



# 2019 Annual Report

Annual European Assembly Meeting  
Sunday, 6 September 2020  
5:00 pm (BST)

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## List of Office Holders and Staff 2019/2020

Honorary Life Presidents:	Leslie Bergman Ruth Cohen
President:	Gordon Smith
Vice-Presidents:	Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein Miriam Kramer Robert Weiner
Chair:	Sonja Guentner
Vice-Chair, Finance:	David Pollak
Vice-Chair, Governance:	John Cohen
Vice-Chair, Twinning & Israel:	Michael Reik
Vice-Chair, Education and Interfaith:	Rabbi Menno ten Brink
Convenor, European Beit Din:	Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick
Chair, European Rabbinic Assembly:	Rabbi Dr René Pfertzel
Board Members:	Stéphane Beder Joyce Bigio Arthur Buchman David Bernstein John Clark Tamás Gróf Marek Jezowski Peter Jossi Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris Marc Konczaty Gilbert Lederman Celia Naval Sven Parsser Dan Rattan Rabbi Danny Rich Isabel Sol Rabbi Dr Edward van Voolen David Weis Jonathan Wootliff
WUPJ Representatives:	Rabbi David Saperstein Carole Sterling
Administrator:	Deborah Grabiner
Brussels Office Director:	William Echikson
Legal Adviser:	Andrew Hart

Registered Charity No 253000

## EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Administration Office: The Sternberg Centre for Judaism 80 East End Road London N3 2SY England

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that the **Annual General Meeting of the European Assembly of the European Union for Progressive Judaism** ("EUPJ") will be held on Sunday 6 September 2020 at 5pm (BST). This meeting will be held electronically via Zoom – See full note at end of Notice.

### AGENDA

1. **Apologies** for absence.
2. **The Minutes (a copy of which accompanies this Notice) of the last Annual General Meeting of the European Assembly** held in **Rome** on 19 May 2019.
3. **Welcome** and brief presentation on the World Union for Progressive Judaism by **Carole Sterling**, the Chair of the WUPJ.
4. Presentation and consideration of the **Chair's Report on 2019 by the Chair Sonja Guentner**, on the past year's activity of the Management Committee and Executive Board. (The full Chair's Report will be included with all the other 2019 reports in the 2019 Annual Report, which will be made available on the EUPJ website before this meeting. Some brief supplementary comments will be presented by the Chair under this agenda item).
5. Consideration and approval of **the examined Annual Accounts of the EUPJ for 2019** (the Accounts). The Accounts will be available for inspection on the EUPJ website by no later than 1 September 2020. The Treasurer's Report to be presented by Vice-Chair Finance David Pollak, together with a brief financial summary, will be included in the Annual Report.
6. **Resolution to ratify the appointment of the Examiner of the 2019 Accounts and to re-appoint the Examiner of the 2020 Accounts:** "Resolved that the appointment of the accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP to perform an examination of the 2019 annual accounts of the EUPJ, be ratified and that the appointment of Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP to perform an examination of the 2020 annual accounts for the EUPJ, be approved."
7. **Resolution to ratify the admission of Bnei Sefarad Jewish Community Valencia**, known as **Bnei Sefarad** and based in Valencia, Spain **as an Associate Member of the EUPJ** by the EUPJ Executive Board on 3 December 2019: "**Resolved that** the decision by the EUPJ Executive Board on 3 December 2019 to appoint Comunidad Judía De Valencia Bnei Sefarad – Bnei Sefarad Jewish Community Valencia, known as Bnei Sefarad as an Associate Member of the EUPJ with effect from that date, in terms of Section 4 of the Constitution, be and is hereby ratified in terms of the proviso to Section 4.2 of the Constitution."
8. **Resolution to ratify the admission of Ec Chaim Synagogue**, known as **Ec Chaim** and based in Warsaw, Poland **as an Associate Member of the EUPJ** by the EUPJ Executive Board on 28 July 2020: "**Resolved that** the decision by the EUPJ Executive Board on 28 July 2020 to appoint Ec Chaim Synagogue, being part of the Jewish Religious Community in Warsaw (GWZwW), known as **Ec Chaim** as an Associate Member of the EUPJ with effect from that date, in terms of Section 4 of the Constitution, be and is hereby ratified in terms of the proviso to Section 4.2 of the Constitution." In admitting Ec Chaim as an Associate Member, the Executive Board included a provision relating to discussions to be held between Ec Chaim and GWZwW and certain of our members in Poland, which should result in Ec Chaim becoming a full Constituent Member by the end of 2020. Members will be updated in this regard at the Meeting.

9. **Appointments to the EUPJ Executive Board** – To appoint or to ratify the appointment of the following Officers, office holders and nominated representatives to the Executive Board, and for which no other nominations were received –

- As President, Gordon Smith;
- As Vice-President, Miriam Kramer;
- As Chair, Sonja Guentner;
- As Vice-Chairs – Rabbi Menno ten Brink, John Cohen, David Pollak and Robert Weiner;
- As Ex Officio representative of the European Beit Din, Rabbi Jackie Tabick;
- The following representative appointees – Rabbi Edward van Voolen (Abraham Geiger Kolleg), Anton Fishman (Leo Baeck College), Marek Jezowski – Beit Polska), Joyce Bigio (FIEP Italian Federation) and Sara Losch (UpJ – Union for Progressive Jews in Germany).

The above appointments were unanimously endorsed by the Executive Board at its meeting on 28 July 2020, with the exception of Joyce Bigio and Sara Losch whose nominations were received after that date.

10. **Rabbinic Matters** – brief presentations from the EUPJ European Rabbinic Assembly and the European Beit Din by Rabbi Dr René Pfertzel and Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick.

11. **EUPJ Brussels Office** – brief presentation on the progress of the NOA project by Bill Echikson, the Office Director.

12. **Any Other Business.**

#### **BY ORDER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM**

John Cohen – Vice-Chair Governance and Honorary Secretary

Dated: 5 August 2020.

#### **Note:**

- (1) **Online Meeting Only** - Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and following the guidelines of the UK Charities Commission and good practice, this meeting will not be in person as is usual, but will be held electronically via Zoom.
- (2) **Constituent Members - Registration and Attendance** - Only delegates appointed by Constituent (full) Members (Constituent Delegates) may attend and vote at the Meeting. A Constituent Delegate appointment form is attached as **Schedule 1** and must be completed and returned to [administrator@eupj.org](mailto:administrator@eupj.org) by no later than 3 September 2020. Each Constituent Delegate will receive an email link to the Zoom meeting by no later than close of business on 4 September 2020, and this link should not be shared.
- (3) **Associate Members** – Associate Members may appoint one delegate each to attend the meeting, but such delegates are not entitled to vote. An Associate Delegate appointment form is attached as **Schedule 2** and must be completed and returned to [administrator@eupj.org](mailto:administrator@eupj.org) by no later than 3 September 2020. Each Associate Delegate will receive an email link to the Zoom meeting by no later than close of business on 4 September 2020, and this link should not be shared.
- (4) **Guests and Invitees** - Should Constituent or Associate Members wish to invite delegates in excess of the number permitted in the Constitution, then they should request permission from the EUPJ ManCom by contacting [administrator@eupj.org](mailto:administrator@eupj.org) with the name and contact details of the delegate in question. Such person, if permitted to attend, may only do so as an observer and shall not be entitled to speak or vote.
- (5) **Voting** – Constituent Delegates will be able to vote on resolutions by using the “Zoom Polling” system, which will be explained during the meeting.
- (6) **Proxy** - A Constituent Delegate who is unable to attend the meeting of the European Assembly in person, may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her place provided that notice of intention to appoint a proxy has been received by the Administrator at the above address not less than 48 hours prior to the start time of the meeting.

