



European Union for Progressive Judaism

May 2015 Newsletter

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From the Chairman after Rio



Connections 2015 combining simcha and samba

This column is being written within 24 hours of my return from Connections 2015, and to be honest it was one of the most memorable WUPJ conferences I have attended. Four days in Rio de Janeiro with more than 300 delegates from the four corners of the Earth made for an unforgettable gathering.

Among the highlights were home hospitality on the Friday night, havdalah on Copacabana beach, visits to the favelas (shantytowns), the transfer of the chairmanship from Mike Grabiner (UK) to Carole Sterling (Canada), the samba troupe getting the opening ceremony off with a bang, and the warmth from both the sun and our host community.

Before the weekend in Rio a number of us spent Shabbat with our communities in Buenos Aires. Both countries face serious financial issues and yet it was so moving to celebrate Shabbat in entirely different but equally delightful ways. It has been said that more than the Jews keep Shabbat, Shabbat keeps the Jews; the past two examples have proved it to me.

By now we will have marked Shavuot. The moment when we received Torah is both solemn and joyous. I hope that for you all it was sweet and meaningful, and that we all renew our pledge to keep Torah central to our lives.

Miriam Kramer

Security for affiliated European communities

We in the EUPJ are mindful of the increased security needs at the premises of all European Jewish organisations. As this relates to EUPJ-affiliated con-



gregations, we cannot get involved in the specific needs of each community - the situation varies enormously by location, both in terms of threat level and the response provided by the local public authorities, but we can help as follows:

If you need advice - we can draw on the experience of communities that are advanced in this area.

If your local police or similar agency responsible for public security is not treating you with the same level of attention that other Jewish organisations receive - we can apply pressure at government level.

For smaller communities whose finances are extremely stretched, there may be a possibility of providing some financial assistance - this would require very specific details and costing.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Leslie Bergman
President

Miriam Kramer
Chairman

Member community assistance for High Holidays

In just a few months time we will be gathering to celebrate the High Holidays in our respective congregations. Some congregations may be in need of rabbinic and/or cantorial assistance to help make the worship services as meaningful as possible. Now is the time for each congregation to evaluate its needs and to inform the EUPJ office immediately if you would like help to find a rabbi, student rabbi or cantor to lead High Holiday services.

Please contact us as soon as possible, we need to have all applications back no later than 30th June. Write to us at EUPJ administrator@eupj.org. Of course, there is no guarantee that rabbinic or cantorial help can be found or that the necessary funding will be available, but every effort will be made to assist our EUPJ congregations to have rabbinic/cantorial support to enhance the beauty and special quality of the New Year services.

Miriam Kramer
Chairman
EUPJ

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Vice President, International Development
WUPJ

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Tell us how you celebrated Shavuot



Did your EUPJ community celebrate Shavuot this year? Most of the newsletters and announcements received for this May issue include plans for a special Shavuot event. Do you wonder what other synagogues had planned? We do too, and we want to know.

Please send an email to either newsletter@eupj.org or administrator@eupj.org with a story of your local Shavuot celebration. Be sure to include photos in your email. Next month we will feature as many of these stories as feasible in order to display the wide variety of possibilities this holiday offers.

Thank you in advance.

Arthur Buchman, Editor

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Synagogues everywhere

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

[Europe](#)

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Brighton and Hove Synagogue
Hove, UK



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www.fpjie.org.uk



United Kingdom

Leo Baeck College new students

Leo Baeck College is delighted to announce the new intake of students who will be joining the rabbinic programme in September. Yaera Ratel, Elliott Karstadt, Anna Posner, Deborah Blausten, and Frankie Stubbs join the class of 2015 from a variety of backgrounds. Jessica Rosenfield was also accepted and will join the programme in 2016.



Deborah Blausten



Elliott Karstadt



Frankie Stubbs



Yaera Ratel



Anna Posner

Edinburgh news

The May issue of our newsletter, [Lulav](#), is now published. There are some interesting items within, particularly Sam's Famous Cheesecake. This is in fact a poignant story about young Sam's family and their experience during the Holocaust. The story also looks forward to happier experiences after the war.

This month we feature an interview with the director of LINKnet Mentoring, Ranbandara Dissanayaka (Dissa). This mentoring programme is very worthwhile because it provides support for people who have recently migrated here, often in acute circumstances. If you would like to volunteer with LINKnet through the ELJC *You Know How it Feels to be a Stranger* project, please get in touch with the Contact Team.

