



European Union for Progressive Judaism

November 2015 Newsletter

© European Union for Progressive Judaism

World Progressive Jewry expresses its solidarity with the French People

The World Union for Progressive Judaism and the European Union for Progressive Judaism, representing almost 2 million Jews around the globe, expresses its solidarity with the people of France, and extends condolences to the families and friends of those who were brutally murdered in Paris on Friday evening, 13 November.

The sheer horror of such mindless savagery, which has sadly increased in recent years, defies every sense of humanity. Those of good faith must unite around the world and support those all who are defending our security and strive to defeat those who promote terror and cause such pain.

This is an attack on our very freedoms and Judaism's basic ethics and beliefs. This second round of attacks in Paris in less than a year reminds us that these are not isolated incidents. Pluralism and democracy require respect for the rule of law. Violence and inciting fear are unacceptable tactics for bringing change. We go to stadiums, concert halls and cafes to celebrate our freedom, not to surrender it. To honor the memory of all those innocents who have become victims of terror, we must continue to stand up to this growing evil and root out terror and terrorists.

Jewish history teaches us that we dare not ignore these threats and acts of violence. Our wellbeing, and the very institutions that protect our freedoms, are under attack. Let us stand with those who treasure pluralism and protect democracy to bring an end to this cycle of evil.

"And each shall sit under their vine and fig tree, and none shall make them afraid." Micah 4:4

Rabbi Daniel Freeland, US
President, World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ)

Carole Sterling, Canada
Chair, World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ)

Stéphane Beder, France
Président de l'Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral

Leslie Bergman, UK
President, European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ)

Miriam Kramer, UK
Chairman, European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ)

Dr Philip Bliss, Australia
World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ)
Advocacy Chairman

Assembly of Liberal Judaism writes with sadness and confidence

L'Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral s'associe aux douleurs des victimes et de leurs familles suite aux terribles attaques intervenues le 13 novembre à Paris. Nous faisons confiance à la nation et ses représentants pour réagir de manière appropriée. Plus que jamais nous devons être tous unis face à la barbarie.

The Assembly of Liberal Judaism identifies with sadness with the victims and their families following the terrible attacks which took place in Paris on 13 November. We have confidence in the country and its representatives to react in an appropriate manner. May we never again all have to be united in the face of such barbarity.



**Register now for
early bird rates.**

**14-17 April 2016
in London**

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

EUPJ Honorary Officers and Staff 2015

Honorary Life Presidents

Jeffery Rose
Ruth Cohen

President

Leslie Bergman

Vice-Presidents

Alex Dembitz
Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein
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



Miriam Kramer

Chairman's Message

The column below was written on the day between my returning from the United States and going to Brussels to celebrate Beth Hillel's 50th anniversary. After the Kabbalat Shabbat service the community was celebrating with songs and dancing when it all came to an abrupt halt, just as the lives of nearly 130 people in Paris did.

I was a delegate the URJ's Biennial Conference in Orlando. It is my eighth time at that peripatetic event and it never fails to amaze me when 5000 Jews gather, particularly for Shabbat worship.

This time there was a significant WUPJ representation including quite a few of us from EUPJ. Our colleagues in North America are frequently surprised that Progressive Jewish life exists – even flourishes – outside their continent and Israel. Our presence there reminds them that we are **all** part of Klal Israel. In keeping with my comments in last month's newsletter I was able to assure them that the anti-Semitism in Europe that they hear about in the news media does not give an accurate picture; of course anti-Semitism exists but not on the scale depicted and not leading to a mass exodus from our homes.

The conference was followed by a tour of places in Georgia and Alabama where much of the Civil Rights struggles took place in the 1960s. It was fascinating and humbling in equal measure to visit sites which were so critical to the success of the fight for African-Americans to receive equal rights in education, transportation and voting registration; we also met people who were directly involved and heard their stories. There were great resonances between their fight for their democratic freedoms and Jewish struggles over many centuries.

Here in the EUPJ you will have noticed that registration for our own Biennial Conference is now open. The programme, which is nearly complete, looks terrific and I urge you to register now.

Miriam Kramer

See the EUPJ website: www.eupj.org.

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

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



ULIF, Paris

Repeated appeal: Please distribute our EUPJ newsletter to your community's members

The EUPJ thanks its member communities who responded to this appeal and have begun to share this newsletter with all the people on their mailing list. We urge those EUPJ communities who have not yet done so to appoint one person who will be in charge of forwarding this newsletter every month. Your recipients will be glad and your community will benefit

Arthur Buchman, Editor

Please support
Friends of Progressive
Judaism
in Israel and Europe.
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.

Pope affirms brotherhood



Rabbi Dr Walter Homolka with Pope Francis

"We are brothers," Pope Francis affirmed on 28 October while reflecting on the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of [Nostra Aetate](#), the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on the Church's Relation to Non-Christian Religions.

The Pope said this during his weekly General Audience in St Peter's Square, where he welcomed followers of different religions who were present. Among those personally welcomed were Rabbi Dr Walter Homolka of the Abraham Geiger College.