## Schedule 1 - Appointment as Constituent Delegate

### European Union for Progressive Judaism

We, [*insert name of Constituent Member* \_\_\_\_\_] of  
[*insert address* \_\_\_\_\_]

being a Constituent Member of The European Union for Progressive Judaism (“EUPJ”) hereby appoint the person set out below as a Constituent Delegate in terms of Clause 5.3 of the EUPJ Constitution to represent us at the Annual General Meeting of the European Assembly of the EUPJ, to be held on 6 September 2020.

Delegate Name - \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate email address - \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate mobile phone number - \_\_\_\_\_

All information provided to the EUPJ will be held by it in accordance with its privacy policy contained in its website.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (the Constituent Member)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Schedule 2 - Appointment as Associate Delegate

### European Union for Progressive Judaism

We, [*insert name of Associate Member* \_\_\_\_\_] of  
[*insert address* \_\_\_\_\_]

being an Associate Member of The European Union for Progressive Judaism (“EUPJ”) hereby appoint the person set out below as an Associate Delegate in terms of the EUPJ Constitution to represent us at the Annual General Meeting of the European Assembly of the EUPJ, to be held on 6 September 2020.

Delegate Name - \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate email address - \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate mobile phone number - \_\_\_\_\_

All information provided to the EUPJ will be held by it in accordance with its privacy policy contained in its website.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (the Associate Member)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Form of Proxy**

I, [*insert name of Constituent Delegate* \_\_\_\_\_] of  
[*address* \_\_\_\_\_]

being a duly appointed Constituent Delegate by  
\_\_\_\_\_ [*insert name of Constituent Member*], hereby  
appoint - [the Chair of the meeting] or [\_\_\_\_\_] to act as my  
proxy and to vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the European Assembly of the  
EUPJ, to be held on 6 September 2020 and at any adjournment of it.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (the Constituent Delegate)

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the European Assembly of the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ)** held at the Grand Hotel del Gianicolo, Viale delle Mura Gianicolensi 107, Rome, Italy on **Sunday 19 May 2019** at 13H00 local time.

**Present:** EUPJ Chair Sonja Guentner and the other Honorary Officers and representatives of various Constituent Members of EUPJ, as well as invitees as follows: Rabbi Ruven Bar-Ephraim (Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Or Chadash Zürich) Switzerland, Carey Bernitz (Beth Shalom Milano) Italy, Joyce Bigio (Federazione per Ebraismo Progressivo) Italy, Arthur Buchman (Shir Hatzafon) Denmark, John Clark (Or Chadash Vienna) Austria, John Cohen (EUPJ) UK, Noeleen Cohen (Alyth Synagogue) UK, Rabbi Tom Cohen (Kehilat Geshet) France, Rabbi Janet Darley (Kingston Liberal Synagogue) UK, Susanna Donato (Lev Chadash Milano) Italy, William Echikson (EUPJ Brussels) Belgium, Fabio Benjamin Fantini (Beth Hillel Rome) Italy, Rabbi Andrew Goldstein (Liberal Judaism) UK, Deborah Grabiner (EUPJ) UK, Rabbi Alexander Grodensky (Liberal Jewish Community of Luxembourg) Luxembourg, Miriam Kramer (EUPJ) UK, Gilbert Lederman (Beth Hillel Brussels) Belgium, Adam Miles Lewis (Lev Chadash Milano) Italy, Martina Yehudit Loreggian (Lev Chadash Milano) Italy, Celia Naval (Keren Or Lyon / EUPJ) France, Rabbi Joel Oseran (Beth Hillel Rome) Israel, Rabbi René Pfertzel (EUPJ/Kingston Liberal Synagogue) UK, David Pollak (EUPJ) UK, Karen Pollak (Mosaic Reform) UK, Dan Rattan (UpJ Germany/EUPJ) Germany, Anu Ristola (IJC) Belgium, Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild (Lev Chadash Milano) Italy, Rabbi Walter Rothschild (Beit Polska) Germany, Rahel Daniela Schneider (Shir Hadash Firenze) Italy, Gordon Smith (EUPJ) UK, Judy Smith (Alyth Synagogue) UK, Isabel Son (Nederlands Verbond voor Progressief Jodendom) Netherlands, Carole Sterling (WUPJ) Canada, Jay Sterling (WUPJ) Canada, Rabbi Jackie Tabick (EUPJ/European Beit Din) UK, Rabbi Menno ten Brink (Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Amsterdam) Netherlands, Sandro Ventura (Shir Hadash Firenze) Italy, Robert Weiner (EUPJ) UK, Ruth Weiner (Alyth Synagogue) UK, Robert Wolf (Liberal Jewish Community of Luxembourg) Luxembourg, Jonathan Wootliff (EUPJ/Bejt Simcha) Czech Republic, Rabbi Alexandra Wright (The Liberal Jewish Synagogue) UK.

### 1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chair advised that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the 2019 European Assembly Meeting, and thanked Beth Hillel for organizing the weekend Shabbaton and wished Beth Hillel mazeltov on its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Chair reported apologies had been received from Ruth Cohen and Leslie Bergman, Honorary Life Presidents, as well as from Michael Reik, Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, David Bernstein, Marek Jezowski, Peter Jossi, Rabbi Danny Rich, Ron van der Wieken, Hannah Verhulst, David Weiss, Marc Konczaty and Tamas Grof.

### 2. **Approval of Minutes of 2018 European Assembly Meeting held in Prague**

The Chair advised that the minutes of the European Assembly Meeting held in Prague on 29 April 2018 were included in the EUPJ Annual Report for 2018 ("the 2018 Report") which had been made available on the EUPJ website before the meeting. In response to her request, the Chair received no comments or suggestions for changes to the Minutes, which were duly accepted as a correct record of the meeting and were then signed by the Chair.

3. **Approval of Minutes of Special European Assembly Meeting held in Brussels**  
The Chair advised that the minutes of the Special European Assembly Meeting held in Brussels on 11 November 2018 were included in the 2018 Report. In response to her request, the Chair received no comments or suggestions for changes to the Minutes, which were duly accepted as a correct record of the meeting and were then signed by the Chair.
4. **Welcome by WUPJ Chair**  
The Chair introduced Carole Sterling (CS), the chair of the WUPJ, and welcomed her to her third EUPJ European Assembly Meeting and also welcomed her husband, Jay, and thanked him for all his support. CS, who expressed her pleasure in attending the meeting and weekend Shabbaton, thanked the Chair for her leadership and commitment. CS said that one of the goals of the WUPJ was for Jews to lead meaningful Progressive lives wherever they live and wished mazeltov to Beth Hillel as an example of what it means to build a community. CS highlighted the WUPJ activities - youth & young adult programmes and summer camps, the sharing of education, leadership training and best practice through the Saltz, Beutel and Bergman seminars, as well as rabbinic recruitment. CS pointed out that certain EUPJ communities could get support for this through the Roswell Fund. In addition, rabbis would soon be ordained in Moscow and a seminary has been established in Buenos Aires. CS was proud of work done in building rabbinic leadership. WUPJ also worked with IMPJ to ensure our values are expressed in Israel.
5. **Chair's Report**  
The Chair referred the meeting to the Chair's Report included in the 2018 Report, which was read and noted. The Chair added the following items – (a) EUPJ Newsletter – the Chair advised that the EUPJ newsletter had been discontinued as its readership was very low and it was expensive to put together and these funds could be more effectively utilised. The Newsfeed on the website is now up to date and all events will included in this feed. The Chair advised that she was working on a new communications strategy to make EUPJ accessible to its members, to be new, exciting and relevant, and to embrace social media and other similar methods. She invited members and their representatives to get involved with the communications team by contacting her. (b) Geneva Conference 2020 – The Chair advised that this conference would coincide with GIL's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The conference would focus on youth and the team was collecting ideas for all aspects of the conference. The Chair invited members to contact David Pollak or Alex Dembitz with any suggestions regarding the conference.
6. **Annual Accounts for 2018**  
The Chair introduced the Vice-Chair Finance/Treasurer, David Pollak (DP), who referred to the Accounts, Independent Examiner's Report and his own Treasurer's Report included in the 2018 Report, which he summarised for the meeting with detailed slides. DP supplemented his report with the following – (a) Affiliation fees, which had not been increased for 10 years, had been increased. Cash was about £5K lower than the previous year but these funds were used to support communities. (b) The accounts showed increased expenditure for the Brussels Office, which would in time become self-funding on the receipt of grants. (c) DP gave special thanks to