We look forward to our Shavuot festivities with a Tikkun Leil Shavuot at a convenient location in South Central Edinburgh. and a Shavuot morning service.



Ritual Reconstructed website launches

Liberal Judaism's new equality and diversity project Ritual Reconstructed has launched an innovative and interactive website: [here](#).

Jewish people who identify as LGBTQI, and the wider audience, are invited to sign up to get access to exclusive film and audio footage, as well as other research and documentary materials.

Ritual Reconstructed works with film, performance, installation and storytelling and looks at the ways in which Jewish people who identify as LGBTQI engage in religious and community life.

Surat-Shaan Knan, who also runs Liberal Judaism's Twilight People project, serves as the community coordinator.

Surat says: "It's fantastic to see that the interest in being part of a documentary and research initiatives has grown so much. People from all walks of life have joined our film team, focus groups and events. The website has a members area which enables us to create a safe space and a sense of community. Please join us, sign up online."

Shirei Chagigah is 9-12 July

Shirei Chagigah is the new name for the Movement for Reform Judaism's biennial music conference. It means 'songs of celebration' and reflects the celebration of music and prayer which we will enjoy over this very special weekend. Faculty confirmed include Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller, Noah Aronson, Cantor Zöe Jacobs, Merri Arian and Rabbi Noam Katz.

This celebration of music and prayer incorporating the MRJ Choirs Festival will give you the tools and experiences to learn about and enjoy Jewish music and *t'fillah* (prayer). This is an opportunity to learn from the world's foremost experts in the field of Jewish liturgical music. Through a series of workshops and services you will explore the use of music to enhance religious services, learn new melodies and choral harmonies for traditional prayers - and be part of a remarkable community.

Shirei Chagigah is not only for people who love to sing! For the first time we will be adding an extra dimension by having a programming stream dedicated to those in our communities who lead Shabbat services. Our Shaliach Tzibbur course is designed for you whether you have been leading services for many years or whether it is something you would like to start doing.

In addition the MRJ Choirs Festival will take place on the Sunday from 10am to 5pm and be run by Viv Bellos, Director of Music at Alyth, and aims to enthuse, encourage and inspire synagogue choirs of all abilities from around the country.

[Find out more and book your place today!](#)

Free Progressive Israel trip in August

Progressive Jews have the chance to visit Israel for FREE as part the new Birthright partnership with Liberal Judaism and the Movement for Reform Judaism. Open to any Progressive Jew aged 20-26, who has not already been on an organised educational visit to Israel. Date: 15-25 August. [More details here](#).

United Kingdom

Mosaic remembers



Mosaic community members who lived through the war years with some of the youngest generation

140 people attended a unique event on 9th May at Mosaic Synagogue in Harrow to celebrate the 70th anniversary of VE Day – the end of the 2nd World War in Europe.

Mosaic Reform held a specially themed service led by Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige Middleton, and the congregation was joined by Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith and members of Mosaic Liberal Synagogue to give thanks for Europe's liberation and to remember those who gave their lives for our freedom.

The service included the reading of poems by veteran Dennis Goodman who served in the RAF and six other community members who lived through the war years. The service ended with a special rendition of Adon Olam to the tune of "The White Cliffs Of Dover" and the cutting of a commemorative cake.

With flags and bunting on display everyone enjoyed a "street party" lunch and were able to browse a special exhibition including letters, photographs, ration books, identity cards, medals and a wonderfully preserved gas mask. This exhibition was on view until Sunday 17th May, when Mosaic celebrated its first birthday and AGM. The party atmosphere continued with live music and dancing plus a robust sing-a-long.



RSY-Netzer Day Camp

RSY-Netzer are delighted to announce that booking for Day Camp this summer is now open. There are three camps; two in London and one in Manchester.

[Read more](#)

About Pro-Zion

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



Click the logos for news of UK movements



Anat Hoffman at LJ Day of Celebration

Liberal Judaism is excited to be able to announce that Anat Hoffman will be presenting at this year's Day of Celebration.

Anat joins an exciting line-up of speakers for Liberal Judaism's biggest event of the year, which will take place on Sunday June 7 at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in London.

Anat is an Israeli activist and Executive Director of the IRAC (Israel Religious Action Centre) and has also been at the forefront of

Women at the Wall. Anat said of her appearance at the event: "It is time for all of us who refuse to divest ourselves of hope for Israel to unite together."

