



EUROPEAN UNION
FOR
PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Annual Report
2016

for the
European Assembly
at

‘Connections 2017’
WUPJ Biennial Conference
Jerusalem, Israel
19th May 2017

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EUPJ Chairman's Report 2016

The year just ended has, as usual, been full of activity. There have been high moments and some challenges but overall the plus points outnumber the negative ones.

A significant event in the summer was the retirement of Rabbi Joel Oseran. His official title was WUPJ Vice President for International Community Development but in reality he was so much more. In the three decades he devoted to our organisation I am certain that there were few countries or communities that had not had a visit – or several – from him. Joel is a one-person encyclopaedia of who's who and what's what in the Progressive Jewish world and we are all the poorer without him. The good news, from our point of view, is that he is the visiting rabbi to Beth Hillel Roma and that he continues to be involved in our work in Italy. We are grateful for his continuing contribution to Progressive Jewish life there and wholeheartedly wish him a long and happy retirement.

On the subject of Italy it is worth noting that for the first time a Progressive Jew, Joyce Bigio of Milan, has been elected to the National Board of Italian Jewish Communities.

This leads me on to the formation of an Italian national federation. We have four communities in that country and the Federazione Italiana per l'Ebraismo Progressivo (FIEP) will be joining EUPJ at our current European Assembly. Having a national association is a vital step towards a stronger Progressive presence: It has recently happened in France with the formation of the Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral Français (known as AJL) and is also a work in progress in Spain.

In last year's report I mentioned initiatives which were in the early stages of development and now I am pleased to inform you that two of them have come to fruition. In conjunction with West London Synagogue a programme of eight weekends each year has begun in Budapest. Rabbi Ariel Pollak, recently ordained at Abraham Geiger College, returns to his native city to lead services, engage in education projects and raise awareness of Progressive Judaism. By the time we meet in Jerusalem he will have facilitated two such weekends. A similar approach has begun in Prague with student rabbi David Maxa and we are optimistic about the continued presence of Progressive Judaism in those places.

Earlier in this report I mentioned Spain. I am delighted that there are now six communities in that country and that in April of last year we added Portugal to our roster of EUPJ member countries with the admission as an associate member of Associação Hehaver (known as Ohel Jacob) in Lisbon. It is truly wonderful and also moving to know that we are an important part of the return and renaissance of Judaism to the Iberian Peninsula after a gap of some five centuries. Rabbi Alona Lisitsa, although based in Jerusalem, continues to play a vital role in encouraging and stimulating our communities in both Spain and Portugal.

Alongside the work of the lay leaders of EUPJ the rabbis play a vital role. In last year's report I mentioned the pending formation of a pan-European rabbinic organisation and I am delighted that it has come into existence. It is called ERA (EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly) and it is chaired by Rabbi Ruven Bar-Ephraim. His actual day job is as rabbi of Or Chadash in Zurich and we at EUPJ are very grateful for the generosity of his community in allowing him to devote so much time to ERA and also to serve as EUPJ's rabbinic adviser.

Parallel to this is the work of the European Beit Din (EBD) so ably convened by Rabbi Jackie Tabick, chaired by Rabbi Andrew Goldstein and supported administratively by Odelia Silver. In many of our countries there are not sufficient local rabbis to form a three-person Beit Din so those sessions are staffed by an ever-changing roster of rabbis.

An organisation as complex as ours needs occasionally to take a step back to see where it is going so under the guidance of Leslie Bergman and Gordon Smith, in consultation with our members, a Strategic Plan for the next two or three years was devised. It was discussed at a special Executive Board meeting in Lyon on 4 December – and our thanks go to that community for their outstanding hospitality – and was then endorsed without dissent. As I commented at the time, now the work of putting the excellent plan into action begins; already progress has been made.

In the last report I mentioned the Domim-Alike project in which Israeli and European communities become partners. Michael Reik has taken this on for us and it is a credit to him how many successful arrangements have been made. We are now looking at expanding this concept to communities within Europe or in other WUPJ regions. Watch this space.

Our Rosh Hashanah present from someone evil in cyberspace was the hacking of our website. In fact it proved to be a blessing in disguise as we were not using the most up-to-date formats. The website has been off air in the intervening months and thanks to the extraordinarily difficult, time-consuming and painstaking work of John Cohen and Deborah Grabiner it should be up and running by the time we gather in Jerusalem. These days an organisation's website is probably, after people, its most valuable asset and I am certain that ours is now state-of-the art.

