio Vercelli

Beth Shalom Milan High Holidays



Beth Shalom Milan singing and clapping

For the High Holidays we were so lucky to have Rabbi Don Goor and Cantor Evan Kent with us. Both made Aliyah several years ago and work at HUC in Jerusalem, Rabbi Goor as Campus Rabbi and Cantor Kent as an Instructor of Cantorial Studies. Both Milan's fashion week and EXPO brought many visitors to celebrate with us.

Rabbi Goor is Rabbi Emeritus at Temple Judea in Tarzana, the largest Reform Synagogue in the San Fernando Valley in California. His sermon on why he is a Zionist was truly special. His other sermon, "Talk the Talk-Walk the Walk" discussed why 30,000 Israelis walked to attend the funeral of Max Steinberg, a native of Los Angeles killed in action in Gaza over a year ago. He was a lone soldier, a volunteer with no family in Israel. Both Rabbi Goor and Cantor Kent were among the 30,000.

Walking is a continuous theme in the Torah and appears in Noah, Abraham, and Micah. Rabbi Goor told us, "We as Progressive and Liberal Jews must actively chose the path upon which we will walk whether it be Jewish learning, doing a Tikkun Olam project or attending Shabbat services".

Cantor Kent, the former Cantor at Temple Isiah in Los Angeles provided stirring musical renditions of the sacred prayers and ancient poems that are part of the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur liturgy. El Norah Aliyah has a special Milan Yom Kippur melody. The Cantor asked many members and rabbis who served us in past years to sing it to him but none could do it. He could not even find it in his numerous cantorial volumes. While driving to visit the 16th century synagogue in Casale Monferrat, Carole Ross, Vice President of Beth Shalom, sang the melody and the Cantor recorded it. He then transcribed it and sang it at the conclusion of Neilah. He promised to find out the origin of this emotional melody and share it with his cantorial colleagues in Israel, the US and throughout Europe.

Instead of our traditional Rosh Hashanah dinner, we had very successful Kabbalat Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We began with the traditional prayers followed by a concert. Cantor Kent showed us how a melody for reading the Torah was utilised by George Gershwin as the basis of "It Ain't Necessarily So" from Porgy and Bess.

Carole Ross

Simchat Torah at Beth Hillel Roma with Rabbi Joel Oseran



Simchat Torah 2015 at Beth Hillel Roma

Beth Hillel Roma celebrated Simchat Torah on October 5th in our premises of Via dei Salumi 51 with Rabbi Joel Oseran, Vice, Vice President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

We began by gathering at our premises and had a small tour of the area with our Sefer Torah and Chuppah and music played by Gabriele Coen. Back inside, we held an Arvit service with Kiddush, followed by a community dinner, to which everyone contributed with vegetarian food, kosher deserts and/or wine. We concluded the evening with a talk and discussion with Rabbi Oseran on the theme: "Tensions and challenges facing Israel as we begin the New Year."

High Holy Days in Florence



Cantor Louise Treitman (center in white) at Shir Chadash

Congregation Shir Chadash is Progressive Judaism's Home in Florence. This EUPJ/WUPJ-affiliated congregation was established in 2003 and serves the entire non-Orthodox Jewish community of Florence. For the High Holy Days Shir Chadash Florence welcomed Cantor Louise Treitman from the United States for the second straight year to lead services and conduct special activities with the children over the holidays. Cantor Treitman, Adjunct Faculty member of the School of Jewish Music at Hebrew College in Boston and former Associate Dean, first came to Florence as a student intern.

In addition to delivering her sermons in Italian (with English translations available), Cantor Treitman incorporated musical selections from Sephardi, Ashkenazi and Italian traditions, mirroring the diverse make-up of the congregation. This year's High Holiday services were enhanced by the beautiful singing voice of Jinny Sagorin, a School of Jewish Music student. The High Holy Day services were attended by tourists and students from all over the world, as well as members of Shir Chadash.

