



European Union for Progressive Judaism

June 2016 Newsletter

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President's Report

In recent weeks, I have received many emails and letters of congratulation on my elevation to President of the EUPJ. I am grateful and thank all those who have written. In particular I was delighted to hear from Rabbi Richard Hirsh, my mentor and guide whose wise counsel is always welcome.

I am also grateful to have received invitations from a number of communities, and I will make every endeavour to visit them when possible. Our region covers many countries, cities and communities, each with its own individuality, flavour and minhag. It is always a pleasure and a privilege to participate in services and meet with the leadership of our communities.

A few weeks ago, my wife Judy and I were privileged to be in Israel, at Kfar Blum, on the occasion of Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut. The dignified services on Yom Hashoah and Yom Hazikaron left an indelible memory and the joy of moving into Yom Ha'Atzmut was a pleasure to behold.

However, the terrible news, as I write, of the tragic deaths and injuries perpetrated by terrorists in the centre of Tel Aviv in the wonderful Sarona Plaza is still sinking in. This was further brought home to me as my daughter and family had intended going there that afternoon, but the fortunate fact that they were running late made them postpone the visit for another day. The sombre realisation that the vagaries of life are impacted by chance events is very sobering.

Nevertheless and despite these tragic events, I would urge everyone who can to visit Israel, especially at these times when our support is needed more than ever.

As I write, we have just celebrated the festival of Shavuot which is the season of the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai (as well as eating lots of delicious cheesecake!).

Sadly this coincided with the terrible shootings in Orlando with the killing of some 50 people and the wounding of even more people in a gay night club. Apparently this murderous deed was carried out in the name of religion against a minority group.

The festival of Shavuot reminds us that the Torah was given on Mount Sinai to all the people regardless



Gordon Smith

of belief, colour, creed, or orientation: Jew and non-Jew alike. As we pray in the Aleinu prayer, "Soon let us witness the glory of God's power, when the world will be set right by the rule of God, and ALL mankind shall speak in your name, and all the wicked in the world shall turn to You".

Ken Yehi Ratzon - May it be God's will **Gordon Smith**



Marc Chagall, Moses Shows the Tablets of the Law

Liberal Judaism statement

The EUPJ and WUPJ stand behind this statement.

Liberal Judaism condemns the shooting that took place in Tel Aviv on June 8. We extend both our deepest condolences to the families of those killed and our hopes for a speedy recovery to the wounded.

Violence against civilians, on either side of any dispute, can never be justified and the shootings in Tel Aviv last night – the second attack in less than two weeks – are unacceptable and mindless.

Hamas have claimed responsibility for the attacks. You can read more with updates on the situation [here](#).

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Arthur Buchman newsletter@eupj.org

Gillian Thomas, Assistant Editor



Renewed request

Our EUPJ Newsletter aims to present articles from every country (18!) in our organisation and from as many communities as possible. To accomplish this vision, we are dependent on receiving news and photographs from our member communities and individual readers.

In this issue, we have news from 11 member countries, and we want more complete representation in the future. As previously stated, if your EUPJ community or country is not in these pages, it is only because we received no material from you. The remedy is simple: please add newsletter@eupj.org to your mailing list and make sure you have a specific member responsible for sending us news.

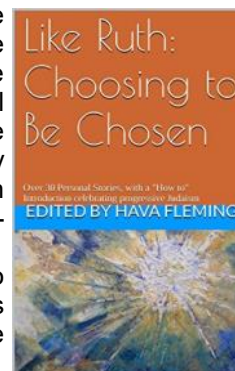
Next, make sure all your members and others who receive your announcements also receive the EUPJ newsletter. You can forward the newsletter to all of them when it arrives. Or you can add this link to your home page and regular mailings: www.eupj.org/publications/eupj. We have a great deal of positive news to spread, and I am sure your community's members and friends will be glad to read about it.

Arthur Buchman, Editor

New Progressive Jews tell conversion stories

A major new book, "Like Ruth: Choosing to Be Chosen", records a frank, insightful, "vital blueprint" for conversion and acceptance into a progressive Jewish community. The editor, Hava Fleming, "wanted to give young people searching the internet an easy-access electronic book, as well as making a print version available for synagogue libraries."

Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein, Chair of the Beit Din of Liberal Judaism and the European Progressive Beit Din, calls the new book "a fascinating and useful collection of stories that should help the intending convert approach the journey towards conversion and educate born Jews about the sincerity and commitment of converts in their congregation." For a supportive, encouraging aide to those wishing to convert to Judaism, this multi-national collection of stories will be an inspiration.



See the EUPJ website: www.eupj.org.

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

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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](#)



Or Chadasch, Vienna



Free trilingual Torah on line

The new trilingual Torah from Varda Books is now available to bookmark to your personal browser or to your shul's website, and it is free at Publishers Row. This edition contains the Masoretic text of the Leningrad Codex, a classic Jewish English translation (for example, not gender neutral) and a new Russian translation. [Click here to view it.](#)

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Beth Hillel Roma engages Rabbi Joel Oseran

Beth Hillel Roma is extremely happy to announce that from June 12 onwards, Rabbi Joel Oseran will be present and active in our community four days each month for the duration of one year.

Rabbi Joel Oseran, who has been close to our community since the idea of founding a Progressive Community in Rome came to life, is vice-president emeritus of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (for international development).

He has a wife, three sons and a daughter-in-law, lives in Jerusalem where he made Aliyah in 1986 after studies at the University of California and ordination as a rabbi at Hebrew Union College in New York in 1976.

He earned his doctoral degree five years later in Jerusalem at HUC-JIR.

He became director of the student sector of Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, then

returned to the USA and served as rabbinic educator at the University Synagogue in Los Angeles, where he was active in creating a URJ project for mixed couples entitled 'Times and Seasons'.

He was also a director in the design of the Progressive Movement's first school in Jerusalem, Tali Bayit V'gan, and today this elementary school has 450 pupils.

As head of International Development, Rabbi Oseran has encouraged the development of the Progressive movement in the former Soviet Union since 1989, and has had a leading role in supporting Progressive communities emerging in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as facilitating the revitalisation of Progressive Judaism in Latin America.

In his sabbatical year of 1997-98 Rabbi Oseran was rabbi of the United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong, and has also assisted the Progressive Communities in Beijing, Shanghai, Singapore and Bangkok.

It is indeed an honour to have him as the spiritual director of Beth Hillel Roma.



Rabbi Joel Oseran

The Devil's Gene at Lev Chadash

As part of the cultural activities organized by Lev Chadash, the Italian Association for Progressive Judaism, on Monday, June 6 we held a presentation of the book by Maurice Baroukh Assael, *The Devil's Gene* - genetic diseases, their metaphors, dreams, fears and how to eliminate them. The theme was the prevention of genetic diseases and the procreation ethics of Judaism. Some topics were preimplantation, abortion, the programme Yesharim Dor and how far to push prevention. The evening was introduced by Carlo Riva, president of Lev Chadash. There were discussions among a scientific journalist, a doctor, a psychologist and a biologist. During the evening guests could buy the book, and the proceeds were donated to Lev Chadash.



Shavuot at Beth Shalom Milan

On Friday June 10 we celebrated Shavuot and our last Beth Shalom Kabbalat Shabbat before the summer holidays. Rabbi Donald Goor and Cantor Evan Kent kindly prepared a special Seder for Erev Shavuot. This was a perfect occasion to meet, participate and celebrate our many blessings. The dinner was held at the Spartaco Lounge.



Cantor Evan Kent (l) and Rabbi Donald Goor

Book presentation in Rome

On June 7 Beth Hillel Roma, in cooperation with the Municipal Libraries of Rome, hosted a book presentation and an encounter between generations, coordinated by Paolo Ruffini, to talk about memory and Jewish identity, at the Rispoli Library, in Piazza Grazioli 4.



Lia Levi



It featured Lia Levi, a very well-known writer, who through her literature explores childhood and the depth of the human soul, and Fabrizio Negroni, a promising young author who is researching his identity through his writing. The presentation was in Italian.

LJG Hamelin news



LJG Hamelin and Bad Pyrmont touring together

On April 29, Polina Pelts organised a day trip to Lüneburg and Celle for our members and members from our sister community in Bad Pyrmont. "Aktion Mensch" sponsored the event, allowing seniors to enjoy a day away from home, which they might not normally have been able to afford. "It felt as if we were one big Jewish family! It was a day of happiness and good spirits," said Polina.

Polina had two more programmes for the month of May. One unforgettable outing for our seniors (again sponsored by "Aktion Mensch") was an evening of classical music. The final programme was a "Senior's Breakfast."