She will form part of an already packed programme, speaking alongside Rabbi Miri Gold, Reut Michaeli and a senior Israeli VIP.

Rabbi Lea Mühlstein, the Chair of Programming for the Day of Celebration, said: "It is a testament to an excellent programme and the seriousness with which Liberal Judaism takes engagement with Israel that Anat is excited to be part of our Day of Celebration."

"Anat will lead two sessions on 'What we don't talk about when we focus on Israel's security'. She will celebrate with us the successes of the work of IRAC in the fields of women's rights, religious pluralism and freedom of conscience. With us, she will contemplate the tasks ahead for IRAC in their struggle to fight racism against minorities in Israel."

Find out more about the Day of Celebration and book your tickets by visiting [here](#). Alternatively, contact Yael Shotts on y.shotts@liberaljudaism.org. Tickets cost £25 for adults, £12 for children or £50 for a family ticket (two adults and up to four children)



Anat Hoffman

Employment opportunity



Finchley Reform Synagogue
Director of Youth Education & Development

Exciting opportunity to lead and inspire the Youth & Education team within a vibrant and innovative Synagogue.

Do you aspire to develop and implement an outstanding curriculum, manage a creative and dynamic youth initiative and work within a dedicated and energetic professional team? Find our **job description** and **person specification** at:

www.frsonline.org/recruitment

Closing Date for applications 29 May

Interviews week beginning 8 June

This is a one year f/t contract with the possibility of an extension. For more information email rabbimberger@frsonline.org

Switzerland

The GIL welcomes disabled IDF veterans



A group of about 40 mostly very young men and women were welcomed with warmth and enthusiasm on Saturday 28th March at the GIL. They were a delegation of Tzahal veterans, severely disabled as a result of war injuries and acts of terrorism and their companions, who came to Switzerland for a week of change of scene and to practice ... skiing!

Yes, you read that right. This trip to the mountains allowed the veterans to practice for a week downhill skiing despite the fact that they are amputees, blind or severely burned.

Housed near Geneva in a mountain chalet specially fitted, these young people were surrounded, encouraged and blessed to overcome the limitations of their disability. The GIL welcomed them for the closing dinner of their stay on the eve of their return to Israel.

This memorable evening was attended by veterans of Tzahal and members of our community to a dinner followed by dancing. Beautiful friendships were born in discussions in French in Hebrew and English with the promise to extend such a project in two years.

The Swiss Association of Friends of Beit Nehei Tzahal Halohem helps fund the practice of sports and funds scholarships for the rehabilitation and welfare of Tzahal disabled veterans.

Karin Rivollet
Swiss Friends of Nehei Tzahal Beit Halohem

Mazal Tov!



Rabbi François Garaï

The EUPJ sends birthday wishes to Rabbi François Garaï, founding rabbi and pastoral leader of GIL for 44 years, shown here at the Geneva congregation's celebration of his 70th birthday. The synagogue was as full as on high holy days, with more than 480 in attendance.

Migwan news

After experiencing a turbulent and challenging year, we are proceeding to enjoy community life in our new premises. On top of services, our Hebrew classes and cultural events, we would like to expand our programme for social exchange at Migwan.

You are cordially invited to drop in at L'Chaim – Open Bar. Mix and mingle with members and friends. Drop in for a drink and stay as long as you like. Catch up with old friends, connect with new ones, build the community. It is purely social and fun, in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Entrance free for members, contribution for guests: CHF 20, under 25: CHF 10. Herrengrabenweg 50, Basel

Our first L'Chaim was May 19, and the next one is June 22.

We have mailed our invitation to the General Assembly in early June. There, we will inform you about current developments and future plans. Do you have ideas and wishes which should be offered at Migwan? Let us know!

Are you interested in becoming a member at Migwan? For further information please contact us at info@migwan.ch.

On behalf of the board I would like to thank everyone, our volunteers and the whole staff for their commitment.