Whilst I am mentioning names it is vital that I include Betty and Arthur Roswell. This visionary couple, although based in the United States, understand the work and potential reach of WUPJ. Over the past few years much of the work undertaken by EUPJ in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Poland and Spain could not have been achieved without the Roswells. It seems too inadequate to say thank you, but on behalf of all those whose lives they have affected in such a positive way I send our heartfelt gratitude.

A giant in Progressive Judaism died at the end of 2016, Rabbi Lionel Blue OBE. In 1956 he was one of the two original rabbinic students at Leo Baeck College (then known as Jewish Theological College) and in his native UK was one of the best-known and most-loved members of any denomination's clergy. He was a leading thinker, teacher and author but what is not so well-known is his link with WUPJ. Among his roles were as Religious Director of the European Region (as we were known for decades) and as a rabbi in the early years of Beth Hillel in Brussels. May his memory be for a blessing.

For much of this report I have looked back and I now wish to turn my attention to two future major events. The first will take place in Hamburg December 7-10. It will be a commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the first Reform Temple and will comprise a weekend of academic seminars and study and a Shabbat to remember.

The second event is the next EUPJ Biennial Conference: it will be held in Prague over the weekend of April 26-29 in 2018. We look forward to seeing you there.

Finally once more I must thank the amazing team with whom I work: the EUPJ Management Committee and Executive Board are unstinting in their devotion to Progressive Judaism. For all their names please look at the list in this booklet. There is one other person whom I must single out because, to be honest, without her our dreams and plans would not become reality. Thank you is not sufficient, but will have to do, for the debt we all owe Deborah Grabiner, our administrator.

Miriam Kramer, Chairman
London, March 2017

WUPJ President and Chairman's Report 2016

During its 90th year, the World Union for Progressive Judaism continued to grow and learn. Each new economic and political challenge impacts our local communities, our congregations and our movement. 2016 was a year of transition and refocusing for the WUPJ, and a new organizational structure has been implemented to keep the organization's emphasis on our priorities.

The WUPJ organizes its work around three key pillars:

- Building Progressive Communities
- Nurturing Lay and Professional Leaders
- Inspiring the next Generation of Progressive Jews

Around the globe, Progressive, Reform and Liberal Judaism continues to evolve. We celebrated emerging new congregations in Italy, the Iberian Peninsula and the Far East. Four WUPJ congregations were provided with their first Torah scrolls through the WUPJ Gift of Torah program.

An International Rabbinic assembly of WUPJ Rabbis met in Jerusalem to consider movement wide standards for conversion, and to review the Jewish Agency requirements for Aliyah.

Our WUPJ Institute for Modern Jewish Studies in Moscow entered its second year of operation with 15 full-time students, two of whom have already been accepted into Geiger Kolleg's rabbinic program. The Institute will provide Russian speaking community leaders and Rabbis for our Russian speaking congregations for years to come.

Internationally, young adults programming expanded during 2016. TaMaR held a young adult conference in Budapest, and the URJ Roswell Klal Yisrael program brought together its third cohort of future leaders for a year of interaction in Israel, Europe and North America.

WUPJ Leadership Development programs trained a new cohort of congregational educators and leaders during the annual Bergman and Beutel Seminars with participation from over 14 countries.

Lower currency exchange rates in the UK and Australia have created challenges for the Shnat Netzer program. Not only are fewer students choosing gap year programs abroad, but costs in local currency have skyrocketed. This crucial program has provided a generation of extraordinary leaders for our movement around the globe, and continues to offer excellence to all its participants.

Tourism in Jerusalem suffered following multiple terror attacks there in 2016. This resulted in low occupancy at Beit Shmuel, and put added stress on the WUPJ's finances.

During 2016, we said goodbye to Rabbi Joel Oseran, Vice President for International Development who retired after 30 years of service to the movement. Joel was a trusted advisor to a generation of Progressive Jews around the world. The EUPJ paid tribute to Joel's contributions at the recent conference in London. We also said farewell to WUPJ Chief Operating Officer, Shai Pinto.

The WUPJ continues to be blessed by strong leadership from around the globe. We look forward to partnering with the EUPJ and its constituent members to advance Progressive Judaism wherever Jews choose to live.

Daniel Freeland, President

Carole Sterling, Chair

European Beit Din

The EBD has had another busy year. In 2016 we saw 51 candidates for conversion and issued one *Get* from Vienna.