On Thursday, May 5, we observed Yom HaShoah. Rabbi Alexander Lyskovoy led a memorial service, which began with the traditional candle-lighting ceremony. The eerie light of the six yellow candles flickered in our darkened sanctuary. Prayer and text followed, and especially moving was the recitation of the Hamelin Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Rabbi Lyskovoy spoke of the great catastrophe and all that the world lost through the madness of the Shoah. Members and guests were visibly moved. It is never so poignant as on these days of remembrance that we feel how undisputable it was and is that we rebuilt our synagogue upon the exact soil it had once stood. We honour those who came before us, whose lives were cut down without mercy, and we promise to never forget them!

May 9 was Victory Day, which commemorates and celebrates those who fought to end WWII. We remember those who fought against tyranny and thank them for their wartime efforts. We are proud to have veterans as members, and that afternoon was dedicated to them. The day was filled with nostalgic memories, brought alive with words and music.

On May 19 we were pleased with a record attendance of Jewish, Christian and Muslim women for Part II of this year's Interreligious Women's Group. The year's theme is "Our Holy Texts and Their Meaning in Our Lives Today." What a wonderful experience for everyone to learn about Torah, hear a reading and have a guided discussion by our Rabbi Irit Shillor. This was an exceptional experience for our non-Jewish friends. We believe encounter is the best path to mutual understanding and respect.

Rachel Dohme

Read much more in our [LJG June newsletter](#).

Union of Progressive Jews of Germany 28th Annual Conference

The conference of the UpJ has a new home and this year we will meet in Bonn from July 28 to 31. The conference offers fascinating speakers, hands-on workshops, moving services and time to reconnect with colleagues and friends from all over Germany. There is a children's programme and, as always, the conference languages are German, Russian and English.

Information and registration are available [online here](#) and from the UpJ office at info@liberale-juden.de.

Towards Transcendence – A piano recital in Hamburg



Tuvia Navon recital in Hamburg

Tuvia Navon, a student at the Freiburg University of Music supported by the ELES Foundation for Gifted Jewish Students, gave his first performance on May 22 in the community hall at St Anschar as the result of a commendable partnership between the Central Council of Jews in Germany [Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland], the Liberale Jüdischen Gemeinde Hamburg [LJGH] and the Evangelical Lutheran community of St Anschar, Hamburg.

We hope to be able to hear this gifted young pianist play again here soon – perhaps next year to mark the 200-year anniversary of Reform Judaism, which began in Hamburg.

Rabbi Walter Rothschild in concert



Rabbi Walter Rothschild spoke about his life and sang songs, accompanied by Max Doehleemann on the piano. This free event was held on Wednesday June 1 at 7pm at Comzi on Pariser Str 56 in Berlin.

New Abraham Geiger College building



On May 25 plans were finalised to revive an 18th century listed building directly on the premises of Sanssouci palace garden in Potsdam, a World Heritage cultural site. Adjacent to the university campus, the Abraham Geiger College and the School of Jewish Theology will reside on some 800 square metres with office space, lecture rooms and a Jewish chapel. The overall building budget of 11.1 million euros has been raised with the support of the State of Brandenburg, and we hope to finish the project in late 2019.

Schwarz-Schütte Foundation created

A new foundation has been established for the future of the Potsdam School of Jewish Theology to consolidate rabbinical training in Germany for the next 20 years. The efforts of the new institution concentrate on the quality of academic education as well as the practical training and placement of rabbis in Europe and worldwide. It is also planned to erect a Center of Biblical Archaeology with the generous grant received by the Schwarz-Schütte family.

Last semester, a total of 132 students were enrolled in the BA programme of the School of Jewish Theology, along with another 11 in the Master's programme. 24 of these students were concomitantly enrolled at the Progressive Abraham Geiger College or at its Conservative sister institution, the Zacharias Frankel College, to be trained as rabbis or cantors.

Chair for Hebrew Bible and Exegesis

Prof Shani Tzoref, PhD has been appointed to this chair. After Yeshiva University in New York she earned a PhD at New York University. Dr Tzoref worked in Sydney, Israel, and Göttingen before joining our faculty in Potsdam.



Dr Shani Tzoref

Prof Tzoref is also participating in *Scripta Qumranica Electronica*, an extraordinary undertaking sponsored by the German Federal government. The goal is to create and maintain a Dead Sea Scrolls Aggregated Database and Virtual Research Environment.