Liberal Judaism unites to provide relief to refugees

Liberal Jewish communities around the UK spent the High Holy Days welcoming and supporting refugees. A campaign that Liberal Judaism began more than 13 months ago, on Sukkot 2014, has been given a new urgency in recent days – uniting all religious and community leaders. Rabbi Danny Rich, Liberal Judaism's senior rabbi, speaking on behalf of Liberal Judaism's Board of National Officers (*pictured below*), said: "Last Sukkot, Liberal Judaism – in partnership with Citizens UK – began its 'Sanctuary Campaign' to persuade each local authority to agree to welcome 50 refugees under the United Nations Vulnerable Persons Scheme."



Liberal Judaism's Board of National Officers

Rabbi Rich added, "The arrival of refugees in a given area requires planning for the provision of accommodation, school places and medical practices, for example, and local people of all faiths and none began to undertake these tasks with their local authorities. It was also agreed that successful integration was vital, and Liberal synagogues offered voluntary teachers and space for basic English classes. The Jewish community – with our particular experience as a 'wandering people' – stands ready to provide immediate aid through the coordinated efforts of [World Jewish Relief](#), and I am confident that we Jews, in partnership with British society, will more than meet our obligations in the longer term."

Warm up with winter events from RSY-Netzer

RSY-Netzer winter events are just around the corner, offering something for everyone in years 4-12 with a brand new camp tailor made for years 9 and 10!

[Read more.](#)



COURSES 2015-2016

Biblical Hebrew: Beginner and Intermediate
Dr Alinda Damsma

The Sound of Torah and Prayer
Dr Annette Boeckler

Who is a Jew? Jewish Identities
Dr Laliv Cienman

Martin Buber's 'Eclipse of God', and its contemporary relevance
Rabbi Dr Judith Rosen-Berry
(Lectures in honour of Rabbi Sheila Shulman z"l)

Shoah through film: The Impact of WWII on Jewish Children and Families
Dr Joanna B Michlic

Maimonides' Radical Judaism: An enduring intellectual heritage
Rabbi Mark L Solomon

Reading between the lines: A literary approach to Jonah and Ruth
Rabbi Professor Jonathan Magonet
Reading between the lines: A literary approach to Jonah and Ruth
Dr Keith Kahn-Harris

'Jews don't do art.....' - or do they?
Rabbi Colin Eimer

ABOUT US

The Leo Baeck College Lehrhaus follows in the footsteps of the Berlin Lehrhaus established in 1920 by Franz Rosenzweig. Leo Baeck College's outstanding faculty teach subjects about which they are passionate and deeply knowledgeable.

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LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

All courses are held at Leo Baeck College on week-day evenings

More information from

www.lbc.ac.uk

lehrhaus@lbc.ac.uk

LJY-Netzer has a new team



LJY-Netzer team: Anna Craven, Tom Francies, Sam Alston

Each year LJY-Netzer and Liberal Judaism take on three movement workers, a team of salaried professionals based at our Montagu Centre head office, to run the youth movement. For 2015/16, we are delighted to introduce you to new team members Sam Alston and Anna Craven and re-introduce Tom Francies, who is staying on for a third year.

LIBERAL JUDAISM SOUTH WEST REGIONAL SHABBATON

A relaxing day of Jewish learning, services and community

Saturday 28th November 2015, 10am to 6pm

Jury's Inn, Swindon, Fleming Way, SN1 2NG



£20 for adults, £5 for children (Includes lunch & refreshments)

Book online: www.tinyurl.com/southwestshabbaton

Or call Aaron Abraham at Liberal Judaism on 0207 631 9830



The NLPS Trust
for Progressive Judaism



liberal judaism

This is a Liberal Judaism event, kindly sponsored by the NLPS Trust

Movement for Reform Judaism responds to refugee crisis

The biggest thing that has been happening with us, and many other communities is the response to the refugee crisis. A major story is that MRJ have appointed a Refugee Response Coordinator, Yael Shafritz. Read more [here](#) and [here](#). Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner called for a coordinated international response to the refugee crisis on a joint mission to Calais with Imam Qari Muhammad Asim MBE, Imam at Leeds Makkah Mosque. Read more [here](#)

Rabbi Kate Briggs at Scotland's First Minister's interfaith meeting

Rabbi Kate Briggs of Glasgow Reform Synagogue joined representatives from different faith groups and interfaith organisations to discuss their work with Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on Tuesday 8 September. The group also discussed the importance of faith in public life, interfaith dialogue and the support offered by faith communities to the on-going humanitarian crisis in southern Europe. Rabbi Briggs said: "It was a very interesting afternoon and the First Minister listened to our concerns and was quite open to suggestions. Most of us sit on the Religious Leaders Forum so know one another quite well, we are certainly united on many issues and debate others. Interfaith dialogue in Scotland is high on every religious leader's agenda and I have been impressed at the number of faith representatives that always attend these meetings."

