



European Union for Progressive Judaism

October 2016 Newsletter

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Still waiting, still hopeful

(A WUPJ message modified for October)

This past January, Prime Minister Netanyahu made a commitment to the entire Jewish people. His government passed a resolution to include all forms of Jewish worship at the Western Wall, with detailed plans to build an egalitarian prayer space that would be administered by a pluralistic group including rabbis from our movement. For the first time in the history of the Jewish state, Progressive rabbis would join an official government-supported religious body. It was a great shared victory.

Unfortunately, in the months since, the Israeli government has successfully avoided implementing its own commitment. Before Rosh Hashanah the WUPJ and leadership of the Reform Movement submitted a joint message asking the Israeli leadership to fulfil their commitment to make Judaism's holiest site a home for all Jews.

We hope that 5777 will be the year our joint victory at the Kotel is complete and Israel really is a home to all Jews. We believe that, with your help, by this time next year we will hear the shofar blast from a Western Wall that represents the best of our values and diversity.

Rabbi Daniel Frelander, WUPJ President
Carole Sterling, WUPJ Chair
Gordon Smith, EUPJ President
Miriam Kramer, EUPJ Chairman

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Chairman's Message



Miriam Kramer

The *chagim* inaugurating 5777 are past and we can now resume our focus on the tasks ahead. The last EUPJ strategy plan was put together some five years ago and the Management Committee has begun the process of devising a new one. A draft will go out shortly to Executive Board members for comment and then the document will be

discussed, and I hope approved, at our Executive Board meeting in Lyon on Sunday December 4.

In addition to the meeting on the Sunday Keren Or, our community in Lyon, is hosting EUPJ members for the whole weekend. In addition to Friday night and Shabbat morning services we are promised hospitality and a visit to at least one site of Jewish interest. I urge you all attend for the whole weekend, which should be most enjoyable, as well as for the meeting on Sunday. A reasonably-priced hotel, Mercure Charpennes, is a few minutes' walk from the synagogue.

Miriam Kramer

Editor's Message

The Book of Life for newsletter submissions is always open. The EUPJ desires to report news from as many of our communities as possible. In this October issue we have stories from more or less regular contributors from 12 of our 18 member countries, which is great with definite room for improvement.

To make sure your country or community appears in the EUPJ news, appoint one person to be responsible for sending stories and photos every month. Just a picture with a caption is enough. We can translate and edit your texts as well as crop and touch up all photos, so just write and send - we'll do the rest.

5777 has only just begun, so there is still plenty of time to make a New Year's resolution to submit news to newsletter@eupj.org on a regular basis. Your community's events will be publicised across the globe. Your unique activities could start a world wide trend, and your regular events can serve as an inspiration. Begin today, and both our readership and you will be glad.

Arthur Buchman

EUPJ Honorary Officers and Staff 2016

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Newsletter Editor

Arthur Buchman newsletter@eupj.org



Come to the EUPJ weekend in Lyon

We are delighted to share with you the details of the weekend of December 2-4 and present a brief programme overview and some travel information. More information is on pages 4 and 5. All services and meetings will take place at:

Keren Or – Synagogue Libérale de Lyon

15 Rue Jules Vallès, 69100 Villeurbanne, France

Our Chairman, Miriam Kramer, has asked me to draw your attention to a vital meeting of the Executive Board on the Sunday morning prior to the Board meeting to review the new EUPJ strategic plan. The timings on December 4 are as follows – Strategic Plan Meeting from 10.00 to 12.30 and then, following lunch, the Executive Board will meet between 13.30 and 15.30.

Keren Or have extended an invitation to all members of EUPJ to join them for Shabbat. Kabbalat Shabbat begins at 19.15 on Friday, December 2 and will be followed by a communal dinner. On Saturday the service begins at 10.30 and will be followed by a generous Kiddush. In the afternoon there are several options and more details are available on the attached flyer. In the evening we will all have dinner together in a restaurant.

If you would like to spend the weekend in Lyon with board members, then we recommend the Mercure Charpennes Hotel, which is reasonably priced and very close to the synagogue and suggest you reserve your room as soon as possible. The address of the hotel is – Hotel Mercure Charpennes, 7 Place Charles Hernu, 69100 Villeurbanne .

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to inform Deborah (administrator@eupj.org) or Celia (celia@kerenor.fr).

We look forward to seeing you in Lyon

Deborah Grabiner, Administrator

EUPJ website update

EUPJ's website was hacked into in September and was temporarily closed by Google. We apologise for the inconvenience. Following this incident we accepted advice to withdraw the website effective immediately while we build and launch a brand new site for the spring of 2017.

Deborah Grabiner, Administrator

Synagogues everywhere

Progressive congregations and Shabbat services can be found nearly everywhere during your travels. Click on a blue link to find a synagogue near your destination: [Europe](#) — [Worldwide](#)



ULIF Copernic, Paris

Letters

Another stunning copy of the Newsletter. It makes it sound so good in the EUPJ...and yes it is good...as my car says, Ki Tov!

Rabbi Andrew Goldstein

As usual, I enjoy reading the EUPJ Newsletter "cover to cover".

Austin Beutel

Just wanted to say this is a really wonderful newsletter. Fun to read and makes me feel like I know what's going on... which is a lot.

