



European Union for Progressive Judaism

June~July 2014 Newsletter

© European Union for Progressive Judaism

President's message

In my opening address at our recent conference in Dresden I made reference to positive progress in the area of recognition of the legitimacy of Progressive Judaism - both within the general Jewish community and in relationships with the State. I particularly



Leslie Bergman

referred to the important recent ruling of the European Court of Human Rights, which ruled that discrimination by the Hungarian Government against our affiliates in Hungary was illegal and ordered the Hungarian Government to take steps to remedy the situation. I am happy to report that this process has already started.

Since then there have been new events - positive, negative and worrying - in the "recognition" arena.

Positive: The British Board of Deputies, the umbrella organisation of British Jewry (equivalent to CRIF in France and the Zentralrat in Germany) has just appointed a prominent Liberal Jew as its next Chief Executive. Gillian Merron is on the Executive Board of Liberal Judaism. This appointment - a woman, a prominent Liberal Jew, appointed to the most senior professional position in British Jewry, could not have happened a decade ago.

Negative: A prominent New York Haredi Rabbi made a speech in which he said that Reform and Conservative Judaism were "not Jewish", would soon be forgotten and consigned to the "dustbin of Jewish history." Quite frankly - who cares what people of that ilk say. These views are not new, they are un-Jewish and bigoted, and we should not respond; that is the appropriate way of treating them with the contempt they deserve.

Worrying: Some years ago I was part of a delegation of WUPJ leadership that called on the then President of Israel who had previously indicated that whereas he had no problem with Reform Jews, he could not bring himself to call a Reform rabbi "Rabbi" because he practiced "the Judaism I learnt in the court of my father". He is presently serving a prison sentence for rape. A few years later I was part of a similar delegation calling on the then Prime Minister who started off by berating

[continued on page 2](#)

A prayer for the three kidnapped yeshiva students

Late Thursday night, June 12, terrorists kidnapped three yeshiva students near a hitchhiking point in Gush Etzion, south of Jerusalem. In response Israeli security forces have launched a massive manhunt which continues to this day. As the search for the abducted boys intensified some 25,000 people attended a mass prayer rally Sunday night June 15 at Jerusalem's Western Wall for the kidnapped teenagers.



Eyal Yifrach, Naftali Frenkel and Gil-ad Shaar

The World Union for Progressive Judaism and the European Union for Progressive Judaism, along with the entire State of Israel and Jews around the world, pray for the safe return of Gil-ad Shaar (16) from Talmon, Naftali Frenkel (16) a dual Israeli-American citizen from Nof Ayalon, and Eyal Yifrach (19) from Elad to the warmth of their families.

We hope that you will consider reading the following prayer at an upcoming service, based upon the suggestion of our Israeli Progressive rabbinic colleagues (MARAM). See the prayer text in Hebrew [here](#).

May this prayer and supplication be heard by You, the Eternal our God and God of our ancestors. May the kidnapped boys, Eyal Yifrach, Gil-Ad Shaar and Naftali Frenkel be returned home, in peace and in full health, to their families and loved ones. Help and sustain all those entrusted with the task of finding the captives, removing them from danger and returning them to safety. We pray that you hear our voices and the prayers of all who seek peace and justice, life and loving-kindness.

Praised are You, O God, who redeems the captives.
Amen.

Rabbi Daniel H Frelander, WUPJ President-Elect
Michael Grabiner, WUPJ Chairman
Leslie Bergman, EUPJ President
Miriam Kramer, EUPJ Chairman

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Faith in Action conference on line

We are delighted to invite you to visit EUPJ's website by [clicking here](#) to view some of the speeches, sermons and PR materials from our Dresden conference. To access photographs of the event, please click on the following two links. [The first link](#) contains photographs taken by Tobias Tanzyna/Hocktkultur who was employed by the EUPJ and [the second link](#) contains photographs taken by Tobias Barniske for Abraham Geiger College. When using any photograph, please credit the photographer.

A short video from the conference is also available [here](#) and can also be downloaded direct from [YouTube](#).

Also please note that the EUPJ Annual Report is on the website [here](#).
Deborah Grabiner, Administrator

President's message continued

us for some position or other that our American movement had taken which he did not like. He has just been sentenced to imprisonment for bribery and corruption.

The new President of the State of Israel is to be Reuven Rivlin. In his time as Speaker of the Knesset, President-elect Rivlin won plaudits for his open-mindedness and recognition of the validity of all streams of political expression. This pluralistic approach has not as yet extended to the religious arena, where Mr Rivlin, a secular Jew, is on record with remarks on Reform Judaism that are highly offensive and quite unacceptable.



President-elect Reuven Rivlin

Following his election Mr Rivlin made a statement that might indicate that he may now hold broader views on the question of the legitimacy of all streams of Judaism. We congratulate Mr Rivlin on his election to this high office, one that is seen as having a symbolic leadership role for world Jewry. We hope that in the months ahead, in both word and deed, Mr Rivlin will need give no concern that in welcoming a future delegation of WUPJ leadership, he will do so with the full respect that the holder of the highest office in the State of Israel must accord to all streams of Judaism – particularly the largest with its international headquarters in Jerusalem.

