



European Union for Progressive Judaism

November 2017 Newsletter

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Celebrating Jewish Peoplehood

For thousands of years, Jews have lived around the world, scattered across five continents. The relationships among the Jews in each place where they settled, and between these places and the Land of Israel, underwent numerous and diverse changes over the generations. Throughout the centuries, a complex and rich dialogue has been maintained between all Jewish communities, creating a delicate and unique thread that binds Jews living in different parts of the world.

Diaspora Israel Day, which was initiated by project *Domim-aLike*, a joint programme of the Israeli Reform Movement and the Israeli government, is a holiday celebrating the ongoing connections between Jewish communities worldwide and the continuous sense of

peoplehood among them. The festival cherishes thousands of years of united and full Jewish life in different locations around the world. (Source: [Diaspora Israel Day website](#).)

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An active contribution

What a year this has been and I will personally remember many exceptional events in 2017. One of the most exciting is certainly the big reunion of the worldwide Progressive Jewish family, which we were able to enjoy at WUPJ CONNECTIONS in Jerusalem in May.

On a daily level, nothing stands out more for me than the prominence of politics. Whether in comparatively young communities or in longer-established ones around our region, which I had the privilege of visiting, the political events in the world and the extraordinary developments in many European countries were invariably a central topic of conversations and discussions.

Some of them seem to be at odds with the concept and the values of a unified Europe, others call into question the very fundamental concept of nation states. And while the very fact that all these conversations are taking place attests to the active interest many of our community members have in the subject, I have never been more impressed than when this engagement translates into action.



I am acutely aware of the demographics of our communities, and of course there is only so much one can do, but I feel strongly that it is more important now than ever before to speak out in support of the values we embrace as Progressive Jews. Our model of fully egalitarian communities and the central idea of *tikkun olam* stand out as two aspects that would seem particularly relevant to the wider societies as well.

Whether we look at the increasingly complex migration and immigration scenarios, at environmental sustainability issues or the various aspects of social justice, as Progressive Jews we have something meaningful to contribute beyond our own congregations, and I hope that we confidently and assertively do it, both individually and as a movement, whenever possible.

Sonja Guentner, EUPJ Vice Chairman

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Celebrating Jewish Peoplehood

In order for the community to have a meaningful Diaspora Israel Day (DID) celebration, the DID team prepared a special *Festival Tractate* – a beautiful collection of texts, songs, poems and ideas for discussion and activity. The *Tractate* can be found on the website in various languages.

The five chapters of the *Tractate* take us through the unique story of the Jewish people and the remarkable connections between Jews around the world.

During the 7th of Cheshvan, many Progressive Reform congregations in Israel and around the world joined the DID celebrations. The Israel Movement for

Progressive Judaism (IMPJ) held an event at Kehillat Yozma in Modi'in, which was broadcast live and received over 1500 views from London, Paris, Stockholm, New York, Los Angeles, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and more.

One of the highlights of the Yozma celebration was the lighting of a seven-branched menorah by six representatives who were born on each of the six continents. They lit the candles in honour of the Jewish communities in their home continents.

Save the date for next year's Diaspora Israel Day on 7 Cheshvan 5779/October 16 2018. Visit the [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page to keep up-to-date with what's happening.



Experiencing Judaism

Under the auspices of Arzenou France, Rabbi Tom Cohen and his French-American synagogue, Kehilat Geshar, hosted the Diaspora Israel Day celebration for the second year. This new holiday of prayer, song, reading and discussion encourages unity of the Jewish people and stronger ties between Israel and the Diaspora.

The Rabbi encouraged discussion around the question of nostalgia and transgenerational experiences, and people took turns to recount their personal experiences with Judaism. Celebrants, representing the different Liberal synagogues in Paris, sang songs that resonate in France. The evening was a great success. The *Domim-aLike Tractate* used at the event was adapted by Jean-François Levy and Perlette Toledano Ley.