Nostra Aetate was promulgated by Pope Paul VI on this date in 1965. Nostra Aetate effectively overturned centuries of what the noted French Jewish historian Jules Isaac termed "the teaching of contempt," namely, that the Jewish people as a whole were responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus and therefore God had rejected them and revoked their covenant. The Church's unequivocal declaration that the Jews should not be held accountable for the death of Jesus and its repudiation of anti-Semitism were truly revolutionary.

Register now for Women's Leadership Seminar

From April 12 to 14 the [Women of Reform Judaism](#) (WRJ) in cooperation with EUPJ and WUPJ will convene 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.

Access online information and registration [here](#). Cost 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.*



Opinion: I fled the Nazis, so why do I still face intolerance from my fellow Jews?

I celebrated my bar mitzvah in Berlin on 22 October 1938. It turned out to be the last one at the Friedenstempel Synagogue, which was destroyed on Kristallnacht 18 days later. The official at my bar mitzvah was Rabbi Werner van der Zyl, who escaped to London and later founded Leo Baeck College.

In July 1949, I visited London as a youth delegate to the sixth international conference of WUPJ.

Rabbi Baeck ended his presidential address by saying: "God waits for us." These words changed my life. With the help and encouragement of Leo Baeck and Lily Montagu, I changed my mind about going on aliyah, prepared to study for the rabbinate and was ordained "reverend" in 1961.

The 1950s and 1960s were times of tolerance among British Jewry. Orthodox ministers (mostly reverends then) studied every Monday with Leo Baeck. Chief Rabbi Jakobovits welcomed Liberal rabbis in his home.

Since then I have experienced intolerance and discrimination as a Liberal rabbi. For example, a friend asked his rabbi, who officiated at a funeral but had not known the family, that I give the hesped [eulogy]. He refused. While I always attended the annual AJEX Remembrance Shabbat service at the Orthodox synagogue, no Orthodox rabbi would attend when it was held at my Liberal shul.

When an old B'nei Brith Brother invited me to his Orthodox shul when honoured as Chatan Torah, I gladly accepted. However, when the rabbi was asked to give me an aliyah [a call-up], he said: "I am not allowed to".

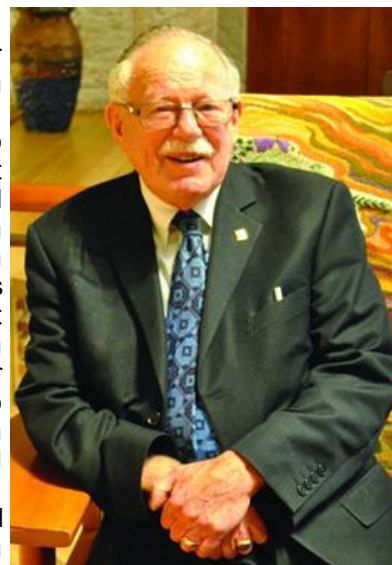
At a national remembrance event, I requested to recite the memorial prayer El Malei Rachamim, as I alone among the officiants had lost parents and grandparents in the Shoah. I was told: "It is not appropriate for you to recite it."

One third of Anglo-Jewry has been lost since the end of World War II and further losses have been predicted. We need to reverse this trend. We must stop intolerance, discrimination and denigration within British Jewry, admit that we are "kol Yisrael chaverim – all Israel bound together" – bound by love of God, Torah and Israel.

We must become more inclusive than exclusive, encourage and enable those who wish to join us. We must say 'Yes' instead of the prevalent 'No'. Permit rather than forbid.

Rabbi Harry Jacobi

Read the full article from www.jewishnews.com.



Rabbi Harry Jacobi

Camp MahaNetzer connects French teens to Jewish identity and Israel



Summer fun under the French sun:
2015 Camp MahaNetzer group shot

In 2014 my wife Rabbi Pauline Bebe and I established a Jewish summer camp. Its seeds were planted many years earlier at [URJ Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute](#) (OSRUI), the Union for Reform Judaism's camp in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

In her youth my wife spent a joyful and memorable summer at OSRUI. Upon her return home to Paris, she dreamt that one day she would be able to share that experience with other French teenagers. Years later at a URJ Biennial Pauline reconnected with OSRUI's longtime director, Jerry Kaye. That encounter rejuvenated her dream.



Rabbi Pauline Bebe

For several summers thereafter, Pauline and I brought French kids to OSRUI to immerse them in the Jewish camp experience.

Then in 2014 we established [MahaNetzer](#), a contraction of the Hebrew words Mahane (camp) and Netzer (sprout, shoot, or branch). Netzer is also the name used for Reform Jewish youth groups in countries outside North America.