Betty and Arthur Roswell for providing the funds to support so many activities in certain EUPJ countries, now expanded to include Italy and Spain. (d) DP explained the funding for and costs of running the European Bet Din, and advised that a copy of the EUPJ statutory accounts was available for anyone to read. (e) DP advised that he had met with a small group of ManCom members to look at alternate ways of raising funds for EUPJ, in particular for special projects.

DP opened the European Assembly Meeting to questions – (1) Rabbi Walter Rothschild asked whether there would be any impact as a result of Brexit, particularly on the transfer of funds between Sterling and Euros. DP advised that, whilst exchange rates may be impacted, these had already been discounted and there would be no change to affiliation fees. The Chair pointed out that EUPJ also had a foundation in the Netherlands which could be used to manage funds, if necessary. (2) Joyce Bigio said that, on the basis of reported affiliation fees, she estimated that there were about 14 000 Progressive Jews in Europe. DP said that this amount was much higher – firstly the two UK movements paid a negotiated fee, secondly many unions and synagogues recorded family units for fee purposes and not individuals, and sometimes it was difficult to calculate the exact number of members in a community. Robert Weiner asked if there was a more accurate way to track membership numbers and DP said that he relied on what was reported by EUPJ members and had no other way to obtain this information.

DP thanked the outside accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP, and its partner Jeremy Harrod for providing the statutory examination of the 2018 Accounts without charge and also thanked his fellow Officers and the EUPJ Administrator Deborah Grabiner for their support during the year.

The Chair thanked DP for his work and invited the meeting to approve the Accounts. The proposal to do so was made by Rabbi René Pfertzel and seconded by Arthur Buchman and, on a show of hands, the Accounts were approved without objection.

7. **Appointment of Examiner**

The Chair reminded the European Assembly Meeting that, as EUPJ is a UK registered charity, the UK Charity Commission requires its annual accounts to be examined by an independent qualified accountant who issues a report. Accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP had provided a clear report, included in the 2018 Report. Joyce Bigio seconded by Adam Lewis proposed the resolution to ratify the appointment of Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP as Independent Examiners of the annual accounts for 2018 and to re-appoint them as Independent Examiners for EUPJ's accounts for 2019. On a show of hands the resolution was approved without objection.

8. **Resolution to ratify the decision to admit Or Hadasz Progressive Jewish Community of Krakow to Associate Membership.**

The Chair referred to the proposed resolution in the 2018 Report and reminded the meeting that, at the European Assembly in Prague in 2017, the EUPJ Constitution was amended to give the Executive Board the authority to decide all applications for membership, subject to ratification by the European Assembly.

The Chair advised the European Assembly Meeting that EUPJ had not had a member in Krakow in Poland since the 2017 European Assembly and that the good news was that an application was received from **Or Hadasz Progressive Jewish Community of Krakow (Or Hadasz)** for Associate Membership. The Chair advised that the EUPJ ManCom carried out a full due diligence and review in respect of Or Hadasz and asked its members responsible for Poland to visit and assess this community, which was visited by Rabbis Andrew Goldstein and Janet Darley. EUPJ consulted with Beit Polska, our Constituent Member in Poland, which endorsed this application and also obtained a recommendation from ERA in respect of Or Hadasz. The EUPJ was also provided with all the documentation and information which EUPJ normally requires from prospective members. The Chair then advised the European Assembly Meeting that the EUPJ ManCom unanimously endorsed this application and that the Executive Board, at its meeting on 4 February 2019, unanimously voted to admit Or Hadasz as an Associate member.

The Chairman invited the European Assembly Meeting to ratify the decision of the Executive Board to admit Or Hadasz as an Associate Member and the proposal to do so was made by Miriam Kramer and seconded by John Clark. On a show of hands, the resolution to ratify Or Hadasz being admitted as an Associate Member of the EUPJ with effect from 4 February 2019 was unanimously approved.

Rabbi Grodensky asked why Or Hadasz was admitted directly as an Associate Member of EUPJ when there was already a national body in Poland, Beit Polska. The Chair advised that Beit Polska, which was established in 2008 by Poland's then only Progressive Jewish community, had a constitutional framework that new Progressive communities in Poland found too centralised and are not prepared to be absorbed within. She stated that this decision reflected the reality on the ground and that EUPJ had consulted with and had the approval of Beit Polska for Or Hadasz being a direct member of EUPJ.

#### 9. **EUPJ Officers and Board Members**

The Chair introduced the Vice-Chair Governance, John Cohen (JC), to deal with this item. JC explained that, in terms of the EUPJ Constitution, each country in Europe in which there are EUPJ communities/organisations with full EUPJ membership is entitled to nominate individuals to membership of the EUPJ Executive Board (EB), and the constitution states how many board members each country is entitled to nominate. A nominee would normally be appointed by the local union of Progressive Jewish communities or by the sole member in that country if there is only one country member. However, if there is more than one country member but there is no union of communities, then the constitution gives the EB the discretion to appoint (or not to appoint) a representative/s for that country after consultation with the Constituent Members in that country.

JC went on to explain that a number of country nominees were appointed to the EB during 2017, and these appointments were for an initial period of 3 years, with the option for a further period of 3 years. However, when the EUPJ Constitution was amended in Prague in 2018, board terms were shortened to 2 year periods, with the option to serve for a total of three 2 year terms. Therefore the first term of office of a

number of members of the EB expired at this meeting and JC dealt with them on a country by country basis –

