



# European Union for Progressive Judaism

September 2018 Newsletter

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## German Jews and Muslims visit Auschwitz

The Union of Progressive Jews (UpJ) and the Central Council of Muslims (ZMD) in Germany organised an educational trip to Auschwitz for young adults.

Among those taking part were Muslim refugees from Syria and Iraq as well as young Jewish people from Liberal congregations in Kiel and Bielefeld. The refugees from Arab countries grow up in a society and in schools that infuse anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism.

Living in Germany means learning German history and how society works here today. Auschwitz is a symbol for the German history that explains why anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism are unacceptable and negated in today's Germany.

On August 7, the group visited Jewish Krakow, Oskar Schindler's factory and the Krakow Muslim Centre. A day later, this was followed by a visit to Birkenau, the Jewish museum



**Signing a joint statement against anti-Semitism, racism and violence (L-R back): Prime Minister Bodo Ramelow; Aiman Mazyek; Prime Minister Daniel Günther, Minister Karin Prien and Rabbi Professor Dr Walter Homolka (front)**

with a synagogue in the town of Oswiecim. It included a meeting with a Polish survivor.

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## Chairman's Message: New year, new challenges

Across Europe, as this spectacular summer is about to come to its end, our communities are preparing for the High Holy Days.

I have been excited to see the many newsletters, notifications and invitations that are coming out –



all pointing to the richness and diversity that Progressive Jewish life has acquired in our part of the globe.

Without question, we have seen many highlights during the past 12 months. None has impressed me more than the Prague Biennial Conference, which I believe has not only enthused and inspired all of its

356 delegates from 28 countries, but also, perhaps even more importantly, has helped to invigorate and strengthen the development of Progressive communities in the Czech Republic.

It is in the very nature of reflections, of course, to reveal less positive aspects as well, and as I grow older, I often think that there is as much to be learned from these as from successes. May we all draw new energy from the days and weeks ahead and address the many challenges that still lie ahead with optimism and vigour.

Fortunately, there is one outstanding event coming up in November to which I would like to draw your attention. You may have read in our last newsletter that the next EUPJ Continental Weekend is going to take place in Brussels over the weekend of November 9-11.

One hundred years to the day after the end of World War I and 80 years after the November pogroms in Germany, we are going to assemble in

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### Auschwitz visit cont...

They then visited the Auschwitz death camp on August 9. UpJ Rabbi Henry Brandt and ZMD Chairman, Aiman Mazyek, spoke at a memorial for the victims of the Nazis held at the entrance to Auschwitz. The State Premiers of Thuringia and Schleswig-Holstein, Bodo Ramelow and Daniel Günther respectively, laid wreaths. Also present was Schleswig-Holstein's Education Minister, Karin Prien.

At the event, a joint statement against anti-Semitism, racism and violence was signed by Prime Minister Bodo Ramelow, Aiman Mazyek, Prime Minister Daniel Günther, Minister Karin Prien, and the UpJ Chairman, Rabbi Professor

Dr Walter Homolka.

For most of the young participants, this was their first visit to Auschwitz. The intensive emotional experience was tangible. In a very short time, they became friends and melted into one group. There was no separation between Jews and Muslims.

The trip was carefully prepared by Irith Michelsohn, UpJ's General Secretary. She will also see to it that everybody's wish to meet again will happen soon.

It is encouraging to see how, with very sensitive guides, the young adults opened up to each other and any differences they might have brought with them melted away. Read the article in [The Washington Post](#) for more. – [Deborah Tal-Ruettger](#)



The group of young Jews from Germany and Muslim refugees now living in the country with the tour organisers

### Chairman's Message cont...

the capital of Europe for a weekend of services, learning, remembrance and – most importantly – the official opening of the EUPJ EU office.

The weekend will include a short European Assembly and an Executive Board meeting as well as a number of very interesting programme items. Please go to our [website](#) to register and to find out all the details including a list of hotels providing us with special rates.

I am immensely grateful to our partners in our two Brussels communities for their enormous help and enthusiasm in making this happen. The weekend is an event open to all who are interested and I would like all of you seriously to consider joining us for this most memorable weekend. I look forward to seeing you all in Brussels very soon!

**Please support the  
Friends of Progressive  
Judaism.  
They support us.**



Dear members and friends of the EUPJ family, partners and friends at the WUPJ and its regions, on behalf of the President and all members of the Management Committee and Executive Board of the EUPJ, it is my great pleasure to wish you and your loved ones peaceful, joyous and reflective High Holy Days and all the very best for the New Year.

*L'shanah tovah tikatevu.* – [Sonja Guentner](#)  
([sonja.guentner@eupj.org](mailto:sonja.guentner@eupj.org))

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## Editor's Note: A time for family and community

Rosh Hashanah is a time for contemplation, for repentance and for forgiveness. In addition, one of the most important aspects of this period is being with family.

We don't always spend enough time with our loved ones because of our daily routine. Work and leisure activities (like television, cell phones and other electronic items) take precedence. There is never enough time.

During Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur however, most of us have the opportunity to spend time with our families, to communicate meaningfully with them, and to appreciate their importance in our lives.

My family is split in three. My two brothers live in California with their families, my sister and her family live in South Africa and I live in Israel. I don't see them nearly as often as I'd like and I miss them all the time. I don't have any children of my own and being a long-distance aunt is no fun.

I know that many of you are in the same situation. Globalisation has meant that it's easy to travel and many people move around for work or necessity. However, it's more a story of the Jewish nation. We aren't called the "Wandering Jews" for nothing!

My grandparents on one side and great-grandparents on the other left their families in Lithuania to move to South Africa. Then my parents' siblings all immigrated to the States in the 70s. My brothers and I are the third generation to continue the "exodus". We haven't been together at this time of year for a very long time. In addition, my parents are no longer with us, which makes this time of year very difficult.

So, while the High Holy Days are about many things that are important from a Judaic point-of-view, make the most of this opportunity to spend quality

time with those who are still nearby, and make it meaningful.