Of the candidates, 14 appeared at various courts in the Sternberg Centre in London. While the rest appeared at courts we held in *Barcelona, Bratislava and Krakow*. They came from the following countries (numbers in brackets): Slovakia (10), Czech Republic (6), Denmark (5), Italy (7), Poland (9), Portugal (1), Spain (9), Finland (1), Morocco (1), Norway (1), and Sweden (1).

As Liberal Judaism has established a closer relationship with Shir Hatzafon, we will no longer be seeing candidates from Denmark, although we are in touch with other individuals in the rest of Scandinavia.

Rabbi Andrew Goldstein and I have dealt with individual queries from countries like Serbia and given advice and often time consuming help to proselytes who wish to make Aliyah and are in constant touch with Israeli Progressive Batei Din and other Progressive Batei Din. We also try and help with difficult cases where people have converted through internet courses and their conversion is not acceptable to some of our communities.

We are grateful to help we receive from Odelia Silver in the London Office of Reform Judaism, and our treasurer, David Pollak and Rabbis Goldstein and Bar Ephraim for their support and advice as Rabbinic adviser and as Chair of the EBD. We would also like to thank our rabbis who teach our candidates and who attend our courts in a voluntary capacity and who make the whole enterprise possible. In particular, we wish to thank Rabbi Walter Rothschild and Rabbi Andrew Goldstein who gave time to both the Bratislava and the Krakow courts, Rabbis Danny Rich, Alona Lisitsa and Stephen Berkowitz who came to Barcelona and Rabbi Misha Kapustin who also came to the court in Bratislava.

Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick (Convenor)

European Rabbinic Assembly (ERA)

ERA was established in April 2016 at the EUPJ Biennial conference in London. It was the fulfilment of the vision of a number of very determined colleagues and was the result of many discussions, negotiations and also study and learning.

It is, of course, not enough to establish the Assembly and therefore since then the majority of our work has been organising its administration. Membership is still growing and both Liberal and Reform rabbis in the UK have established their membership through their respective rabbinic bodies. There are 35 rabbis so far from the Continent who are working in Belgium, France, Germany, Luxemburg, Russia, Ukraine, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim, Chairman

Domim-Alike

In 2015, the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ) launched the Domim-Alike project in cooperation with the Israeli government. The project seeks to promote contacts between Reform communities in Israel and Progressive Jewish Communities around the world.

Domim-Alike believes that the leaders and members of Reform Jewish communities in Israel and the Diaspora are key to strengthen their mutual bonds in an era of growing distance and rifts. The project will naturally enhance the relationship of Jews around the world with Israel.

The project's main focus of activity is the creation and nurturing of a network of contacts between 37 Reform communities in Israel and over 120 twinned communities around the world, of which at least 20 are within Europe.

Each of the Israeli communities engaged in the project works to develop tangible, ongoing mutual and grassroots connections with 3-4 communities in other countries. The contacts are based on educational themes and two-way community activities. Deepening ties of friendship, understanding and mutual responsibility are a key component in the connection

Domim-Alike recognises the importance of face-to-face meetings as an essential building block of the relationships between the communities. It provides funding for rabbis and community leaders from the Israeli communities to visit their partnering communities in the diaspora, and helps with the cost of hosting visitors from the overseas communities. It also encourages and guides additional encounters during international seminars and conferences in Israel and abroad. Frequent contacts in the Domim-Alike project are the responsibility of the participating communities. The Jerusalem-based Domim-Alike leadership provides resources and materials and ongoing support implemented in accordance with best practices in the field. The use of New Media and technologies is the key to ensuring and strengthening ongoing contacts.

The Domim-Alike office forms strategic and ongoing cooperation between the Israeli Reform Movement and other bodies in Israel and abroad involved in the Israel-Diaspora arena. Domim-Alike initiated and launched a new landmark day on the Hebrew calendar (7th of Mar-Cheshvan) – Diaspora Israel Day. The day celebrates the profound bonds that have existed for thousands of years between Jewish communities around the world and with Israel.

In Europe we have either set up or are in the process of setting up Domim-Alike contacts between Israeli IMPJ communities and our communities in Brussels (Belgium), Prague (Czech Republic), Paris and Lyons (France), Munich, Oldenburg and Oberhausen (Germany), Budapest (Hungary), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Barcelona and Madrid (Spain), Geneva and Zurich (Switzerland), Milan (Italy), London, Southgate, Harrow and the Midlands (United Kingdom).