Leslie Bergman

Visit the EUPJ website at www.eupj.org.

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Synagogues everywhere

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



[Europe](#)

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weSchalom Nordhessen

EUPJ Newsletter takes a holiday

Our next issue will be in August. Have a good summer!
Arthur Buchman, Editor

Judaica Europeana Jewish collections online



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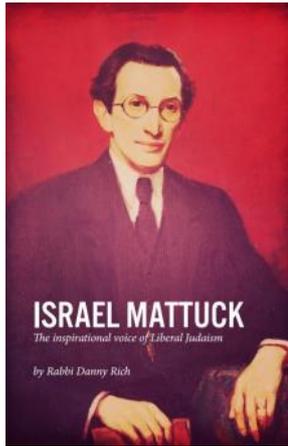
[Click here](#) for the Judaica Europeana Newsletter with news and collection highlights from our network of heritage institutions.

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



Israel Mattuck The Inspirational Voice of Liberal Judaism

Rabbi Danny Rich's book about Israel Mattuck is now available. To order your copy please call Chris at the Montagu Centre on +44 (0)20 7580 1663.



Bridges on the Elbe

Reflections on "Faith in Action" European Union for Progressive Judaism Conference in Dresden

This lyrical reflection on the European Union for Progressive Judaism conference "Faith in Action" conveys some experiences of our 11-person delegation.



Beit Polska delegation in Dresden

The powerful experience of recovering an awareness of the great diversity in the Jewish people as well as the clashing of ideas opens the path to a profound sense of connection. Thanks to our delegation who represented us so strongly.

We are grateful to the EUPJ for extending to Beit Polska formal recognition as the umbrella organisation for Progressive Judaism in Poland. We are now nine communities.

From the bridge over the river Elbe I fell head over heels in love with my people, yet again. One Jew, overawed, grateful to God for enabling the words in our mouths. [Read the full blog here.](#)

Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak



The Daniel Centers
for Progressive Judaism

Beit Daniel / Mishkenot Ruth Daniel / Kehilat HaLev

Summer seminar July 20-31

This summer the Daniel Centers for Progressive Judaism, the leading Reform institution in the Tel Aviv-Jaffa area, is teaming up with BINA Center for Jewish Identity and Hebrew Culture in a new two-week seminar. This seminar will bring to life current critical social issues facing Israeli society and matters of Judaism and social justice for Jewish educators, leaders, rabbis and rabbinical students from all denominations and affiliations.

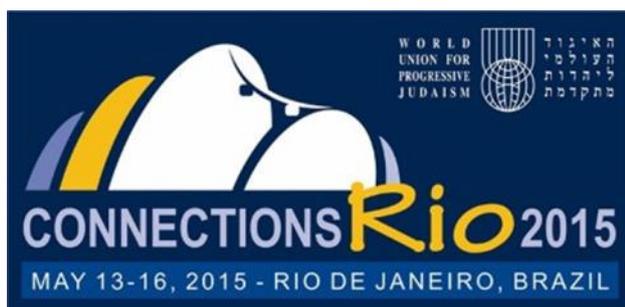
We offer the opportunity to live in Tel Aviv-Jaffa and learn from some of Israel's top scholars including our own Senior Rabbi Meir Azari. Experience it all through hands-on volunteering as well as encounters with Israelis and enjoyable educational tours.



Daniel Center residence

Over the fortnight, participants will delve into topics including social justice through both ancient and modern lenses, while simultaneously completing social action.

Please contact Yonatan Sacker with any question, big or small at yonit@beit-daniel.org.il. More information [here](#). Download an application [here](#).





Bringing Out a Voice of Hope



Rabbi Nathan Alfred

Despite our shock and utter desolation at the murderous attack at the Jewish Museum in Brussels, in its immediate aftermath our community rallied around remarkably. Organising the relocation of the Magevet choir's concert at such short notice was no mean feat.

The choir provided us with some joy in our sadness and some hope in our despair. No less was the work entailed in moving the Sunday School at short notice to a member's home. This showed the IJC at its best, working together creatively and pragmatically to find positive solutions on such short notice, respecting the security advice but defying those who would have us disrupt and cancel our daily Jewish life in the wake of such a horrifying tragedy.

That the Yale cappella choristers would go on to sing later that day at the Communal Vigil at the site of the shooting gave the whole Brussels Jewish community some crumbs of solace. It was our first contribution to the broader communal response. But we cannot stop there – we must continue to contribute, and to do so in a concrete manner.

Rabbi Nathan Alfred

Read the full text [here](#).

Finding Our Common Ground



On the 1st of June the two liberal communities of Belgium came together to hold a memorial service in honour of the victims of the attack at the Jewish Museum in Brussels. The event stressed the close relations existing between the French-speaking and the English-speaking communities in the country.