Rabbi Cliff Kulwin

Many thanks for the latest newsletter - lovely photo on page 7! (I mean the one at the bottom.)

Rabbi Walter Rothschild

Thank you, Gillian

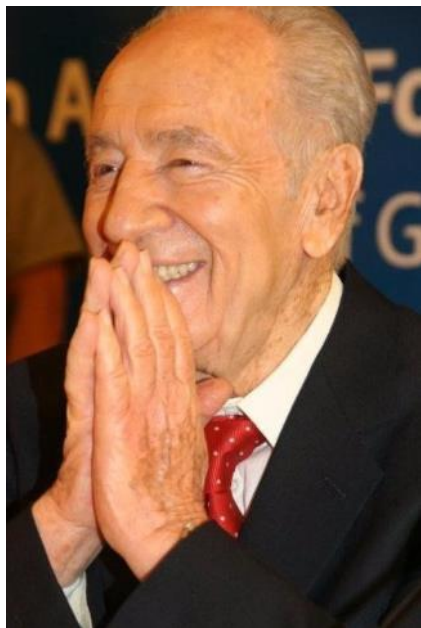
The EUPJ leadership and editorial team thank Gillian Alfredsson for her many months as Assistant Editor of this newsletter. She needs to avoid time at the computer and we hope that her back will soon permit her to rejoin the team. Gillian is a skilled editor and writer and was very helpful putting translated texts into proper English.

Arthur Buchman, Editor

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They support us.
www.fpjie.org.uk



In Memoriam Shimon Peres



Shimon Peres at the World Union CONNECTIONS 2009 in Israel

It is with great sadness that the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) and World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) joins the world in mourning the passing of Shimon Peres. His many titles befit a legend who is now no longer - former President of Israel, former Prime Minister, one of the youngest Defence Ministers in Israel's history, founding father of Israel, statesman, politician, activist, advocate and Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Shimon Peres was a man of extraordinary vision, great passion, and great eloquence who brought much honour and respect to each of his roles and to the country of Israel. His love for Israel and of all Israelis, no matter their background or faith, knew no bounds. His genuine belief in peace, stemming from mutual respect between warring parties, led to his shared Nobel Prize for his work on the Oslo Peace Accords.

Mr Peres was, in his own words, a dreamer, who foresaw in Israel's technological innovations its chance to bridge peoples and nations, in the Middle East and around the world. He devoted over 70 years of his life to Israel and Jewish communities around the world, advancing economic, defence, cultural and social platforms through his various initiatives in the private and public sectors

In 2009, the World Union had the privilege of honouring Shimon Peres with its International Humanitarian Award (IHAD) at the celebratory closing gala of its CONNECTIONS international convention. This World Union honour celebrates an individual's extraordinary contribution to advancing Progressive Judaism and its values. Presented by former Chairman of the World Union, Austin Beutel, the award recognized Mr Peres' "lifelong vision and leadership in building the State of Israel and [his] commitment to peace, humanitarian causes and the timeless values of democracy, pluralism and freedom".

Rabbi Richard Hirsch, Honorary President of the World Union and close friend of Mr Peres, reflected: "Shimon Peres was the premier statesman of the State of Israel, and the vibrant symbol of the highest values of the Jewish people. While other political leaders, frustrated by the complexities of the Israeli-Arab conflict, projected pessimism, he remained the persistent optimist. In keeping with Jewish tradition, he not only sought peace, he 'pursued' it."



Former Chairman of the World Union Austin Beutel honouring Shimon Peres at CONNECTIONS 2009 in Israel

In the Torah portion Nitzavim we read, "*It is not in the heavens... neither is it beyond the sea... No, the thing is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart.*" *Devarim 30:12-14*

לא בשמים היא... ולא מעבר לים היא... כי קרוב אליך הדבר מאד בפיך ובלבבך לעשותו

Shimon Peres lived the message of this parasha: for him, the safety of Israel was not found in the heavens, nor was it for some other country or politician to ensure. Peres took the responsibility of visioning the future of Israel into his own hands. Let us honour his memory by carrying his dream forward.

We in the world movement of Reform and Progressive Judaism extend profound sympathy to his family. May his example continue to inspire us to forge the State of Israel into an exemplary society.

May his memory be for a blessing.
יהי זכרו מבורך

Rabbi Daniel Frelander, WUPJ President
Carole Sterling, WUPJ Chair
Gordon Smith, EUPJ President
Miriam Kramer, EUPJ Chairman



Enjoy a Weekend in Lyon Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th December

*The EUPJ is pleased to invite all members of the EUPJ to enjoy the warm hospitality of the Keren Or Synagogue Libérale de Lyon
15 rue Jules Vallès Villeurbanne 69100*

≈

Enjoy a Kabbalat Shabbat service at 19.15 followed by a meal, provided by the Community

≈

Share a Shabbat morning service at 10.30 with friends from around Europe followed by a generous kiddush, Lyon style

≈

Explore the fascinating past with a visit to the Resistance and Deportation History Centre with plenty of Jewish interest on Shabbat afternoon

≈

Lyon boasts some of the finest restaurants in France so on Saturday night it must be time to dine out

≈

Sunday morning is time for business and from 10.00 to 12.30 you will have an opportunity to make your contribution to the open discussion on the