The first year our 30 campers came mainly from Paris, Lyon, Toulouse and Geneva. This past summer, we had nearly 70 campers, coming not only from all over France but also from Switzerland, Belgium, and as far away as Scotland, Turkey, and the United States. It was held at a quaint little Burgundy hamlet with the most improbable of names – Baigneux-les-Juifs (The Little Bath Houses – the Jews) – situated just 90 kilometres South of Troyes, birthplace of, the great Talmudic and Biblical commentator Rashi.

Sometimes all it takes to accomplish a dream is just to get started.

[Rabbi Tom Cohen](#)

Learn more about French Progressive Jewish camp life. Read Rabbi Cohen's complete blog piece [here](#).



Rabbi Tom Cohen

MJLF Paris news

Shabbaton: On 20-22 November, MJLF plunges into its annual Shabbaton ("Maison Pleine"), an intense weekend of activity where all generations come together. Prayer and study, debates, a concert and a special day of culture, books and peace. With our three Rabbis – Delphine Horvilleur, Yann Boissiere and Floriane Chinsky - we find ourselves in an atmosphere that is convivial, spiritual and scholarly, perpetuating the Jewish Tradition. A special guest will be the remarkable Rabbi Kinneret Shiryon, founder of Kehillat Yozma in Modi'in, Israel.



Rabbi Kinneret Shiryon

Mitzvah Day: MJLF will participate in Mitzvah Day to promote assistance to needy people throughout the world. Our children will visit the aged, repair siddurim and prepare bracelets for peace. The help they have been giving to refugees will be extended to the whole MJLF community.



Rabbi Floriane Chinsky

Surmelin community established: Thanks to the leadership of Rabbi Floriane Chinsky, the trustees and a committed group of lay members, the young community MJLF established at Surmelin in the 20th arrondissement is growing day by day. Membership has risen to 170 families (up 30 per cent in two years) and some 200 faithful participated in the Tishri services. Regular activities include a book oneg, Sabbath meals, an orchestra and choir, children's services and workshops for Talmud Torah parents. The Rabbi's drachot and short commentaries "on one foot" are available online via YouTube. The community is now looking for new premises, both larger and more accessible.

Voila! Lyon's Keren Or to inaugurate a new synagogue and community centre

On November 29 you are cordially invited to attending the grand opening of [Keren Or's](#) new synagogue and community centre. One could say that the Liberal synagogue in Lyon had become a victim of its success.



Within 30 years, the community has grown from a few local families to not having enough seats for members during festivals or when a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is celebrated. On occasion, even a standard Shabbat service is standing room only!

Since the present location, on the ground floor of a residential building, no longer corresponded to the needs of the community, Keren Or signed the contract for their new premises in Villeurbanne, near the Charpenne metro station in September 2014. The sizeable premises are for a sizeable project: rooting Liberal Judaism in Lyon and the surrounding regions and then developing it. An ambitious undertaking to be sure, and a costly one as well.



Keren Or's new location

Keren Or invites you to visit a website dedicated to recording every aspect of the transition to a new home. At a time when Judaism in France is asserting its right to exist freely, Keren Or's expansion is more than encouraging, it's inspirational. Learn more about Keren Or's big move [here](#).

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.
[Read it here](#) (in French).

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.

Interfaith trip to Auschwitz from Paris on Sunday 31 January



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 organised 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. €360 covers 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. Contact the rabbi for more information.

Kehilat Gesher interfaith activity

L'Église Protestante Unie des Batignolles et la communauté juive Kehilat Gesher vous proposent une

Conférence - Concert

Dimanche 22 novembre 2015 à 17h

« Autour des psaumes »

Programme :
Conférences du rabbin Tom Cohen
et du pasteur Jean-Marie de Bourqueney

« Comment lisons-nous les psaumes dans nos traditions ? »

Interventions musicales des deux chorales, juive et protestante, dirigées par Thomas Macfarlane

Suivies d'un buffet végétarien

Les deux communautés ont fait le choix de cette rencontre afin d'apprendre à mieux se connaître au travers de nos lectures bibliques, de la pratique du chant et d'un buffet partagé.
Une convivialité au service de la fraternité judéo-chrétienne.

Au temple, 44 Bd des Batignolles, 75017 Paris - Entrée gratuite

Welcoming people to Judaism in Florence

The European Progressive Beit Din (religious court) travelled in mid-October to Florence, where it facilitated the conversions of 33 candidates from Italy and Spain over two days. The Beit Din, based at the Sternberg Centre in London and convened by Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick, supports member communities of the EUPJ in welcoming people to Jewish life.



Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick

The candidates, who have all undertaken a demanding course of study, came from communities in Calabria, Florence, Milan, Sardinia and Rome with one coming all the way from the Reform community in Valencia. Rabbis Fabian Sborovsky of Menorah Synagogue (Cheshire Reform Congregation) and Dr Andrea Zanardo of Brighton and Hove Reform Synagogue joined Rabbi Tabick in sitting on the court.