(L-R): Jean-François Levy, Rabbi Tom Cohen and Perlette Toledano Ley, with the *Tractate* they adapted



Editor's Note

Welcome to the last EUPJ newsletter of the year. From what I've heard (I'm new to the EUPJ), it has been an eventful and exciting year for all members, from rabbinic ordinations and inductions to festival celebrations, international conferences and more. And next year promises to be filled with even more entertainment and wonderful events with the EUPJ Conference in Prague being a major high point of the year. But before we leave 2017, let's read about what has happened over the past month or will be happening in December.

Chanukah is almost upon us and *sofganiot* (doughnuts) are already available in the bakeries in Israel. Chanukah is a time of hope, fun, games and song that shines a light from our windows for all to see. May the festival and the New Year bring light into all your lives and into your communities.

As many of you are aware, we combine the news for December and January every year due to the holidays, and the next issue will be published around the second or third week of January. But don't wait till the last minute to send us your Chanukah (and other) articles and photos. Please send them to us as soon as you can after they've happened. Although the deadline for the January issue is the first week of the New Year, it would be preferable if we could get everything before the end of December.

As this is a newsletter for all communities within the EUPJ, it's important for us to include articles on every one of them. In order for me to do this, I'd like your help to achieve this goal if at all possible. Therefore, I'd like to give you some guidelines for contributing to the newsletter.

Many of your newsletters come to me with articles about events that took place a month or more before I receive them. Our newsletters sometimes come out a few weeks or even a month or so later. This means that most of the information will be very outdated by the time our newsletter is ready to send, and therefore, we are not always able to include your news or events.

The best way to get your current events in the EUPJ newsletter is to send them to me as they happen. If you do this, your article stands a better chance of being included. If it comes to me a month later via your newsletter, there's a good chance it will be too late to use. We cannot include articles about events that are over four to six weeks old.

We plan to publish the EUPJ newsletter in the

last or second last week of every month, usually on a Thursday. From now on, our deadlines (see later in this newsletter) will be about two weeks before we publish. If you host an event that takes place after our deadline for that month, let me know in advance that this event is happening and that you'll send me the article and photos immediately after, and I will try keep space for it. No promises, but at least you've let me know that it's coming.

In addition, it would be greatly appreciated if you could send your articles in English. I know this is hard for many of you, and I totally understand if you can't, but there are a few reasons why this would help me enormously.

Firstly, finding people who are willing to volunteer to translate for me is not always possible on a monthly basis. (If anyone reading this is willing to help, please let me know!)

Secondly, I receive dozens of newsletters from communities throughout Europe. These newsletters are in many different languages and they all have many different articles, not all of which are relevant for the newsletter.

Because I don't understand these languages, I have to go through each article that looks like it might be relevant, put it in Google Translate to see if it is indeed relevant, and then either send it to a translator or edit the translation from Google. I'm sure you can appreciate the time this would take and how unreliable and inaccurate Google Translate can be.

I hope you are able to support me in my

endeavours to bring you a newsletter that represents all communities and all countries within the EUPJ.

On a final note, unfortunately, we cannot include any promotional articles about books, CDs, films or other media that have been published by individuals or communities (or events that were held to publicise them).

While it is very encouraging to see how many prolific writers and filmmakers there are in the Progressive Movement, and as much as we would like to include these much-valued and impressive additions to the literary and visual world, we do not have the space to promote the vast numbers being published, whether by rabbis or other individuals.

I look forward to seeing your articles and photos depicting your celebrations of Chanukah.

Feel free to email me your news or just send comments and feedback (newsletter@eupj.org).