- Luxembourg - Rabbi Alexander Grodensky's term of office ended at this meeting and JC, on behalf of the chair, thanked him for his contribution. JC advised that David Weiss was nominated by Communauté Israélite d'Esch-sur-Alzette, our sole community in Luxembourg, to the EB;
- Netherlands - Ron van der Wieken and Hannah Verhulst's terms of office ended at this meeting and JC, on behalf of the chair, thanked them for their contributions. JC advised that the Verbond, the union of our communities in the Netherlands, has nominated Isabel Son and Sven Parsser to the EB;
- Belgium - Gilbert Lederman was jointly nominated by our two communities in Belgium, Beth Hillel and IJC, to represent them on the EB, and his first term of office comes to an end. JC advised that both Belgian communities have again nominated Gilbert to continue representing them on the EB;
- Switzerland - David Bernstein and Peter Jossi were nominated by PJLS, to be the Swiss representatives on the EB, and their first terms of office come to an end. Both David and Peter have indicated their willingness to continue in these capacities, as has PJLS, but this decision can only be ratified when the PLJS board meets later in May 2019;
- Austria – John Clark was nominated by Or Chadasch, our only community in Austria, to represent them on the EB, and his first term of office comes to an end. Or Chadasch has again nominated John to continue representing it on the EB;
- Hungary – Tamás Gróf was jointly nominated by our two communities in Hungary, Sim Shalom and Bet Orim, to represent them on the EB, and his first term of office comes to an end. JC advised that both Hungarian communities have again nominated Tamás to continue representing them on the EB;
- France – Marc Konczaty and Celia Naval were nominated by AJL, the French Assembly, to be the French representatives on the EB, and their first terms of office come to an end. Each of Marc and Celia have been nominated by AJL to continue representing it on the EB. In addition, as France is entitled to three representatives on the EB, AJL has also nominated Stéphane Beder to represent it on the EB;
- Denmark – Arthur Buchman was nominated by Shir Hatzafon, our only community in Denmark, to represent it on the EB, and his first term of office comes to an end. Shir Hatzafon has again nominated Arthur to continue representing it on the EB;
- Czech Republic - Jonathan Wootliff was jointly nominated by our two communities in the Czech Republic, Bejt Simcha and ZLU, to represent them on the Executive Board, although Bejt Simcha had subsequently no longer supported this appointment. His first term of office comes to an end and Jonathan has indicated his willingness to continue in this capacity. The EUPJ Management Committee unanimously recommended that Jonathan remain in this capacity on the EB.

JC advised that all these appointments were rights under the constitution and only required ratification by the EB, except in regard to the Czech Republic, which was a board decision. JC proposed that (a) all the above appointments be ratified as far as required; (b) the appointment of the Swiss nominees be ratified subject to EUPJ receiving the formal notification from PJLS, and (c) that Jonathan Wootliff be appointed as the board representative for the Czech Republic. JC asked if there were any objections to this proposal and none were forthcoming. Robert Weiner and Gordon Smith proposed and seconded these proposals which were unanimously approved by the meeting.

JC then handed back to the Chair, who –

- again thanked those board members standing down for their commitment to EUPJ, as well as congratulating those continuing to serve on the EB or serving on the EB for the first time;
- advised that Rabbi Jackie Tabick, who had served an initial two years on the EB, remains on the EB ex officio by virtue of being the Convenor of the EBD and a member of the Management Committee, and the Chair thanked her for her work with the EBD;
- advised that David Bernstein had also been appointed as an alternate board member for Rabbi Deborah Kahn-Harris, representing Leo Baeck College when Rabbi Kahn-Harris is unable to attend meetings;
- referred to Item 9A on the meeting agenda, which was contained in the Amendment to the Notice of Meeting dated 19 April 2019 and this was the proposal to elect John Cohen, whose one year term ended at the meeting, for a further period of one year. The Chair suggested, as this matter was unopposed, that John be so appointed by acclamation and the meeting unanimously said “Aye” and the Chair declared him duly elected on the basis of the acclamation received.

## **10. Any Other Business**

The Chair advised that the Honorary Secretary had not been notified by any Member within the relevant time period of any matter or issue to put before the European Assembly and that the time allocated for the meeting had now run its course.

The Chair then thanked John Cohen and Deborah Grabiner (the EUPJ Administrator) for all their work in organising this meeting and the meeting of the EB to follow. She also urged anyone with any questions or queries to contact the EUPJ Management Committee. The Chair thanked all present for attending the 2019 European Assembly Meeting and declared the meeting closed at 14:30 pm.

.....  
Chair of the European Assembly Meeting



Dear friends!

Let me first of all thank all the contributors to these pages for their reports and for allowing us to jointly not only learn about the latest developments but more importantly celebrate the successes of our movement.

For the EUPJ, 2019 was a year of both consolidation and exploration. Two outstanding events will be remembered from this year. The EUPJ Shabbaton in Rome was held to coincide with the 5th anniversary of Beth Hillel Roma and it was a great opportunity to not only enjoy the warmth and achievements of this wonderful community but also to explore new ways of engaging with our Executive Board. A series of workshops allowed us to fully appreciate the depth and diversity of our shared expertise and we have drawn many valuable lessons from this meeting format since.

Also in May, the WUPJ IHAD dinner was held in New York, bestowing the highest honour of the World Union on our Honorary Life President, Leslie Bergman, his wife Dee as well as his brother Stanley and sister-in-law Marion. The event itself was an exceptional evening, celebrating the outstanding contribution of the Bergman family to Progressive Judaism.

A substantial amount of demographic data relevant to the future of the Jewish community became available in the course of 2019. I am indebted to my colleagues on the Management Committee of the EUPJ for their ongoing interest in this research as we continue to monitor new findings trying to connect them to the strategic aspects of our work.

More than thirty journeys on behalf of EUPJ led me to many of our member countries in the course of 2019. I continue to remember many of these trips as exceptional experiences and remain grateful for the first-hand information and insight I was able to gain in a huge number of meetings with our extended EUPJ family. These encounters continue to inform and inspire my own and EUPJ's work.

EUPJ's Brussels office has made enormous and unexpectedly quick progress in the course of 2019, thanks to the skilled expertise of its Director, Bill Echikson. Please make sure to read his detailed report. Since its completion, the Brussels team has grown in 2020: we were able to welcome Jesse Goldberg as project coordinator and Justus Becker as researcher.

As you will have seen from the AGM agenda, the EUPJ family continues to grow and we extend the warmest welcome to our new members in Spain and Poland. It is wonderful to see the vibrancy of the re-establishment of Progressive Judaism on the Continent and to experience the ever growing diversity within the movement.

2019 was also a year busy with preparations for our Geneva Biennial, which sadly had to be first postponed and then altogether cancelled due to the global pandemic. Without any

doubt, it would have been a remarkable conference, with its focus on and record attendance by the next generation thanks to hugely generous donors. My warmest thanks go to all the conference team for their dedicated work and creative input and while many parameters are still unknown, we are already looking forward to the next Biennial in 2022.

It is obviously impossible to finalise a report about 2019 in the summer of 2020 and not acknowledge the massive impact of the Corona virus on all our lives. Many of us have been touched by illness, bereavement, economic and social challenges and we are all learning to adjust to largely unpredictable circumstances. Among all this, it has been wonderfully uplifting to experience the resilience and creativity of the worldwide Progressive Jewish family in dealing with the situation by swiftly establishing new formats for services, meetings and a multitude of learning and outreach options. Clearly, there is huge opportunity for constructive developments in all the Corona-induced challenges and it is a great privilege for us to learn from and with all regions of the World Union how to remain positive, connected and active.

This report would be incomplete without an acknowledgement of the dedication, commitment and ethos of all the EUPJ team, both volunteer and professional, lay and rabbinic. While we maintain the traditional cycle of one Management Committee meeting per month, the overall meeting frequency intensified substantially in the course of 2019 and continuing into 2020. My sincere thanks go to all my board colleagues and to all members of our Progressive family who are actively involved with the mission and work of the EUPJ, giving generously of their time and energy.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous support EUPJ continues to receive from the WUPJ. We are particularly indebted to WUPJ's Chair, Carole Sterling, who in 2019 added many thousands of miles to her travel schedule to be with us in person and lend her support and advice. In June 2020, Rabbi Sergio Bergman became WUPJ's new president and already his inspirational leadership is being felt across the movement. It was a privilege for our Executive Board to meet with him in July 2020 and learn about his vision for the future.