2017/18 EUPJ Strategy Document

which sets out our objectives and ambitions for the next 5 years. There will be a sandwich lunch from 12.30 to 13.30 provided by Keren Or followed by an Executive Board meeting from 13.30 to no later than 15.30 which will allow elected country representatives to vote on proposals

≈

If you wish to participate in the Shabbat afternoon activity and/or the Saturday night dinner, please register your interest with Celia Naval on celia@kerenor.fr

≈

Participants should arrange their own travel and accommodation. Our recommended hotel is the [Mercure Charpennes Hotel](#) which is convenient to Keren Or and offers comfort at a reasonable cost

≈

All activities are free of charge with the exception of the Saturday night dinner and entrance to the museum

≈

Please e-mail administrator@eupj.org to let us know you are coming

EUPJ Lyon Venue, Travel and Contact Details

Venue and Contact



Keren Or

Keren Or - La Synagogue Libérale de Lyon

15 rue Jules Vallès, 69100 Villeurbanne

+33 4 37 72 30 19

contact@kerenor.fr

www.kerenor.fr

Celia Naval, Vice President External Relations

Keren Or celia@kerenor.fr



Mercure Charpennes Hotel

Suggested hotel [Mercure Charpennes Hotel](#)

7 Place Charles Hernu, 69100 Lyon Villeurbanne

This hotel is a 3-minute walk from the synagogue.

Saturday afternoon optional trip

[Centre d'Histoire de la Résistance et de la Déportation](#)

14 avenue Berthelot, Espace Berthelot

69007 Lyon



Resistance and Deportation History Centre

Travelling to Lyon

Arriving by Air

From St Exupéry airport take the airport TGV train to Part Dieu station www.rhonexpress.fr. Service takes half an hour and runs every 15 minutes from 6am to 9pm, half hourly from 4.25 am to 6 am and from 9pm till midnight.

NB: If several of you arrive together, a taxi from the airport to town costs 50€.

Arriving by Train



Gare de Lyon Part-Dieu

Eurostar via Paris or Lille for those coming from London or others coming by train, all arriving at the Lyon Part-Dieu station. Eurostar via Paris requires changing stations in Paris, and there are plenty of trains - or via Lille, same station, but there are fewer trains.

On arrival at the Part-Dieu station, take tram T4 or T1 or crossing to the front of the station, Metro B, to Place Charles Hernu (6 minutes).

Tram A also gets to the synagogue for anyone opting to stay elsewhere in Lyon.

Lyon by day and at night



MIGWAN מגוון

LIBERALE JÜDISCHE GEMEINDE
LIBERAL JEWISH CONGREGATION
BASEL

Migwan events

On the Day of Jewish Culture on September 4, Migwan hosted an interesting roundtable discussion under the lead of Nora Refaeil, lawyer and expert on migration and diversity.

The Liberal Jewish Community Migwan Basel and Ofek invite all to Havdalah at 7 pm followed by a lecture on Saturday, October 29: Uzbekistan - along the silk road, Buchara's last Jews, a travel report in word and picture by Orah Mendelberg.

As the board already announced in a separate mail, Rabbi Bea Wyler will leave us at the end of the year 2016. She has made an enormous contribution to the structural design of our services, preparing our youth for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah and also running the Giurim program. We wish her all the best for her future. We meet for Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday November 4 at 6:30 pm followed by farewell party for Rabbi Wyler.



Rabbi Bea Wyler

GIL events

A Tribute to Gene Wilder, comic actor, screen-writer, film director and writer. Presentation of his biography and the excellent film *Young Frankenstein* (1974). October 27- Dinner at 18:45 (CHF 15.-). Presentation and film at 19:45.



Gene Wilder

Course with Brigitte Sion



Brigitte Sion

Argentina, Uganda, Birobidzhan, California: Other Promised Lands for Jews. Bring your sandwich and learn a mouthful. Thursday November 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 12:30 to 13:30 at Beit GIL. CHF 10.- per session Sign up at info@gil.ch

Siyum haTorah in Zurich



A celebration for the new Torah scroll in the Jewish Liberal Community (JLG) Or Chadasch, Zurich

A year ago our Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim discovered that one of our Torah scrolls was damaged and that it was no longer possible to read certain passages. This meant that this Torah scroll was no longer "kosher" and consequently could no longer be used during services. It is a tradition at the JLG Or Chadasch Zurich to ask the community members at Rosh Hashanah to make donations which will then be contributed to an organisation with a worthy cause. This time the executive board of the community decided to ask the congregation to make their donations for the purpose of commissioning a new Torah scroll for our community. On September 17 the new Torah scroll was welcomed into our community. Since the founding of JLG Or Chadasch in 1978, this is only our second Siyum haTora. After the Shacharit service, the Sofer Michael Sutter completed the Torah scroll. While 85 members of the community and guests watched attentively, 12 members had the honour of helping the sofer inscribe the final 12 letters by placing their hands on his arm while he wrote them.



Alex Dreifuss, President of Or Chadasch, Zurich, expressed the executive board's collective gratitude and delighted surprise that so many members of the community were so eager to make donations to this cause. The community was in fact so generous that there were enough funds to commission a cloak for the Torah scroll.

It has yet to be decided what will happen to the no longer "kosher" Torah. According to Mr Dreifuss it may be possible to restore the Torah for use in a fledgling Jewish liberal community, for example in eastern Europe, which as yet cannot afford to purchase a Torah scroll. Possibly Or Chadasch can even fund the restoration of the damaged Torah.