Read the full text [here](#).



ULIF News A concert before Shabbat dinner



Voci Copernic

On Friday June 27 at 8:00 pm, Copernic will hold a concert by the choir Voci Copernic with a program of songs inspired by Jewish tradition, directed by Laurence Temime, conductor of this permanent standing choir. A Shabbat dinner will follow in the extension of the synagogue. Many people have registered in advance, and everyone has been asked to bring a non-dairy dessert.

EUPJ Newsletter en français

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

Being Indian, Being Israeli

Kehilat Geshar with the Liberal Jewish Community - Ile de France and J'OSE held a special joint event in English at the Maayan Centre on June 1st at 5:30. Dr Maina Chawla Singh presented her book on Indian Jews who immigrated to Israel. "Being Indian, Being Israeli" is based on her ethnographic research and 150 interviews within the Indian Jewish communities in Israel.



Maina Chawla Singh

From 2005 to 2008 she researched and lectured in Israel at Bar-Ilan, Haifa and Tel Aviv universities. Since 2009 Dr Singh has been Scholar-in-Residence at American University, Washington DC, lecturing on Contemporary India and on Indian Diaspora communities.

At the end of her fascinating presentation Dr Singh answered questions and signed copies of her book.

Drasha by AJTM's Rabbi Farhi

Rabbi Gabriel Farhi of Beit Jaakov in Paris (AJTM) has recorded his drasha for the weekly Torah portion, which this Friday 27 June is Chukat. You can watch it [here](#) - in French, of course.



Rabbi Gabriel Farhi

Keren Or, Lyon in 5775

The new year 5775 is an important milestone for Keren Or: René Pfertzel will become our rabbi as of September (part-time at first), and the proposed purchase of a new 500 m2 facility in Charpennes is being finalised. It will be renovated so as to make it a very suitable place for community life. These long-term investments are designed to radiate an inclusive, egalitarian Judaism - a bridge between tradition and modernity in the Rhône-Alpes region. We hope to attract a lot of new families.



René Pfertzel

We are sure that you share this ambition with us and we invite you to get more involved to the extent of your means and by targeting the project that you most cherish so that Keren Or grows harmoniously!

Brigitte Frois, Keren Or President

St Pölten synagogue building is open

The former synagogue of St Pölten houses the Institute for the History of the Jews in Central Europe. Sited at Dr Karl Renner Promenade 22, about 60 km west of Vienna, it is now open to visitors every Sunday from 2-8pm between June 1st and September 28th.



Former synagogue at St Pölten

Alois Stöckl or Florian Ribisch will welcome you and give an introduction every Sunday at 6pm. There are installations, a light sculpture, changing exhibitions, a window fragment, prayer book and more - and of course the impressive, wonderfully beautiful building. Admission is free! www.injoest.ac.at

UpJ Annual Meeting

From July 24 to July 27, the 20th Annual Meeting of Progressive Jews in Germany will take place at the Union for Progressive Judaism in Germany.

20. Jahrestagung
der
Union progressiver Juden
mit Kindertagung



Liberales Judentum heute
24.-27. Juli 2014
Berlin

The past year's achievements, important new relationships that the organisation has formed as well as a lively series of workshops and lectures will be presented in Berlin/Spandau. Since 1995, Progressive Jews have gathered every year at the Union for Progressive Judaism in Germany to pray, celebrate, share experiences and clarify positions. The conference is a highly regarded showcase for the diversity of Jewish life in German-speaking countries.

Please note that the conference will be conducted in German, Russian and English.



Prayers for kidnapping victims

Like so many Jews around the world, let us also pray for those three teenagers abducted by terrorists. Or Chadash Vienna prayers for the kidnapping victims will be part of the Kabbalat Shabbat service on



Rabbi Dr Walter Rothschild

Friday 27 June at 19:00, led by our Rabbi Dr Walter Rothschild. For the purposes of Klal Israel, we hope participants from all Jewish organizations in Vienna will attend.

Dr Theodor Much, President of Or Hadash Vienna

Mazal tov! Rabbi Homolka tenured



Tenured: Rabbi Walter Homolka taking the oath administered by Sabine Kunst

Rabbi Dr Professor Walter Homolka was sworn in on May 19 by German state Minister of Higher Education, Culture and Research, Sabine Kunst, as tenured Professor of Modern Jewish Thought, a lifetime appointment as a public servant. Rabbi Homolka, an executive board member of WUPJ, was the first appointment at the new School of Jewish Theology of the University of Potsdam.

For Rabbi Homolka, who is also the rector of the Abraham Geiger College, the installation as tenured professor coincided with his 50th birthday on May 21.

European Maccabi Games 2015

The 2015 European Maccabi Games (EMG2015) is a major international multi-sport event scheduled to be held from July 27 – August 5, 2015 in Berlin. It will be the first European Maccabi Games ever to be held in Germany.