And if you know of someone in your community who has left family behind in another country, reach out to them, include them and invite them for a meal. Judaism is about family and community, so don't let anyone

be alone during these High Holy Days.

On another note... As you all know, this is the time to ask those around us for forgiveness for having wronged them, consciously or unconsciously – and to forgive them as well. When we do *Tashlich*, we cast our sins upon the water. When we forgive, as hard as it may be, we free our hearts of the hurt and pain.

Forgiveness releases us, it allows us to move on with our lives instead of living in the past.

As for me, if I have done anything to hurt or offend you, I apologise. If I have been careless with my words, please forgive me.

May your hearts be free of sorrow and your year be filled with sweetness!

*L'shana tovah umetukah. Gmar chatima tovah. – Darryl Egnal ([newsletter@eupj.org](mailto:newsletter@eupj.org))*



## Who's who at the EUPJ?

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Bill (William) Echikson, Director



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### Rabbinic Ruminations

Where does one start? I grew up in Bradford, a small community in the North of England – an historic one, the third Reform congregation in the whole of Britain.

My father, a young refugee from Germany, had met my mother, a member of the Orthodox community with roots in Belarus and Lithuania, at a weekend seminar organised by the Reform youth movement. For many decades, he was a member of the Executive, so I grew up with regular attendance and synagogue politics around the kitchen table.

Later, I was to attend the morning minyan at the Orthodox synagogue regularly, but also the then Youth Association of the Synagogues of Great Britain (YASGB – now RSY-Netzer) summer camps at Frensham Heights.

Since Bradford couldn't afford a full-time rabbi for years, we had many guest rabbis and many rabbinic students, all with their own style and melodies. We also needed to fill the gaps by leading services, which I did as a teenager.

Due to what I believe is a '*codos*' (coincidence of divine origin), I ended up studying Theology at Cambridge. There, I was the Maintenance Officer at the Jewish Society responsible for preparing the kitchens and toilets for Shabbat (very useful education) and also ran 'Prog Soc', the Progressive Jewish Society. As a post-grad student, I was a founder of what became the Cambridge Reform Congregation.

Further '*codos*' led me first to teaching religion in a state school, then to the Leo Baeck College and after ordination in 1984, to a post in Leeds where I became *de facto* rabbi for the

communities in Bradford and Hull. I also helped establish a community in Sheffield and encouraged a tiny group in York at the time.

With colleagues elsewhere, we set up a 'Northern Assembly of Rabbis' and 'Northern RSGB

Conferences' (the then Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, now Reform Judaism) as well as 'Mixed Doubles' seminars for mixed-faith couples. I also taught many Beit Din classes. With universities and prisons to visit all over, I put in plenty of mileage during my time in Yorkshire.

Interesting reactions to a sermon led to my then spending two years commuting for 10 days a week to Vienna. I took Shabbat services over the two weekends at Or Chadasch and the time in between making contact for the WUPJ with

communities in Graz, Brno, Bratislava and Sarajevo.

I spent some time as rabbi on Aruba in the Caribbean (the Netherlands Antilles: I speak Dutch) and then received an invitation to become a community rabbi in Berlin. My path then led me to become a 'wandering rabbi' spending weekends at

liberal communities in Munich, Cologne, Freiburg, Halle, Vienna (again) and what became a '*Landesverband*' (State Association) of five congregations in Schleswig-Holstein.

For a while, I found myself on the Board of the Union of Progressive Jews (UpJ) in Germany.

Currently, I act as an associate rabbi to the community rabbi

in the Liberal congregation of Hamburg and am the rabbi for Beit Polska, small congregations in Warsaw and Gdansk. Being freelance and semi-retired also allows me to do a lot of writing (mainly rabbinic short stories) and translating (mainly items on the railways during the Holocaust).

In addition, I sing with my jazz band, 'The Minyan Boys', and perform my cabaret act, '*Leiderabend mit Rabbi Rothschild*' ('An Unfortunate Evening with...'), where I can say and sing what I want.

I feel like I'm back among my European roots, working in small and provincial communities and keeping a sense of humour in spite of it all... – **Rabbi Dr Walter Rothschild** ([rothschild-berlin@t-online.de](mailto:rothschild-berlin@t-online.de))



### Calling all rabbis

We introduced this column recently to enable readers to find out a little about the EUPJ rabbis who serve our communities.

This is not a column for the *parsha* of the week or religious studies. It is a way to get to know the various rabbis across Europe.

If you would like to contribute to this column, please email me at [newsletter@eupj.org](mailto:newsletter@eupj.org).

## Czech Republic

### Historic swim in memory of Hana Greenfield

On Sunday August 26, 55 swimmers swam together in the River Labe in Kolín. While the swim itself was a fun and, for many, a new experience, the significance of the event was in its history.

As mentioned in our June issue, the swim was named after one of the very few Holocaust survivors from the town of Kolín, Hana Greenfield. Hana survived Terezin, Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. She returned briefly to Kolín after the war and then made a life for herself in Israel.

As a young girl, Hana used to swim in the river with her Jewish and non-Jewish friends, but this stopped in the mid-1930s due to an increase in industrial pollution in the river. This event was the first time that anyone from the town had swum in the river for 85 years.

Swimmers came from England, Israel, Germany, Serbia and the Czech Republic. Some swimmers were Jewish and others were not. Some had personal connections to the event, including Hana's husband, children, three of her grandchildren and one of her great-grandchildren, and others were just interested in the story or keen to try swimming in a river.

The youngest was 10, and the oldest turned 73 on the day of the swim. There were fast swimmers, and slow swimmers, some wanted to race while others were just absorbing the atmosphere.

But all were taking part in an activity that was an important part of the town's history and, as it turns out, will become part of its future.