Rabbi Tabick said: "We had a very emotional and successful court in Florence. 33 candidates in two days must be a record! The standard of knowledge and commitment from the candidates was extremely high and it was a privilege to be part of this enormously significant and moving time in their lives. We heard stories of grandmothers lighting candles every Friday night in the basement and a mother-in-law beckoning the young couple into the garden on the day of their wedding so she could put a canopy over them and bless them. and of course, none of that generation understood where these family customs had originated. The group from Rome were so excited that at the end of the day, they spilled out onto the street singing and dancing.

"I would like to acknowledge the contributions and hard work of the rabbis and staff of the Beit Din and of the Shir Hadash community of Florence over two long days. The impact of their work in creating a compassionate and sensitive welcome cannot be underestimated."

Fabio Fantini, Vice-President of Rome's Beth Hillel community said: "What a memorable day we spent all together in Florence! We all left enriched by this beautiful and meaningful experience. Thank you for your help building our community and the Jewish Progressive movement in Italy."

Previously the European Beit Din has held courts in Slovakia, Spain and Poland as well as in London.

Beth Shalom Milan



An aliyah for new Jews at Beth Shalom, Milan

On October 18 and 19, 11 people, including a family of five went to Florence for their conversion by the European Progressive Beth Din. To acknowledge their ghiurim, on November 14 at our Shabbat service, they were all called to the Torah for an Aliyah. This happy occasion was dampened by the tragic events in Paris but Rabbi Robert Gan, who led services, gave a wonderful sermon on early 20th century Jewish European immigration to the United States, which helped us appreciate what we have to be thankful for. He included personal anecdotes about his grandfather who left Russia, arrived and found work in Boston, and eventually was able to bring his wife and three children to join him.

Beth Shalom looks forward to assisting our new Jews in their continuous growth and development as Progressive Jews and hopes that they will become active participants in our congregation. Carol Ross

The first Yom Kippur in Madrid



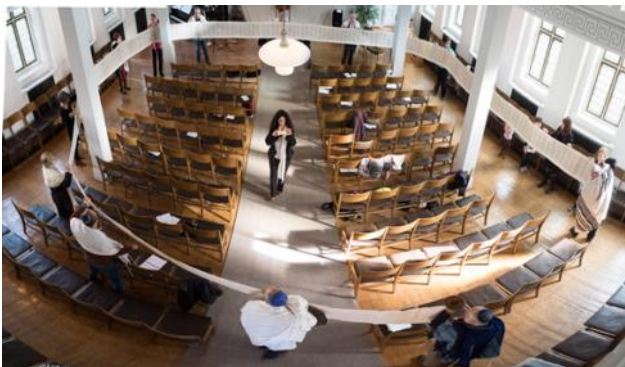
Yom Kippur 2015 in Madrid

The Reform Havurah of Madrid held its first Yom Kippur; in fact, the first Progressive Yom Kippur service in the capital of Spain. It was officiated by Rabbi Alona Lisitsa (HUC-JIR Jerusalem) with the support of the European Union for Progressive Judaism. We thank them so much.

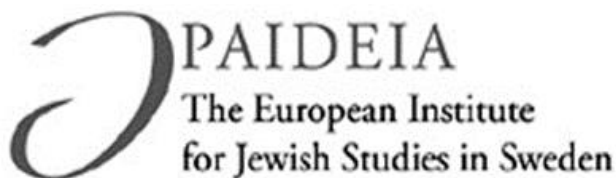
Torah cycle ends and begins at Shir Hatzafon in Copenhagen



Rabbis Allen Bennet (l) & James Baaden open the Torah



The Torah fully opened



Apply to Paideia! Fellowships in Jewish Studies 2016-2017

Explore the plurality of Jewish Civilisations.

The Paideia One Year Jewish Studies Programme offers a unique international Jewish studies experience during eight months in Stockholm with the possibility of a Master in Jewish Civilisations. Grants for tuition and living expenses are available. Early Application Deadline January 15.

For more information visit www.paideia-eu.org

Mazal Tov to Vienna's Or Chadasch on its first 25 years!



L-R: Rabbi Walter Rothschild, rabbi of Or Chadasch; Dr. Dori Much, President, Or Chadasch; Anat Hoffman, Executive Director, IRAC; Rabbi Joel Oseran, Vice President, WUPJ; Miriam Kramer, Chairman, EUPJ and Leslie Bergman, President, EUPJ

On 1 November the [Or Chadasch Progressive Congregation](#) in Vienna celebrated its 25th anniversary with a festive program attended by local congregants and visitors from abroad.

A packed sanctuary listened to presentations by Dr Dori Much, Or Chadasch President; Miriam Kramer, EUPJ Chairman; Leslie Bergman, EUPJ President; Rabbi Joel Oseran, WUPJ Vice President for International Development and keynote speaker, Anat Hoffman, Executive Director of the [Israel Religious Action Center](#) (IRAC).

Also in attendance were Talya Lador Fresher, newly appointed Israeli Ambassador to Austria; Rabbi Dr Walter Homolka, Rector of [Abraham Geiger College](#), Germany and dignitaries from the Vienna Jewish community.

IJC Shabbaton!