Peter Jossi
President of the Board

The Synagogues of Switzerland

Building between emancipation, assimilation and acculturation by Ron Epstein-Mil



Ruth and Ron Epstein-Mil with David Bernstein of GIL

The history of Jewish communities in Switzerland is evidenced by the variety of its synagogues. Unlike what has taken place in neighbouring countries, the majority of these synagogues remain in good condition. This motivated Ron Epstein-Mil, an architect from Basel to write a fascinating book on "The Synagogues of Switzerland" that stemmed from his PhD thesis. Originally published in German in 2008, the French version is now available thanks to support from the [Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities](#). This superb book allows us to better understand our traditions, our country, our past and present! There are several pages on Beith GIL, Chene, the synagogue of our vibrant community.

Sim Shalom Congregation News



Finally, at the beginning of May, we received the response of the Hungarian government to our request for compensation for our financial losses which resulted from the government taking away our registration as a religious institution in 2011. This action was judged to be illegal and unconstitutional by both the highest court in Hungary and by the European Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg. The Strasbourg court mandated that we were entitled to financial compensation and that the government should negotiate with us about the appropriate amount. The government offered us only about 10% of the financial loss we have suffered from their actions. Early in May we met to discuss how to proceed in this very difficult situation.

On the weekend of April 17 two important events took place for Sim Shalom. The most important was the annual visit of Rabbi Joel Abraham, with his confirmation class from Temple Shalom in Scotch Plains, NJ. Every year the current class comes to Europe to see how Jews live here and to visit the places where Jews were killed in the Shoah. This year the trip included Terezin, Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz as well as Prague and Krakow. And at the end of each trip they come to Sim Shalom for Shabbat to see that Judaism is still alive and well in the area where such terrible things happened in the past. It is always a great pleasure to meet these vibrant young people, and share the evening with them. But it was especially joyful since the Rabbi's daughter Tali (Avital) filled the gap in the musical parts of our service left when our cantor departed a month ago. She is very talented as a song leader and guitar player, and we knew lots of the same tunes, so it all worked out very well. After the service and dinner we had a sing-a-long, sharing their camp songs and the ones from our own songbook.

The other important event was a brainstorming session of young Budapest Jews on how to attract more of their Jewish friends to become more involved in Jewish activities. The weekend-long meeting was led by Rabbi Steve Burnstein, who works for the World Union for Progressive Judaism in Israel. It brought together young members of Sim Shalom, of Bet Orim, the other Reform congregation in Budapest, and several young people who belong to religiously unaffiliated groups and who are trying to find their own Jewish path. Many ideas were suggested, and now the attendees are working on figuring out which of them look most promising and how best to pursue them. It's a good sign that some of our young people are looking for ways to enlarge the present Jewish communities and to start some new ones. We're hoping some of these new people will end up in Sim Shalom.

Jess Weil

A full house for Shir Hatzafon's Seder



Student rabbi Eli Reich leading Shir Hatzafon's Seder

A full house commemorated our exodus from Egypt with a tasty Seder lead by student rabbi Eli Reich from Abraham Geiger College at Potsdam University. Eli led a traditional Passover evening, but one which kept everyone on his or her toes, as he asked for volunteers from the congregation to read various passages throughout the whole service. Someone was always ready to lend a voice in Danish, English or Hebrew, and we successfully reached our destination: dinner.

The Seder meal, a combination of specially prepared traditional dishes plus salads and food brought by the congregation and guests, fueled much pleasant conversation. Many of those participating came from overseas and, finding themselves in Copenhagen on this special holiday, they joined us. The variety of backgrounds added another interesting spice to dinner, and we all went home full of wonderful memories of the event and appreciation for the cooks.

Larry Landman

Magic and Bowling in Budapest: notes from a successful Young Leadership Programme

From April 17-19, Rabbi Steve Burnstein, Director of the Anita Saltz International Education Center, facilitated a young leadership seminar that is part of an ongoing collaborative project with the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ). The initiative is designed to help strengthen Progressive Judaism with an eye toward the future and a focus on young adults. [Read more.](#)

Beit Orim visit from the US



Beth Orim welcoming Rabbi Alexander Davis and members of Beth El Synagogue, St Louis Park, MN

An Unusual Wedding at Beth Hillel



On Sunday May 10th, the Beth Hillel congregation of Brussels participated in an unusual wedding at their synagogue.

In Jewish law no contract lasts forever: a contract lasts for a maximum of 50 years. This is also the case for the marriage between Beth Hillel and the Torah. For this reason the Beth Hillel congregation had decided to renew its contract with the Torah.

Rabbi Marc Neiger had put together a wedding ceremony during which excerpts from the Torah were read dealing with the Alliance between the people of Israel and God's law. The synagogue was fully decorated for this occasion and a chuppa was used under which the service and the readings took place.