Sim Shalom Budapest news

We are back in Budapest, and here is what has gone on in the last month or so.

But first I have to say that Rabbi Kati Kelemen's sabbatical was very successful, and she has returned to her rabbinical duties full of enthusiasm and new ideas. The courses she took at Potsdam University have provided her with much new material to use in her courses and sermons, and seeing the many different practices in the different congregations in Berlin has also been a wakeup call to many possibilities.

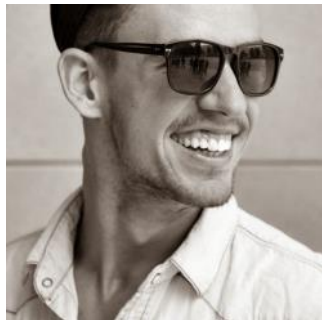


Rabbi Kati Kelemen

Very soon after our return there was the annual Jewish street fair called Pozsonyi Picnic, with booths and food stands and two entertainment stages at the opposite ends of the street. As usual, Sim Shalom had a stand, and the rabbi gave short talks about the letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

There have been two Saturday morning services held jointly by three congregations in Budapest, two Progressive and one Masorti. One was on the occasion of a small Masorti international conference on social issues and Jewish attempts to address them. The other was planned to directly show the opposition of Progressive Judaism to an anti-Muslim referendum and was held the day before the voting (which failed to carry). Sim Shalom members were the largest group at both services. Future joint services and programs are planned.

Two weeks ago, a delegation from West London Synagogue, the oldest Progressive synagogue in England, and from the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) came to Budapest to tell us about their proposal to fund a programme to help build up Progressive Judaism in Hungary. The core of the programme will be monthly weekend visits by Ariel Pollak, a young Hungarian rabbinical student who has been training in Berlin and should receive his smicha later this fall. Ariel was doing practicum training in our congregation under Rabbi Kelemen's supervision all last year, and he already has a very strong following among young Jews in Budapest where he will hold services in a new venue and to do other outreach and educational work. Ariel is very charismatic, and we're confident that he can attract some new people into the practice of Judaism, hopefully in the Progressive congregations.



Ariel Pollak

Jess Weil



High Holy Days at Bet Shalom



Rosh Hashanah at Bet Shalom Barcelona with Chazanit Romina Reisin

Bet Shalom Barcelona celebrated the Tishri Holidays in high spirits with community members and guests from different countries around the world. We celebrated Erev Rosh Hashanah in a hotel around the dinner table, the Shacharit service in our synagogue and the Tashlich ceremony on the beach by the Mediterranean Sea. The Rosh Hashanah services were led by Chazanit Romina Reisin from Israel who brought sweetness and spirituality to the liturgy with her beautiful voice and depth. The sound of the shofarim, played beautifully by our members, still resonates in our hearts.

Kol Nidrei and Yom Kippur services were led by our Rabbi Stephen Berkowitz in our synagogue. His drasha for Yom Kippur addressed the concept and meaning of "home" for the Jewish People and the importance of welcoming those who today have lost their home and seek refuge in other countries. Rabbi Berkowitz also led a study session on the Book of Jonah in the afternoon of Yom Kippur. After Neila and an especially emotional Havdalah, we all broke the fast together with delicious food prepared by the members of the community.

From Bet Shalom Barcelona we wish our sister communities in Europe: *Shana tova umetuka!*



Bet Shalom's Sukkah



Beit Warszawa

Events at Beit Warszawa

Sukkot: On Sunday October 16 starting at 10am we built our sukkah at 113 Wiertnicza Street. Many people participated and helped us out. At 11am Dominika Zakrzewska and our guest from Los Angeles, Paula Gelber Dromi, led a workshop for children in Sukkot decorations. Sukkot was a family Sunday at Beit Warszawa.

Shatz Cantorial Course: On the following weekend, Beit Warszawa again began the Shatz Cantorial course. We invited everyone to join open lectures on Saturday October 22 that are part of the Shatz Course: *Parasha* led by Mati Kirschenbaum, *Overview of the prophets – with a focus on Jeremiah and Izaiah* led by Mati Kirschenbaum and *History: the biblical period from Avraham to Moshe* led by Professor Andrzej Kluczyński. We concluded at 7:45pm with Havdalah.

Lectures

In October we have a series of 6pm Friday lectures led by Dr Halina Postek – *Next Step*. The first talks were devoted to the key ideas of Judaism. Entrance to the lectures is free and open to everyone.

14 October – Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World),
21 October – Tefillah (Prayer), 28 October – Tzedakah (Charity)

Beit Krakow High Holy Day services

All Beit Krakow Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services were led by Rabbi Janet Darley, a graduate of Leo Baeck College and retired rabbi of South London Liberal Synagogue. She was assisted by her husband, Vince Daly, a qualified ba'al tefillah and experienced choir master.