After the swim, Mayor Vit Rakušan spoke movingly about the importance of the former Jewish



L-R: Mayor Vit Rakusan, Hana's three grand-daughters, Daniela, Shriona and Yael (holding great-grandson Shachar), son Ilan, daughter Meira, and husband Murray. Photo: Joe Bond



community of Kolín and pledged that the swim would become an annual event. — Jane Drapkin. Photos: Zdeněk Hejduk

## Hungary

### Community LGBTQ service



On the morning of the Budapest Gay Pride march in July, Sim Shalom hosted its annual Shacharit service for the LGBTQ community.

This is a service sponsored by the three egalitarian Jewish communities of Budapest – Sim Shalom and Bet Orim (Progressive), and Or Hadash (Masorti).

The service was led by Rabbi Ariel Pollak, with a sermon given by Rabbi Kelemen and greetings read from the absent Rabbi Dr Ferenc Raj of Bet Orim.

The service was held in Balint House, the JCC of Budapest, where Sim Shalom is now holding most of its services and programmes. This service is now part of a week-long programme of events leading up to the Pride March.

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# 10th Annual Pozsonyi's Picnic

On the first Sabbath in September, the 10th annual Pozsonyi's Picnic opened in Budapest with a flourish. There was a wonderful programme planned for the day, which included many exciting performances. The Bet Orim Reform Jewish Congregation was well represented.

The Pozsonyi's Picnic is a well-known place to meet various cultural, political and regional actors and find out about our various publishing companies, bookshops, magazines, city theatres and civil organisations.

The traditional family-friendly event also hosted many Jewish public organisations, among them the Bet Orim Reform Jewish Congregation.

Our Rabbi Dr Ferenc Raj welcomed the Sabbath and the crowd and sent a short greeting in a video message on Facebook. In this message, he

emphasised the importance of a social and religious viewpoint from Progressive Judaism – the openness, the conversation and the inclusion.

He spoke about the colourful landscape of Jewish communities and organisations in Budapest, and mentioned that there are many ways to God and people are able to reach Him from all communities.

Despite the rainy weather, waves of people flowed through the streets and among the pavilions. Every year, the traditional liberal left-wing event at

Pozsonyi's Picnic offers many opportunities to have public conversations and social gatherings on various political, regional and cultural questions, allowing visitors to connect and make personal ties.

– **Ákos Fellner.** Photos: **Krisztina Csí-Komor**



A logic game at Bet Orim's stand



Rabbi Dr Ferenc Raj catching up with friends and congregants



## Community LGBTQ service cont...

The event was attended by many Jews who we usually see only once a year for this event. Several of them took part in the Torah service, which was very meaningful for everyone.

Rabbi Pollak also led services the night before at the Milestone Institute as part of the monthly Budapest Project sponsored by West London Synagogue and the EUPJ. – **Jesse Weil**



## UK synagogues welcome US cantor

Cantor Tamara Wolfson has been appointed part-time cantor of Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue (NPLS) and part-time spiritual leader of Kehillah North London.

NPLS is delighted to welcome Tamara to the clergy team. She joins Rabbi Emeritus Dr Andrew Goldstein and Rabbis Aaron Goldstein and Lea Mühlstein.

"We very much look forward to Tamara's many special contributions to congregational life," said Lea. "Our music director, Ruth Colin, and the choir are particularly excited to be working with her to further develop our music provisions."

At Kehillah, Tamara will inherit the role held for many years by her friend and mentor, Rabbi Shulamit Ambalu.

"Tamara will lead Kehillah North London on the next phase of our journey, developing our communal life through prayer, community building, celebration, education, social action and pastoral work," said a spokesperson for the community. "As an added

advantage, her specialised knowledge will help us strengthen and develop our existing enthusiasm for participative music in our prayers and celebrations."

Tamara, a New Yorker, was brought up with a passion for Progressive Judaism. She graduated from American Jewish University in Los Angeles, California, with a degree in Jewish studies and then entered cantorial school at the

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. Read more [here](#). – Photo: Victor Shack



L-R: Rabbi Aaron Goldstein, Rabbi Lea Mühlstein, Cantor Tamara Wolfson and Rabbi Emeritus Dr Andrew Goldstein

## Liberal youth hike for charity

Members of Liberal Jewish youth movement, LJY-Netzer, hiked to one of the highest points in Israel to raise money for orphans and neglected children in the country.

The LJY group took on the challenge of climbing Mount Tzfachot to raise funds for the Carmiel Youth Village, a fantastic cause championed by UJIA.

The village is the largest of Hamifal Educational Children's Homes, which provide a warm and loving home to nearly 1000 Israeli orphans and other neglected children at risk.

At Carmiel, 230 children are cared for within residential units called *Mishpachtonim*, which have several families of up to 12 children, who live

together with a married couple and their own children. The family leads a regular life and the children study in the nearest school.

The group of 39 young Liberal Jewish Israel Tour participants took on the hike, along with four of their leaders. The four-kilometre trek took them around three hours and they raised about £430, exceeding their initial target amount. They plan to continue raising funds for the village.

"*Tikkun Olam* is part of our Liberal Jewish values alongside Reform Zionism, and we believe that this cause is one that matters to us because of these values," said LJY-Netzer movement worker Ellie Lawson.





## 80th Anniversary Peace Drums Concert

PeaceDrums USA

חופי השלום  
LEO BAECK  
CELEBRATING 80th Anniversary

"חופי השלום"  
طبول السلام  
PEACE DRUMS

Celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the  
Leo Baeck Education Centre, Haifa

**Tuesday 25 September 2018**  
**Alyth Synagogue, London, NW11**  
**Drinks Reception 7pm Concert 8pm**

We invite you to join us for an evening of music and celebration  
featuring the multi-faith Peace Drums Steel Drum Band.

The Peace Drums Project brings Jewish, Christian and Muslim  
students together from in and around Haifa to participate in  
shared existence and social action projects using the universal  
language of music.