The religious ceremony was followed by a potluck dinner. The Belgian Jewish entertainer André Reinitz brought his accordion and everybody enjoyed singing and dancing.

Participants also brought their contribution to the construction of a large ketuba (see picture).

Thanks to our volunteers, to our rabbi, to the members of the board and of the staff, and to the large number of members and friends of Beth Hillel who joined us for this memorable event.

Thanks to those who have worked during 50 years in order for Beth Hillel to exist, to grow and to be one of the key liberal congregations in Belgium along with the IJC.

IJC's Eric Mark addresses school

The International School of Brussels (ISB) recently welcomed IJC member Eric Mark as a guest speaker, linked to the commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust and the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Eric was invited by the Advocacy and Activism Club which raises awareness for global events and movements at ISB.



Eric Mark with students and teacher at ISB

[Read more](#)

IJC Community Seder beats all records!



Children & the new Haggadah at the IJC Brussels

For elegance, warmth and enlightenment, the IJC's Community Seder this year can hardly be beaten. With 100 attendees (and we couldn't fit more), Rabbi Ira Goldberg led a Seder that drew everyone in, children and adults alike. The IJC used its very own Haggadah, put together by the Rabbi and sponsored by Brian Doyle.

The food was wonderful too, cooked by Mark Silverstein. The whole catering operation was headed by Diane Vermunicht and supported by 25 volunteers. In true community spirit, a large number of people stayed after the Seder to help clean up.

OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS



July 27 - August 5, 2015

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May 27

Stockholm, and the Stockholm archipelago

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To learn more and to apply to the Project-Incubator, go to: www.paideia-eu.org

Poland



New conversion venue in Poland

Beit Polska is opening a new venue for people who are interested in conversion to Judaism and who live in cities other than Warsaw (Gdansk, Katowice, etc.). For details please contact Rabbi Gil Nativ at rabbi@beit.org.pl or our office at office@beit.org.pl.

Cultural Jigsaw in Warsaw



Beit Polska invited all children ages 5 to 12 to a 'Cultural Jigsaw', a series of free educational workshops dedicated to Judaism.

The second of a series of three meetings was dedicated to the history of Jews in Poland and to the coexistence of Judaism and other religions in Poland and in Israel.

We also discussed human rights and human dignity in Judaism. During the class, children learned when the Jewish people first came to Poland and how the State of Israel was created.

All the participants got to know traditional Israeli dances and songs, the national anthem of the State of Israel as well as the Hebrew alphabet.

The children also entered the synagogue to meet the rabbi and his wife and to participate in the taking out of the Torah from the Aron HaKodesh. We finished the meeting with an arts and crafts project.



The project concluded with its third meeting on 23 May which was dedicated to the history and tradition of Shavuot. Children learned about the origins of the holiday and its historical transformations. All the participants also tasted traditional dairy dishes.



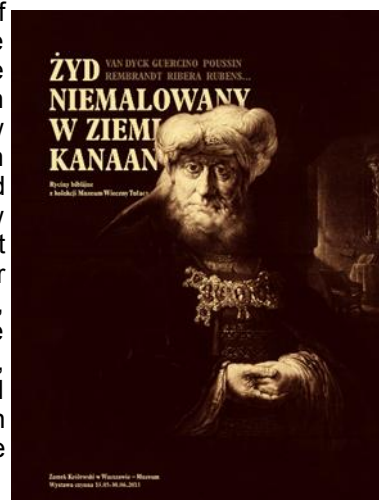
Shabbat BeChukotai at Beit Warszawa

Shabbat BeChukotai, 16 May, was one day before Jerusalem Day. After our regular Torah reading we devoted some time to celebrate this occasion. Elżbieta Geniusz and her three daughters played and sang "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav" and Rabbi Gil Nativ explained several biblical and rabbinic passages which refer to Jerusalem.

Museum Night in Krakow & Warsaw

The Night of Museums is a renowned event,

attracting hundreds of thousands of people from all around the world. This year on 16 May, Beit Kraków participated in it in both Warsaw and Krakow. In Krakow we offered a Shabbat Concert by our favourite musician, composer and one of our members, Michal Pal'ko and his Mojše Band, in The Old Synagogue on Szeroka 24.