[Read more about the meeting and its attendees.](#)

**Sukkat
Shalom**
Edinburgh Liberal
Jewish Community



Edinburgh news

The [September](#) and [October](#) issues of our newsletter, *Lulav*, are now published. Being so near to the High Holy Days, it is not surprising that much of the content deals with charity and justice. In particular, there are details of how to contribute to our chosen charities for this year. Another form of mitzvah is volunteering on Mitzvah Day (p4). Forthcoming events with full details linked to maps, are all listed in our [Diary](#).

**Norman Crane, Chair, Sukkat Shalom
The Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community**

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**



Dublin appointments for Rabbi Charles Middleburgh

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh has been appointed as rabbi emeritus, and interim congregational rabbi, at Dublin Jewish Progressive Congregation (DJPC). As rabbi emeritus, he will always be available to DJPC for spiritual and religious guidance and to offer rabbinic support in times of need. He will also fill the position of interim congregational rabbi for a period of 18-20 months from September 1, leading services on a regular basis, playing a central role in adult and youth education and helping the community address its long-term rabbinic requirements.



Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh

MJLF High Holy Days events

MJLF was proud to participate on 10 September in the 92Y inspired New Year Prayer in which selected communities around the world shared a Rosh Hashanah blessing that passed from Sydney through Johannesburg and Krakow to Paris, London (Finchley Reform) and finally the US. Our President, Marc Konczaty, and all three rabbis – Delphine Horvilleur, Yann Boissiere and Floriane Chinsky - recorded messages of inspiration, concern and hope. Everyone pitched in to produce videos and photo streams providing a living portrait of MJLF through services for the little ones, musical services for everyone, holiday celebrations, study sessions, Talmud Torah and young adult events. The ULIF President, Jean-François Bensahel and the Director of the *Ecole Juive Moderne*, Josee Vaisbrot, also recorded messages for the occasion. [Link to the MJLF playlist dedicated to the event.](#)

On 1 Tishri (14 September), the rabbis took 50 people to the banks of the river Seine for the Tashlich ceremony. Rabbi Boissiere led readings and prayers before pockets were emptied and sins generously offered to the fish. For the High Holidays, the community took over the *Casino de Paris*, a red velvet theatre for 1300 people. Rabbis Boissiere and Horvilleur gave powerful sermons, and following a recently established minhag, gave additional lessons during Yom Kippur. Laura Mayne, a new member, sang Barbra Streisand's version of Avenu Malkeinu. Services were held at the two synagogue locations, and total attendance was more than 1800.

New book by Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur



Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur and her book

Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur's second book *Comment les Rabbins font des enfants* (How Rabbis Make Children) was launched on 15 October to a full house at the prestigious *Musee d'Art et d'Histoire Juif* (Museum of Jewish Art and History), followed by many interviews. ([See one here.](#)) The book looks into identity and transmission, arguing that to be true to one's heritage is not to replicate it for the next generation but rather to re-invent it, enriched by contact with others. The author rethinks some of the great contemporary problems on the basis of rabbinical texts and throws new light on some of the most famous episodes in the Book of Genesis – Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, humanity's first parents and its first children. The sacred texts, she writes, must be fertilised by new readings.

EUPJ Newsletter en français

Read the latest and all other French editions [here](#), thankfully translated by Celia Naval of Keren Or in Lyon with help from Luc Bourgeois in Brussels.

Trip to Auschwitz from Paris on Sunday 31 January, 2016



To commemorate the International Day in Memory of the Shoah, the Interreligious Dialogue team and Kehilat Gesher with the participation of Rabbi Tom Cohen offer a trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau organized with the Shoah Memorial. CDG (5am) - Krakow - CDG (11:30pm). Programme: morning visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau II and meditation at the memorial, afternoon visit to Auschwitz I and its museum. PAF €360 (transportation, taxes, visits and repatriation insurance). The participation of children under 15 is not recommended. There will be a preparatory meeting with the presence of a former prisoner of Auschwitz. Deadline for registration is November 15. Contact the rabbi for more information.