New chair in Jewish Religious History

Professor Jonathan Schorsch, PhD, has just assumed the chair in Jewish Religious and Intellectual History at the School of Jewish Theology. He received his PhD from the University of California Berkeley in 2000. Since then he has taught at Emory (Atlanta), Columbia (New York) and Sarah Lawrence (Bronxville, NY). Dr Schorsch has extensively researched Sephardi Jewish history.



Dr Jonathan Schorsch

New Testament chair

Rabbi Michael J Cook, Professor of Judeo-Christian Studies and Professor of Intertestamental and Early Christian Literatures at Hebrew Union College has repeatedly emphasised how important it is for rabbis to know more about Christianity. Therefore, we are happy to welcome Dr Kathy Ehrensperger of the University of Wales Trinity St David as professor for New Testament in its Jewish Context. This endowed chair will contribute much to the School of Jewish Theology.



Dr Kathy Ehrensperger

DHL awarded to Bettina Schwarz



Bettina Schwarz (center) honoured with Doctor of Humane Letters by Rabbis Cheryl Peretz and Walter Homolka

Rabbi Sonja Pilz appointed

Rabbi Dr Sonja K Pilz has been appointed as chair of the Endowed Junior Professorship for Jewish Liturgy and Comparative Ritual Studies. On April 25 she received her appointment certificate from Secretary of State Martin Gorholt, responsible for university education in the State of Brandenburg.



Rabbi Dr Sonja K Pilz

Poland, Denmark, Sweden

Beit Warszawa news

Beit Warszawa thanks Rabbi Alan Iser for his visit on May 20 and 21 and for sharing his knowledge and his experience with us. This was Rabbi Iser's second visit to our synagogue and we hope to welcome him again soon.

On Thursday May 26 we held a small celebration of Lag B'Omer, the 33rd day of the Counting of the Omer. We all learned more about the festival and its mystical traditions.



Dominika Zakrzewska

We offer regular sessions of Israeli Folk Dancing. The workshops are led by Dominika Zakrzewska on Saturdays from 1:30 until 2:15. Anyone can join.

Every Saturday we also invite children ages 4 to 11 for magical Shabbat Gam Yahad classes led by Dominika Zakrzewska and Rivka Foremniak.

Time: 10:00 am - 12:30

pm. The program includes art projects, music classes, learning the Hebrew alphabet and more.

On Saturday June 11 we welcomed a special guest at Beit Warszawa, Rabbi Yoel Kahn from Congregation Beth El in Berkeley, California. Rabbi Kahn led Shabbat services together with Cantor Anna Silverman and shared his Dvar Torah with us.

For Tikkun Leil Shavuot, an evening of studying was held on Saturday, June 11 at 7:00 pm in the synagogue at Beit Warszawa. The programme for the evening included prayers, exciting lectures, an art workshop and science experiments, as well as traditional dairy snacks for everyone. Cantor Anna Silverman led Shavuot morning prayer on Sunday.



Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Shavuot humour



Is there a section at the bottom for comments?

Denmark and Sweden share Shavuot



Rabbi Rebecca Lillian (3rd from left) leading Shavuot study in Malmö

On Saturday evening, June 11, eight members of Shir Hatzafon, Progressive Judaism in Denmark, joined over a dozen members of Egalitära Synagogan i Malmö (The Egalitarian Synagogue in Malmö, ESM) in a private home in Malmö to observe Shavuot and to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the founding of ESM.

Rabbi Rebecca Lillian led the evening, alternately directing us between dining and learning. The pot luck kitchen was full with delicious cheesecake, blintzes, American fudge and more (nearly all homemade). Indulgence alternated with text study of Pirkei Avot, Havdalah, a Mussar study session led by Rebecca's husband, Professor Jan Schwarz and more. Discussions were lively, friendships were made and renewed, and all were satisfied in body and spirit. This is an event we hope to repeat annually - next year in Copenhagen.

Arthur Buchman

Paideia launches on line magazine



Paideia Connect and Paideia, The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden are announcing the launch of JEU, European Jewish Magazine. Visit www.jeumag.com.

Interfaith LGBT seminar in Leuven



L-R: Revd Jane McBride (moderator), Korneel Redwasp (Islam), Aaron Wessman (Roman Catholic), Markus Fobelets (Hinduism), Brian Doyle (IJC) and an unidentified participant

On 17 May, the Flemish Brabant group Leonardo LGBT organized the seminar 'Homosexuality and religion, irreconcilable?', an activity to mark International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHO). During the event, held in Leuven, representatives from the Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Roman Catholic communities discussed this controversial topic from a theological and societal point of view.