From Rosh HaShanah until Yom Kippur we are encouraged to ask ourselves who are we, to be focused, to hear the shofar sound, to be honest with ourselves, accepting past mistakes in the hope that the coming year will truly be a good one. When the shofar blows, we are created anew. *Gmar Chatimah Tova*

Jewish Renewal in Poland [read more](#)



Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak at Sukkot

A dual celebration at Shir Hatzafon



Shir Hatzafon, Progressive Judaism in Denmark, celebrates Simchat Torah in our sukkah

Shir Hatzafon, Progressive Judaism in Denmark, celebrated Sukkot and Simchat Torah back to back on Sunday October 23. Our Chagim Committee of Alice Donde and Lea Levinsky made sure there were lots of activity materials for the children and plenty of home made cakes and other goodies for kids and grownups alike. As in previous years when the weather was not in our favour, we built our sukkah inside the Unitarian House and disassembled it again after the service. Martin Salamon led the Sukkot ceremony and explained the ins and outs of the lulav and etrog. The children especially enjoyed the ritual when it was their turn.



Sukkot at Shir Hatzafon

Jossi Brock chanted the last lines of Deuteronomy while Alice Donde had an aliyah, and Martin Salamon read the beginning of Genesis while Lars Josefowitz received an aliyah. In between Torah portions, Lars, who is master of all things practical at Shir Hatzafon, and Martin rolled the scroll from end to beginning while Jossi led a discussion about the text. Enthusiasm ran high all day, even during the clean up process.

Arthur Buchman



Simchat Torah at Beth Hillel Roma

Beth Hillel in Rome celebrated Simchat Torah with Rabbi Joel Oseran with a wonderful programme. The festivities started at 18:30 with a Ma'ariv service that included children. Then there was a short tour of the neighbourhood with our Sefer Torah, singing and dancing with klezmer music. We stopped in front of the ancient synagogue of Vicolo dell'Atleta in Trastevere, which we were able to visit in small guided groups. The Restaurant Spirito DiVino offered us light refreshments. The traditional Hakafot then took place with the seven dances around the Sefer Torah led in turn by members of the Community. At 20:00 we held the impressive ceremony of the full opening of the Sefer Torah supported by all participants and with readings. We concluded with pizza and desserts that participants brought.

Abraham Geiger College Celebrates Ten Years of Rabbinic Ordinations

Earlier this fall, the German media marked an anniversary: ten years ago, rabbis were ordained in Germany for the first time since the Shoah. The founding of the Abraham Geiger College (AGC) - the first rabbinical seminary in post-war Germany - was indeed a historical milestone. Due to the work of AGC and the School of Jewish Theology that opened in Potsdam in 2013, rabbis "made in Germany" have become the symbol of a significant revival of Jewish

life. "Today, rabbis of all three large denominations of Judaism are being trained again in Potsdam and Berlin," said Rabbi Walter Homolka, rector of Abraham Geiger College. "Thus we can successfully reconnect with the



Abraham Geiger College press event

infrastructure of prewar Germany. A vision has come true." These achievements, however, would not have been possible without the commitment of the federal government and German society at large.

[Read more...](#)



Beth Shalom Milan news

For the High Holidays Rabbi Don Gor and Cantor Evan Kent came back again to join us. The services were wonderful and Rabbi Gor's sermons were thoughtful and inspiring, especially his sermon on his fantasy letter to Prime Minister Natanyahu.

Rabbi Gor is Rabbi Emeritus at Temple Judea in Tarzana, the largest Reform Synagogue in the San Fernando Valley in California. Cantor Kent, formerly at Temple Isiah in Los Angeles, provided stirring musical renditions of the sacred prayers and ancient poems in the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur liturgy, including El Norah Alilah, the special Milan Yom Kippur melody which he diligently traced after a lot of research.

Instead of a Rosh Hashanah dinner, for the second consecutive year we had very successful Kabbalat Shabbat dinner between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Rabbi Gor divided us into groups to discuss the comparison of steps toward Teshuvah from Maimonides' Laws of Repentance and The Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. It lead to a lively discussion about the differences and similarities between them. As always the food was delicious which adds greatly to making Kabbalat Shabbat special.



As part of the cultural activities organized by Lev Chadash, Italian Association for Progressive Judaism on Wednesday October 19 at 21.00 we held a presentation of the book by Daniela Ovadia and Silvia Bencivelli, **È la medicina, bellezza!** (*It's the Medicine, Beauty! Because it's difficult to talk about health*)

Our friend and co-author Daniela Ovadia spoke and answered questions from scientific journalist Roberta Villa and our president Carlo Riva. Health is complicated and communicating about it properly means having to deal with a rapidly evolving science with definitions not always set in stone, debates between schools of thought, statistics to interpret, and with many interests - not just economic. In sum, either "it is good" or "it hurts." This book, through stories and medical journalism including about hoaxes, was well presented this evening.

Germany

10 years with Rabbi Tom Kučera at Beth Shalom Munich



Rabbi Tom Kučera, then & now

Together with two fellow graduates of the Abraham Geiger Kolleg Rabbi Tom Kučera was ordained on September 14 2006 in Dresden, the first ordination of rabbis in Germany since the Shoah. Shortly afterwards Rabbi Kučera, who had already taken care of Beth Shalom during his last year of studies, took over the position as rabbi of our congregation. Ever since he has been guiding, inspiring and motivating us. He guides our members throughout all stages of life: brit milah and baby naming, religious education, bat and bar mitzvah, the chuppah, and on their last journey. He commemorates birthdays and anniversaries, organises activities for children and adolescents, looks after the sick, provides advice and support, comforts the bereaved, teaches and learns with the congregation. Through his friendly nature, his knowledge and his skills, he has significantly contributed to Beth Shalom's growth and has led our congregation to its present strength. For this we wholeheartedly say TODA RABA and wish him beneficial work for Beth Shalom and the Jewish community as a whole for many years to come.