2000 participants, trainers and coaches from 30 European countries and abroad will compete in 20 sports. The 14th EMG will be an unforgettable event not only for the participants, but also for the guests and spectators.

Currently, the organisers of the EMG2015 are gearing up and looking for volunteers to support the EMG2015. There are also open volunteer positions on the organisation team, specifically the positions for catering and accommodation. (Single project basis possible.) We urge everyone to contact volunteers@emg2015.org for further information.

Germany

Read the UpJ newsletter

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



Jan Mühlstein to be honoured

The presentation of the Abraham Geiger award to Dr Jan Mühlstein, chair of the Liberal Jewish Congregation Beth Schalom in Munich will take place on July 26th at 21:00 at the Hotel Christophorus-Haus in Berlin. Sonja Guentner, chair of the Union for Progressive Judaism in Germany will give the principal address, and the presentation of the award will be made by Rabbi Dr Professor Walter Homolka, Rector of Abraham Geiger College at the University of Potsdam. Following the ceremony there will be a reception and Havdalah. All Beth Schalom members are invited.



Dr Jan Mühlstein



The Abraham Geiger award

UpJ Netzer summer machane is 4-17 August

All children and young persons from ages 8 to 17 are heartily encouraged to attend this exciting summer programme in southern Emsland.

For more information, please write to info@upj-netzer.de and visit our website at www.upj-netzer.de.



News from Hamelin

The sunny month of June has arrived, and we hope to enjoy many warm moments inside and outside our synagogue walls. Once again our synagogue drew Jews from near and far to our doors. Holocaust survivor Mrs Margit Siebner was in Hameln speaking to the students of a local high school. After her lecture, she was presented with roses, one from each student. She asked the young people to accompany her to our building and she left two large vases of flowers at the memorial. This act was important and symbolic of her work of healing the scars of the Holocaust.

Polina Pelts organises the monthly get-togethers, which address the needs of our older congregants thanks to a project sponsored by "Aktion Mensch." An outing was arranged at the end of April, and 26 members went on an excursion to Cologne and Bonn. Polina's hard work bore fruit, and our seniors enjoyed a day tailored to their needs, which would have been otherwise impossible for them. Besides their many physical handicaps, most of our seniors live on a fixed budget, and outings are usually beyond their financial reach.



Rabbi Adrian Schell leads Lag B'Omer singing

We had the rare opportunity to celebrate Shabbat and May 9th Memorial Day together this year. Rabbi Adrian explained that we could honour the Sabbath and remember the brave soldiers who fought to end World War II. Rabbi Adrian's moving and poignant sermon addressed both. We, as many Jewish communities in Germany did, found it possible and important to observe the Shabbat and Memorial Day together. The prayers and songs, the readings and poems all added special meaning to the day. The entire congregation was invested and actively involved.

A special highlight in May's calendar was the visit from Sofer Neil Yerman of New York City. We were honoured to have Sofer Yerman with us for a two-day programme. More than 40 people attended the evening event and members drifted in and out during the next day's "open studio" as Sofer Yerman worked on our scroll, allowing them to assist him.

Lag B'Omer was celebrated with a congregational picnic on Sunday, May 18th. We were once again guests of our neighbours, the Reformed Lutheran church, and held our picnic in their beautiful garden. Everyone brought a covered dish to share, more than 70 kosher hot dogs sizzled over the fire, and the relaxing atmosphere was enjoyed by the one year olds as well as the 91 year olds! Rabbi Adrian got everyone singing and a fine time was had by one and all. Read more [here](#).

Rachel Dohme

United Kingdom

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community



Lag b'Omer at Edinburgh, photo ©Becky Duncan

Edinburgh has a 16 page newsletter, *Lulav*, which is full of wonderful articles and photos. [Read it here.](#)

Siyyum ha Sefer at SLLS



Carrying the Torah scroll onto the Bimah

Nearly 150 members and friends packed into South London Liberal Synagogue (SLLS) on Sunday June 8th for a Siyyum ha Sefer to welcome back the community's Czech Torah scroll. Soferet Avielah Barclay, escorted by 35 religion school pupils, carried the scroll into the sanctuary under a chuppah. Fifteen different groups of congregants who had contributed to the cost of repairing the scroll joined her on the bimah to watch her complete the last letters, symbolically fulfilling the mitzvah that all Jews should write a Torah scroll for themselves. The scroll is from Kolin in the Czech Republic and is one of 1,564 scrolls rescued from Prague and brought to Westminster Synagogue after the communities they belonged to perished in the Holocaust. It plays a central part in community life at SLLS, being used for bar- and bat-mitzvah celebrations and conversion ceremonies. SLLS rabbi Janet Darley said: "It was both moving and exciting to have so many involved in completing the repair of our scroll from Kolin. We are delighted to bring this 250 year old scroll back into use in time for several summer B'nei Mitzvah."

www.southlondon.org

Record breaking: LJ Biennial Conference sets attendance mark



Uncompromisingly egalitarian: Rabbi Danny Rich cites Liberal Judaism's many accomplishments.