The IJC invites all the members of its family to take part in the IJC Shabbaton. A great weekend of fun, relaxation, singing, learning and friends.

We will be enjoying the facilities of the [Vayamundo, De Kinkhoorn & Ravelingen](#) including: sports club, swimming pool, free wifi and fantastic natural surroundings in Oostende, 90 minutes from Brussels.

The Shabbaton starts at 18:00 on Friday 20 November with wine and cheese, but you can check in much earlier. We will enjoy a wonderful vegetarian Shabbat meal after our inspiring Kabbalat Shabbat services that begin at 19:00. On Saturday we have a relaxing and varied program that includes breakfast and lunch. Our Shabbaton ends at 18:00 with havdalah, the magical service that concludes Shabbat, engaging all your senses.

Spaces are limited, so make your reservation by [clicking here](#).

Hungary, Switzerland

Shabbat at Bet Orim



Rabbi Ferenc Raj flanked by Beit Orim youth

See more photos on [Facebook](#).

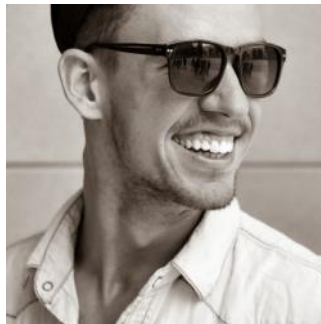
Sim Shalom news

Our refugee support activities have ended since the Hungarian government has closed our southern borders to all refugees. For a while the activities expedited refugee travel to Austria, but that has now stopped.

We have recently had the first of the year's monthly visits by a new rabbinical student from Abraham Geiger College in Berlin, Ariel Pollak. Ariel led services in a very prayerful and spiritual manner. One thing that greatly contributed to the experience was his style of singing most of the prayers in their entirety, rather than alternately singing some parts and then saying other parts either aloud or silently, as we have done for years. The uniformity of the ritual seemed to add greatly to the spirituality of the service, as did Ariel's style of leading. He was also helped by drum accompaniment from our new cantor, Milan Andics. We quickly decided this made it easier for everyone to actively participate. When Ariel makes his next visit in ten days, we have scheduled a workshop after the Friday service where he will speak a bit about the historical background of this style of worship and then teach us some of the melodies he uses for the various prayers.

The latest news about regaining our lost status as a religious institution from the government is that there is still uncertainty. We are told that the government plans yet another revision to its oft-revised Church Law, which would set up even more categories for religious organizations than the present two. Two of the proposed four categories would not be eligible to receive the financial support of 1% of the income tax of any supporter, while the other two would. The Minister for Religious Affairs says he strongly supports our being eligible for funding, though there are rumours that his support is not shared by some other ministers. So we must continue to wait and see.

Jess Weil, Treasurer



Student rabbi Ariel Pollak

PLJS news

Summary of the Autumn Newsletter of the Platform of Liberal Jews in Switzerland (PLJS)

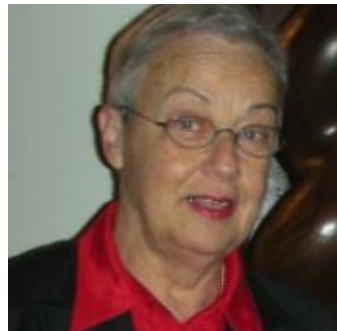
Together with its Orthodox counterpart (SIG) the PLJS issued a declaration marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, urging that lessons from the past be learnt against hatred and discrimination.

PLJS President Nicole Poell was part of the Swiss delegation to a June conference of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. Nicole also took part in a podium discussion in conjunction with a



controversial exhibition in Zurich "Breaking the Silence" on the subject of "uncomfortable questions" relating to the Middle East conflict.

PLJS and SIG are actively engaged with various Swiss Moslem organisations, sharing the objective of mutual understanding and cooperation between Jewish and Moslem



Nicole Poell

communities in Switzerland.

PJLS has proposed a code of ethics applicable to all religious communities in Switzerland to the Swiss Council of Religions. PLJS Vice-President Jean-Marc Brunshawig developed this 10-point code.

In anticipation of the forthcoming Swiss elections, PLJS sent each of the political parties a questionnaire dealing with matters of importance to the Jewish community. Most replied with positive answers to concerns regarding the wellbeing of Swiss Jewry.

Together with SIG, PLJS has made representation to the Swiss Government to take a humanitarian position regarding admission of refugees whilst ensuring the security of the inhabitants of the country.

Summary from the German by Leslie Bergman

MIGWAN | מגוון

LIBERALE JÜDISCHE GEMEINDE
LIBERAL JEWISH CONGREGATION
BASEL

Migwan is a member of the "Interreligious Forum Basel" (IRF), and we were recently involved in two IRF events. We hosted Jewish, Muslim and Alevi religious teaching on Wednesday November 4 with an "open door" at 3:00 to - 4:30 pm and a joint discussion from 5:00-6:00 pm followed by refreshments. On Sunday November 8 Migwan took part in the "We are children of the earth" closing ceremony with children's singing.