Beth Shalom Munich

Berlin Exhibition: Golem

Until January 29
The Jewish Museum in Berlin recently opened a thematic exhibition about golem, and the myth of artificial life, 'from homunculi and cyborgs to robots and androids'.



Inauguration of the Liberal Jewish Cemetery in Hamburg Ohlsdorf



Hamburg cemetery inauguration

After 12 years, the LJGH Hamburg Reform Jewish community, led by its rabbi, Dr Moshe Navon, was finally able to inaugurate its own cemetery at Ilandkoppel (Ohlsdorf cemetery) on October 6 2016 (4 Tishrei 5777). It is currently the only cemetery in Hamburg where Progressive Jews can be buried in accordance with the laws of halacha.

LJG Hamelin news



Wedding of Rebekka Dohme and Amitai Yareev
Schleier on Sunday September 4

Hope and return

Our congregation has been caring for a Jewish-Albanian family for the past year. The young father of the family has Jewish roots. Unfortunately this was not enough to qualify him or the family to stay in Germany. The young couple and their two children were quickly integrated in our community, began conversion class and found work, earning their own keep, learning German and the children attended public schools. The family had to return to Albania but with the help of our county commissioner and our congregation they may have a real chance to return. We all are hoping for their return and to obtain their right to stay in Germany. If you'd like to help the family, contact Rachel Dohme at racheldohme@jghreform.org.

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

Rachel Dohme



Beth Hillel

Communauté Israélite Libérale de Belgique

Beth Hillel events

Kabbalat Shabbat Brussels

Join us for a joyful, soulful and rejuvenating Shabbat with internationally renowned song and prayer leader Shir Yaakov Feit. Shir Yaakov is a leader in the Jewish Renewal movement, bringing musical talent, warmth, and a grounded spiritual approach to Jewish ritual and prayer.



Shir Yaakov Feit

Date: Friday October 28

Time: 7:00 pm; services begin at 7:30 pm

Location: Brussels (Near Munthof/Hotel de Monnaie)

Donation: 5 euro/person

Shir Yaakov will lead us with his guitar in song and prayer, in traditional and new melodies. Services will be followed by a potluck dinner, please bring a vegetarian dish to share. If you own a meditation cushion please bring that too.

Songs, Potluck dinner and Havdalah, Leuven

Date: Saturday October 29 at 4:00 pm

Location: Center of Leuven

Donation: 5 euro/person

Young and young-at-heart very welcome. We will learn new songs and sing some old favourites, light candles, smell the spices of Havdalah, and share an early (5:30pm) potluck meal together. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share.

Learn more about Shir Yaakov and his music on his website at <http://shiryaakov.com/>

Women of the Wall Shabbat

On Saturday November 26 at 10:30 Beth Hillel will show its support for "Women of the Kotel" by organising a Shacharit service led by the women of our community in conjunction with many other communities around the world. Join the call for Women of the Wall (WOW)! All women of the community are welcome on the tevah (bimah) to celebrate together. The service will be followed by a Kiddush and a Shabbat oneg.



Getting the message across in the 21st century



E-Talmud at MJLF, Paris

The modern-day challenge for teachers in any field is to capture the student's attention, stimulate his or her natural curiosity and find creative ways to transmit traditional values and knowledge. For Jewish educators, the question is compounded because students come from families that don't discuss pages of Mishnah over dinner, but are sufficiently motivated to sign up their children for Talmud Torah classes once a week.

Since September when the school year began, all the Liberal communities in Paris plus Adath Shalom (Masorti) have been experimenting with "E-Talmud", an exciting new on-line learning tool created at ULIF thanks to a generous donor and since piloted by an inter-community team of Jewish educators. The main target group is children from 7-13 years.

E-Talmud is an intuitive, interactive website for discovering, learning and living Judaism in the modern digital world. Its lessons take the form of short, colourful, animated videos addressing the full sweep of Jewish history, holidays, texts and religious symbols. A giant touch screen transforms the classroom into an exciting surf through the world of Jewish studies, while providing a clear and inviting method for learning to read and write in Hebrew. E-Talmud is aimed at students and their parents as well as teachers, so the classroom dialogue can continue at home.

Feedback from students and parents is very positive. Of course, much depends on specially trained teachers who enjoy using the new tool and adapt creatively to this new environment for interaction with students and their parents. Sophie and Albert deserve much credit for the initial success at MJLF.

Revital Shloman, MJLF's Talmud Torah Director, warmly invites you to take a tour – it's a visual feast so French language ability is not indispensable.

www.e-talmud.com

www.facebook.com/etalmud/?fref=ts

Robert Ley
International relations coordinator
MJLF, Paris

New book by Rabbi Pauline Bebe

The Time of a Cloud (Le temps d'un nuage)

My wife the recidivist - she did it again. Here is her new book for your end of the month of Tishrei reading.

Rabbi Tom Cohen

At the bend of a path, a face smiles at us, a stone breathes secrets to us, a breeze intoxicates us whispering words of love. Every instant of life can delight us if we know stop there, every note of music sung by a bird can tell stories, each drop of dew refresh our skin, every rustle of the wing of a butterfly dazzle us. Each finger touched, every outstretched hand can bring out the best from the depths of our soul. Just listen and greet each other in his humanity; flaming heart, burning kiss, explosion of being ... the time of a cloud.