With warm regards  
Sonja Guentner  
EUPJ Chair



## Report Vice Chair – Finance

Provided below are tables and pie charts reflecting the income and expenditure of the EUPJ in 2019 and comparable figures in 2018. The final table reflects our Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. The full financial statement for 2019 can be found on our website [here](#). A summary of the main events that contributed to the annual results is provided on page 19.

### EUPJ Income and Expenditure 2019

All £

<u>Income</u>		<u>2018</u>
Affiliation Fees	59,612	63,273
All Donations	70,854	10,196
Other Income	1,818	2,672
Roswell Fund	38,455	49,424
Rabbinic Training Fund (RTF)	25,812	24,981
European Beth Din (EBD)	<u>9,605</u>	<u>11,836</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>206,155</b>	<b>162,381</b>

### EUPJ Income and Expenditure 2019

All £

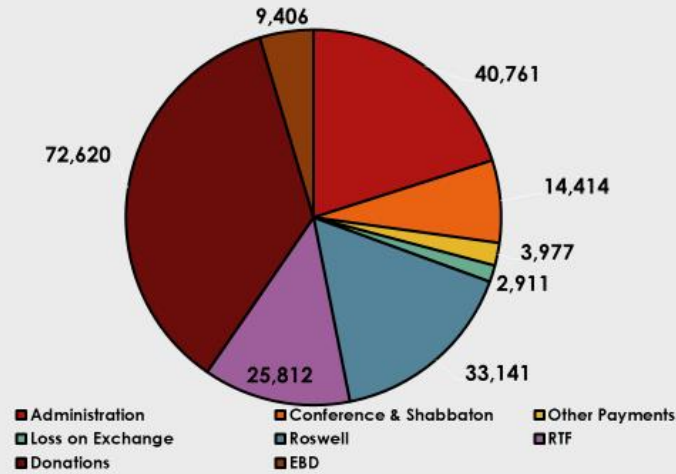
<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>2018</u>
Administration	40,761	62,176
Conference & Shabbaton	14,414	12,239
Other Payments	3,977	NIL
Loss on Exchange	2,911	799
Roswell Fund	33,141	50,438
Rabbinic Training Fund (RTF)	25,812	24,981
Donations	72,620	4,538
European Beth Din (EBD)	<u>9,406</u>	<u>10,942</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>203,041</b>	<b>167,820</b>

### EUPJ Income and Expenditure 2019

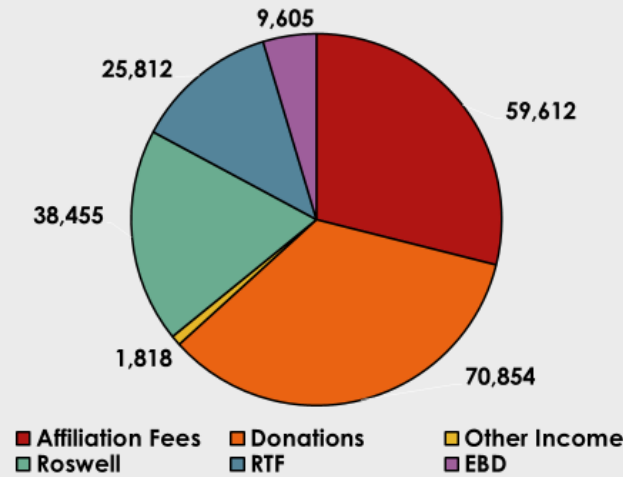
▶ All £

▶ Income		<b>2018</b>
▶	206,155	162,381
▶ Expenditure		
▶	203,041	167,820
▶ Surplus/(Deficit)		
▶	<u>3,114</u>	<u>(5,439)</u>

## EUPJ Expenditure 2019



## EUPJ Income 2019



## EUPJ Balance Sheet 2019

### Assets

Debtors	16,771	
Cash	<u>261,671</u>	
		<b><u>278,442</u></b>

### Liabilities

Creditors	69,841
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### Funds

Unrestricted	133,734	
Restricted	<u>74,867</u>	
		<b><u>278,442</u></b>

## **EUPJ 2019 ANNUAL REPORT – Financials Narrative**

1. Affiliation fees for the year totalled £85.5K which was £2.9K less than in 2018, caused by a devaluation of the euro against the pound.
2. Donations in 2019 totalled £70.8K, an increase of £61K against 2018. There were significant donations made on the occasion of the WUPJ IHAD dinner which honoured our Life President, Leslie Bergman and Dee Lehane, Stanley and Marion Bergman.
3. The Rabbinic Training Fund received income totalling £25.8K which included a transfer of £6.1K from Restricted Reserves and £19.7K from Affiliation Fees.
4. The European Beth Din made a small surplus of £200 on total income of £9.6K.
5. Administration expenses recorded a reduction of £21.4K against the previous year. The suspension of the Newsletter, a reduction in IT and website development expenditure and the absence of any paid staff at our EUP office in Brussels, were the main reasons for this reduction.
6. The EUPJ combined its Annual Assembly with a highly successful Shabbaton in Rome to coincide with the fifth anniversary celebrations of the local community Beth Hillel. That expenditure, combined with a provision against a possible shortfall of income against expenditure on the 2020 Biennial Conference, resulted in total expenses of £11.2K against ££6.5K in 2018.
7. Active support for our communities in Spain, Italy, Hungary and the Czech Republic through the Roswell Fund and visits by members of the Management Committee has produced some exciting developments. Total 2019 Roswell income of £38.5K exceeded expenditure by £5.3K following the recovery of expenditure not claimed in 2018.
8. As well as affiliation fees being affected by a weaker euro, there was £2.9K exchange loss in the year, or £2.1K more than in 2018.

David Pollak  
Vice-Chair Finance

## **Report Vice Chair - Twinning and Israel**

### **Community Connections**

#### **Ukraine**

- Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue (NPLS) have twinned with Teiva Congregation in Lviv and the Synagogue in Lutsk. Rabbi Aaron Goldstein led a mission to both Synagogues in May/June 2019.
- Natalya Tolok from the community in Lviv led trips to Amsterdam/Covorden and Oddom in the Netherlands with assistance from Rabbi Menno Ten Brink.
- Rabbi Andrew Goldstein and his wife, Sharon, hope to visit Lutsk, assisted by Lilia Minetskyi.
- The current twinings with the Ukraine are:
  - Lviv and NPLS
  - Lutsk and NPLS
  - Odessa with Kingston Liberal
  - Cherkassy with Sukkat Shalom Wanstead
  - Kiev with Mosaic Liberal, Harrow
  - Khmelnitsky with Ealing Liberal

#### **Europe**

- The Jewish Community of Brno, Czech Republic, twinned with Nottingham Liberal, UK
- Management from GIL, Geneva visited Beth Hillel Roma, Italy

#### **Domim- Israel**

- Or Hadash Haifa now have an ongoing relationship with Keren Or, Lyon
- Tlamim, young adults visited Paris congregations under the Klal Israel Project
- Holon congregation has set up a Pen Pal project with Alyth Synagogue, London
- Rotterdam Community is looking to twin with an Israeli community
- Ramat Gan Community is looking to twin with a German community

Michael Reik  
Vice-Chair Israel & Twinning



## איגוד רבני אירופה EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly

### Report European Rabbinic Assembly Chair

In the first part of 2019, the board was busy organising the annual Kallah in Rome that took place right after the EUPJ Shabbaton. Over 30 Rabbis from all over the EUPJ came together to discuss several topics of European relevance:

- Following the European Batei-Din meeting that took place in Brussels the previous year, Rabbis discussed their different practices and came to realise that, despite some differences, there is a general agreement between all EUPJ constituents.
- We were honoured to welcome Rabbi Yahoram Mazor, Av Beit Din of the Israeli court, who explained precisely the requirements for conversion in the view of making Aliyah.
- We had a session on patrilinearity, and we discussed the different positions on this topic throughout Europe.
- A delegation of European Rabbis, led by Rabbi Joel Oseran from Beth Hillel Roma, together with Rabbis Sylvia Rothschild and René Pfertzel, met Rav Di Segni, Chief Rabbi of Italy, to explain what Progressive Judaism is.
- During the AGM, the Board was re-appointed: R. René Pfertzel, Chair, R. Marc Neiger, Treasurer, R. Menno Ten Brink, Secretary, R. Pauline Bebe, R. Ruven Bar Ephraim, R. Jackie Tabick, *ex officio* convenor of the EBD, R. Colin Eimer, who resigned later in early 2020. In the meantime, R. Sylvia Rothschild was co-opted until the next AGM where she will be duly elected on the board.

