

PRESS RELEASE

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Levy Brothers Bring the History of Judaism to Gibunco Gibraltar International Literary Festival

The 2015 Gibunco Gibraltar International Literary Festival will once again have a faith theme running through it. Each past edition has celebrated one of the main religions established on the Rock.

This year the focus is on Judaism and will feature a conversation between the Levy brothers, Abraham and James, two leading Jewish dignitaries, on the theme 'Gibraltar and Andalucía, the good relations of the Abrahamic faiths'.

Gibraltar born Rabbi Abraham Levy a Jewish spiritual leader with over 50 years' experience, will be interviewed by his brother James, senior partner of local international law firm Hassans. James has been President of the Jewish Community in Gibraltar for over 20 years and vice-president of the European Jewish Council.

Rabbi Levy, who retired from his post at the Sephardi Synagogue in London's Lauderdale Road in 2012, will also be debating the unique role of the Jewish community in Gibraltar's history.

Their theological and historical discussion will analyse how Andalucía was the cradle of interfaith relations between the 11th and 14th centuries. Scholars have noted how King Ferdinand III's tomb in the cathedral of Seville is inscribed in Spanish, Latin, Hebrew and Arabic while classical Jewish works crucial to understanding of Judaism today were authored by rabbis in Cordoba, Seville, Granada, Toledo and Barcelona. The Zohar, which is the major work of Kabbalistic mystical teaching, also emanated from Spain.

The event will take place at the John Mackintosh Hall, Sunday 15th November at 4pm.

Additionally there will be a Jewish religious service at the Nefusot Yehuda Synagogue conducted by Rabbi Levy on Sunday 15 November 2015 at 11:30am.

(Admission is free but all attendees must have a ticket, which can be obtained through the usual outlets. Photo identification is required on the day.)

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In previous years, religious services for the festival were conducted by Roman Catholic Cardinal and Archbishop Emeritus of Westminster Cormac Murphy-O'Connor at the Cathedral of St Mary the Crowned in 2013; and by the former Church of England Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in 2014.

Minister for Tourism Samantha Sacramento welcomed the annual religious theme that had been incorporated into the Literary Festival at each edition.

"We continue to reflect Gibraltar's multi-cultural and multi-faith fabric in this prestigious festival. The celebration of our cultural and religious harmony is one of the many facets of the festival that sets it apart from other events of its kind. We are delighted to welcome Rabbi Levy home."