"Internationally, we are already mainstream – Liberal Judaism is proud to be a member of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, the largest affiliation of Judaism in the world." - Lucian J Hudson, Biennial Conference 2014 Chair

Over 300 delegates attended [Liberal Judaism's](#) biennial conference, the largest such gathering in their history. Held at Wokefield Park, Reading, 9-11 May, Conference Chair Lucian J Hudson described Liberal Judaism as the Third Way, and the only solution to the drift away from Jewish tradition.

The theme of the conference was 'Radical Roots, Relevant Responses.' Social justice was a central talking point, with Vice Chair of the [Union for Reform Judaism](#) in North America Rabbi Jonah Pesner delivering a blistering keynote address in which he spoke about the need to pursue justice both inside our communities and beyond.

Speeches by Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism Rabbi Danny Rich, Chair of the Rabbinic Conference Rabbi Charley Baginsky and others focused on the achievement of equal marriage and the upcoming 25th anniversary of the ordination of the first openly LGBT rabbis at [Leo Baeck College](#), as well as the victory in the JFS case that ensured that Jewish schools would be made open to all Jews, regardless of affiliation.

Rabbi Danny Rich added that "Liberal Judaism is the catalyst that provokes the Jewish community to change, forcing it to face the challenges of the 21st century."

A youth event was run alongside the main conference by [LJY-Netzer](#), the youth movement of Liberal Judaism and part of Netzer Olami, our global youth movement.

J-LGBT NEWS

Jewish News are very excited to announce the launch of a brand new online section dedicated to the J-LGBT community. Jewish News would love to include your views in the section. Please contact [Online Editor Sophie Eastaugh](#).

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.

United Kingdom

Rabbis and the Great War

An international conference

Monday 7 July at West London Synagogue, London



The First World War was the first conflict in which hundreds of thousands of Jews loyal to one European nation state found themselves in direct conflict with Jews holding a similar allegiance to another state. Chaplains and religious leaders across Europe brought comfort, raised morale, and offered a religious perspective to world events: how belief in God can be reconciled with the unprecedented slaughter, the efficacy of prayer from opposing sides, magnanimity in victory and courage in defeat.

Now, 100 years after, rabbis, historians and theologians are gathering in London to consider Jewish responses to the Great War. You are invited to join them.

Book your place at religionandwar.org

2014 Van der Zyl Lecture with Rabbi Professor Rachel Adler

On Sunday 22 June at 10.30 am, the topic was 'The problem with Jewish marriage: Kiddushin and its alternatives'. Traditional Jewish marriage is about acquisition - men acquire women as wives. But in our



Rabbi Rachel Adler

modern world we seek mutual partnership, not property. Rabbi Professor Rachel Adler shared how she has halachically and innovatively used Jewish Law and texts to change our approach to this lifelong commitment. Full details here.

Click the logos for news of UK movements



Leo Baeck College Summer Institute

Booking for this year's LBC Summer Institute on 9-10 July is now available online - just click here.

This year's theme is Vision and Practice for the Future. The programme will include Rabbi Larry Hoffman with innovative thinking about synagogue life and broadening our minds to all possibilities - with hands-on experience of the organisational tools that aid innovative and visionary thinking.

Cost: £100. **Location:** Finchley Progressive Synagogue. For more information click here.

FPJ AGM

Friends of Progressive Judaism in Israel and Europe, known as FPJ, are holding their Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk from Rabbi Danny Rich on 22 July, 7:30pm at Liberal Jewish Synagogue in London. Everybody is welcome.

Menorah Festival of the Book



Football writer Anthony Clavane at Festival of the Book

Over a thousand visits were paid to Menorah Synagogue (Cheshire Reform) during the nine-day Festival of the Book @ Menorah in May. The state-of-the-art building transformed into theatre, lecture hall, bookshop and café for a veritable feast of literary entertainment.

Vicki Garson, who with Melissa Dorfman and a small team, organised the Festival, said: "It was successful beyond our wildest dreams. There is clearly a hunger for events like this and we hope to continue the SMart (South Manchester Arts) tradition with another Festival in the future."

Menorah Chair, Howard Barlow said: I see this Book Festival as our cultural contribution to the Jewish community of the North West of England."

The mixed audiences bore out the words of Rabbi Jonathan Romain who declared, in conversation with Menorah's Rabbi Haim Shalom, that relations between Reform and mainstream Orthodox were greatly improved.

Hundreds enjoyed the warmth, wisdom and wit of Agony Aunt, Irma Kurtz, Colin Heyman's moving presentation of the Hineni Project, Isaac Bashevis Singer by Frank Vigon; Eve Harris on her book The Marrying of Chani Kaufman, Clarissa Hyman, Menorah member and award-winning food writer, Sherry Ashworth, Jacksons Row member on Louis Golding and Maisie Mosco and, with Muslim Anjum Malek, Sue Stern and Jackie Lewis, reading poetry and prose, literary-themed Shabbat services; book fair and, of course, a well-patronised Festival café.