Darryl Egnal



**May the festival and the New Year
bring light into all your lives and
into your communities.**

The Balfour Declaration

The words that gave us back our homeland

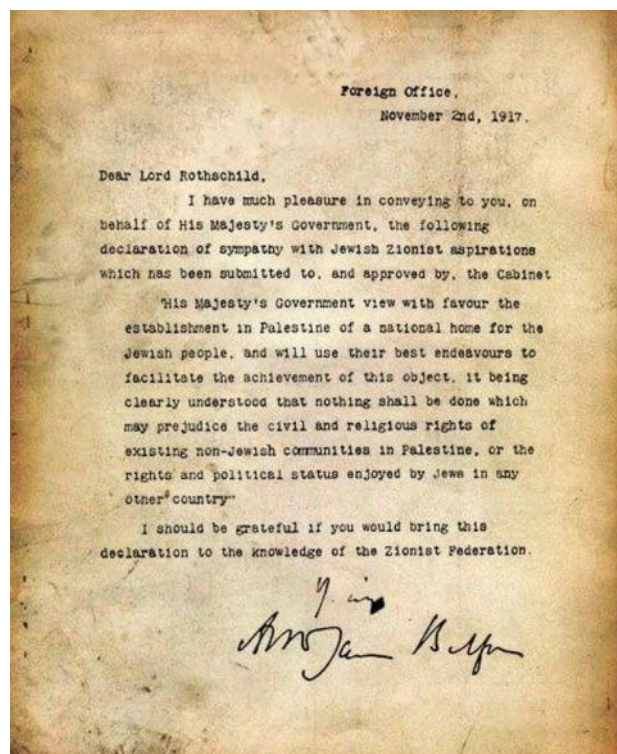
November 2017 marks 100 years since the Balfour Declaration, an historic statement of sympathy issued by the British Government for the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in the Land of Israel. Lord Arthur James Balfour, the British Foreign Secretary, penned the historic letter on behalf of the British Government, to Lord Lionel Walter Rothschild, a prominent leader of Britain's Jewish community.

The Declaration expressed the British Government's recognition of and support for the inalienable right of the Jewish people for self-determination in their historical homeland, the Land of Israel. (The Declaration refers to the Land of Israel as "Palestine", since this was the common geographical denomination of the area at the time, without any political or ethnic connotation. Everyone living there was called "Palestinian" – Jew and Arab alike).

His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people

British Prime Minister Theresa May has described the Balfour Declaration as "one of the most important letters in history." Meanwhile, the British government recently stated that "establishing a homeland for the Jewish people in the land to which they had such strong historical and religious ties was the right and moral thing to do, particularly against the background of centuries of persecution." Source: [Balfour 100 website](#).

According to Rabbi Josh Weinberg, President of the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA), for Israelis and Jews around the world this was the quintessential moment when the dream of



The letter from Lord Arthur James Balfour to Lord Lionel Walter Rothschild represents the first political recognition of Zionist aims by a powerful nation

Jewish political sovereignty and statehood took a huge step closer to reality.

"Many Palestinians see this as a moment when the promise made to them was broken, an event that led to what they call 'The Catastrophe' (*Nakba*). The Balfour Declaration was a major marker of legitimacy for Jews on the world stage, one that deserves celebration. However, we must also take the time to listen, to hear the narrative of the other, to bring the polarized factions of society just a little bit closer," he said in a recent ARZA newsletter.

Arzenou France commemorates Israel's 100-year milestone

The Balfour Declaration was the topic of a debate held by Arzenou France earlier this month in honour of the 100th anniversary. Gil Mihaely, historian and co-founder of the weekly magazine "*Causeur*" (right), was the guest speaker.

Gil captivated his audience by underlining the Biblical Zionist convictions of British Foreign Secretary Lord Arthur James Balfour, Prime Minister Lloyd George and of many members of the British elite for more than a century before November 2, 1917.

Robert Ley, Arzenou France



Regeneration: Building the Future

EUPJ Biennial Prague * Thursday 26 - Sunday 29 April 2018

Over the past six months, you will have read a great deal about the fabulous conference venues we've secured and the magical city of Prague. You should also be familiar with our theme, which focuses on the future of our communities and our Movement, the many inspiring workshops and speakers we have planned and the tours on offer during and after the Conference. However, what has not been



(L-R) Sonja Guentner, EUPJ Vice Chairman and Miriam Kramer, EUPJ Chairman

mentioned is what will always be one of the most important ingredients of any Jewish function. It is, of course, the food.