EUPJ contact: Michael Reik, EUPJ Vice Chairman
IMPJ contacts: Rabbi Nir Barkin and Smadar Bilik

Austria – Or Chadasch, Vienna Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Wien/Jewish Liberal Community, Vienna

In 2016, Or Chadasch Vienna achieved some important milestones in the continuation of its growth and development. Over the course of many years Rabbi Dr Walter Rothschild served the community while based in Berlin. It has been the goal of the Board for more than five years to employ a Rabbi who resides in or would relocate to Vienna. At the end of 2016 we happily reached an agreement and signed a contract with Rabbi Lior Bar-Ami, a recent graduate of Abraham Geiger College in Berlin. Rabbi Bar-Ami has taken an apartment and will reside in Vienna approximately half of every month. Rabbi Rothschild has fully supported our community and board in its search and is in the process of handing over his duties to his young colleague.

"Or Chadasch, Liberal Jewish Community Vienna" is the only non-orthodox Jewish community in Austria. It maintains a synagogue and community centre at Robertgasse 2 in Vienna's Second district, an area rich in Jewish history. Throughout the year, Or Chadasch offers egalitarian services every Shabbat – both Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday evenings and Saturday Shacharit - as well as for the Jewish festivals. Services are led either by our Rabbi or by one of our lay leaders.

The finances of our community have continued in 2016 to be in solid shape and allowed us to cover our expenses for the upkeep of the Synagogue and regular visits of our Community Rabbi, Dr Walter Rothschild, as well as guest rabbis. Rabbinic Students Armin Langer and Max Feldhake from AGK Berlin visited our community several times to lead services and teach in the course of an internship.

The festivals of 2016 started with a Tu Bi'Shvat Seder in January and a joyous Purim party in March. As always, the Pessach Seder with Rabbi Rothschild was a highlight of the festival calendar, celebrated in the premises of our synagogue. We celebrated Shavuot 5776 with Rabbi Rothschild and Rabbinic Student Esther Jonas-Märting, including a study session on Erev Shavuot.

The High Holidays 5777 services were also very well attended and led by Rabbi Walter Rothschild. For Sukkot, we were able to celebrate (with limitations imposed by weather conditions) in our Community Sukka. Hoschana Rabba/Simchat Torah services were led by Rabbinic candidate Lior Bar-Ami.

Members of our community have in 2016 participated in conferences, meetings and other Jewish events, most notably the EUPJ conference in London in April 2016. Several of our members were very active in organising the "Limmud Vienna", and Or Chadasch was also present at the annual Jewish Street Fair in Vienna. Other activities included interfaith meetings and dialogue events with Christian and Muslim groups.

The "Lehrhaus Adolph Jellinek" or study house at Or Chadasch is an educational format to offer Jewish teaching for adults from a liberal Jewish perspective, continued its activities through 2016 and started after its sixth year in autumn 2016. Throughout the year, a Sunday School with classes offered in both German and English has provided Jewish education, officially recognised by the Stadtschulrat, for our young people.

Thomas Soxberger, board member of Or Chadasch, Vienna, Austria

Belgium - Beth Hillel, Brussels

Beth Hillel - CILB (Communauté Israélite Libérale de Belgique) was established in 1965 as the first Liberal Jewish community in Belgium. Its synagogue and community centre is located at Rue des Primeurs 80 in Brussels. Its mission statement is to be an active and strong Jewish community, supporting and transmitting our identity for consciously living a responsible Judaism, rooted in our ancestral tradition. Our rabbi is Marc Neiger. Beth Hillel has about 300 active members. Our membership level remains quite stable. Our spacious and splendid synagogue opened in 2005. It has classrooms, meeting rooms, offices, a foyer, a kitchen and a library. We publish a weekly newsletter (free subscription: info@beth-hillel.org) and a quarterly publication 'Le Shofar'. Gan HaShalom, an associated organisation, takes care of burial services. Our congregation is a member of CCOJB (Comité de Coordination des Organisations Juives de Belgique) coordinating over 40 Jewish associations. Beth Hillel has its own website www.beth-hillel.org and its fan page on Facebook.

Just after the various celebrations of our Jubilee and 50 years of existence, 2016 would have been a transition and serene year. Sadly, on March 22nd, Brussels was the target of a double terrorist attack, at the Brussels Airport in Zaventem and at metro station Maelbeek. For the first time in its semi-centennial history, Beth Hillel had to cancel its services on Shabbat. Paradoxically, we reopened for the Purim festivities. On this occasion, we encouraged everyone to reconsider our situation and dedicate thoughts and prayers for the victims and targets of terrorism everywhere. The climate in Belgium following the March attacks forced us to re-examine security priorities and this has been exceptionally supported by the State and by La Fondation du Judaïsme.