IJC board member Brian Doyle spoke and answered questions on behalf of the Jewish community, highlighting the broad inclusion and acceptance of LGBT people within the various strands of Progressive Judaism and lauding the steps taken within modern orthodoxy to embrace its own LGBT family.

The seminar's aim was to give a platform to people from different religious communities who wanted to discuss this topic. Dialogue, respect, building bridges and promoting tolerance were important aspects of the conference and these key terms are important if we want to come to full acceptance of LGBT people.

Kabbalah, Jewish mysticism at IJC

As part of the IJC Jewish Learning Encounters series, on Sunday May 22 Rabbi Albert Ringer of Rotterdam's Progressive Jewish community presented a discussion on: The Kabbalah, what it is, where it came from and its role in Judaism today.



Rabbi Albert Ringer



IJC and CCLJ host Kenneth Stein

Professor Kenneth Stein, an eminent scholar in Middle Eastern History at Emory University in Atlanta, spoke at the Centre Communautaire Laïc Juif David Susskind (CCLJ) on May 25 at 8pm on: "One State or Two States in the Israeli-Palestinian arena, or are neither possible? What can we learn from the 1970s success of Begin, Sadat, and Carter?"



Kenneth Stein

When Israel and Egypt signed their peace treaty, neither country questioned the sovereignty or political independence of the other side. In seeking a resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, can the conditions present in the 1970s be repeated again to make another Arab-Israeli agreement unfold and stick? Or is it simply wishful thinking to believe that either a one-state or a two state solution can be negotiated, or imposed by outside forces?

For 40 years, Professor Kenneth Stein has taught Middle Eastern History, Political Science, and Israel Studies at Emory University. He is the author of many books and articles, and a review of his work and publications may be found [here](#).

The talk was both informative and fascinating.

Lecture series with Rabbi Marc Neiger

On Thursday May 19 at 19:00 at Beth Hillel in Brussels, Rabbi Marc Neiger held a lecture on the theme of *Libre ou Libéral?* - Free or Liberal? These lectures are given one Thursday a month by Rabbi Neiger to discuss or rediscover the great themes of Judaism.



Rabbi Marc Neiger

Derived through midrashic exploration, these talks approach the major themes of our tradition and are open to all, regardless of the level of study. It is not necessary to attend the presentations in sequence, although a regular presence ensures better integration of the subject matter.

These evenings are free and open to members. Registration and a participation fee of €10 is required for non-members.

Sim Shalom news: Budapest and Berlin

Although Rabbi Kati Keleman and I are in Berlin, I can bring you up to date on the latest news from Budapest. Most regrettably, the prospect of free premises in the Israeli Cultural Institute in Budapest is impossible because their premises are closed on Shabbat. We therefore have arranged to have all our activities including our Saturday programmes in the Jewish Community Center known as Balint Haz, which is much more flexible and welcoming. We are hoping that when our lawsuits against the Hungarian government for our proper financial support are successful, that we'll again be able to move to a more auspicious place.

In the meantime, Kati and I are exploring the Progressive/Reform religious scene here in Berlin and enjoying it very much. Kati goes fairly regularly to the Oranienberger Street (Neue) Synagogue, which has a Masorti egalitarian congregation and a woman Rabbi, Gesa Ederberg. Before WWII, this was the biggest synagogue in Berlin, seating 3000. The building was almost completely destroyed in the war, was rebuilt in the 1990s in a smaller size and is now used partly as a Jewish Community Centre with some administrative functions. But there is a proper synagogue in it, and the congregation has a very strong intellectual programme, which we've started to enjoy. The faculty of Abraham Geiger College and other visiting speakers give very challenging shiurs there after the Saturday morning services.

We've also gone to services at the Pestalozzi Street Synagogue, which is officially Reform, though in the old German tradition which is not egalitarian. The women sit separately from the men, and cannot participate in the services except to light the Shabbat candles. The service is a good bit like what one would find in a Conservative shul in the US. The cantor has a very good voice, and there is a good choir singing Lewandowski tunes. Mostly the congregation is just an audience for their nice performance. Interestingly, Lewandowski composed that music when cantor at the Neue Synagogue.