Mitzvah Day at Keren Or

For Mitzvah Day on 22 November, our Social Works Committee has launched a major food drive in support of refugees, in partnership with the



KEREN OR
synagogue libérale de lyon

French Red Cross and the Food Bank. We invite everyone, right up to the evening of 21 November, to deliver your donations to our Lyon synagogue. The needs of these two associations are: dry products like pasta, rice and semolina, canned vegetables and



fruits, canned fish, coffee, tea, cocoa, packaged soup (best in individual envelopes). Green boxes have been placed at the synagogue since Friday 8 October where you can drop off the food.

The Shabbos Project in Paris

ULIF-Copernic is participating on Friday 23 October in a Worldwide Shabbat Celebration, The Shabbos Project. This initiative, born in South Africa two years ago, is now in over 125 cities around the world. Its purpose is simple: bring together Jews of all ages, all walks of life, whether religious or secular to come together on Shabbat, in accordance with our traditions.

At Copernic, each member of ULIF is called to invite someone (practising or not) to attend the service on Friday 23 October at 6:30pm and to share the Shabbat buffet that follows. We ask each participant to please bring a dish without meat, namely milk or vegetarian (parve).

Follow the Shabbos Project on [Facebook](#).

Organisational and security imperative: We thank you kindly to give us the name of your guests. An ID will be required at the entrance.



Hadashot חדשות

Words from the president of Kehilat Kedem, The Liberal Synagogue of Montpellier

Throughout the year just ended, our community has continued to grow. This never ceases to amaze me, and I rejoice in the diversity of people who are close to us. I want to believe that this increase is the result of hard work of all those of us who have invested in the life of Kehilat Kedem, who are listen-



ing to our members and responding to people who show interest to our community. I also know it's the smile of one who is there and sharing a Shabbat meal and offering comfort that retains the newcomer. Another reason for our growth is probably the visibility we have gained by participating in local Jewish life, taking our place in the network of liberal communities and establishing contacts outside the liberal world. Our presence is also noticed at Jewish cultural events. Our educational outreach with a focus on practicing our Judaism has generated interest well beyond the Jewish sphere.

Many of us are also involved in interreligious dialogue. We will continue in this direction. If there is one word that sums up all this, it is openness: openness to Jews, regardless of their level of practice, whether or not part of our community, openness to other forms of Judaism, because diversity is a treasure of Judaism - and openness to non-Jews because otherwise where is our universal message? I know, more than ever, our world is dangerous and we must be cautious, but it is openness that reduces risks, that is creating bridges, not building walls. Of course, there is a definite direction that we have taken, but the identity of our community will develop harmoniously if each person with their approach and history can bring what they have and what they sometimes ignore.

Our openness can disturb some and push some around. I hear some complain of not finding in our services the songs and customs of their childhood synagogue in Tunis, Constantine or Meknès. As I understand them! But blending is inevitable, and everyone brings their influence to ensure that traditional traces remain in what we pass on to our children.

What is Yom Kippur for a community like ours if not to experience this openness to and from all the blowing winds? This is the diversity of our members. On the evening of Yom Kippur, some of our members were not be there in order to be with their families, but other people, many who are not of our community, joined us from Montpellier, as well as other cities in France and abroad, sometimes quite distant countries. To all, I wish that Yom Kippur brought togetherness and peace to our hearts.

Claude Bismut

ידיד נפש Yedid Nefesh

Bulletin mensuel de l'AJTM

Bulletin n° 62 : Eloul 5775
Août/Septembre 2015

The most recent newsletter from AJTM has been uploaded to the website. This issue features articles on the month of Elul with the holidays of Tishrei, Slichot and the haftarah from Isaiah. [Read it here](#) (in French).