In Warsaw come check out the exhibition of biblical prints entitled "The Jew Not Painted in the Land of Kanaan" in the Royal Castle Museum. During the Night of Museums visitors could sign up for special curatorial sightseeing. The exhibition opened May 14th and runs through June 30th. Beit Krakow is one of its organisers. Details can be found on the Museum's website [here](http://www.beitkrakow.pl).

Rabbi Tanya Segal
www.beitkrakow.pl

Beit Trojmiasto synagogue soon ready



Rabbi Gil Nativ affixes the mezuzah for Beit Trojmiasto

The Beit Trojmiasto apartment is almost ready to be dedicated as a synagogue - all that needs to be done is to paint the walls. However, we were able to hold this year's Pesach Seder there, the third one since our congregation was created but the first one in our own place.

Right after Passover the Beit Trojmiasto community was happy to host Rabbi Gil Nativ of Beit Warszawa with his wife Zivah. Rabbi Nativ affixed the mezuzah on the synagogue-to-be's entrance and gave a lecture about counting the Omer. This joyful meeting was followed by an Israeli dance workshop led by Rabbi Gil and Zivah Nativ.

Soon Hebrew classes start at Beit Trojmiasto. The congregation is growing!

Ariel Homa

Hamelin News

Our Purim festivities were a while ago, but we hope our readers will notice how much the festival was enjoyed by young and old. We thank the team of helpers who decorated, baked sweet and delicious hamantaschen and set up colourful, inviting tables. Everything was lovely! Purim reminds us to guard against religious extremism. It also teaches us to be proactive in our response. Fear is never a good response. As Viktor Frankl wrote, "Between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom."

Our annual membership meeting included board elections this year. The entire board was re-elected, including Rachel Dohme in her post as president, an office she has held consecutively since 1997. The vice president is Polina Pelts, and the treasurer is Olga Gerr. The board is strengthened with Peter Wendt and Faina Pelts.

Pesach stood at the centre of April's congregational life as it did the world over. We had a more-than-full house as Rabbi Sascha Lyskovoy led our Seder. We enjoyed participating in the reading of the Haggadah in Hebrew, Russian and German, feasting on the amazing meal and watching the children hunt for the Afikomen. We wish to thank our kitchen team for all their extra work and preparation. Everything was festive and delicious. One could taste the love.

Read the full newsletter [here](#).

Rachel Dohme

Read the UpJ newsletter, now also in English and Russian

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

NB: The link to the English translation of the UpJ Newsletter is ready at www.liberales-juden.de. The file had not yet been uploaded when we mailed our EUPJ newsletter last month. To open it, click on Newsletterarchiv next to the white 'suche' textbox, then on the englischer Sprach (April 2015) link.

-Editor

New Hebrew-German Chumash

On 16th June the Abraham Geiger College, the School of Jewish Theology of the University of Potsdam and the General Rabbinical Conference will launch a new Hebrew-German Chumash for the German-speaking Jewish communities, published by Herder.

1100 pages, Hardcover, 38 Euros in bookshops. Congregations can receive congregational sets of 30 or more copies from the Abraham Geiger College for a donation of 15 Euros per copy. Walter Homolka, Hanna Liss and Rüdiger Liwak present a revised version of Ludwig Philippson's translation of the Five Books of Moses with Haftarat.

The Bible project has been realised in co-operation with Tamara Cohn Eskenazi, David H Aaron and Lawrence Hoffmann of HUC-JIR, Alan Cooper of

JTSA, Ziony Zevit of the Ziegler School of Rabbinical Studies, Bernard M Levinson of the University of Minnesota and Jacob L Wright of Emory University.

The event will be hosted by the Secretary General of the Standing Conference of Education Ministers of the German States in the German capital.

Rabbi Dr Walter Homolka

1995-2015
20
JAHRE



BETH SHALOM
LIBERALE JÜDISCHE GEMEINDE MÜNCHEN



Rabbiner Tom Kuera



Der Chor von Beth Shalom unter Leitung von Kantor Nikola David und begleitet von Juan Carlos Lopez sang „Barchu“ von Salomon de Rossi, „Ahavat Olam“ von Eric Mandell und „Schabbat Hamalka“ von Martin Meir Wdewer



Jan Mühlstein,
1. Vorsitzender
von Beth Shalom



Boris Rosenthal (ll.)
& Friends



Moderator: Jörg van Hooven, Dan Rattan, Lauren Rid, Georg Stein, Marlies Poss, Jan Mühlstein, Rabbiner Tom Kuera (v. re.)