Tickets: £15 (£10 concessions)

Book online at [bit.ly/LBECPeaceDrums2018](http://bit.ly/LBECPeaceDrums2018)

Tickets will be sold with discounts for early  
purchasers. For information contact:  
Carrie Shaw (UK) at [israeldesk@apjuk.org](mailto:israeldesk@apjuk.org)  
Cecilia Harel (Israel) at [dia@leobaec.org.il](mailto:dia@leobaec.org.il)

The [Leo Baeck Education Centre](#) in Haifa is celebrating its 80th anniversary at a festive concert in London on Tuesday, September 25, featuring Israel's multi-faith Peace Drums Youth Band. The Leo Baeck Education Center is the oldest Progressive Jewish institution in Israel.

As an egalitarian community open to every person of any religion and personal identity, LGBTQ inclusive, we are blessed to hear both Hebrew and Arabic in our classrooms and management offices, and on our sports courts.

In light of events during the past months, our active presence is even more vital in upholding the prophetic ideals contained in Israel's Declaration of Independence.

So come and celebrate our 80th birthday and demonstrate your support for all we represent as the good news story in Israel.

Enjoy a festive evening of music by the Peace Drums Youth Band – student musicians from Leo Baeck's High School and their peers from nearby Ibillin High School.

Bring your family and friends of all faiths to come celebrate this milestone with us! The event will be hosted by Alyth Gardens Synagogue. For more details and to book tickets, click [here](#). – **Rabbi Ofek Meir, Rabbi Oded Mazor and Rabbi Aaron Goldstein**

## 'The Auschwitz Album' in the Lake District

Liberal Judaism is supporting a new and compelling exhibition in the Lake District entitled 'Auschwitz: A Place on Earth – The Auschwitz Album'.

The exhibition was put together by Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem. It runs at the Lake District Holocaust Project (LDHP) in Windermere until the end of October.

'The Auschwitz Album' tells the background story of a photograph album that remains the only known visual documentation of the arrival of the transport of Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

This exhibition is as close as a visitor can get to the original album, which remains protected in the strictest of conditions in Yad Vashem and is viewed as one of the key items in the documentation of Auschwitz and the Holocaust.

"This is a tremendous honour for the Lake District Holocaust Project to have been permitted to exhibit this exhibition for the first time in the UK," said Trevor Avery, Director of Lake District Holocaust Project.

"It is a compelling story about an album of photographs that are emotional beyond description.

Men, women and children look out from these images and you know that that they do not know what is in store for them shortly after the photo was taken."

Those involved in bringing this unique exhibition to the UK include Abigail Mann, daughter of Liberal Judaism's Rabbi Alan Mann. – **Photo courtesy of Yad Vashem**





## United Kingdom

### Stroll for Cancer Research

Members of South Bucks Jewish Community (SBJC) raised more than £4,000 for charity by walking through the day and night at this year's 'Relay for Life'.

Taking place on the one rainy day in our boiling hot summer, the SBJC Strollers team still enjoyed a full 20-strong turn-out at RAF Halton near Aylesbury in Bucks.

This was the 10th year the community has taken part in the event – a 24-hour celebration and fundraiser where team members take turns walking around an athletics track.

In total, the SBJC strollers raised £4369.40 for Cancer Research UK.

"The event is the perfect mix of uplifting celebration and poignant reflection, allowing people to remember loved ones lost to cancer while

celebrating the survivors and looking to the future with optimism," said Team Captain and Liberal Judaism Officer, Amanda McFeeters.

"It is a real team event and the SBJC team was fantastic. The support we get from members of SBJC in raising money for Cancer Research UK each year is what helps to keep us walking through the night."



## WUPJ

### Connecting leaders in education

In July, 17 Jewish educators from the United States, Germany, Belarus, Israel and Czech Republic came together in Jerusalem for the Bergman Seminar for Progressive Jewish Educators, an annual programme run by the World Union Center for Leadership Development and Education.

Entitled "Creating Meaningful Connections", the intensive 10-day programme combines classroom and text study with site visits in Jerusalem and around Israel, which bring the texts and ideas to life.

Participants met with Reform leaders, activists and educators from the IMPJ, and explored innovative approaches to education for young people. These include Ramla's Open House, which runs year-long

and summer programmes for Arab and Jewish children and youth, and Kibbutz Ein Shemer Greenhouse, which leads innovative after-school and enrichment programmes in environmental education for normative, at-risk and special needs children and youth.

The tour also included a visit to the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, Beit Hatfutsot, which recently revamped its exhibitions and content to reframe ways in which we tell our Jewish history.

One of the participants had this to say about the seminar...

"Thanks to the Bergman Seminar, I feel so proud and excited to be part of the Progressive Jewish

movement, and to be an educator who is more able to inspire my students. I feel so much more informed now and able to hold the ambiguities of the reality here in Israel in a larger context. The experiences, the stories, the people, the organisations we visited and the discussions we had built upon one another and deepened my love and understanding of the people and complexities of this land."



## A message from a fellow traveller

Are you aware of the many opportunities that our global Reform Movement provides for all of us? Because your congregation is part of the larger Reform Community, you belong a global organisation.

This includes the [Union for Reform Judaism](#) (URJ) in North America, where I live; the [European Union for Progressive Judaism](#) (EUPJ); the [Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism](#) (IMPJ); the [Union for Progressive Judaism](#) (UPJ) in Australia, New Zealand and Asia; the [South African Union for Progressive Judaism](#) (SAUPJ), the [Union of Jewish Congregations of Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (UJCL), the [Association of Progressive Jewish Congregations](#) (FSU) – and to the [World Union for Progressive Judaism](#) (WUPJ) as the global connecting platform for Reform, Progressive and Liberal Jews around the world.

For many of us, traveling to other countries is a passion. Connecting to a Reform Congregation or to Reform Jews is important. Perhaps finding a congregation for Shabbat is not your cup of tea, but finding a friend in the far corners of the world to have a cup of coffee or a glass of wine can be a rewarding experience. Connecting any time can be very meaningful.