LJG Amsterdam news



Simchat Torah at LJG Amstaedam

On August 30th we celebrated the fifth anniversary of our new building with music, cabaret and discussions about the future of our community - a good start for the festival season after summer holidays.

A week later the exhibition Same Sky, Same Land was launched in our LJGallery. These five young and promising Israeli artists will be seen in The Hague, Tel Aviv, Zurich, New York and Venice. Together with Uri Tzaig they explore their relation with the environment and nature.

For the High Holidays our Synagogue filled with hundreds of people, young and old, to hear the Shofar and hope for a blessed year, to listen to the moving Kol Nidre and make new plans for the year to come. Hundreds of women, men and children, made promises to make the best of life they can, not only for themselves but also for others. I could feel all these positive intentions of so many people, joining loudly in the Ashamnu, in the Avinu Malkenu and I felt touched. How rich we are as a community with so many people joining us on these special days.

As a member of the board I want them to be engaged and that will be our goal again this year. We will be offering all sorts of activities in addition to our regular services and courses. There is room enough in this beautiful building.

Between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur we discussed the refugees coming to Europe on a night when 120 people came and expressed their worries and their feelings of responsibility. We know how important it is to be welcomed and safe, but we are also afraid to become refugees ourselves again. Will there still be room enough for Jews? No easy answers here.

With Simchat Torah we had a very festive evening service with the young generation dancing with the Torah. Our Chatan Torah Arno Vyth and Kallah Bereshiet Joyce Noach read the next morning their Torah portions convincingly in the midst of the community. A warm ending of a full month with our High Holidays and Chagim. Celebrating the Holidays together is one of our main binding strengths as a community.

Anita van Leeuwen
Secretary LJG Amsterdam

Beit Warszawa establishes a Hevra Kadisha

Beit Warszawa was blessed the past few weeks to have Miriam and Mordechai Feinberg in our community to teach and offer their wisdom. Among the many classes and workshops that they offered, they helped Beit



Warszawa establish our first Hevra Kadisha, the "holy society" tasked with preparing the dead for burial and helping guide families through the mourning process.

Scholars believe that the first Hevra Kadisha was formed in the 4th century CE, but that the first group formed to serve the entire Jewish community in a similar way as is done today was created in 1564 in Prague. Before the Shoah Warsaw and Poland had hundreds of established burial societies, which were wiped away as the Jewish communities of Europe were destroyed. Throughout the generations, the Hevra Kadisha has provided a way for Jewish communities to honour the lives, and the deaths of their members, while providing a way for families to be supported throughout the mourning process.

As a young community, we have not yet needed the help of the Hevra Kadisha, but the fact that we now have this group in addition to working on the purchase of cemetery plots to bury our dead, is a sign that our community has come of age. We have had joys. We have had births and weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, and celebrations together as a community. We have had opportunities to gather, and times when we have fallen apart. And now as we work on creating the holy space for this final part of life's journey, we know that our community has reached an important turning point. We can now pass on all that we have gained from the journey of life, by helping guide others through the process of death.

Rabbi Boris Dolin

Beit Polska sponsors Cantor David Wisnia & Avi Wisnia Concert

Enjoy a [snippet here](#) of the Warsaw concert held October 24.

David Wisnia is 88, was a child prodigy, survived Auschwitz, and has recently been teaching Beit Polska's eight lay cantors. To learn more about David Wisnia you can [read this post](#) from Rabbi Haim Beliak's January Blog.



LJG Hannover celebrates its 20th anniversary



L-R: Dr Josef Schuster, Ingrid Wettberg, Rabbi Dr Walter Homolka and Rabbi Gabor Lengyel

"We have always implemented what we planned over the years - namely, to live a modern, contemporary Judaism," said Ingrid Wettberg, chairperson of the Liberal Jewish Congregation in Hannover, at the ceremony to mark their 20th anniversary on 5 November. Around 500 guests came to the community center Etz Chaim to celebrate the anniversary. "Jewish life is now an integral part of the Hanoverian Society," said Mayor Stefan Schostok. "We have never had so many Jewish citizens as now."

Culture Minister Frauke Heiligenstadt praised the merits of this largest Progressive Jewish community in Germany. "It is a wonderful example of how a great tree of life grows from a small seedling," she said. "This success owes much to women," said Dr Josef Schuster, president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, who had come for the first time to the "exquisitely beautiful" synagogue, as he said.

Exactly 20 years ago Ingrid Wettberg and 78 congregants - most of them fellow activists - founded the synagogue. Many were then excluded from the traditional Jewish community on Haeckelstraße, partly because they demanded more rights for women in worship.

"Now there are again enough Jews in Hannover to live a pluralistic Judaism", she said. "The community has emerged out of the tension," said Rabbi Professor Dr Walter Homolka, the rector of Abraham Geiger College. "This is a place of women's power - and yet I'm happy here," he joked. In his speech, he recalled that immigrants from the former Soviet Union 25 years ago revived Germany's small and outdated Jewish communities.