Thirty-six eyeblinks to sing life in a rainbow of colours.

Rabbi Pauline Bebe



From the president of Keren Or

We have just celebrated Sukkot in Keren Or. Haim Casas, our student rabbi said, "Life is like the sukkah, we cannot always dwell with security."



Sukkot at Keren Or

The discourse on insecurity and a feeling of uneasiness invade our daily lives, in the media or in our daily life. But we can act on insecurity, real or imagined, changing our view of the world. Do not let our fears transform what we are. Be aware of our weaknesses without harming others. Under the sukkah, fragile, temporary, what is our weakness? What is our strength?

The history of the Jewish people is made of dramatic episodes. But as Ben Gurion said, "In Israel, realistically, we must believe in miracles." It is not miracles that prevent war, but those who bring love and hope.

To say this is not to delve into a comforting utopia, on the contrary we say that our Jewish identity is hopeful facing the future. Walk peacefully, strengthened by our differences, as the four elements that make up the lulav. This is doubtless what makes the unity of our community: our project to build together a place of peace, respect, attention and kindness for everyone.

Pamela Vennin, Présidente



ULIF News

Events at Copernic

Thursday September 22: "Can one still believe in the universal?"

François Zimeray, French Ambassador for Human Rights in 2008, which allowed him to travel the world and its places of misfortune, French Ambassador to Denmark since 2013, target of the attack at the Copenhagen Cultural Centre in 2015, shared his experience as ambassador for France and witness to barbarism. He spoke also about his book "I saw the Same Face Everywhere", a reflection on human rights today.



François Zimeray

Thursday September 29: The parish of St Germain l'Auxerrois and the association "To the Wind of Encounters" organised a free meeting with our rabbi, Philip Haddad, on "Israel's New Year Celebrations: origin, meaning and rituals."

Wednesday November 9 at 18:00: Legal consultation. A community advocate graciously answers your questions. Organised jointly with MJLF. Only by appointment.

Information and registration at liensocial@ulif.org



Extraordinary Interfaith Concert

The Jewish-Muslim Friendship of France (AJMF) and many sister associations and partners invite you to a concert of Arab-Andalusian, Jewish-Spanish and Gypsy music.

Thursday November 24, 20:30 at Cirque Romanès Square Parodi, Bd de l'Amiral Bruix, 75016 Paris

www.ajmfparis1.com

Facebook: [AJMF Paris](#)

[Read more here in French](#)

United Kingdom

In Memoriam Sigmund Sternberg

Reform Judaism mourns Sir Sigmund Sternberg KC*SG who died October 18. He was 95.

Sir Sigmund's contribution to Reform Judaism in the United Kingdom was immense and cannot be overstated. Sir Sigmund held the position of President of Reform Judaism from 1997 until March 2011 when he was elected as Life President.



Sir Sigmund Sternberg z"l

A businessman and philanthropist who dedicated a great part of his life to serving the Jewish community and the cause of dialogue and interfaith relations across the globe, Sir Sigmund also had a long and significant involvement with the work of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Sir Sigmund served with distinction as sole Patron of the International Council of Christians and Jews, co-founder of the Three Faiths Forum, vice-president of the World Congress of Faiths and co-ordinator of the religious component of the World Economic Forum. He was also an active participant in the work of Rotary International. He was knighted in 1976, appointed a Papal Knight in 1985, and awarded the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion in 1998 for his interfaith work worldwide. His work for understanding and reconciliation between faith communities took him to every continent and has brought him recognition from nineteen countries as well as the Vatican.

We are grateful for Sir Sigmund's enormous generosity and inspirational leadership; his legacy lives on in the Sternberg Centre which bears his name.

May his memory be a blessing.

Leo Baeck College Lehrhaus 2016-17

Started Tuesday 18 October. LBC once again offers their Lehrhaus programme. For the first time, there will be two live online courses. Courses include: "The Rise of King David - a literary reading of 1 Samuel", "Biblical Hebrew: Intermediate", "The lives of Holocaust survivors in films" and "The origins of Jewish mysticism". [Click here to see all the courses, prices, payment details and dates.](#) To sign up for a course please contact [Jarek Lodzinski](#).



Click the logos for news of our UK movements



Liberal Jews and Muslims stand together in Durham



Durham Jews, Muslims and police together

On October 18 members of Durham's Jewish and Muslim communities came together to support police as part of National Hate Crime Awareness Week. Hundreds of pledges were signed by members of the public, of all ages, promising to tackle and prevent hate crimes.

Have Fleming, spokesperson for the Durham and North East Liberal Jewish Community, said: "The pledge cards gave four clear examples of exactly how people can challenge inappropriate behaviour, report hate crime, stand up for colleagues who are victims, and promote the concept of inclusivity. By standing side by side on this issue, we showed members of the public that Muslims and Jews, often victims themselves, wish to help the police raise awareness of the insidious nature of prejudice."

PCCO Mark Lumsden added, "Hate Crimes need to be reported and responded to. Your Police Community Cohesion Officers are there to assist anyone."