The World Union's "[Find a Community](#)" app provides contact information to allow you to be in touch with any Reform Congregation in 50 countries in the world. Here are just two examples:

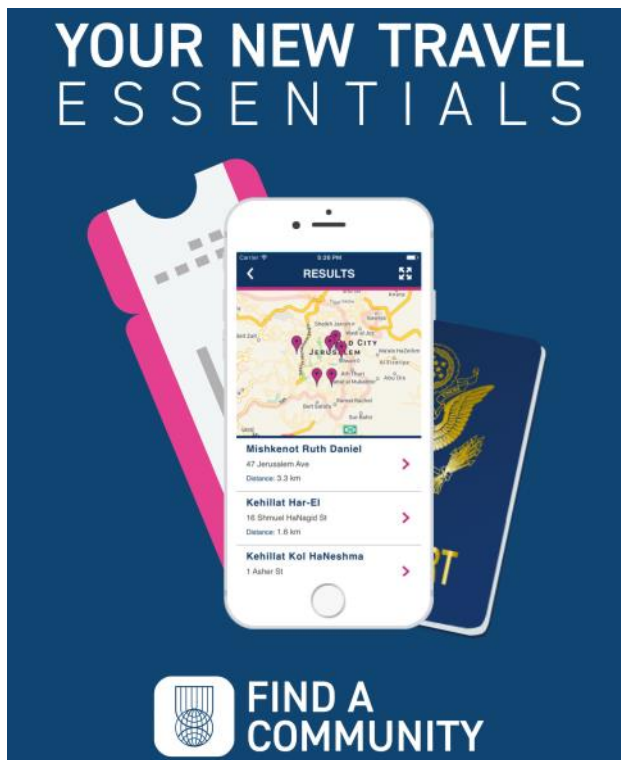
Phnom Penh: With periodic visits from Rabbi Nathan Alfred, who also serves as the first resident rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregation in Singapore, the new Cambodian Progressive community meets on Shabbat and holidays. The community includes ex-pats stationed in Phnom Penh for business, Israelis passing through and other young couples and families.

Lisbon: The EUPJ is bringing Judaism back to the country after more than 500 years. Ohel Yakov is the only Ashkenazi and Liberal congregation in Portugal and joined the EUPJ in 2016. The congregation has a collection of Torah scrolls brought by Polish Jewish

refugees from the Nazi regime including a part of a Torah scroll that survived Kristallnacht.

Although founded by Polish Jews, the congregation also seeks to integrate the descendants of the B'nai Anusim, those Jews who were forced to convert during the inquisition and are now in search of their Jewish roots and identity.

My wife, Sandy, and I have enjoyed visits to congregations in Melbourne and Sydney, London



and Berlin, and we met for coffee with a Temple President in Strasbourg. A few years ago, we had a great experience in Budapest.

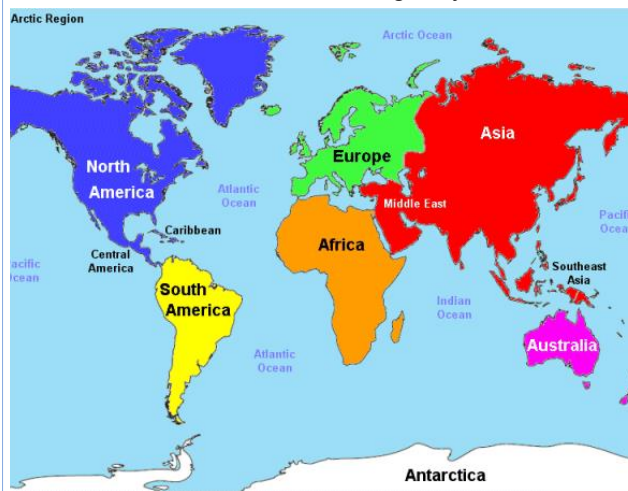
There are two Progressive congregations in Budapest. We had a wonderful experience at one congregation, celebrating Simchat Torah. We later met Rabbi Raj from the other congregation for a tour of the Jewish part of town. It concluded with coffee and cake at his niece's café.

Today, many of us travel on the river cruises from Budapest to Prague or perhaps the Rhine. Take the time to get together with Jews in these communities; it adds some personalisation to the trip resulting in wonderful memories.

Our Reform movement in Israel is growing each year. We have synagogues and friends in places throughout the country.

Plan to visit with them by making arrangements through the app.

I hope you are able to enjoy meeting new friends around the world when you travel in the 50 countries in which the WUPJ has congregations. – **Tadd Schwab**, Executive Board Member, WUPJ, and Board Member, URJ





## Jewish Music Cruise on the Iberian Peninsula



The WUPJ is organising a Jewish Music Cruise on the Iberian Peninsula that promises to be memorable in every way. Passengers will be able to share in Jewish fellowship and music from Sephardic to Ladino and beyond. During the tour, we will also celebrate our global movement and history with concerts and prayer services, as well as meetings with local Progressive Reform communities in Lisbon and Barcelona.

The cruise will take place next year from May 3-11 aboard Azamara Journey, a luxury cruise ship, which departs from Lisbon and travels to various places along the Iberian coastline, culminating in Barcelona.



The tour will be led by Rabbi Daniel Frelander, WUPJ President, and features Rabbi Joe Black, an inspiring singer/songwriter, concerts, sing-alongs, learning opportunities and more. There are also optional pre- and post-tours in Lisbon and Barcelona. So don't miss this enriching travel opportunity!

Click [here](#) for more details and to sign up today!

## Book soon for the next Beutel Seminar

Now's the time to start thinking about who you'd like to send on the Beutel Seminar for Progressive Leadership next year.

This prestigious 10-day seminar, which takes place from February 7-17 in Jerusalem, is run by the World Union Center for Leadership Development and Education.

The seminar is housed in Mercaz Shimshon-Beit Shmuel, the WUPJ headquarters, which overlooks the dramatic walls of Jerusalem's Old City.