ERA membership has grown, and includes now all UK Rabbis belonging to both rabbinic bodies, most Dutch and French Rabbis, and some German colleagues. A particular effort has been made to reach out to those Rabbis serving in countries where there is no established rabbinic body.

We have strengthened our position in Central Europe, connecting with Rabbis in this part of the continent, with a close association with the EBD.

The situation in Germany is unclear for the moment, as the local rabbinic body, the ARK, has Progressive and Masorti Rabbis in its membership. Addressing Progressive Rabbis only would create a rift within ARK and raise tensions with ERA, and taking on board Masorti standards would alienate the more Progressive parts of our movement. For the moment, we are monitoring what is happening in the US where the Progressive and Conservative movements have started to discuss how this could be translated in Europe.

Contacts have been made with Reconstructionist Judaism, which is creating communities in Europe. This American movement is a member of the WUPJ, and some of its Rabbis have rabbinic certification that are not yet recognised by EUPJ and WUPJ. This discussion was

interrupted by the arrival of the pandemic early 2020, but will resume as soon as the situation improves.

The board was actively preparing the next Kallah, due to take place in Geneva early May 2020, but our plans had to change, and we are considering an online Kallah early 2021.

The next projects that the Board is currently discussing are:

- Our relationship with Reconstructionist Judaism, specifically Rabbis with an Aleph Semicha.
- How to improve our communication, our presence on social media, and how to issue regular statements on current affairs. For the moment, we do not have this capacity.
- How to respond to the emergence of national rabbinic schools in Europe and elsewhere, and ensure that the requirements for training meet the WUPJ standards.
- There is a unique dynamic in Europe between local rabbinic bodies and ERA, which by nature is pan-European. ERA will launch a movement-wide consultation, with lay and rabbinic leaders from the EUPJ, to discuss what the movement wants from ERA, and what ERA has to offer to our movement.

These discussions were put on hold in early 2020 as the Covid-19 crisis developed. It is our hope to resume these conversations quickly.

Rabbi René Pfertzel  
Chair EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly

# בית דין צדק

לקהילות היהודיות באירופה

Rabbinic Court for the Jewish Communities of Europe

2019 saw European Batei Din held in Milan and Rome with individual candidates from Poland, Spain and Italy seen at one of the London courts. In total, we saw 33 adult candidates from Italy, 3 from Spain, 1 from Portugal, 1 from Prague and, unusually, 1 from Switzerland and 7 minors.

It was decided to lengthen the course held in Poland to try and better integrate the candidates into the communities, which has resulted in what will probably be a slight dip in Polish candidates. The same was true of candidates from Barcelona and Madrid where it was felt that some candidates, who had appeared at previous courts, had lessened if not completely severed their links with the communities and that therefore perhaps it was better to concentrate on fewer candidates at any one time and not try to hold a court in Spain.

The other problem for Barcelona and Madrid was the loss of their rabbi, Stephen Berkowitz. This resulted in no rabbinic oversight, which is required by the Beit Din before candidates enter the course. To try to help, I travelled to Barcelona and Madrid for a few days and interviewed about 11 prospective candidates over 2 days.

As always, there are some cases where we just were open-mouthed at the tremendous effort expended by the candidates to succeed. There was a family of five, two adults, three children, (young teens) who live in a town near Venice. They had been to the Venice Orthodox community, the only one in town, for Shabbat for many years, staying at a hotel over Shabbat so as not to travel. They had been to Israel every summer for some years and studied there with an Orthodox rabbi, who had been recommended to them by their rabbi in Venice. After some years, this Orthodox rabbi brought the family before a local Israeli Beit Din, they attended the Mikveh and were given conversion certificates. However, when they returned with these certificates, they were shunned by the Venice community, the rabbi telling them that these certificates were not judged as valid by the Israeli Orthodox rabbinate. Rejected, the family kept going to Venice for Shabbat and festivals, but eventually heard of the Progressive communities in Milan and decided that they would travel there once a month instead. Despite the fact that I assured them that our Progressive communities would accept their Orthodox conversion papers, gained through years of study and involvement with community, they felt so despondent by their treatment, they themselves could not accept their Jewish status. So we asked them to appear before the court in Rome, wished them 'mazel tov' and gave them our certificates. The Milan community felt privileged to welcome such a devout and involved family. The Orthodox community has once again lost some wonderful people.

2020 has of course brought tremendous challenges to the court. The local rabbis in Eastern Europe decided that they did not wish to take part in an online court, especially as none of their candidates had urgent events such as marriage in view. The court in Rome was at first postponed, but as it became obvious that online courts were probably going to be the only possible way ahead for many months, it was decided to proceed, and most of the candidates chose to appear. We have followed the guideline issued by IRAC so as not to prejudice any future efforts of our candidates to go on Aliyah. These state that tevilah should be carried out as soon as possible and only then can the proper certificates be issued. We have so far issued temporary certificates though as situations ease a little in some areas, some people have been able to get to the sea or a lake to perform tevilah and we are beginning the lengthy process of printing and then circulating the certificates by post for proper signatures, electronic ones not being considered sufficient for a legal document.

I want to thank Lynsey in the office, for her unfailing help and calm efficiency, and Rabbi Goldstein for his valuable advice and support, David Pollak for help with the complicated finances of a pan European court, and all my colleagues who teach so brilliantly, who help so many with their status issues, and who willingly volunteer to sit on our courts.

Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick  
Convenor, European Beit Din

## EUPJ IN BRUSSELS

A year ago, the European Union for Progressive Judaism opened an office in Brussels. The goal was to conduct outreach with the European Union.

- In January 2019, we published the [Holocaust Remembrance Project](#), updated in January 2020.
- We publish regularly in the [Times of Israel](#).
- We are working with Rabbi Nathan Alfred, the former rabbi of IJC in Brussels on a film project featuring Nathan's friendship with an Imam. Take a look [here](#).

Most importantly, the office has recently won a two-year European Commission research grant with five other Jewish groups. The official kick-off for the EU project took place on 11 February 2020 at the synagogue building in Brussels housing both IJC and Beth Hillel, including a tree planting in the garden for Tu Bishvat.

We are working with CEJI, a Jewish Contribution to Europe, the European Union for Progressive Judaism, B'nai Brith, European Jewish Students, and the European Jewish Heritage Association.

Our project is called Networks Overcoming Anti-Semitism. It reflects how anti-Semitism is rising in Europe. Jewish cemeteries are vandalised. Attacks against Jews are multiplying. [Cries of "dirty Jew"](#) during Yellow Jackets protests in France, [anti-Semitic posters](#) condemning Hungarian-American philanthropist George Soros in Hungary, [a row](#) over anti-Semitic remarks that tore apart the Labour Party in the U.K. — these are all part of the same worrying trend.