Poland

Rabbi Gil Nativ at Beit Katowice

Rabbi Gil and Zivah spent the Shabbat of 20/21 June in Katowice with the emerging community of Beit Katowice. People from Katowice and its vicinity joined the Shabbat celebrations in the building at 6 Dudy Gracza Street. On Friday at 7:00 pm there was a Shabbat evening service led by Rabbi Gil. On Saturday at 11:00 am Rabbi Gil led the Shabbat morning service followed by lunch and Birkat HaMazon.



Shabbat at Beit Katowice

At 2:30 pm Zivah Nativ gave a Torah Scroll workshop followed by Israeli folk dancing class. It was a lively and inspiring Shabbat!

From sergeant to rabbi

Monday 26th May the JCC Krakow hosted Rabbi Gil Nativ's presentation, *The Liberation of Jerusalem in the Six Day War*. This was a personal account of the battle over Jerusalem in the Six Day War in June 1967 by then Sgt Gil Nativ, Paratrooper Brigade 55. The presentation was in English and Polish and included rare photos taken during the battle.

Finding angels, hope and sparks of light in Poland



Warsaw Pact, Rabbi Burnstein and AUPJ Mission to Poland

Over the course of a week in Poland I had the honour of traveling with an intelligent and engaged group from the Australian Union for Progressive Judaism. We wept at Auschwitz, Birkenau, Belzec and Majdanek. We struggled to comprehend the inhumanity of the treatment of Jews and others as we visited the Umschlglplatz, Mila 18, as well as the Krakow and Warsaw Ghettos. We were shocked at the desecration of graves in the Jewish cemeteries of Lublin, Krakow and Warsaw. On Friday night, the local WUPJ Congregation Bet Warszawa arranged a wonderful reception for us with several other community members. We celebrated Kabbalat Shabbat with them at Cafe Mlynek.

Rabbi Steve Burnstein

[Read the full article here.](#)

Beit Krakow's extraordinary weekend

We began June with our traditional night of study, Tikkun Leyl Shavuot, on Tuesday the 3rd at 9:30 pm in Shalom Gallery. We discussed mitzvot, halachot, listened to musical lesson: "Havdalah - Women's Time", studied the Zohar and took our traditional walk around Kazimierz by night.

On Friday the 6th during Kabbalat Shabbat, Beit Krakow officially welcomed six new members into Beit Israel. We know that their path and their work is only beginning and that they will continue to prove their commitment to the Jewish people by accepting the responsibility for the present and future of the Jewish revival in Poland. We take this opportunity also to publicly thank Rabbi Jackie Tabick and the European Beit Din for such good cooperation. Big thanks also to Jonathan Ornstein (and the whole JCC staff) and Joachim Russek (from the Center for Jewish Culture in Krakow) for hosting our European guests with dignity and care.



Rabbi Tanya Segal leading services at Beit Krakow

We continued with a very special morning service, during which Zachary Smerin was called to the Torah as Bar Mitzvah. With great joy and pride we shared this moment with Zach's family, which was the first Bar Mitzvah at Beit Krakow and the first progressive Bar Mitzvah of a local citizen for generations. Last but not least, having said farewell to Shabbat, we went out into the night as part of the annual 7@nite, Night of Synagogues, during which Beit Krakow opened our contemporary poster exhibit in the Galicia Jewish Museum and Rabbi Tanya lectured in the JCC.

Children's summer camp in Poland

The Joint Distribution Committee is promoting a children's and teens' camp – Camp ATID, that will be held in Okunice near Włodawa from 10-22 July. The programme includes arts and crafts, workshops, field trips, Jewish culture classes, sports, dance and much more. The organisers have guaranteed a positive atmosphere and kosher food. Camp ATID is a safe and fun way of spending the summer.

The cost is only 900PLN. To get more information on the programme, family discounts and welfare grants, contact the JDC office at 22 652 17 54 or the Camp ATID Manager Sasza Kijek at sasza@jdcpoland.org. NB: Registration is now closed.

Tikun Leil Shavuot at Bet Shalom Barcelona

We celebrated *erev Shavuot* with a special reading of the *Aseret ha-D'varim*. As a symbol of our solidarity with the women at the Kotel, the women from Bet Shalom raised their voices accompanied by Rebecca Winer, a chazzanit from the United States who shared this special occasion with us.

The night was warm and full of Jewish wisdom. Our *chaverot and chaverim* prepared different *Shiurim* on topics as *Piyutim*, Batman and his Jewish ethic, how to understand Judaism in Catalunya, and the meaning of the delivery of the Torah nowadays. As it is a tradition in Bet Shalom, we ended the night with a lovely dinner, and for Shavuot we couldn't miss the cheesecake.

We are always happy to have visitors, if you are in Barcelona for any festivity, come and join us!