Last month, Miriam Kramer, Sonja Guentner and I made the ultimate sacrifice and took ourselves to Prague to sample each and every dish that will be on offer during the Opening Ceremony, morning and afternoon breaks, Kabbalat Shabbat dinner and the buffet breakfasts and lunches. Needless to say, we had to say goodbye to any diets and resign ourselves to putting on several pounds (or kilos) to ensure that we achieve the highest standards of cuisine during our Conference. We took our task very seriously and you can see some of the results in the mouth-watering pictures of some of the food on offer.

Whatever differences of opinion might arise during some thought-provoking and sometimes controversial workshop topics and plenaries, we have no doubt that everyone will agree on the excellent food and wine that will be delivered during our time in Prague. So, if you haven't registered yet, delay no longer by registering [here](#) now! We have more than 100 delegates registered already, which is comfortably ahead of target. Don't forget, the **early bird rate ends on December 31** after which the registration fee will increase by about 10%. If ever there was a good time to **book your place**, that time is **NOW**.



(L-R) David Pollak and Chef Jan Wiesner

Our post-conference tours are attracting a good deal of attention. If those of you who have expressed an interest confirm your wish to participate, it is very likely that we'll be sold out well before Conference so, once again, book now to avoid disappointment. Details of the tours can be found within our FAQs on the registration site and they all offer incredibly good value for money. Take advantage of the opportunity to explore and discover the rich Jewish heritage that the Czech Republic has to offer by signing up and rounding off your Conference experience in the best way possible.



There might be five months before the start of **Regeneration**, but it seems like yesterday when we started planning for it. Geoffrey Chaucer, an English author of the 15th century, famously wrote "Time and tide wait for no man". Neither will our Conference, so book now! We look forward to seeing you in Prague in a few short months.

David Pollak

Travelling? Find a synagogue

Before you embark on your holiday, don't forget to find a Progressive congregation with which to share Shabbat services. You'll find at least one wherever you decide to go. Click [here](#) to find a synagogue in Europe and [here](#) for synagogues in the rest of the world.

ERA Rabbinic Kallah in Prague



The European Rabbinical Assembly (ERA) held its first Kallah in Brussels in March 2017. This photo was taken at the European Union Parliament

We are delighted to announce our next ERA Kallah, which will be held in Prague from April 24-26 at the Blue Rose Hotel. According to a member of the Prague Progressive community, it is the first time since the Second World War that so many rabbis will gather in the Czech Republic, so this will be a milestone event for us.

The conference will start on Tuesday evening with a special event at the prestigious Charles University. On Wednesday, we will explore the

diversity of Progressive Judaism in Europe, the new avenues in liturgy, the recent creations in lifecycle events and the different definitions of Jewishness. On Thursday morning, we will hold the annual AGM of ERA. It is open to all rabbis, but only those who have paid their subscription to ERA will be able to vote. Colleagues who haven't paid yet are invited to do so while registering for the Kallah or on our [website](#). For more information, please visit our site or [email us](#).

Rabbi Dr René Pfertzel

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Remembering the Jews of Baden

A concert and a memorial service were held in Freiburg to commemorate the Jewish residents of the German state of Baden who were deported to Gurs, an internment camp in south-western France, during World War II.

During the memorial service, a letter written by one of the deportees to her husband was read out. In the letter, the woman laments all that she and her family have lost. Present at the service was her son, Ernst Rapp, a member of our community who was four years old at the time of the deportation.

The Rapps, along with German Jews from 137 communities, were deported to the camp in October 1940. Ernst, now 81, was freed from the camp by a French Jewish humanitarian organisation, "Œuvre de Secours aux Enfants". His parents, however, were murdered.

The memorial service, which was attended by 130 people, was followed by a silent march to a memorial in the city. Earlier that day, 349 roses had been placed at the site of the city's former synagogue in memory of the deportees from Freiburg. Rabbi Diane Tiferet Lakein from Chawurah



Gescher in Freiburg also spoke at the service.