Klezmer concerts in Paris

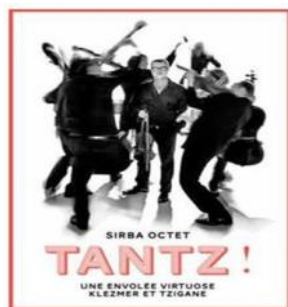
ULIF Copernic announces with pleasure the return of the Sirba Octet. The Sirba Octet, which enchanted Copernic during a concert in December 2012, offers ULIF discount prices during their upcoming shows at the Espace Pierre Cardin.

Tantz! is an expressive dancing and soaring music offered by the Sirba Octet and drawn from the traditional repertoire abounding in klezmer and gypsy music. They are a musical bridge between Romania, Moldova, Russia and Hungary.

The five dates are Friday 20 November at 20:30, Saturday 21 November at 15:30 and 20:30, Sunday 22 November at 15:30 and 19:00.

Telephone Reservations: More Talent 01 42 64 49 40. Specify the promotional code: Sirba Privilege.

[A taste in pictures...](#)



A new Torah in Tilburg



Simchat Torah with the new Torah scroll at Aree Hanegev, LJG Brabant, in Tilburg

After a whole year of planning and waiting, the new Torah scroll was put in place on the eve of Simchat Torah. In spring 2014, one of our members indicated his wish to donate a third Torah scroll to our Congregation Aree Hanegev, LJG Brabant, in Tilburg, the Netherlands, one especially written for us.

Since our congregation has a female rabbi and a female chazzan, it was logical to ask a *soferet*, a female scribe, to write our new Torah scroll. We decided that on the eve of Simchat Torah we will finish writing it and have our *Hachnasat Sefer Tora* ceremony.

But a new Torah scroll also needs a *me'il*, a coat, and a *mappa*, and *rimonim* and a shield. Here the congregants helped out, donated money, bought letters and designed and sewed the coat. The *mappa* was a group product. We contacted a female Jewish silversmith who made very special *rimonim* and shield for the new Tora.

A few days before Simchat Torah, the *soferet*, Rabbi Hanna Keblansky, arrived in Tilburg with the Torah scroll. In the morning we sewed together the 16 pieces of parchment of the book *Bereshit*, Genesis. Then we attached the whole scroll to the *Atzei Chayim*, the wooden sticks. After that we started writing the last 40 letters of the Torah. Each member wrote a letter under the supervision of the *soferet*.

At last it was time for the ceremony, the highlight of the day. The Torah scroll was brought into the synagogue carried by the donor under a tallit held by four congregants. Before being put in the *Aron HaKodesh*, the Torah scroll was handed from one person to another, and all who were present could hold her. Even the mayor of Tilburg came to participate in this special occasion.

That evening we danced with our new scroll and read from it. We are very proud to have the first Torah scroll in the Netherlands, and even perhaps in whole Europe, written by a *soferet* in our *Aron*!

Rabbi Corrie Zeidler
Congregation Aree Hanegev, LJG Brabant

Story telling by Jenny Rice at GIL



Story telling night at GIL

A storyteller is not an actor or a performer. A storyteller is a channel through whom the story carves a path towards the ear of the listener. That said, the same story can be told over and over again and yet be heard for the first time every time. For this occasion on 15 October, Jenny Rice told stories from the Jewish tradition which has so many, some of which are well known worldwide but with a Jewish tinge.

She said: Stories are not just for children, they are our lifeblood. So when you hear something like "Once upon a time...", "One day...", "In a country far away..." just sit back, give your worries a rest and listen. A CHF 15 dinner was followed by free stories.

MIGWAN מגוון

LIBERALE JÜDISCHE GEMEINDE
LIBERAL JEWISH CONGREGATION
BASEL

At the beginning of the autumn Migwan celebrated well-attended High Holidays services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Many thanks to everyone who made this possible. A special thanks to Rabbi Bea Wyler for her professional leadership.

We welcomed many visitors and guests from other Jewish communities and partner organisations. Once again, Suzi LeVine, US Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein, and her



Rabbi Bea Wyler

family celebrated Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with us. With beautiful autumnal evening weather and a large number of members and friends, we enjoyed Erev Sukkot in our Sukkah.

In the new Jewish year, we plan to expand our religious, cultural and social events. All of this is already in full swing. At the same time we are increasing educational opportunities for children, youth and adults. Please contact us with your ideas. Your participation is important and very welcome.