And finally, we've gone to Friday night services at Let's Start Davening (LSD), which is led by some of the rabbinical students at Abraham Geiger College. One of the main leaders is Ariel Pollak, the student who has been interning in Budapest all this past year with Kati. Another is Armin Langer who was a rabbinical intern in Budapest with us last year. LSD's aim is to have a more participatory and spiritual service than the traditional Reform ones, which will attract young Jews and non-Jews looking for a spiritual home. The service is held once a month in a meeting room of a contemporary art centre, also a sort of meeting place of young folks with an alternative life style. It was a very musical service with everyone joining in the singing and lots of good vibes. Afterwards, there was a pot-luck supper. It was most enjoyable, and I'm sure that we'll go again.

Jess Weil

www.sim-shalom.org

Jewish Education in Budapest



Taste of Judaism Class at Congregation
Bét Orim in Budapest

MIGWAN מגוון

LIBERALE JÜDISCHE GEMEINDE
LIBERAL JEWISH CONGREGATION
BASEL

Migwan hosts refugee event



Children from Migwan and refugees from the nearby
Integration Operation Centre playing together

It was a great joy for us and the refugees to be together on Sunday afternoon at the end of May at Lange Erlen in the tall trees. Thanks to [Basel hilft mit](#), a volunteer refugee assistance group, who made this special meeting possible.

There was another children's program on Sunday June 5 at 10:00 am about Shavuot - this time divided into two groups for younger and older children (and without refugees). We had wonderful participation which gave us the opportunity to learn more about our Jewish traditions.

GIL visits Grenoble



GIL enjoying Grenoble

On Sunday June 5, members and friends of GIL, the Liberal Jewish Community of Geneva, visited Grenoble. The trip included the Museum of Resistance and Deportation, lunch at restaurant La Table Ronde and an afternoon guided tour of the old city and a panoramic view from the Bastille.



Crazy night of Shavuot at MJLF



Rabbi Yann Boissière (on bimah) presenting

From 6:45 pm Saturday to 8 am Sunday, MJLF faithful and hardy guests were not at the foot of Mount Sinai but at the base of the Left Bank towers after the flood -- to sing, pray, study and have fun in celebration of Shavuot. Highlights included the unveiling of 16 new Psalms, short video clips by Rabbis Delphine Horvilleur and Yann Boissière to explain Liberal Judaism to the curious and impatient, plus 10 study workshops and seven cultural activities, culminating in an emotionally charged morning service at sunrise with the reading of the Ten Commandments. Study sessions explored what the sages had to say about anti-Semitism, the Mesopotamian origins of the Torah, Ruth, Spinoza, Paul, hyper-modern Israel and more. One group explored the meaning of the 613 mitzvot.



MJLF Shavuot study session

At the Surmelin synagogue, Rabbi Floriane Chinsky led a fascinating study of conversion according to both Halachah and history with major figures who were converts to Judaism and today's rules of the game, including the unthinkable question of whether conversion can be annulled. Of course, the three pillars of Jewish events were rigorously respected: prayer, study and plenty of food.

Robert Ley



ULIF news



On June 9, ULIF presented From Berlin to Broadway, with Voci Copernic (Copernic Voices), directed by Laurence Temime with Shirat Hanechama, the Adath Shalom choir, under the spotlight. The two choirs revisited headline musicals that made the 20th century sing and dream, performing Kurt Weill to Bernstein, from Jacobs to Gershwin, from Donkey Skin by Michel Legrand to Tevye the Milkman who inspired the Fiddler on the Roof and from New York, New York to Chicago.



On June 23 at 8pm ULIF will present an exceptional roundtable discussion: *France faces the rise of the religious*, a conference-debate chaired by Ariane Bendavid, lecturer at the University of Paris-Sorbonne and Director of the Talmud-Torah of Copernic and moderated by François Azouvi, social scientist and philosopher.

Speakers: Jean Birnbaum, journalist at Le Monde; Marcel Gauchet, philosopher and historian; Pierre Manent, philosopher and Jean-François Bensahel, President of ULIF-Copernic. Free entry

From the president of Keren Or Lyon



Prayer with the Sons of Abraham at Keren Or

Progressive Judaism represents openness and gender equality, and a sense of responsibility both ethical, personal and societal. Added to this is the importance given to education, emphasising both engagement and responsibility. Our participation in community life is not based on convenience, but on a full awareness of our commitment as Progressive Jews and with respect towards each other.