A concert organised by our community was held in the evening. It featured the music "Fugitive Pieces" composed by Professor Gilead Mishory and performed by students from the city's conservatory. The event drew a large crowd and was very well received.

Kaddish in memory of Pogrom Night

The square of the Old Synagogue in Freiburg was filled to capacity for the annual commemoration of Pogrom Night. On November 9, 1938, the synagogue situated in this square, which was home to the Liberal Jewish Community in Freiburg, was burned to the ground.

Now, 79 years later on the site, Rabbi Diane Tiferet Lakein said Kaddish to remember the Jews of Freiburg who perished during the war. It was the first time a female rabbi has said Kaddish at this public commemoration.

The service was accompanied by music and readings. What was striking about the event was the large number of young people who were present.



Those interviewed commented that they had gained an insight into the history of Freiburg under Nazi tyranny. They also remarked that the memorial service was a truly moving experience.

Brenda Waffel

17th Festival of Jewish Music

Hamburg recently celebrated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Reform Judaism with the 17th Festival of Jewish Music. The event took place in the third temple of the "New Israelite Temple Society", which was built in 1931 and survived the war. It was later converted into a studio for NDR, a local broadcasting company.

Many Jewish communities in Germany took part once again with their choirs, dance groups and soloists. The programme featured ancient and modern songs in Hebrew, Yiddish, German and Russian, including some that encouraged audience participation. The singing and dancing created a beautiful, joyful atmosphere and it was clear that the whole room was engaged in a spirit of celebration.



Learn Sunday with Or Chadasch

Earlier this month, Or Chadasch, the Jewish Liberal Congregation of Zurich, held an enriching "Learn Sunday" for the children of its religious classes and their families. The theme was "Jewish Cooking" and included baking, painting and learning activities. In the morning, the children and their parents prepared miniature cheesecakes, challah and cookies, and created and painted their own placemats.

After a lunch of delicious home-cooked food, both young and old learned about different Jewish foods and customs through poster presentations. Topics included the different rules for keeping kosher, why we Fast, what makes Shabbat dinner so special, and the special foods we eat during the Jewish holidays. Special thanks to all the teachers for their efforts to make this day so special!

Tamar Krieger (translation: David Feder)



Chanukah market

Chanukah is a great time to spoil your families, friends and yourselves, and what better way to do this than to attend the Liberal Jewish Community of Geneva (GIL) Chanukah Market. Not only will you be able to buy Chanukah gifts, but you'll also be able to sell your own creations, whether arts and crafts or delicious homemade treats.

An added advantage is that GIL will benefit from this event because the creators and merchants have agreed to donate part of the proceeds of the sales to the community.

The market will take place on Wednesday December 6 from 13:00 to 16:00 and you'll be able to find gifts for those you love and want to spoil. Everything from pottery and jewellery to honey, jams, wine, gingerbread and other treats will be available. If you're interested in selling your quality creations, please contact the secretariat at info@gil.ch. We look forward to seeing you there!

Magic's magic!

The Migwan community in Basel will celebrate Chanukah with a magic show for young and old alike. The Magic Man will showcase his talents on Sunday December 17 at 17:00. Food, fun and candle-lighting will complete the evening.



Fundraising recital

Maestro Sir András Schiff will entertain members of the Liberal Jewish Community of Geneva (GIL) in an effort to help the community raise funds to enhance the safety and security of its synagogues, community centres, schools and sites.

The fundraising piano recital will take place on Sunday, December 10 at 19:00.

Belgium

Gilbert Lederman retires

After 10 years as President of the Beth Hillel synagogue, Gilbert Lederman has stepped down to pave the way for a new leader.

Benjamin Dobruszkes was elected as the new President at the organisation's General Assembly held on November 22.

The Beth Hillel community will honour Gilbert and welcome Benjamin during a special dinner after the Kabbalat Shabbat service Friday, December 8 at 19:00. Join us to thank him in person for his dedication and his infallible energy! Save the date!