Throughout the year, Beth Hillel offers services every Shabbat – both Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday evenings and Saturday shacharit - as well as for all the Jewish festivals. We still have a monthly Kabbalat Shabbat service Ledor Vador for families, and children. Once a month, Saturday Shabbat services are especially shortened and followed by a study group of the parashah. On Wednesday afternoon 28 children are educated in Judaism at the Talmud Torah. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are well attended. We welcome chazan students suggested by Rabbi Edward van Voolen from the Abraham Geiger Kolleg in Postdam. Last year, Rabbi Marc Neiger was joined by the student chazan Yuval Hed and by the pianist Naaman Wagner from Berlin. In November, Beth Hillel showed its support for "Women of the Wall" (WOW) by organising a shacharit service led by the women of our community in conjunction with many other communities around the world.

Many secular activities have also been organised at Beth Hillel this year. Our Café Klatsch is thriving and attracts seniors who discuss a subject and share cakes and coffee. What started as a one-shot activity during our Jubilee with "The Hebrew Sacred Alphabet" - Symbolic letters and "Tehima" (kind of Jewish Tai Chi), became a monthly activity in 2016. Our fairly large and convenient space has been rented for family events and for Jewish organisations: youth movement, association of Israelis in Belgium, Jewish school. Our Tree of Life initiative is building up and its leaves are slowly filling up. Once a month on Sundays Rabbi Marc Neiger leads a conference about the great themes of Judaism. These talks offer a format of a friendly but pointed approach to the main themes of our tradition and are open to all, whatever the level of study. As a very open synagogue, Beth Hillel has also welcomed school visits: pupils from all backgrounds and religions – with a very large number of Muslims – have been introduced to the principles of Judaism and have had the opportunity to understand where the similarities lie rather than focusing on differences and prejudices. After the shock in March, numerous interfaith meetings and dialogue events with Muslim groups occurred, particularly in Molenbeek.

Finally Beth Hillel is a flourishing progressive and friendly synagogue whose religious, cultural and political initiatives reach far beyond its membership. Beth Hillel wants to show appreciation, to congratulate and to thank Rabbi Marc Neiger, our assistant administrator Yardenah Pressler, the board and large number of volunteers for their hard work. We are looking forward to a new exciting 2017.

Belgium - IJC - Brussels

The IJC remains a unique community attracting international, English-speaking residents from the Capital of Europe and beyond. The IJC exists because of Jews moving to Belgium from across Europe (and indeed the whole world) for career or family reasons linked to the EU, NATO and other international institutions and companies located in Brussels. Today, membership features over 20 nationalities and also includes native Belgians and congregants who have lived in Belgium for decades.

2016 kicked off with a Super Shabbat themed “An innovative and creative look at community for all ages” featuring 12 workshops focusing on community life, such as: Interfaith families in our Community, Balagan the LGBTQI community in Belgium, Jewish Yoga, Jewish community in Azerbadjan, Exceptional Jewish women.

2016 highlights included: new Friday night *Adopt-a-Shabbat* services, held once a month in homes, with prayers followed by a potluck dinner; a well-attended Tu BiShvat Seder in a member’s home; the launch of the *Jewish Learning Encounters* series, an adult education program run in conjunction with our Giur program; a Purim party hosted by Hebrew School parents and teachers; a well-attended Seder at a central Brussels location; an exceptional (sold out!) Shavuot retreat (Friday to Sunday) in bucolic Flemish countryside, where the eclectic mix of our members’ interests and talents were on full display. Participant-led events included: a session on the 10 Commandments, Israeli folk dancing (led by our rabbi), late-night study, outdoor prayer, and more.

May saw a moving farewell service for 8 families who had all been deeply engaged in the community, some served as Board members and Hebrew School Director. The families set off to various US cities, Sweden, France, and are sorely missed. The revolving-door dynamic, emblematic of the IJC, and reminds us that we often serve as a *temporary Jewish home* within the context of a mobile career where separation from family is common. Our members have siblings, children, grandchildren and parents sprinkled across the world. In June we bade farewell, with a special blessing, to four former B’nei Mtizvah, setting off to universities in foreign lands.