UJIA Progressive Birthright connects young adults with Israel



This summer 45 young adults took part in Reform and Liberal Judaism's UJIA Progressive Birthright

Mitzvah Day is November 27. Is your community involved?

Go to mitzvahday.org.uk for more information.

LJS to host UK's first ever Bollywood Klezmer event

Bollywood Klezmer

The multicultural musical event Bollywood Klezmer will be held in the UK for the first time when it comes to The Liberal Jewish Synagogue, St John's Wood, on Saturday November 19.

The musical features a selection of Bollywood film songs fused with the Jewish Klezmer music of Central Europe and the tunes heard in the royal courts of Rajasthan.

It stars Begam Batool, who will be performing outside of India for the first time. Until now, it was only possible to listen to Begam at the court of Rajasthan, where she sings for a private circle.

Rabbi Danny Rich, the senior rabbi of Liberal Judaism, said: "I encourage everyone to come and watch this fantastic fusion of cultures – which blends some of the traditional music and styles of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Christianity.

"Bollywood Klezmer has already won rave reviews in France, so we look forward to welcoming this annual event to the UK, and to The Liberal Jewish Synagogue."

The musical show begins at 8pm and ends at around 9.30pm. A special Gold ticket that includes a drinks reception and fashion show that starts at 7pm is also available.

Standard tickets cost £15-30 (the Gold tickets cost £55) and can be purchased from [here](#).

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue is located at 28 St John's Wood Road, London, NW8 7HA. For more information please contact Aaron Abraham and Simon Rothstein on pr@liberaljudaism.org or Konan Tanoh on info@amoinpr.com

'Everyone can marry in, if we welcome them'

Rabbi Aaron Goldstein has written a powerful commentary on Liberal Judaism's positive attitude to intermarriage and its benefits, in light of a new report showing that a quarter of Jews marry non-Jews.

[Read more...](#)



Rabbi Aaron Goldstein

LJ Netzer, always fun & educational



LJ Netzer youth enjoying their summer experience

A new Jewish community for East London



Bet Tikvah chairman Gary Freedman (l) and Woodford Liberal Synagogue chairman Jonny Hurst

A new Liberal Judaism community for East London and West Essex will be formed, after members of its two existing synagogues voted overwhelmingly to unify. In parallel Extraordinary General Meetings on Sunday September 25, members of Bet Tikvah and Woodford Liberal Synagogues voted in favour of the dissolution of their existing communities and the formation of a new single congregation. The unification will take place on January 1, 2017, creating a community of approximately 700 members of all generations and led by Rabbis Richard Jacobi and David Hulbert.

SAVE THE DATE
6th NOVEMBER 2016

Leo Baeck College 60th Anniversary
Service of celebration

Liberal Jewish Synagogue
St John's Wood, NW8 7HA

3pm Start – followed by Tea and Refreshments
RSVP: service2016@lbc.ac.uk

Leo Baeck College
SIXTY YEARS
AT THE HEART OF PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

High Holy Days Graphics

We received many beautiful e-cards during the holidays and here are graphics from some of them. - Editor



שנה טובה



Bonne année 5777



A SWEET
AND JOYFUL
NEW YEAR
5777!



Shana Tova!
Have a good year!

שנה טובה!



Shanah Tovah



WORLD
UNION FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



האיגוד
העולמי
ליהדות
מתקדמת

WUPJ 2017 Calendar

February 16-26

[Beutel Leadership Seminar](#), Jerusalem

May 13-17 - [Pursue Justice: Seminar for Legal Professionals](#), Jerusalem

May 15-21 - [CONNECTIONS 2017, WUPJ 38th Biennial Conference](#), Jerusalem

July 13-23 - [The Bergman Seminar for Jewish Educators](#), Jerusalem

Open Call: Beutel Leadership Seminar

The Beutel Leadership Seminar, run by the Saltz International Educational Center of the WUPJ, is opening its application process to nominations of congregational and community leaders to join its prestigious ten-day seminar in Jerusalem, February 16-26. Courses explore Jewish texts, current political and social issues across world Jewry and Israel, spiritual pathways and concepts of Jewish leadership and more, all within an interactive and experiential Progressive Jewish context.

To nominate leadership from your congregation or find out how the Beutel seminar will transform your community, [click here today](#).



Beutel Leadership Seminar participants in Jerusalem

Join us in Jerusalem: **CONNECTIONS** opens pre-registration for the **May 17-20, 2017 Biennial**. Mark your calendars!

The World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) is pleased to invite you to **CONNECTIONS 2017** on May 17-20 in Jerusalem, Israel.

CONNECTIONS offers deep learning, meaningful leadership development, and engaging events that will inspire Progressive Jews from all facets of

communal life - leaders, educators, volunteers, activists, professionals, students, rabbis and more - with workshops, seminars, worship services, tours and much more. Pre-convention programmes begin as early as May 11.

[Read more...](#)



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

Subscribe to WUPJnews

[Sign up for WUPJnews](#) to receive on-going updates about our communities around the world. Like WUPJ on [Facebook](#).

IMPJ Newsletter

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

Pursuing Justice Seminar

Do you want to dive deeper into Israeli legislation, politics and social action? Our upcoming seminar, [Pursuing Justice](#), on May 13-17, is your backstage pass to the Knesset, Supreme Court and closed-door sessions with the leaders making headlines. [Click here](#) for information and to sign up.



The Knesset