Gilbert Lederman



Benjamin Dobruszkes



Chanukah at Beth Hillel

Beth Hillel will celebrate the fifth night of Chanukah with a fun evening filled with games, a cooking workshop and scrumptious food including latkes, doughnuts (*sofganiot*) and more. The event takes place on Saturday, December 16 from 16:45 so if you're in Brussels, come celebrate with the

Spain

Mitzvah Day in Barcelona

Neder, the social action group in Barcelona, organised four activities, which took place on Mitzvah Day, Sunday November 19. We could choose to donate blood, eyeglasses or cell phones, or we could volunteer to clean up the cemetery.

In Barcelona, there are Jewish sections in three different municipal cemeteries, inaugurated in 1931, 1951 and 1974. We remember Isaac Benaim Chocron, who was the first person buried in the most recently inaugurated cemetery.

Dominique Tomasov



ATID celebrates Israel's 70th anniversary

Comunitat ATID in Barcelona has organised monthly activities leading up to Israel's 70th anniversary. The cycle started with the arts, which included an exhibition showing Bila Berg's paintings and a poetry reading with works by Rachel and Yehuda Amichai.

Future meetings include: Israel since 1948 (a photo exhibit from Bet Hatefusot), music with Matt Simon, food with Chef Fabian Tafel and an evening with soldiers and former soldiers discussing their experiences in the Israel Defence Forces.

Dominique Tomasov



Earn priority status

Shorashim-Israel with Israelis allows all applicants to customise their Birthright Israel adventures and travel with Israelis for the entire experience. Spread the word so people [eligible](#) for Birthright Israel complete early [sign up](#) for a journey with [Shorashim](#)!



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“Heroic” Progressive movements

Speaking at a celebratory service to mark the 50th anniversary of the partial legalisation of male homosexuality in England and Wales, criminal law barrister and ITV's Judge Rinder said that Reform and Liberal Judaism had created inclusive spaces for LGBTQI people and in doing so, “paved the way for a new generation who don't have to question if there is a Jewish life for them”. “What you have done for me is nothing short of heroic,” he said.

The ‘Strictly Come Dancing’ star reflected on his personal journey, noting that he grew up in a “space of exclusivity” and praised the late Rabbi Dr Lionel Blue z”l as “an emotional beacon” showing that there was a “safe space out there... a Jewish life for me”.

Discussing the legal process involved in the landmark 1967 decision and implications of the



(L-R) Lord Mayor of Westminster Ian Adams, Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner and Judge Robert Rinder

anniversary, he reminded his audience to avoid complacency and that there are many communities which are far from supportive, “where a young person coming out is suffering right now”.

Rabbi Elli Tikvah Sarah of Brighton & Hove Progressive Synagogue reflected on the importance



ITV's Judge Robert Rinder

of activism in achieving equality and paid tribute to the role of Leo Baeck College as the first seminary in the world to ordain LGBTQI rabbis.

Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, Principal of Leo Baeck College paid special tribute to, and noted the absence of pioneering rabbis and educators Rabbi Lionel Blue z”l and Rabbi Sheila Shulman z”l.

Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, Senior Rabbi at Reform Judaism said: “I am enormously proud of the progress our communities have made in celebrating diversity and building a Jewish home for all, regardless of identity or orientation. “It is clear that there is still work to be done, and it is right that we reflect on the fact that we have not always been as inclusive as I would like, but Reform Judaism is committed to equality and leading the way in inclusion.”

The afternoon of celebration and reflection was organised by Reform Judaism, Liberal Judaism, Leo Baeck College, the Jewish Gay and Lesbian Group and Keshet UK. A special service was followed by a choice of learning and discussion sessions and a celebratory tea.

Training tomorrow's educators

Liberal Judaism and Reform Judaism are hosting a workshop for Jewish educators. The event will include an exciting mix of sessions for both the veteran teacher and the new assistant.

Karen Ettinger, a phenomenal educator from the National Library of Israel, will attend the workshop and share her knowledge, experience and resources with us. She is one among many top-quality educators who will impart their knowledge.