Illustrating the principles of Judaism, we successfully joined together two moments: the welcome of the interreligious group "Sons of Abraham" at the Talmud Torah on Sunday 29 May, and the presentation to the Torah of the infant Henaelle, daughter of Lionel Sellem and Marie Dautun by Rabbi René Pfertzel. It was a moment of great joy for the family and the community. At the Talmud Torah, we welcomed young Jews and Muslims, a beautiful spiritual experience.

Thank you to the rabbi and to Philippe Villalba and David Mellet.

Pamela Vennin



Chagigah: Reform Judaism Biennial

Something special will be happening at our biennial conference this year. Join us at Chagigah to begin a journey that has the potential to transform your community.

At Chagigah, alongside the usual programme, Reform Judaism will launch three initiatives as part of our commitment to strengthening communities and inspiring our members.

Read [Chagigah 2016 FAQs](#). [Click Here](#) to watch the film introducing Chagigah 2016

There are 24 specialised learning sessions in store for you and much more! Secure your place now. [Click here to book](#).

For more information about [Chagigah](#) or if you wish your community to be invoiced for your place please email chagigah@reformjudaism.org.uk.

For financial assistance please contact sarita.robinson@reformjudaism.org.uk.

Nottingham interfaith kitchen celebrates first anniversary

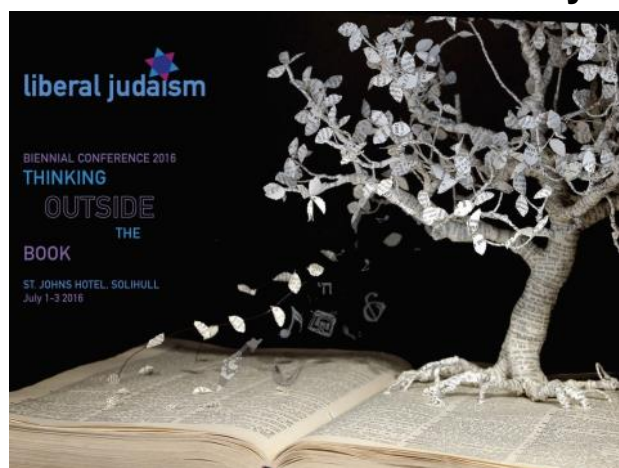


Nottingham's Salaam Shalom (SaSh) Kitchen

Nottingham's Salaam Shalom (SaSh) Kitchen celebrated its first anniversary on June 6 with the event covered by local TV. The unique project – a collaboration between Nottingham Liberal Synagogue (NLS) and Muslim charity Himmah – provides a hot meal every Wednesday to around 100 people in need in Hyson Green, a deprived area of Nottingham. As well as helping those in need, the SaSh Kitchen has played a key role in bringing Nottingham's Jewish and Muslim communities together.

Members of NLS, including Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich, were interviewed by Notts TV at the celebration. [Click here to watch the interview](#).

Liberal Judaism Biennial 1-3 July



This year, for the first time, we will have a scholar in resident - Rabbi Dr Dalia Marx, associate professor of liturgy and midrash at Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem.

The LJ Chair will present awards to those members of the Liberal Judaism community who have served the movement at either a national or local level. The purpose is to recognise those within our communities who are doing wonderful work to support the values and principles of our movement. Keynote speakers have now been announced and the programme is available [online here](#).

Everything you ever wanted to know about Judaism in four jokes



Dr Keith Kahn-Harris

Does Judaism confuse you? Does the sheer variety of customs and rituals seem bewildering? Then this is the course for you. Designed for both Jews and non-Jews, each session will start and end with a joke. At the start you'll find it bewildering but by the end you will be laughing.

On Thursday June 16 at JW3 Dr Keith Kahn-Harris presented the first of his four talks on Judaism.

Additional dates: Thursdays; June 23 & July 7 & 14
Tickets: £16-20; [click here to buy online](#)

Click the logos for news of our UK movements



Spain

Bet Shalom Barcelona



Netzer Barcelona is a Tnua, a Jewish youth movement where our children learn about Judaism and they also have the chance to meet other young Jewish people from all the world through our Machanot, the summer camps.

It means a lot to us because we are the youth group of a small community, but we want to create something big. The summer camp is the most important moment of the year, where we have the possibility to create a unique atmosphere of education and learning, while experiencing great things.