Beutel offers participants the opportunity to study ancient texts and history, discuss current political and social issues and explore spiritual pathways and concepts of Jewish leadership – all within a Progressive Jewish context.

Participants must be recommended by their community (rabbi, Jewish professional and/or local lay leader) for their dedication and commitment to their communities (past and future). Find out more about the seminar [here](#).

## Keeping the 'progress' in Progressive Judaism

While we would love you all to be in Brussels for the opening of the EUPJ EU Office on November 10, we understand that some of you may be in Australasia at the time and will be able to attend the UPJ's biennial conference. If you're feeling adventurous, you could attend the Brussels weekend and still make it in time for the UPJ conference!

The UPJ Biennial is all about focussing on the 'progress' in Progressive Judaism. They'll be asking themselves how they can keep progressing with the times, while maintaining a grip on the traditional values that have always undergirded the movement and given it authenticity.

Another key word is 'transformation':

How can they transform the movement from being the most inspirational and creative movement in Judaism in the 20th century to becoming the most visionary and responsive Jewish movement for the 21st century?

The biennial takes place in Melbourne from November 15-18. Click [here](#) for more information.





## Torah, songs and summer fun in France



For three weeks, about 160 of us – campers, staff and rabbis – lived together as a community in the south west of France. Although we came from several different countries, we ate, prayed, played and learned together.

Imagine rolling hills filled with vineyards and fields overflowing with sunflowers. Can you hear voices singing and praying in French and Hebrew and English? This was MahaNetzer 2018 in July!

How terrific to hear all these voices. How wonderful to see all the creative activities. How thrilling to experience the energy of Liberal Judaism in France. There is nothing more special than joining in song and motion as we prayed each morning under a beautiful blue sky in an open field.

The older campers were models to the younger and the younger campers, in return, brought smiles and laughter to all of us. We studied Torah, learned Hebrew, played basketball, camped, cooked, biked, sang, danced, played instruments and engaged in an array of beautiful arts.

A highlight of the summer revolved around the Sefer Torah of the camp, which has been read since the camp's founding five years ago. This year, Bastille Day occurred on Shabbat. Rabbi Tom Cohen took the opportunity to share the unique story of the MahaNetzer scroll.

Rescued, as are so many of our Torah scrolls today, this one was given to Rabbi Cohen by Rabbi Charles Liché, *Rabbin des Déportés* (Rabbi of Deportees), who organised summer camps for displaced post-war Jewish children.

The scroll itself is wrapped in a patriotic wimple dated 1892, 22 years into the German occupation of Alsace-Lorraine. The wimple is decorated with the French tri-colour flag.

Jews have often used wimples (Torah binders) and other Torah adornments, like crowns and breastplates, to make contemporary cultural statements. Here, French patriotism in a time of occupation, was the theme for a scroll that later survived the Shoah and then served refugee



children. Now it is a beloved treasure of MahaNetzer.

Each camp day was filled with teaching, learning and engagement. There were opportunities for reflection and challenge, for rest and renewal. New friendships were formed and older ones renewed. Moments like these are rare in life, but common at MahaNetzer where our ancient tradition finds modern French expression.

MahaNetzer 2018 campers were fortunate to share these opportunities. On the day before MahaNetzer ended, as they packed and cleaned, one could hear the campers humming camp melodies and talking about being together again, next year, at MahaNetzer 2019.

*Au revoir et à l'année prochaine* – Goodbye and see you next year!

### EUPJ Newsletter Deadlines

MONTH	COPY/PHOTOS	PUBLISH
October	Mon 08/10/2018	Thu 25/10/2018
Nov/Dec	Wed 14/11/2018	Thu 29/11/2018
January	Wed 26/12/2018	Thu 10/01/2019

**Please note: These dates are subject to change.**



## NETZFEST summer festival a blast

More than 400 young adults came together in the Ben Shemen forest for NETZFEST in July, a celebration of the strength and voices of our worldwide young adult movement, Netzer Olami (Reform Zionist Youth).

The summer day was filled with outdoor challenge activities that brought together participants from various branches (*snifim*) of Netzer; discussions about critical issues facing our movement including Zionism, veganism and empowering young women; creative prayer in the



forest, and a sing-along led by singer/songwriter Shimon Smith.

NETZFEST strives to introduce participants to, and celebrate, our global movement, our diversity and identities as Progressive Jews, and the power of our presence here in Israel.

All participants are currently spending time in Israel on an Israel tour programme; they hailed from Switzerland (Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde, Or Chadasch, Zürich), and the UK (RSY-Netzer and LJY Netzer).

Participants of our Israel year programme, Shnat Netzer, who are all currently from Australia, also joined NETZFEST and took a leading role in talking about their experiences and insight living, learning and volunteering in Israel this year.





## Like a circle in a spiral

*While Elul is almost over, there is still time to reflect on the past and plan for the future before we bring in the New Year. Rabbi Gilad Kariv, IMPJ President, sent a message out to all communities at the beginning of Elul, but we feel it is still relevant at the end of the month.*

Dear friends and colleagues,

As the month of Elul begins and leads us through a spiritual preparation for the new Hebrew year, we would like to explore the Hebrew word for year – *shana* – which reminds us of two roots that have opposite meanings.

The biblical meaning of the word *shana* is 'repeating something over and over', referring to the fact that a year repeats itself within the cycle of time. But the word *shana* also reminds us of the word *shona*, different, in Hebrew, in the sense of something that does not repeat itself, but is rather changing.

These two similar roots give the word *shana* a unique meaning. On the one hand, a year is a time period that repeats itself over and over, just as the seasons, holidays and *Parashot HaShavuah* (Portion of the Week) repeat themselves. But on the other hand, each year is different from the previous one, and brings with it new challenges, life situations and a need for change.



Modern Jewish identity asks us to apply both of these meanings in our lives. On the one hand, to return to the same texts, customs and traditional prayers; and on the other, to find within them different meanings, which are relevant to each person and each period of time.