The European Union has responded with strong measures [to protect and promote Judaism](#). At this year's Commission Hannukah celebration, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen described [anti-Semitism as "poison"](#) and pledged to "prevent and eradicate it." She announced that the EU would continue to build on the work done in the past years, at all levels – through security means, in education systems and in public debates.

Over the next two years, we will map efforts to combat anti-Semitism in Europe, hold governments accountable through national Report Cards, equip educators with training and teaching tools, sponsor cultural festivals, and run school programmes and social media campaigns. If these projects interest you, contact me and we'll see how to involve you.

William Echikson  
Director, Brussels Office  
[bill.echikson@eupj.org](mailto:bill.echikson@eupj.org)





ABRAHAM  
GEIGER  
KOLLEG

בית-המדרש  
אברהם גייגר

20...  
1999–2019

In 2019, the Abraham Geiger College celebrated its 20th anniversary. This event received a strong media response - large-format reports were published in the major daily and weekly newspapers throughout Germany, students were portrayed and interviews were conducted with the Rector of the Abraham Geiger College, Rabbi Prof. Homolka.

The Abraham Geiger College used the year 2019 to consolidate and prepare for the year 2020 that will see three major themes:

- an ordination and investiture of 6 graduates,
- the conferral of the Abraham Geiger Prize 2020 on the director and reformer of the Oberammergau Passion Play, Christian Stückl
- and finally the move to the new campus at the University of Potsdam, a mansion of 1768.

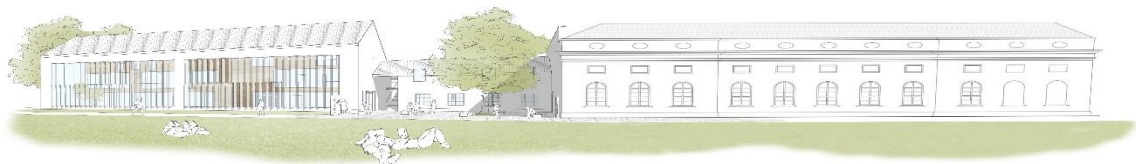
Eight cantorial students are currently in training; three women and five men. Countries of origin are Hungary, Germany, Israel, the Czech Republic and Russia.

Eighteen students are in training to become rabbis, including seven women and eleven men. They come from Norway, Germany, Belgium, Israel, the U.S.A., Hungary, Russia, the Czech Republic, Ukraine and Belarus.

We are pleased that among the rabbinical students, for the first time, there are students coming from the Moscow University of Humanities to read for their M.A. in Potsdam with the aim of being ordained by the Abraham Geiger College. They will subsequently work in congregations in Belarus, Ukraine and Russia. A number of subsequent students have already been admitted to the Abraham Geiger Kolleg within this cooperation scheme in partnership with the WUPJ. Those will begin their studies in 2020 and 2021.

We are fortunate to report that the College was also able to intensify its relations with the Jewish University Budapest with a contractual agreement to exchange students and faculty of the rabbinical schools in the future using the EU Erasmus programme.

Finally, the Abraham Geiger College, the School of Jewish Theology of the University of Potsdam and the University of Vienna organized a joint conference on the topic 'Jesus, the Jew from Galilee, and the Christian Redeemer: Christology between Judaism and Christianity', which was held between 29-31 January in Vienna. International Jewish and Christian experts were presented, the conference volume is being published in April 2020.



Rüthnick Architekten - The new buildings of Abraham Geiger College and the School of Jewish Theology at the Campus of the University of Potsdam

Some of the year's highlights include:

- In July, Rabbi Zahavit Shalev, Rabbi Cantor Gershon Silins, Rabbi Daniela Touati, and Rabbi Igor Zinkov were ordained at the West London Synagogue and Avi Marco was presented with his certificate on completion of his MA in Jewish Educational Leadership.
- Following the conclusion of the Quinquennial Review of Vocational Studies the College has begun implementing its recommendations: discussions with the Movements about the proposal to establish Training Synagogues have made good progress with a view to implementing a pilot. A new tutorial system is being developed.
- In February and May, over 100 pupils from Years 7 and 8 from JCoSS, the Jewish Cross Community School, who are studying on the school's Beit Midrash programme, participated in a study day with LBC faculty.
- Work has continued on the fifth book of the LBC's Hebrew language curriculum, Eizeh Kef, now being used in over 20 communities in the UK and abroad. In addition, LBC has been collaborating with Jewish Interactive to make Eizeh Kef more compatible with 21st digital age learners.
- Work on a new Israel programme for second year rabbinic students got underway. It is hoped that this experiential programme will take place during the summer with plans for the first cohort of students in 2021.
- We have had five applications for the rabbinic programme and look forward to interviewing them in March 2020.
- We have five French students on our rabbinic programme, following the graduation of Rabbi Daniela Touati.



Ordination 2019: l to r Rabbis Laura Janner-Klausner, Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, Richard Jacobi, Zahavit Shalev, Cantor Gershon Silins, Danny Rich, Daniela Touati, Pauline Bebe, Igor Zinkov, Dr Charles Middleburgh. Front: Cantor Tamara Wolfson



Presentation of Fellowships: l to r, back row Rabbis Dr Charles Middleburgh, Dr Miri Lawrence, Dr Frank Dabba Smith, Warren Elf, front row Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, Lee Wax, Elaina Rothman, Dr Margaret Jacobi

In January our rabbinical student Joram Rookmaaker received his semicha in a full synagogue in Amsterdam. He was also inducted as second rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam, alongside rabbi Menno ten Brink, who is also dean of the Levisson Institute. In addition, Joram works as an army chaplain.

Joram Rookmaaker finished his rabbinical training with a thesis on the Dutch Progressive Jewish policy about people with only a Jewish father. In June, the Levisson Institute together with the Progressive Jewish Community in Amsterdam organised a symposium about this theme. Joram gave an introduction on the policy, the most important halachic texts and the development of the policy in Holland. Two persons spoke about their own experiences and a panel debated with the many attendees.

The third David Lilienthal lecture took place in November 2019. Subject was "Mahler, Gershwin and Bernstein. Three Jewish maestros. Can you hear it?" The well-known Dutch Jewish conductor Jules van Hessen told his story with short films and sound clips.

The Dutch Progressive-Jewish Educational Centre 'Rimon', is part of the Levisson Institute. Rimon is innovative in educational tools, organises the national Talmud Torah curriculum and yearly Talmud Torah weekend for all children in the Netherlands. Rimon organised twice a seminar for all Talmud Torah teachers in the country, who are member of the Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism. Rimon continued to develop the website with educational material: [www.rimononderwijs.nl](http://www.rimononderwijs.nl)

The Levisson Institute developed a new website. The old one was more than 15-years old. On the new website everything is more easier to find, on the Dutch and on the English side: [www.levisson.nl](http://www.levisson.nl)

Together with the Board of the Levisson Institute, the Academic Committee and the Vocational Committee, we work to train rabbis, chazzanim, teachers, gabbaim, ba'alei kore, ba'alei tefilla etc. for the continuation of our Progressive Jewish Movement in The Netherlands. In the autumn of 2020 a new chazanut (shaliach tzibur) course will be started. Please visit the Levisson Institute on: [www.levisson.nl](http://www.levisson.nl).