Living in Barcelona and being Jewish is quite difficult. Little by little the new generation of kids are slowly starting to forget our past, our background and our traditions. The Machane is the perfect opportunity to make a difference, to create a change, to let kids experience their Jewish identity and to grow as a community, as a family.

"Xuetes" met in ATID to celebrate their identity



Shabbat seminar at ATID

Many of you may have chosen to spend a vacation in one of the Balearic Islands: Mallorca.

You probably do not know that in 1453 all the Jews in the island were converted by force and, in an attempt to keep their identity, they continued their family relations by marrying with the members of these 15 lineages: Aguiló, Bonnin, Cortés, Forteza, Fuster, Martín, Miró, Picó, Piña, Pomar, Segura, Tarongí, Valentí, Vallariola, Valls.

Calling them "xueta" (a deformation of "jueu or juetó" - Jew or little Jew), was very pejorative. Due to embarrassment and fear over many centuries, out of about 20,000 descendants today, less than 1% of them carry their name with pride and identify with Judaism and the community.



More members and guests at ATID's Shabbat seminar

In an attempt to make this more visible within our local Jewish world, Jewish Community ATID of Catalonia organised a Shabbat seminar where this history was explained and personal cases were narrated. The event was well attended and raised much interest.

When ATID was founded in the 90s, one of its main goals was to make Judaism accessible to those who are trying to recover and reconnect with an identity that had been oppressed and denied to them.

We are very happy to have opened our doors to our brothers and sisters in the Mediterranean.

Laura Kolesnicov
Community Director, C J ATID
www.atid.es

Bet Januká observes Yom HaShoah with US Navy



Bet Januká joins forces with US Navy personnel to observe Yom HaShoah in Rota

We wanted to share some photos with you of the Yom HaShoah commemoration held here on the US Navy base with Bet Januká and members of the US Navy.

On May 5 a Yom HaShoah commemoration was held in Rota with Bet Januká and members of the US Naval Station Diversity Team to remember the victims of the Shoah. Our lay leader, Joseph, gave a brilliant speech about his family's personal experience that touched everyone present. The Diversity Team also presented a documentary film from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in New York.

Deborah and Ahuvah



WUPJ 2016 Calendar

July 14-24 Jerusalem

[Bergman Seminar for Progressive Jewish Educators](#)



Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism

התנועה הרפורמית יהדות מתקדמת בישראל

Sign Up for the Bergman Seminar for Progressive Jewish Educators



Bergman Seminar students

The World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) invites you to join our upcoming Bergman Seminar for Progressive Jewish Educators, "Creating Meaningful Connections". It takes place in Israel July 14-24 and is designed to enhance your school and community educators. Implementing the Bergman Seminar is the Saltz International Education Center's faculty which includes some of the most accomplished Jewish scholars and educators in the world.

[Read more here](#) or write to saltz@wupj.org.il.



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.

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IMPJ Newsletter

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



Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism Conference

IMPJ Biennial was May 27-28

I was privileged to attend the Biennial of the IMPJ, our Israeli movement at Kibbutz Shfayim on the last Shabbat in May.

During the opening ceremony there was much music, notably an ensemble representing the instruments evoked in our psalms: harp, lyre and a wind instrument - a wonderful way for our texts to speak to us! Also included was a posthumous award to Debbie Friedman, the inspiration of so much of our music, being given to her sister.

There were politicians speaking: Zehava Gal-On of Meretz, Tzipi Livni and most surprisingly a Likud MK who declared that rather than representing Likud at the IMPJ, he considered himself a voice of the IMPJ in his party.

The theme this year was "Between East and West: Multiculturalism in a Jewish and Democratic State", with serious discussions on a multitude of points including education, life in society and sharing. This year for the first time there was a track in English alongside the Hebrew and Russian, which definitely helped me!

I came away with immense joy in the sharing of an approach, vitality and enthusiasm for Israeli Progressive Judaism, young relative to the age of the State. This came through many of the participants, but above all through innovation due to the encounter and mixing of origins, of traditions of religious practices and culinary ones and through the music. This was an experience I can definitely recommend!

Celia Naval

Vice President External Relations, Keren Or Lyon

NB: If you missed the livestreams of the opening plenary, Kabbalat Shabbat or Havdalah, see them on the IMPJ Hebrew [Facebook](#) page.

- Ed