Dr. Beate Merk als
Vertreterin der
Bayrischen Staats-
regierung



Repräsentant
der Landes-
hauptstadt
München:
Kulturreferent
Dr. Hans-
Georg
Küppers



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fehlen



ith
Michelson
vertrat die
Union
progressiver
Juden in
Deutschland

Alle Fotos: F. Werners



Rabbi Ale Avruj at ATID Barcelona



Shabbat with Rabbi Ale Avruj at ATID Barcelona

ATID enjoyed a shiur, tefilah and dinner with Rabbi Ale Avruj. On Friday May 1st, we welcomed Rabbi Ale and the Avruj family from the Amijai Community of Argentina. He gave an interesting and stimulating class to our students of Judaism 3.0 and other members who came to hear his teachings.

With special vitality and energy he gave the D'var Torah in which he explained this week's Torah portion, Acharei mot - K'doshim, emphasising how much life there is after every death! He used the example of the Jewish people who are still alive after the temple's destruction and their expulsion from Spain.

And then we shared an informal dinner at which we were able to exchange views and knowledge - and as always, share some delicious dishes.

Thanks, Rab Avruj!

Rabbi Guillermo Bronstein at ATID



Rabbi Guillermo Bronstein at ATID

On Tuesday, April 28th we welcomed Rabbi Guillermo Bronstein and his wife to ATID. Rabbi Bronstein, who is from Asociacion Judia 1870 in Lima, graced us with a wonderful talk about the idea of Jewish messianism from the time of the Torah up to today. After the lecture, we held an informal dinner at which we had the opportunity to share our views on the talk and taste some culinary specialties of the members of our community: falafel, omelettes, quiches, tabbouleh, empanadas, homemade bread with nuts - not to mention sweets, brownies and cakes. Thanks, Guillo!

The Angel of Budapest honoured in Spain

Kehilah Beit Emunah participated in an event honouring the Spanish diplomat Ángel Sanz Briz, the "Angel of Budapest". This was arranged in conjunction with the study tour of a group of students from Budapest who were visiting Asturias. Professor Sarah Alvarez, a member of the Jewish Community in Asturias and a specialist on the Shoah, joined in.



Ángel Sanz Briz

The evening presentation was organised by the Cultural Association Perxuraos and took place on 7 May in the Culture Centre Lugo de Llanera.

Earlier in the afternoon, there was an exhibition about Ángel Sanz Briz, a Righteous Among the Nations. Briz helped thousands of Jews escape the Nazi genocide by providing them with Spanish passports and visas from his post at the Spanish Embassy in Hungary.

Aida Oseransky

Jewish philosophy course in Spain



Online education with Irene Kajon-Levi

Progressive communities in Barcelona and Madrid have organised a course of five online sessions about Jewish philosophy, masterfully taught by Professor Irene Kajon-Levi, who holds a PhD in philosophy and is a professor at La Sapienza University. She has an amazing career in Jewish thought and philosophy and interreligious dialogue, with 25 published books. Irene is also a member of Beth Hillel in Rome.

Professor Kajon-Levi brought us Philo, Maimonides, Spinoza, Hermann Cohen, Rosenzweig, Buber and Lévinas. She has joined Jewish tradition, religion, thought and philosophy with didactical and crystal-clear concepts on a high academic level.

The course gathered 25 people from different communities in Spain and beyond: from Bet Janukah of Andalucía, Bnei Israel of Galicia, Mallorca, Italy, Uruguay, and the organisers, Bet Shalom in Barcelona and the Reform Javurah of Madrid. The result is a collaborative project, easy to replicate in topic and location.

Kol HaKavod, Professor Irene.

LJG Gelderland 50th anniversary



LJG Gelderland synagogue

This year the LJG (Liberaal Joodse Gemeente) Gelderland celebrates its 50th anniversary. The community is small, but strong. The 120 members live all over the province of Gelderland, and every fortnight there is a Shabbat morning service, attended by 40-50 people. The kehillah used to rent rooms where the services could take place. In 2001 there was an opportunity to buy and renovate a former synagogue that was sold after WWII. Since 2010 we have a beautifully renovated shul for all our services and other activities.