"Migrants have preserved the Jewish community - and the whole of Germany is thereby enriched", said Rabbi Gabor Lengyel to the applause of the visitors.

"The congregation is now a place of encounter and of interreligious dialogue," said Ingrid Wettberg. School classes regularly visit the synagogue, and many Christians and Muslims are guests here. "That our congregation flourishes today," said Wettberg, "is a medium-sized miracle for us."

Read the German article [here](#).

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

New book published

This comprehensive textbook of the Jewish religion describes the history of Judaism, explains its enduring message and describes Jewish festivals and customs past and present. 'Basic Knowledge of Judaism' (Basiswissen Judentum) will be used as a textbook of the Jewish religion by the National Council of the Jews in Germany and Abraham Geiger College at Potsdam University. Hardcover: 688 pages, Verlag Herder



LJG Hamelin news



Hamelin president Rachel Dohme honoured in Hannover

We as a congregation were pleased to learn that the organisation, "Christian and Jewish Encounter," affiliated with the state of Lower Saxony's Lutheran Church, awarded our president, Rachel Dohme, with this year's "Blickwechsel" prize for her engagement over the past 20 years in interreligious dialogue. The award ceremony took place in Hannover on September 6. We are happy and proud of her and all she has done to support encounter and dialogue between religious groups in Hamelin. May we all be inspired to choose this path.

Read our full newsletter [here](#).



Northern Chagigah is the new name for the Northern Communities Weekend. Chagigah means 'celebration' and reflects the spirit of a joyful, fun, uplifting, spiritual, family-friendly gathering which we will be creating during our weekend.

Our weekend will take place at Kenwood Hall. Just one mile from Sheffield city centre it combines a convenient location with an idyllic country setting, 12 acres of beautiful parkland and landscaped grounds will provide the perfect backdrop for our Northern communities to meet together. Whether you wish to join in all of the learning sessions or simply enjoy a relaxing weekend in a comfortable and inclusive Reform environment with walks, a swim and the newspapers, this weekend is designed for you.

Our theme is 'Lighting the Way'. As we prepare for Chanukah, our northern lights will shine brightly. You can look forward to enlightened thinking in our sessions, looking at the role of light in Judaism and our own personal illumination. And we will consider how we can light the way, planning for our movement, communities, Israel and the wider world. There will be something for everyone whether you're planning on coming on your own, with your partner, as an interfaith couple or family. There will be a crèche for the under fives and a full RSY-Netzer programme for those over five.

[Click here for the programme.](#)

Resources for Reform Judaism Shabbat

[RJ Shabbat at Home](#)
[RJ Shabbat: Learning](#)
[RJ Shabbat Postcards](#)
[RJ Shabbat Children's Quiz](#)



Winter events at RSY-Netzer

RSY-Netzer's winter events: an amazing journey
 RSY-Netzer's winter events are just around the corner, and as Ben Lewis, RSY-Netzer Movement Worker explains, all those who take part will have a very special experience.

[Read more](#)



Movement for Reform Judaism responds to boycott

Here is a quotation reacting to the 27 October advert in [the Guardian](#), reporting the boycott of Israeli academic institutions by more than 300 UK-based academics.

"Academic boycotts are detrimental to peace efforts between Palestinians and Israelis. Stamping out academic dialogue is a divisive tactic. Discriminatory boycotts such as this cement different sides of the conflict. What the region now desperately needs is a movement of supporters towards peace and a two state solution, where Israelis and Palestinians can live in security, peace and dignity."

Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner
 Senior Rabbi to Reform Judaism

Read Rabbi Janner-Klausner's complete Op-Ed piece [here](#)

Leo Bear College Day fundraiser



Students, staff and faculty at Leo Bear College Day on 11 November raised funds for the BBC Children in Need Appeal

LJY-Netzer partners with vInspired

LJY-Netzer, the youth movement of Liberal Judaism, has teamed up with vInspired - the UK's leading youth volunteering charity providing 14-25 year olds with volunteering and social action opportunities. Through this partnership, LJY-Netzer has become a vInspired Awards provider. The youth movement now has the ability to certify the amazing work that its leaders do on events and in the wider community. The first recipient is LJY-Netzer movement worker Sam Alston, who did 100 hours of volunteering to gain the top vInspired Awards. Other *madrichim* (leaders) on Kadimah summer camp will also qualify for the same prize. There are four different vInspired Awards, which are given dependent on the number of hours volunteering each young person does. Sam said, "It is an honour to receive this award, but even more important is the new partnership between LJY-Netzer and vInspired which will further encourage young Liberal Jews to use their time to help others. Note: Since this article was written, LJY-Netzer leader Ossie Goldhill was also granted a V100 award. There are 9 other leaders who are working towards their V100 awards at the moment.