Over the past month, we've brought meaning to the spirit leading into Elul, with intense efforts in the public sphere regarding the Nation-State law, Surrogate-Parent law, and our response to the detention of Rabbi Dubi Haiyun for officiating marriages outside of the *Rabbanut*.

At the same time, we pray that the month of Elul will be peaceful for the residents of the area surrounding the Gaza strip who have been suffering so much, along with most of the residents of Gaza, who just want to live normal lives.

May the month of Elul bring with it winds of positive change and continuity in our meaningful connections. – **Rabbi Gilad Kariv**

## And on another note...

If you're in Israel for any of the upcoming holidays and you haven't decided what synagogue to attend, there are more than [60 Liberal Reform Minyanim](#) (50 IMPJ

congregations, and 10 new initiatives) in various styles.

If you're not in Israel, you can still have a taste of High Holy Day traditions from the Holy Land.



### Rosh Hashanah

*A holiday collection of texts and songs*

Take a look at the [IMPJ's holiday collection](#) of blessings, texts and songs for Rosh Hashanah, including *Seder Simana Tovah* (Symbols of Goodness for the New Year).

And don't forget the children. The IMPJ has prepared some [fun activities](#) based on Rosh Hashanah. Just print out as many copies as you need and use them to have a great time while teaching them about the traditions.

There's also "[Open a Gate for Us](#)", a collection of prayers, readings and songs by Israeli authors and rabbis, inspired by the liturgy of Yom Kippur.



### Open a Gate for Us

*A collection of prayers, readings and songs by Israeli authors and rabbis, inspired by the liturgy of Yom Kippur*

And finally, Reuven Marko, IMPJ Chairman, has composed a unique and moving *Piyut* for the Kol Nidrei prayer. [Listen](#) to this beautiful rendition and let it prepare your spirit for Yom Kippur.





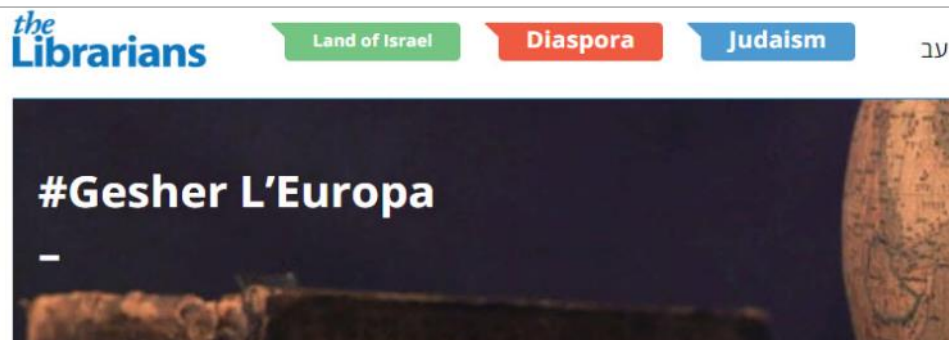
### Israel's National Library builds bridge to Europe

Gesher L'Europa is an initiative of the National Library of Israel to create opportunities for European scholars, library and museum professionals, and

educators working within Jewish settings to develop an on-going, mutually-beneficial relationship with the NLI and to engage with the NLI's diverse and

extensive collections.

Read the National Library for Israel's [blog in English](#) – articles include topics from Israel, the Diaspora and Judaism in general – or visit the [main site](#) to find out about events, resources, the digital library and more.

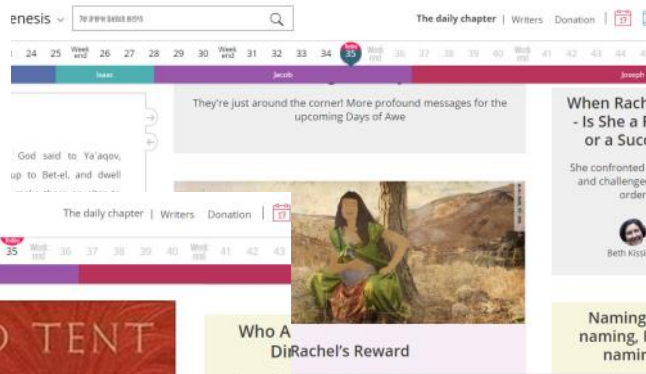
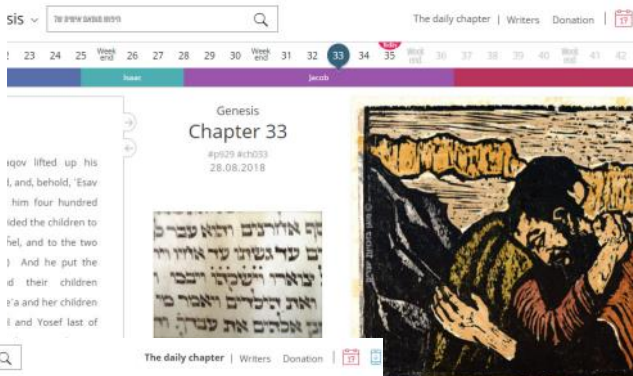


### Project 929 now in English

929 is a project of Jewish learning, where everybody is invited to learn one chapter of the Tanach (Bible) every day for 929 days.

Each day, from Sunday to Thursday, you will land on a new chapter, with the text of the chapter, an audio version, and many original materials about the chapter, including short posts with insights and comments, a playlist with several podcasts lessons on the chapter, a Hebrew Corner with a word of the day, and a helpful summary of the major points of the chapter.

While the project was started by Orthodox Jews in Israel, the aim is to encourage widespread participation in 929 internationally, and



contributions from all streams of Judaism whether Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, or Reconstructionist. This is a great time to join this incredible global project, supported by a fantastic website

and app full of information and tips on how to do it.

Read more about this initiative in [The Jerusalem Post](#). Click [here](#) for more information and to start learning. Want to write for 929 and bring the Progressive Liberal Reform viewpoint to the site? [Read the instructions](#).