Sessions include: New ways to teach festivals; Bringing the classroom to life with primary sources; Dealing with mental health in the classroom; Positive behaviour management; Song & poetry as a tool for Hebrew learning; and Israel at 70.

The event will take place on Sunday January 7 from 10:00 to 16:00 at the Sternberg Centre in London. All educators from EUPJ communities are



welcome to attend. You can register online [here](#). Email [Rabbi Sandra Kviat](#) or [Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers](#) for further information.

United Kingdom

Leo Bear Day

Student rabbis at Leo Baeck College got into the "Children In Need" spirit by bringing their favourite teddy bears to services and classes to raise funds for the charity. College Principal Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris said she was delighted that they were able to support "Children in Need" as a College community through the annual Leo Bear Day.



Seasons changing, time passing



Reform Judaism's Northern Chagigah (Scotland & Northern England) was held at Hawkhill in North Yorkshire. Chagigah means celebration and the residential weekend for Reform Judaism's communities in Scotland and northern England was a joyful, fun, uplifting, spiritual, family-friendly gathering. The theme of the weekend was "Seasons changing and time passing". More than 100 people from 11 out of the 13 communities in the region were represented. Read the full story [here](#).

Vision for a Jewish Cultural Centre

Last year I was one of many people who attended a gathering where Clive Lawton presented a report on his idea for a Jewish Cultural Centre, an outward-looking place open to all Jews and non-Jews in Edinburgh and for those visiting. He spoke of a place where they could enjoy and engage in Jewish activities and discover all things Jewish. In addition, his vision for the centre was to provide a showcase and home for Jewish cultural activity in the city.

I was inspired by the fresh approach Clive was bringing us and I started to come along to Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue meetings. As my background is in architecture, I could see we needed an architectural brief to identify just what spaces such a centre was seeking to inhabit if we wanted to follow through with the idea.

My partner, Gordon Duffy, and I (Studio DuB Architects) completed the brief in July this year after consultations with interested groups. Like any concept design, this proposal is not connected to a particular site or context, and any actual design would need to evolve and change according to site requirements. But I truly hope it is a proposal that responds to the needs of the widest community and gives us a chance to seek a canopy under which we can all meet.

This picture is taken from a video that illustrates and explains the vision. You can watch the whole video [here](#).

Rebecca Wober



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United Kingdom

Get ready for Chagigah 2018

Chagigah is the biennial celebration of Reform Judaism in the UK. It's the place for Reform Jews and their friends and family from across the UK to come together to learn, pray, share ideas, sing and enjoy themselves. We will hear from inspiring guest



speakers, reunite with old friends and create new connections.

Whether you are heavily involved in your community and coming as part of a team to drive change in your synagogue through the initiatives or you just want a great Jewish weekend away, you'll find what you need. Chagigah will take place from June 22-24, 2018.

Communities who gain the most from Chagigah are those who come as a team. So start thinking about who that team is for YOUR community. "Caring" is not just the rabbi or welfare officer. "Leadership" is not just the chair, and "Finance" is not just the treasurer. Teams can be anything from two to six people, but all individuals who would like to come and explore are more than welcome.

Find out more about [Chagigah 2018](#).

Sarita Robinson and Amit Handelsman

Observing World Aids Day

Bring your friends and family to join the West London Synagogue for a heart-warming affirmation of life with our good friends from the London Gay Men's Chorus in honour of World Aids Day 2017.

In this concert, we go back in time to the music of resistance and hope, reminding us of the early days in the war against HIV and AIDS. Anthems like 'Come What May', 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' and 'What I Did For Love' will be performed by the impressive massed voices of Europe's largest gay men's choir.

Be prepared to sing along, to shed a tear or two for those lost along the way, to recognise battles fought and progress made, but also to highlight that there are many areas of the globe where the war is still being waged.