United Kingdom

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 appoints a Refugee Coordinator

The United Kingdom's Movement for Reform Judaism has appointed Yael Shafritz as Refugee Response Coordinator. This is the first time a UK synagogue movement has appointed someone to coordinate a response to a crisis of this nature.



MRJ Crisis Coordinator
Yael Shafritz

Yael's role is to bring people together in an effort to provide a stronger, better coordinated and more balanced response to the current crisis. She will support Reform communities, oversee all efforts, partner with existing campaigns and introduce their initiatives to other communities. Yael said: "this role is a great opportunity to support and further the work our communities are doing to help refugees and asylum seekers and I'm greatly looking forward to being a part of it. My Judaism has always been inspired by a history that encourages compassion for others and I'm proud that Reform Judaism is putting social justice and the support for those in need at its core."

Read more about this story [here](#).

**Sukkat
Shalom**
Edinburgh Liberal
Jewish Community



Edinburgh news

The November issue of [Lulav](#) is now published. As ever there is much of interest to read. There is an article about LINKnet Mentoring, one of our Kol Nidre charities. There is also full information about activities for the forthcoming Interfaith Week. Please note the date (Saturday 12 December) and details of our Chanukah celebration. 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

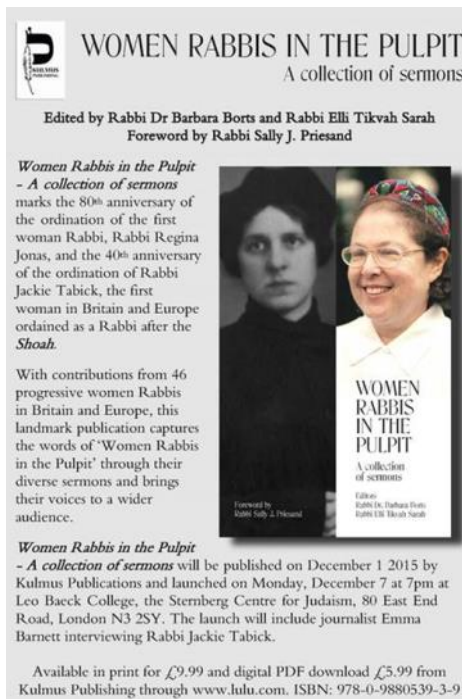
Pro-Zion is the UK-based organisation that works to support Progressive Judaism in Israel and to promote Israel in Progressive Jewish Communities in the UK. Click [here](#) to learn more.



**Click the
logos for
news of UK
movements**



Book launch at LBC



Women Rabbis In the Pulpit will be published on 1 December. I am pleased to invited you to the launch at Leo Baeck College on Monday 7 December at 7.00pm. If you would like to attend, please let my PA know on suzy.gaughran@lbc.ac.uk.

Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, Principal
Leo Baeck College



Rabbi Daniel Freeland installed as WUPJ President

On November 5 in Orlando, Florida Rabbi Daniel H Freeland was installed by Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman as President of WUPJ during the WUPJ's International Humanitarian Award Dinner.

[Read more here.](#)



Rabbis Daniel H Freeland (l) and Lawrence Hoffman

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](#).



[See this video about the Beutel Seminar 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

February 4-14, 2016—Jerusalem

[Beutel Leadership Seminar](#)

April 7-14, 2016 - Berlin and London

[WUPJ Travel Tour](#),

April 14-17, 2016 - London

[EUPJ Biennial Conference](#)

May 19-25, 2016 – Jerusalem

[Roswell Seminar for Social Justice](#)



Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism
התנועה הרפורמית והתנועה המתקדמת בישראל

IMPJ prayer for the people of France

“Death has appeared in our window”

The Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism, its rabbis and congregations share the deep shock of the horrendous terrorist attacks which spread streams of blood upon the streets of Paris last Friday night. We weep over the deaths of murder victims and pray for a speedy recovery of both body and soul to all those injured.

Our hearts go out to the Jewish communities of France who are dealing with this terrible reality and horror together with all the people of France. Fighting evil, and that which is done supposedly in the name of God is of great moral and religious duty. It must take place harshly and without compromise. At the same time, it is imperative that in every location, we work towards a better social, economic, cultural and political world order, which promotes hope and partnership between all of humanity. It is crucial that we fight not only the murderers and their senders, but also despair, hatred, and idol worship.

We pray that a *Sukkat Shalom* – a shelter of peace be spread speedily upon the city of lights and that it soon see again love, freedom, equality and fraternity. “And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid; and I will cause evil beasts to cease out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.” (Leviticus 26:6)

“And I will put My spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I will place you in your own land; and ye shall know that I the God have spoken, and performed it, saith the God” (Ezekiel 37; 14).

Rabbi Gilad Kariv, Executive Director
Rabbi Prof Yehoyada Amir, Chairperson,
MARAM—Israel Council of Reform Rabbis
Reuven Marko, IMPJ Chairperson

See the CONNECTIONS 2015 video

This link did not work last month, and so we offer it again.

[Click here to see the full video.](#)