Joram Rookmaaker receives his semicha from Rabbi Menno ten Brink, assisted by Rabbi David Lilienthal

## List of EUPJ Communities (December 2019)

### **Austria**

Jewish Liberal Congregation - Or Chadasch Vienna and Austria

### **Belgium**

Communauté Israélite Libérale de Belgique (Beth Hillel)

IJC Brussels

### **Czech Republic**

Bejt Simcha

ZLU – Hatikva

### **Denmark**

Shir Hatzafon

### **France**

#### **Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral (AJL)**

Alliance pour un Judaïsme Traditionnel et Moderne (AJTM)

Association des juifs libéraux de Toulouse (AJLT)

Communauté Juive Libérale Dauphine à Grenoble

Communauté Juive Libérale de Montpellier

Kehilat Geshet - Communauté Juive Franco-Anglophone de Paris

Kehilat Kedem - Synagogue Libérale de Montpellier

Keren Or, la Synagogue Libérale de Lyon

La Communauté Juive Libérale - Île de France

Le Mouvement Juif Libéral de France (MJLF)

Maison du Judaïsme Libérale à Toulouse

Union Juive Libérale de Strasbourg

Union Libérale Israélite de France (ULIF)

### **Germany**

#### **Union Progressiver Juden in Deutschland (UpJ) k.d.ö.R**

Egalitäre Jüdische Chawurah Gescher Freiburg

Jüdische Gemeinde – Ahrensburg – Stormarn

Jüdische Gemeinde - Bad Pyrmont

Jüdische Gemeinde - Bad Segeberg

Jüdische Gemeinde – Celle

Jüdische Gemeinde – Elmshorn

Jüdische Gemeinde – Göttingen

Jüdische Gemeinde HaKochav - Unna

Jüdische Gemeinde – Hameln

Jüdische Gemeinde –Kiel

Jüdische Gemeinde zu Magdeburg

Jüdische Gemeinde – Pinneburg

Jüdische Gemeinde – Seesen

Jüdische Kultusgemeinde Bielefeld Beit Tikva

Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Emet weSchalom Kassel

Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Köln Gescher La Massoret

Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Mischkan ha-tfila – Bamberg

Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde – Hamburg

Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Beth Shalom München

Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Hannover Etz Chajim

Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Ruhrgebiet Perusch  
Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Wolfsburg-Braunschweig  
Reformsynagoge der Jüdischen Gemeinde Hamburg  
Synagogengemeinde Sukkat Schalom Berlin  
Unabhängige Synagogengemeinde Berlin Bet Haskala

### **Hungary**

Bet Orim Reform Jewish Congregation  
Szim Salom Congregation

### **Italy**

#### **Federazione Italiana per l'Ebraismo Progressivo (FIEP)**

Beth Hillel Roma  
Beth Shalom Congregazione Ebraica Riformata, Milano  
Lev Chadash - Associazione per l'Ebraismo Progressivo, Milano  
Shir Hadash Firenze

### **Luxembourg**

Communauté Israélite d'Esch-sur-Alzette

### **Netherlands**

Beit Ha'Chidush

#### **Nederlands Verbond voor Progressief Jodendom (NVPJ)**

Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Amsterdam  
Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Den Haag  
Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Gelderland  
Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Rotterdam  
Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Twente  
Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Utrecht  
Progressief Joodse Gemeente Noord Nederland

### **Poland**

Or Hadasz – Association of Progressive Jews in Krakow

#### **Beit Polska – The Union of Progressive Jewish Communities in Poland**

Beit Konstancin – Progressive Jewish Community of Konstancin  
Beit Trójmiasto – Progressive Jewish Community of Gdańsk, Gdynia and Sopot  
Beit Warszawa – Progressive Jewish Community of Warsaw

### **Portugal**

Assoc.J.I.Hehaver (Ohel Yaakov)

### **Republic of Ireland**

Dublin Jewish Progressive Congregation

### **Spain**

Comunidad Judía Bet Januká de Andalucía  
Comunidad Judía Bnei Israel de Galicia  
Comunitat Jueva Bet Shalom  
Jewish Community of Valencia Bnei Sefarad  
Jewish Congregation Beit Rambam of Andalusia  
Reform Jewish Community of Madrid

### **Sweden**

Progressive Judaism in Stockholm

## **Switzerland**

### **Platform of Liberal Jews of Switzerland (PLJS)**

Communauté Juive Libérale de Genève (GIL)

Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Or Chadash Zürich

Migwan - Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Basel

### **United Kingdom Independent Synagogues**

Belsize Square Synagogue

Westminster Synagogue

### **United Kingdom Liberal Judaism**

Bedfordshire Progressive Synagogue

Beit Klal Yisrael

Birmingham Progressive Synagogue

Brighton & Hove Progressive Synagogue

Bristol & West Progressive Jewish Congregation

Crawley Jewish Community

Crouch End Chavurah

Ealing Liberal Synagogue

East London & Essex Liberal Synagogue

Eastbourne Progressive Jewish Congregation

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Finchley Progressive Synagogue

Kehillah North London

Kent Liberal Jewish Community

Kingston Liberal Synagogue

Lancashire and Cumbria Liberal Jewish Community

Leicester Progressive Jewish Congregation

Lincolnshire Jewish Community

Manchester Liberal Jewish Community

Mosaic Liberal Synagogue (Harrow)

Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue

Norwich Liberal Jewish Community

Nottingham Progressive Jewish Congregation

Oxford Jewish Congregation

Peterborough Liberal Jewish Community

Reading Liberal Jewish Community

South Bucks Liberal Jewish Community

Southgate Progressive Synagogue

South London Liberal Synagogue (Streatham)

Stevenage Liberal Synagogue

Suffolk Liberal Jewish Community

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue (St John's Wood)

The Liberal Synagogue Elstree

Three Counties Liberal Jewish Community (Gloucestershire and Herefordshire)

Tikvah Chadasha Synagogue (Shenfield)

Wessex Liberal Jewish Community

West Central Liberal Synagogue

York Liberal Jewish Community



## **United Kingdom Reform Judaism**

Alyth Synagogue, London  
Bet Shalom Reform, Cambridge  
Blackpool Reform Jewish Congregation  
Bournemouth Reform Synagogue  
Bradford Tree of Life Synagogue  
Brighton & Hove Reform Synagogue  
Bromley Reform Synagogue  
Cardiff Reform Synagogue  
Coventry Reform Jewish Community  
Darlington Hebrew Congregation  
Edgware & Hendon Reform Synagogue  
Finchley Reform Synagogue  
Glasgow Reform Synagogue  
Harlow Jewish Community  
Isle of Wight Jewish Society  
Kehillat Kernow - The Jewish Community of Cornwall  
Kol Chai - Hatch End Jewish Community  
Liverpool Reform Synagogue  
Maidenhead Synagogue  
Makor Haim, London  
Manchester Reform Synagogue  
Menorah Synagogue - Cheshire Reform Congregation  
Milton Keynes & District Reform Synagogue  
Mosaic Reform Synagogue, London  
Ne've Shalom, Hull  
Newcastle Reform Synagogue  
North West Surrey Synagogue  
Radlett Reform Synagogue  
Seven Hills, Sheffield Reform  
Sha'arei Shalom – North Manchester Reform Congregation  
Sha'arei Tsedek - North London Reform Synagogue  
Sinai Synagogue  
South Hampshire Reform Jewish Community  
South West Essex & Settlement Reform Synagogue  
Southend and District Reform Synagogue  
Southport Reform Synagogue  
Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue, London  
Swindon Jewish Community  
Thanet & District Reform Synagogue - Etz Chaim  
Totnes Reform Jewish Group  
The Wimbledon Synagogue  
West London Synagogue

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ה ע ו ל מ י  
ל י ה ד ו ת  
מ ת ק ד מ ת