On May 30th the LJG Gelderland will welcome about 180 members of the kehillot in the Netherlands for Oneg Shabbat. There will be two services, one as usual, and the other with more experimental elements. Afterwards we will have a good lunch, a programme a variety of workshops: *nigunim*, *tehillim*, *mussar*, design, the kitchen of Ottolenghi, and blowing the shofar - plus going for a shabbes walk. Our special guest will be Chazan Jalda Rebling from Berlin.

A MJLF preview

MJLF (Mouvement Juif Libéral de France) will have quite a few items to report on for May/June: an all-night happening for Shavuot; a special youth musical Shabbat with our 18-35 year old Yachad group; a guided visit to the Bonnard exhibition at Musée d'Orsay; an inter-faith discussion on "the end of life", a hotly debated topic in Paris



as new legislation is being considered in the parliament; the regular study circle every Shabbat before the morning service; Talmud courses by Rabbi Floriane Chinsky; a special Shabbat service to welcome those completing the conversion process; and a choral recital after the Erev Shabbat service.

Robert Ley

Kehilat Kedem - Montpellier



L-r: Michèle Bensoussan, CCCJ president; Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur; Claude Bismut, Kehilat Kedem president

On April 27 Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur gave a lecture in Montpellier on "modesty, femininity and Judaism", the topic of her latest book *En tenue d'Ève*. The event was jointly organised by Kehilat Kedem and the Jewish Cultural Community Centre of Montpellier (CCCJ). It attracted over 120

people and gave way to a lively discussion about the notion of *tsniout*, the male-female relationship in Judaism, the evolution of the role of women in Judaism, and the issue of matrilinearity and patrilinearity. Many thanks from Kehilat Kedem's members to Rabbi Delphine for this enriching experience!

French translation received help and more is needed

The April French edition of the EUPJ Newsletter ([here](#)) was assisted by Luc Bourgeois of Brussels, whose input I appreciate very much. Let's hope more names pop up when the newsletter is in its longer format. Every bit helps when done fast and efficiently! Please contact our EUPJ administrator Deborah Grabiner at administrator@eupj.org. Celia Naval



ULIF COPERNIC
Union Libérale Israélite
de France

Jews and Christians in friendly dialogue at Copernic



Rabbi Philippe Haddad and Father Olivier Rolland

On May 11, Copernic held an evening discussion designed 'to know each other better through texts'. Rabbi Philippe Haddad and Father Olivier Rolland shared a lively interreligious dialogue on the Decalogue.

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WUPJ Calendar

May 28-June 7- Israel
The Israel Study Kallah
July 2-12 - Israel
Bergman Seminar for Jewish Educators
October 7-22 - Israel and Poland
Israel - Poland Mission

Changing Minds: July's Bergman Seminar for Progressive Jewish Educators now open for registration

Every year, the Bergman Seminar turns Israel into a giant classroom for Progressive Jewish Educators from across the globe. This 10-day professional development seminar, based in Jerusalem, is carefully crafted to provide maximum impact on the work of formal and informal Jewish educators. This year's Bergman Seminar, being held from July 2 to 12, will incorporate art, culture, spirituality, liturgy, Hebrew, history, politics, text study, Jewish values, pedagogy and more.

Together, the various components of the seminar will address the critical challenges facing the Jewish people, encounter creative projects addressing these challenges and encourage participants to develop their own initiatives.

Designing and implementing the Bergman Seminar is the [Saltz International Education Center's faculty](#), which includes some of the most accomplished scholars and educators in the world.

While this programme is highly regarded for its calibre of speakers and educational content, the magic of the seminar is the diversity of its participants. Last year's seminar attracted exceptional Jewish educators from South Africa, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Argentina, Israel, Australia, Panama, France and the United States.

Sign up for the [Bergman Seminar for Progressive Jewish Educators](#) today! Tell educators in your community about this unique opportunity.

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.

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CONNECTIONS 2015



CONNECTIONS 2015, WUPJ's 37th biennial convention, opened with a wonderfully exciting evening at the Grand Templo Israelita in Rio de Janeiro.



Day 4 began with a stirring Shabbat morning service at Rio's ARI congregation led by Rabbi Grisha Abramovich, Rabbi Elyse Frishman, Neshama Carlebach and Josh Nelson. WUPJ President Rabbi Daniel Frelander then delivered a powerful sermon that is still being talked about.



Rabbi Daniel Frelander at Connections 2015