The summer featured two well-attended services—a Kabbalat Shabbat on a member’s rooftop in Leuven and a Shabbat afternoon followed by Havdalah and Welcome-back BBQ at our President’s home—and the recruitment of two new Hebrew School teachers and one new board member.

High Holidays saw record attendance with some members bringing relatives from abroad, unexpected drop-in visitors, and even families from other Belgian congregations wishing to experience a Liberal service. Berlin-based Cantor Ido Ben-Gal accompanied our Rabbi throughout the High Holidays. We later celebrated a *Special Spirit and Song Shabbat* with visiting American singer, songwriter, composer and prayer leader Shir Yaakov.

We experimented with a *Sukkot Sleepover*, where Hebrew School kids and parents ate in the sukkah and spent the night in the synagogue (because of the Belgian weather).

Simchat Torah turnout was exciting, bringing together adults and many kids, with extra cheer provided by “in-house musicians” Shaya, Maayan and Daniel—on bass, saxophone and clarinet, respectively.

The IJC celebrated one bar and one bat mitzvah in 2016, conducted one funeral, in October, and two members were wed at their home in Brussels, also in October. The Giur class, launched in September 2015 with 9 students, counted 6 committed students by December 2016.

Since early 2013 the IJC has organised monthly Friday night services in Leuven, a historic, university town, 25 km outside Brussels. Made up of local Jews, Israelis and international Jewish students, the group has developed momentum and has taken on its own identity—Ohel Yachdav (Leuven Havurah)—with monthly Kabbalat Shabbat services, Shabbat dinners and other events around the Jewish holidays

IJC has also forged ties with *BaLaGan*, the Brussels based Jewish LGBT community and *Wandering Jews*, an informal group of 30-something professionals, most of whom are not formally part of any congregation. Members of both groups regularly attend IJC events.

The IJC has also forged a wonderful relationship with the Brussels Quakers, whose House now provides a venue where the IJC can hold Friday night services in a more central part of the city, once a month.

The IJC continues to deal with serious, ongoing security concerns shared by all Jewish organisations across Belgium. This translates into specific restrictions and financial constraints. Just before Purim, the deadly terrorist attacks on Brussels (airport and subway bombing) led to a city-wide lockdown and new security guidelines, which still preoccupy everyone, not only Jewish communities.

The weeks following the bombing saw the community cancel its *Purim-in-a-pub* celebration. The IJC family pulled together in inspiring ways, relocating services and Hebrew School to people's homes at the last-minute and holding a special service to address communal needs to mourn and find comfort. It is important to underline the commitment of our members who step up quickly to overcome the real-time logistical challenges of such situations, fraught with anxiety and uncertainty. The IJC navigated similar challenges following the killings at the Jewish Museum in 2014.

The board of the IJC is busy with several efforts aimed at securing its future in an exceptionally challenging environment. Not benefiting from any state recognition or funding (unlike all other shuls in Belgium) the IJC can only employ its rabbi part-time (two services a month) and relies on annual dues to cover its fixed costs. The IJC continues to seek funding wherever it can through its network of generous donors, including members and former members, scattered across the USA and other parts of the world. The community is also engaged in an ongoing search for new premises that are suitable, accessible and secure.

Czech Republic - Bejt Simcha, Prague

We have continued all our **regular activities** in 2016: **Shabbat services** (Kabalat Shabbat every week, Saturday morning service approx. once a month) and **celebrations of all the Jewish festivals**, led by our Cantor Ivan Kohout or by visiting rabbis. Other lay leaders prepare drashot and study sessions and they also lead the services occasionally. Traditionally, we have the highest attendance for the celebration of Passover (100 people), Hanukkah (around 150 people - we celebrated Hanukkah in cooperation with a majority of Prague Jewish organizations) and High Holidays (100 people) which were led by our cantor and members participated in the preparation and leading of services too.

Bejt Simcha organised **many educational, cultural and social events**. We have weekly Hebrew classes (three different levels), a course "Introduction to Judaism" and last year, in addition to that, an advanced course "Reading of Siddur". We also organised a number of cultural evenings in Bejt Simcha or in a Prague café/bookshop, where we invited interesting personalities involved in Jewish life, and the **film club of Bejt Simcha** where we projected Israeli movies in Hebrew with Czech subtitles.