The event will take place on Sunday December 3 from 18:00. The first hour will be a Remembrance



service (free entry, all are welcome) and the concert will follow from 19:00 to 20:30. After the concert, there will be a meat-free buffet supper. Find out more from [Kathryn](#) or book your tickets [online](#).

YAD Chanukah special

West London Synagogue's Young Adult Division (YAD) is throwing its annual Chanukah party on December 16. Join us for dancing, mingling, fun, excitement and plenty of doughnuts and latkes to give you the energy to dance the night away. Dress to impress! Booking is essential, but you can pay at the door. Email [Jasmine Blum](#) for more information.



WUPJ

The Beutel Seminar for Progressive Jewish Leadership

The Beutel Seminar for Progressive Jewish Leadership is a 10-day seminar in Jerusalem run by the Anita Saltz International Education Center at the World Union headquarters. Study ancient texts and history; discuss current political and social issues; explore spiritual pathways and concepts of Jewish leadership – all within a Progressive Jewish context. Participants must be recommended by the rabbi or a senior member of their community for their dedication and commitment to that community (past and future). The next [Beutel Seminar](#) takes place in Jerusalem from February 15-25, 2018.

France

Musical ensemble for Chanukah

Keren Or and the Cercle de la Pensée Juive Libérale (Jewish Liberal Thought Circle) will celebrate Chanukah with an exciting concert given by the group, Presensya. This magical musical ensemble will enchant us with Judeo-Spanish melodies for the occasion.

The evening will begin at 19:00 with Havdalah and the lighting of the fifth Chanukah candle with Rabbi Haim Casas and members of the community, and will be followed by drinks and a buffet of Judeo-Spanish specialties. The concert will begin at 20:30 and the dessert buffet after the concert will close the wonderful Chanukah celebration. Book your tickets in advance [here](#).



Presensya: Hélène Obadia, Isaïa Vidal and Corinne Chevauché

Inter-faith conference

An interfaith conference will take place at the Copernic Synagogue in Paris with religious leaders Father Michel Gueguen of Saint-Honoré d'Eylau Parish and Rabbi Philippe Haddad of Copernic. The theme will focus on the story of Samson and Delilah and it will take place on Monday December 17 at 20:30. Admission is free.



EUPJ Newsletter Deadlines

Please note: These dates are subject to change.

MONTH	COPY/PHOTOS	PUBLISH
Dec/Jan	Wed 03/01/2018	Thu 18/01/2018
February	Wed 07/02/2018	Thu 22/02/2018
March	Wed 14/03/2018	Thu 29/03/2018
April (pre-conf)	Mon 09/04/2018	Mon 23/04/2018
May (post-conf)	Wed 16/05/2017	Thu 31/05/2018
June	Wed 13/06/2018	Thu 28/06/2018

Hike with Robert & Evelyne Vitkine



The Liberal Jewish Movement of France (MJLF) holds regular communal hikes and anyone can join. Not only will you be walking through the magnificent countryside, but you will also be in excellent company. Bring walking shoes, a hat, a picnic and your family for a wonderful French experience.

Klezmer for Chanukah

While Chanukah will be celebrated throughout Paris and France along with the rest of the Jewish world, the Liberal Jewish Union of France (ULIF) will be the one hosting the Meshouge Klezmer Band for its Chanukah concert on December 17 at 18:00.

Meshouge Klezmer Band was created by Stéphane Rougier (violin, vocals, composition and melody). It brings together talented musicians, all recognised soloists from different places, who shared the same passion for this type of music. These musicians include Richard Rimbert (clarinet), Philippe Valentine (drums), Matthieu Sternat (double bass) and Sophie Teboul (keyboards).



Righteous Among the Nations

The next Café Olé meeting will be held on Sunday January 14 with the testimony of Jean Paul Rosner, a member of our community. A child hidden during the war, Jean Paul made sure that the couple who had welcomed him into their home received the title of "Righteous Among the Nations", an honorific used by the State of Israel to describe non-Jews who risked their lives during the Holocaust to save Jews from extermination by the Nazis. Jean Paul will tell his story at this event.