Bet Shalom gathers the Jewish community in Catalunya to denounce 17,500 anti-Semitic tweets



Progressive Jewish leaders of Barcelona

After Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball team beat Real Madrid in the Euro league final, the reaction of some twitter users was very aggressive, and of course, the local community could not remain quiet.

Bet Shalom, Atid and The Catalan Association against Anti-Semitism amongst other organisations filed a legal complaint over thousands of anti-Semitic tweets. Although many of these messages were anonymous, five persons were identified and denounced with the Barcelona's State attorney by the Jewish community.

"I am a firm defender of freedom of expression, but there must be a limit," said Jai Anguita, president of Bet Shalom Community. "We could say that these comments come from the high spirits after a [sporting] defeat, that they are almost jokes. But history has shown us where these jokes can lead."

The statement of the Jewish Community in Catalunya was a strong rejection against any acts of anti-Semitism. And the coverage of the international media and the government's reaction demonstrated the relevance of this critical issue for the society.

Keith Kahn-Harris in Copenhagen

Listen to those with whom you disagree:

"We should talk about Israel, even when it is difficult", said sociologist and author Keith Kahn-Harris, who recently published the book *Uncivil War - The Israel Conflict in the Jewish Community*. The first Sunday in May he told Shir Hatzafon about his experiences with facilitating dialogue about Israel amongst British Jews. After several years of promoting dialogue amidst massive disagreements over Israel, Keith stressed the importance of engaging in conversation - even when conflict-ridden.



Keith Kahn-Harris

We must listen also to those with whom we disagree - according to Keith, preferably in pleasant, private surroundings over food that everyone can eat and share. Together with his wife, Rabbi Deborah Kahn-Harris, Keith has hosted several dinners of dialogue in their private home, inviting people who would otherwise never meet (at least never without arguing over Israel). The dinner initiative demanded much preparation and diplomacy, but also led to important and astonishing dialogues, even effecting public debate in Britain. Only a few times was dialogue less successful, Keith thought possibly due to less successful cooking.

Keith Kahn-Harris believes that gathering people around a table of good food with the intention of facilitating a responsive dialogue has great significance. He suggested that we in Shir Hatzafon talk more about Israel with one another - in a civil manner and including disagreements. He advised us to consider offering courses in modern Hebrew to our members, and thus create opportunities to talk about the state and country in this context. Last but not least he recommended that we read his book, which also contains advice on how to promote dialogue and civility.

Uncivil War may be ordered via Amazon.

Karen Lisa & Martin Salomon

Shavuot cheesecake extravaganza

Again this year, on 3 June, a group of Shir Hatzafon's members and guests gathered for our synagogue's annual Tikun Leyl Shavuot night. Texts were read, studied and discussed under the direction of Marlene Edelstein.



Shir Hatzafon celebrating Shavuot

Again this year, the evening was embellished with very delicious cheesecakes.

Progressive Judaism at Sublimar



L-R: Aldo Luperini, Rossana Ottolenghi, Yitzchak Dees

For the first time in Italy, Progressive Judaism was represented in one of the most important cultural events of a religious nature of the year, Sublimar, the First International Festival of Religious Literature. On Sunday June 22 at 18:00 in the Auditorium of The Humanitarian Society in Milan, Yitzchak Dees and Aldo Luperini presented *The gamble of reform Judaism: a harmonious coexistence between tradition and modernity*. Read more [here](#) and on [Facebook](#).

Lev Chadash Milan and Arzenu

On May 31 at 10:30 Lev Chadash Milan held a Shacharit Service with chazan Sabbatai Petraro, followed by kiddush. We welcomed guest Dr Chayim Schell-Apacik, vice-president of Arzenu, the International Federation of Reform and Progressive Religious Zionists, who outlined the activities of his association and explained how we, the Jews of the Diaspora, can act to promote pluralism in Israel.



Dr Chayim Schell-Apacik

Migwan - a mezuzah and a goal

We affixed our mezuzah on the new Migwan home on Friday, June 20 at 6:15 pm right before Kabbalat Shabbat with student rabbi Sonja K Pilz. Many were present at this Mitzvah. «Liberal Jewish life thrives in the Basel region!» - this statement announces Migwan's main strategic goal. At the 2014 general assembly Migwan members have created the basis to put this goal into practice step by step. Together we want to use the great potential of our new home at Herrengrubenweg and extend the services for our Migwan members. Many thanks to all for the manifold support!



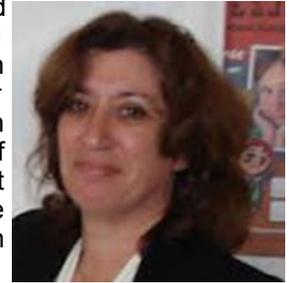
Student rabbi Sonja K Pilz

Junior Congregation Service in The Hague

It is with great excitement that the LJG Den Haag announces our Junior Congregation Service designed specially for children ages 4-11. It takes place separately from but simultaneous to the Saturday morning Shabbat services in a separate room in the shul. The service will be filled with fun and treats, dancing and singing. It is a pilot for the time being; and it will only succeed if many children attend! It is also something we hope to adapt and change as more participants help shape it into what they want it to be.