In 2016, as in previous years, we concentrated on **programmes for children and youth**. We have organised a series of workshops and Shabbat programmes for children and also a great **Family Sukkot weekend in nature**, (in a small pension in northern Bohemia) for families with children, that included a rich programme with Shabbat services (a shortened form of service adapted especially for children). This included indoor and outdoor activities including art and craft workshop, other games and a trip to the Pravcicka brana (Pravcice

Sandstone Gate) which is the biggest natural sandstone arch in Europe. The children built their own sukkah in the nearby woods and learned Bible stories as well.

Our **monthly Maskil** has already entered its sixteenth year. It is widely popular and read among Czech Jews all over the country and it is really a flag-ship not only of our community but also of Progressive Judaism in the Czech Republic.

As every year, even in 2016, we organised **the Reform Shabbaton** (the tenth one) - **a summer weekend conference of Czech Progressive Jews** which was situated in Trebic, a town in southern Moravia. The program included Shabbat services led by cantor Ivan Kohout, a walking tour of the Jewish quarter, one of the best preserved and the largest in Europe. (The Jewish quarter and cemetery have been included in the UNESCO world and natural heritage list.) The program also included a lecture about security in Jewish communities, a lecture describing the life of traveller Jiri Baum with a history of the first half of the 20th century and a visit to the Jewish quarter and cemetery in Polna.

Last year, our community benefited from the Roswell Fund which supported one of our projects - Maskil. We are grateful to the European Union for Progressive Judaism for their support that made this possible.

Czech Republic – ZLU Hatikvah, Prague

Our main projects are continuing:

Holiday celebrations:

Our holiday celebrations are very popular. We organise common celebrations in which other Jewish organisations participate, for example: Organization of Jewish Academicians, Hakoach, Magen, Hidden Child and Organization of Jewish Fighters and Soldiers Against Fascism.

On Yom Kippur, thanks to the financial help of Jonathan Wootliff we participated in the service at Liberec Synagogue, which was led by student rabbi David Maxa. Pesach, this year was also led by David Maxa and Jonathan Wootliff. Our visitors liked it very much.

The Shavuot service was led by Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim. Rosh Hashanah was led by Benjamin Kuras. Chanukah was led by Professor Fried, our friend, and survivor of the Shoah.

From one year to the next the number of visitors is substantially growing:

For Purim: 92 visitors; for Pesach: 102; for Shavuot 65; for Rosh Hashanah 76 and for Chanukah more than 100

Rimon

Our little layman's choir, Rimon, established 5 years ago out of courses in biblical and modern Hebrew, and from the practice of using songs as a means of teaching Hebrew. Rimon performs specific songs for each holiday celebration, with the songs of psalms, prayers, and modern songs by Naomi Shemer. Visitors sing along with us. Rimon had 7 members, including 2 children, one of them left to study abroad. This year we edited a Jewish song book. Rimon sang at the picture exhibition of our member, Hana Alisa Omer, in the synagogue in Turnov and at the presentation of the book.

Over the past two years, Rimon has visited a survivor of the Shoah, 95 year old Zuzana Podmelova. We sing for her the respective holidays' songs. She is a positive person, and it's a very good experience for the two children who are members of Rimon.

The book of memoirs of the Shoah survivor: This was edited by ŽLU thanks to the grant of the Foundation for Holocaust Victims. The author, Josef Feigl, and father of our member, writes about the fate of the broader Jewish family during the whole 20th century. A book presentation was held together with Jewish songs by the choir Rimon.

The Hebrew courses:

These attracted people interested in Judaism and Israel, their relatives and friends, who attend the holiday celebrations and other ZLU programs. The students range in age from 14 years to 80, including eight seniors.

Biblical Hebrew: 16 students in beginners, intermediate and very advanced courses.

Modern Hebrew: 35 students – two parallel beginners' courses and three advanced courses

These activities, together with audiovisual teaching aids, are provided with thanks to grants from the Ministry of Schooling and Foundation for Holocaust Victims.

The Bike Ride Way to Freedom and the Chanukah Peace Run:

Since 2001, together with Hakoach, we have organised a bike ride Theresienstadt – Prague, in the memory of the deceased relatives and others. The participants say Kaddish for them.

Since 1993, together with Hakoach, we have organised the Chanukah Peace run.