Jossi Peter
Migwan President

Creating a welcoming community At Beit Warszawa

In many ways the entire Torah, the ancient story that we begin this week, is simply a story about relationships and a guidebook on how to build a community. While it is easy to see that this is holy work, it is not always easy.

Beit Warszawa is still a young community, and like all communities of faith, there is still much work to do as we create a strong and caring spiritual home - a community of welcoming, and a place where everyone from long-time members to first time visitors feels a sense of meaning and connection with each other.

Over the next few weeks, I will be working with the Beit Warszawa board and leadership to add to the blessings that we already have in our community, and work to create an even stronger place of welcoming, joy and healing for everyone who walks through our doors. You may notice some of the small changes right away, such as welcoming individual visitors publically during services, to more opportunities to learn each other's names, and rearranging the tables on Shabbat evenings so that meals continue to be a joy-filled community gathering where everyone has a place at the table and is able to meet someone new.

I will also be implementing some larger institutional changes over the next few weeks, such as creating committees to promote community involvement in the life of the synagogue, and making sure that everyone who enters our community not only finds a spiritual home, but also finds a way to add their own talents and interests to the community.

This is important and challenging work, but it is also some of the most meaningful and the most holy work we can do.

Rabbi Boris Dolin

[Click for the full text of Rabbi Dolin's Dvar Torah.](#)



Rabbi Boris Dolin

Beit Trojmiasto (Tricity) has a new synagogue



Chair of Beit Polska, Piotr Stasiak. EUPJ Chairman Miriam Kramer and Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak

On July 13 Beit Polska's newest congregation dedicated its synagogue in "Trojmiasto" (Tri-Cities) Gdansk, Gdynia, and Sopot. The chair of Beit Trojmiasto, Kasia Mazurkiewicz welcomed the community and told the story of the remarkable development of this tiny community of Progressive Jews against its illustrious history before World War II when the Free City of Danzig was home to prominent Progressive congregations. In a well-attended ceremony that included affixing a mezuzah and escorting the Torah scroll and placing it in a new ark, this tiny congregation marked the return of Progressive Judaism to Gdansk. EUPJ Chairman Miriam Kramer from London addressed the gathering on behalf of the nearly two million members of the world-wide Progressive Jewish community. Congregational president Mrs Mazurkiewicz explained how Beit Trojmiasto acquired a small apartment from the city of Gdansk. The members have cleaned, painted, and re-furnished the apartment themselves. The congregation named the synagogue Beit Haim Dov in honor of Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak, executive director of Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland, a support group for Beit Polska, the umbrella organisation of Polish Progressive Jewish communities. Ari Homa, a founding member of the community acted as the master of ceremonies. The room was overflowing with congregants and tourists from an American group organised by Rabbi Beliak that visited Jewish and Polish historical sites.

The media photographers and reporters who relayed their stories to Polish newspaper and TV media ringed the synagogue.

There was singing and dancing as the Torah was escorted into the synagogue and placed into the ark. The ark was lovingly built by one of the community's Gentile friends.

In a truly transformative moment, Beit Polska's Chair Piotr Stasiak proposed that there would be ten Beit Polska communities in the next few years.

See more photos [here](#) and a video [here](#).

Beit Krakow: Yiddish for Beginners

Learn the language of the Polish Jews. Open the door to the culture and civilisation of one of the once largest Jewish community in the world. Until the end of the 18th century, 9 of 10 Jews in the world lived in Poland, and most of them spoke Yiddish.

In October we launched a new course under the auspices of Beit Krakow – Yiddish for Beginners. The classes are led by a native Yiddish speaker Języka Jidysz, graduate of University of Cambridge (Modern Languages) and London (Hebrew Literature and Jewish History) and experienced language teacher Baruch Smerin.