The most recent Junior Congregation Service took place Saturday morning June 21 at 11 am. We welcomed any child age 4 to 11 and asked that parents of kids ages 4-6 attend with their child. All other parents were more than welcome to join as well, but they were encouraged to attend the beautiful Shabbat service in the main sanctuary. The Junior Congregation Service was in Dutch but in the future, if there are children who do not speak Dutch who attend; the service will be in both English and Dutch.

This Junior Congregation Service is being offered to the community, and we are soliciting feedback - helpful suggestions are always welcome as are offers to help with any aspect of it. With the inspiration and guidance of Rav Marianne, and the expert advice of Matty, helpful suggestions from the whole LJG community and the enthusiasm of the children, together we can help shape this into something that best serves the wishes and hopes of this part of our future.



Rabbi Marianne van Praag

Developing relationships with Israeli communities

Our contact in Israel Anna Kislanski has provided 11 Israeli communities who wish to have relationships with EUPJ congregations. We learned in Dresden that a number of our communities are looking to twin with Israel's Progressive communities. Others are looking to participate in Israeli-based projects. Beit Orim in Budapest have shown an interest to twin with Kibbutz Lotan. Kibbutz Yahel would like to twin with Southgate Progressive Synagogue in London. Emet Vashalom and Yedid Nefesh have many Spanish speaking members and are seeking relations with our Spanish communities. Har-El have a connection with the Verbond in Amsterdam. We encourage visits by EUPJ congregations to any IMPJ communities and vice-versa. Our Israeli friends can understand how Progressive Jewry is growing in Europe when they see a twinned community. There are many possibilities. Let us all move forward to build up our relationships and love for Israel.

Michael Reik, Vice Chairman EUPJ

WORLD
UNION FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



האיגוד
העולמי
ליהדות
מתקדמת

WUPJ Calendar

June 27-29, 2014
[MRJ](#), UK, biennial conference - "Chagigah"
 July 24 - August 3, Jerusalem
[Bergman Seminar for Progressive Jewish Educators](#)
 May 13-16, 2015, Rio de Janeiro –
[Connections 2015, WUPJ 37th Biennial Conference](#)



Bergman Seminar for Reform Jewish Educators July 24-August 3

The Faculty

Drawing on the resources of the WUPJ and its partners, the Saltz faculty includes some of the most accomplished scholars and educators in the world including Professor Paul Liptz.

The Participants

This is a unique opportunity to experience Jewish Peoplehood while learning with Jewish Educators from around the world. The international makeup of our participants adds perspective and insight



The Location

Beit Shmeul-Mercaz Shimshon, headquarters of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, overlooks the dramatic walls of Jerusalem's Old City. Israel becomes our classroom as we explore 4000 years of history, challenge and change. Just as our tradition gives voice to both Beit Hillel and Beit Shamai, we include multiple perspectives looking at the strengths, weaknesses, successes and challenges of Israel, Zionism and Judaism - facing the future empowered by the past.

- * Spend 10 days with exceptional Reform Jewish educators from around the world
- * Grapple with critical issues facing Israel and the Jewish People
- * Use the sites of Israel to delve into issues vital to Jewish education
- * Hear the voice of our tradition come to life
- * Encounter top leaders in Jewish education
- * Explore history, culture, spirituality, Hebrew, politics, pedagogy and more

The EUPJ can offer financial assistance to members of affiliated communities, and we receive very good reports back from participants.

[Rabbi Steve Burnstein, RJE, Director](#)

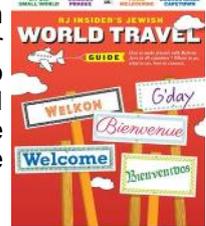
Pure gold: IMPJ celebrates 50 years at Biennial Assembly



Over the weekend of May 23 and 24 the [Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism](#) (IMPJ) held its golden Jubilee Anniversary Biennial Assembly. 1,200 leaders and members of Reform communities participated in 40 sessions, comprised of plenaries, workshops, study and prayer. Forty-seven communities from throughout Israel, including four Russian speaking congregations, joined together at the Shefayim kibbutz in central Israel to celebrate in the spirit of Reform Judaism. [Read more.](#)

Reform Judaism Magazine & WUPJ premiere 2nd Jewish World Travel Guide

We may not have a community in Shushan, but our 1200 communities in 49 countries worldwide, await your visit! This guide tells you where to go, what to see, what to eat, and how to connect and premieres the first-ever map of Progressive congregations worldwide.



[Read more](#) or click on the picture.

Torah from around the World

Every week, WUPJ emails *Torah from around the World*, a commentary on the Parashah (Torah portion) of the week by a rabbi from one of its congregations. To subscribe, please click [here](#).

IMPJ Newsletter

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

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