### New Challenges for European Jewry

The third Europe 2025 Summit of European Jewish leadership will take place in Prague from November 18-20.

The summit will focus on discussing the emerging challenges and opportunities for European Jewry in the upcoming years, and the subsequent need for responsiveness in creative and constructive ways.

Topics include: Security and responsiveness;

Resilience and Sustainability; Identifying Succession Leaders; Sources of Funding for Services; and Raising the Bar in Jewish Education.

The meeting is addressed to Jewish community leaders, directors of organisations and programmes coming from all denominations within Judaism.

Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.

# Limmud Festival around the corner!

[Limmud Festival UK](#) is one of the biggest celebrations of Jewish learning and culture in the world! Last year, one participant called it “a miraculous explosion of Jewish experience” and we couldn’t agree more!

Limmud Festival is made by you. You create your own journey through the event by selecting from a huge array of options – from history and politics to religion and philosophy, from arts, culture and food to schmoozing at the cafe or bar. Whether you want to meet new people with similar interests or connect with long-time friends, there is always a conversation to be had and something to discover.



Being part of Limmud Festival isn’t just about being an attendee, it’s about being part of a community. We believe anyone can be a teacher and everyone should be a student – each and every participant has something to offer to make Festival a truly unique event.

We’re not only a community that learns from each other; we’re also a community of volunteers – every aspect of the event is built and run by the efforts of volunteers who infuse every corner of Festival with their passion and excitement.

Come and build your own unique experience. With hundreds of sessions and thousands of participants from all over the world making up this vibrant community, you can follow your passions or do something totally new – there’s always something memorable and unexpected waiting around the corner.

The next Limmud Festival takes place from December 23-27 at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole, Birmingham. Limmud Shabbat will take place on 21-22 December before the main festival starts.

There’s also [Young and Teen Limmud](#) (YTL), the Limmud programme for children and teenagers. Parents drop off their children at YTL in the morning and pick them up in the late afternoon.

During the day, the children and teens enjoy sessions run by Limmud presenters on a variety of topics, take part in crafts, music, dance and drama sessions run by their *madrichim* (leaders), and engage in volunteering and community-building activities.

YTL is run entirely by volunteer *madrichim* from a range of diverse backgrounds, who are essential in making it a fantastic experience for all of its participants. – [Limmud Festival UK](#)

**Limmud in Europe:** There are many local Limmud events during the year throughout Europe. Events still to take place this year include: Limmud Italy (in Jerusalem this year) from September 26-27; Limmud Berlin from November 3-4; Limmud Cambridge on November 4; Limmud Stockholm from November 17-18; and Limmud Cologne on December 16. Find out more about these and the 2019 events on the [Limmud website](#).

## Yesod @Limmud

Yesod takes a delegation of Jewish community professionals and activists to Limmud Festival each year. These Jewish community professionals, educators and volunteers from across Europe (excluding UK) are sponsored by Yesod and this gives them the chance to experience everything Limmud has to offer, plus up to two dedicated sessions each day designed just for European Jewish community professionals and activists.

In 2018, Yesod @Limmud will be offering two tracks: one for full-time Jewish community professionals and one for community activists and volunteers. Limmud Shabbat and some sessions will be for both tracks. You can choose the appropriate track for you when you apply.

Applications close on October 7. Find out more about the programme and how to apply [here](#). – **Photo credit: Lucas Espinosa**

Past Yesod delegates at Limmud





### Developing Jewish leaders in Europe

Yesod supports Jewish community professionals and educators in Europe through the Yesod Professional Development Fund. The aim is to develop their professional skills and Jewish fluency (Jewish knowledge, understanding and how to apply it in your work).

The organisation is committed to supporting the creation of vibrant, meaningful, Jewish life through strong communities driven by inspired and engaged

individuals.

Choose your own path. Apply from a minimum of \$250 to a maximum of \$2,000 US Dollars to take part in a Jewish learning course, professional skills development, a peer visit, one-to-one coaching or consulting. Apply [here](#) by 30 September. Note: This programme is held regularly throughout the year so you can always apply for the next round if this one isn't suitable.

### Maximising your leadership potential



Kaplan Fellows @Yesod is a year-long, professional development opportunity for talented, creative, mid-career Jewish community professionals who want to make a difference in their communities and make the most of their potential. The programme runs from February 2019 to February 2020.

Over the course of a year, participants join four in-person gatherings (including one with peers from Latin America and the Former Soviet Union) where they gain practical skills, confidence, Jewish inspiration and the peer network that will propel them to future leadership and meaningful contributions in their communities.

#### Delegates from a previous programme

Designed for a select, diverse group of European Jewish community professionals, the programme integrates four components: Community development, Jewish context and content, Leadership and Management skills.

The seminars will take place in Jerusalem (10-14 February 2019), Prague (30 June – 4 July 2019), Chicago, US (November 2019) and Barcelona (16-20 February 2020), supported by ongoing development between seminars.

Applications close on October 7, [so apply now!](#)  
– Photo courtesy of Yesod

### Starting new community initiatives

The [JDC Europe Community Initiative Fund](#) encourages Jewish communities and communal organisations to pilot new initiatives or advance key programmatic expansions in areas related to leadership development, community development, young adults, volunteerism, security, preparedness and resilience.

To achieve its mission, the fund invests in initiatives that bolster community development. Grants are especially geared towards the

promotion of grassroots community initiatives, while placing a particular value on programmes that promote inclusive, pluralist and resilient Jewish communities.

Grants of \$5,000 to \$20,000 per programme can be requested per year. Repeat funding will be considered for up to two years.

Funding will be available to existing and registered organisations. Informal associations will need to apply via an established organisation.

**Please Note:** While every effort is made to provide accurate information and correct spellings of names in this newsletter, sometimes gremlins step in and mistakes appear. This is not intentional and we apologise in advance if we have offended or upset anyone.