The classes will take place on Mondays at 7.30 p.m. at Dajwór 14/16. Information and registration: office@beitkrakow.pl or www.beitkrakow.pl. The first class was free of charge, and the course will run for three semesters of 12 classes each. There are discounts for members, students and seniors

Germany

Hamelin cemetery rights granted

It has been a long 13-year process involving many persons, but we have finally secured eternal rest rights for our cemetery which was dedicated in 2001 by Rabbi Dr. Henry Brandt. Rachel Dohme never gave up and with the strong support of Rabbi Irit Shillor, and Katarina Seidler, president of our State Board of Jewish Communities in Lower Saxony, the goal was achieved. We wish to personally thank our city's new mayor, Claudio Griesse, Cemetery Officer Mr Sanneck and Building Commissioner Mr Aden for their help and support in seeing this change of bylaws through. It is of positive note that the City Council voted unanimously in favour of our request.



Rabbi Irit Shillor and the Torah Ark at the Jewish Community of Hamelin

Our congregation celebrated the High Holy Days, marked by Teshuvah, Tefilah and Tzedakah, beginning at sundown on September 13th. We were ushered into the New Year 5776 and led through the Days of Awe by Dr Ulrike Offenberg. Many joined us for Tashlich after Rosh Hashanah morning services as we symbolically tossed our sins into the stream. Heart and soul we were moved by the chanting of Kol Nidre and experiencing communal fasting and prayer on Yom Kippur, ending with a gentle Break-the-Fast meal after Yiskor and Neila services at sundown. We had fun erecting the Sukkah on the afternoon of September 27th. Faina and Peter led a short service and invited everyone to shake the Lulav and enjoy the sweet smell of the Etrog in the Sukkah. Rabbi Irit Shillor visited us on the first weekend in October and led us in weekend services. She also took part in a panel discussion at the House of World Religions. Her visit culminated in leading our Simchat Torah services. As is our tradition, we unrolled the entire Torah. This year's ceremony was especially meaningful. Rachel Dohme purchased a Torah, which Rabbi Shillor dedicated, adding more joy to the festival.

Read our full newsletter [here](#).

Rachel Dohme

Read the UpJ newsletter

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

NB: The link to the English translation of the UpJ Newsletter is ready at www.liberale-juden.de. To open it, click on Newsletterarchiv next to the white 'suche' textbox, then on the englischer Sprach link.

Editor

The Role of Women's Leadership in Faith Communities. Marking 80 Years of Women in the Rabbinate

International Conference in Potsdam & Berlin, Nov 17 – 19

This fall, Abraham Geiger College and the School of Jewish Theology at the University of Potsdam will mark the 80th anniversary of Rabbi Regina Jonas' ordination with an international conference, "The Role of Women's Leadership in Faith Communities."

More than 40 presenters from Europe, Israel and the United States will explore the impact of women in the rabbinate and the ministry,

discuss issues of leadership and authority, women's religious scholarship and gender (in)equality today. Sign up for an exciting conference! We will upload information concerning the conference hotel, venues and programme updates [here](#).

For further assistance, please contact Mr Hartmut Bomhoff at bomhoff@geiger-edu.de.



Rabbi Regina Jonas

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האיגוד
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Season of Change: WUPJ President's Rosh HaShanna 5776 Greeting

Change is in the air. As you and your congregation prepare for the New Year, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on World Jewry and our Reform/Progressive community.

[Read more.](#)

Rabbi Danny Freeland



Register for Beutel Leadership Seminar



Registration for the 2016 Beutel Leadership Seminar is now open. The application form and sample schedule are available on the [here](#).



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. Please click [here](#) to subscribe.

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.

WUPJ Calendar

November 8-12

[WUPJ's Southern Jewish Civil Rights Experience](#)

April 14-17, 2016 - London

[EUPJ Biennial Conference](#)

Register now for WUPJ's Southern Jewish Civil Rights Experience November 8-12



Immediately following the URJ Biennial in Orlando, the World Union for Progressive Judaism invites you to join the highly anticipated Southern Jewish Civil Rights Experience. In cooperation with the Union for Reform Judaism and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) is proud to present this special mission.

[Read more and register here.](#)

See the CONNECTIONS 2015 video



We wanted to share some magical moments with you from CONNECTIONS 2015! In a word, the CONNECTIONS 2015 "Simcha, Soul and Solidarity" celebration held in Rio de Janeiro was *maravilhoso*. It's not too late to share and relive our 37th International Convention's most memorable moments now. [Click here to see the video.](#)