Something for everybody:

To attract more Jewish people of different interests, who will come for holiday celebrations and become active in the work of ŽLU we organised lectures – like the one with the famous Israeli sculptor, Daniel Kafri. We celebrated the important birthdays of our members. We showed the film of our member, Hanuš Gaertner, a survivor of the Shoah. Together with the Hakoach organization, we arranged sport activities, like skating, skiing trips, a Jewish ball and bike trip. We also joined together for a Shabbat in the Děčín synagogue and Havdala in Ústěk synagogue in the north of the Czech Republic. We successfully attracted Jewish people who have recently come to the Jewish organisation, or had not found their niche in any other Jewish organisation yet. We helped them to find their roots by participation in our programs, Biblical and Modern Hebrew courses and holiday celebrations.

Even though we are missing the financial means to pay for a program coordinator, part time rabbi, and many other matters needed, we are still alive and kicking.

Denmark – Shir Hatzafon, Copenhagen

We are Shir Hatzafon, the Progressive Jewish Community in Denmark and we are based in Copenhagen. We have about 105 full members and associate members and this figure has remained stable for many years. Since January 2016, we have been full members of Liberal Judaism in the UK.

We hold Shabbat services once a month. Erev Shabbat comprises kiddush, some singing and a pot-luck buffet. On the Saturday there is a full Shabbat morning service followed by kiddush and a pot-luck buffet. We use our own siddur which is in four languages, Hebrew, Transliterated Hebrew, Danish and English. On the High Holydays we use the Liberal Judaism machzor. There is also our very popular communal seder which attracts about 75 people each year. In 2016, Rabbi Danny Rich led the seder brilliantly. We do not normally have services for sukkot, simchat torah, shmini azeret, chanukah or purim but there is usually a party for kids and adults.

All the administrative and practical work is done by volunteers. We do not have the resources to employ a full time Rabbi so we arrange for Rabbis to visit us to conduct our monthly weekends. Our regular Rabbi is Tirzah Ben-David who lives in Israel on a kibbutz. She has been coming to us about 6 times a year since 2006 and conducts five shabbatot

and the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Other Rabbis who have visited us during 2016 are Danny Rich (Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism), Deborah Kahn Harris (Principal of the Leo Baeck College), Rebecca Lillian, an American Rabbi living across the bridge from us in Malmo, Sweden and of course our own Sandra Kviat whose knowledge of Danish is so important when dealing with the children.

We have two wonderful musicians, our chazzanit Rachel and her pianist husband Morten who make each service a very special and moving experience. Rachel also blows a mean shofar.

We have conducted a conversion class each year since 2003. It is taught by Rabbi Tirzah Ben-David. The candidates have to spend six weekends a year in Copenhagen and attend classes on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. At the end of the year the candidates appear before a Beit Din in London. Our 2016 class comprised two Danes and two Norwegians. Our 2017 class comprises two Danes, a Swede and a Lithuanian.

We do not have our own building; we rent space at the Unitarian House. This building has a sanctuary upstairs and a so-called crypt below where we can eat our pot-luck meals. It is quite a challenge to set the shul up before each service and dismantle it again after each service, we have to cover up Christian symbols and there is quite a lot of heavy lifting to do (not normally permitted on Shabbat). Our ark is homemade and very beautiful, it is more or less portable for two muscular people. Our Torah was very generously given to us by Temple Israel in Alameda, California.

We experienced a crisis in April 2016 when four board members resigned leaving three to carry on. For most of the year there were just four members and we could only try to maintain our regular activities without introducing any new initiatives. We currently have six board members but nobody seems to want the Chairman's job.

The entire Kahn-Harris family visited us in June 2016. Rabbi Deborah Kahn-Harris led our Shabbat service and her husband Dr. Keith Kahn-Harris led a seminar on the Israel Palestine situation in which two Danish journalists participated together with the Israeli ambassador to Denmark H.E. Barukh Binah. It was well attended and most interesting.

Security at Jewish buildings in Denmark has been in focus since the tragic murder of a volunteer security guard outside the main Copenhagen (Orthodox) synagogue in the early hours of Sunday, 15 February 2015. We cooperate with the Orthodox congregations and Chabad Lubavitch on security matters. There are always volunteer security guards and armed police officers outside the building when we are in attendance. We are incredibly grateful to them, but sad that this should be necessary.

France – AJL

AJL, Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral, was officially launched on 24th November 2016 in Paris. The objective is to confirm our position within the Republic and its laws while providing representation of our ideas and concerns at a national political level, other than by relying on the Consistoire which dates back to Napoleonic times and does not embrace our movement.

A major step for all our communities was the establishment in September, of pre-rabbinic training in Paris. A one-year extensive course (possibly over two years if part-time), taught by the French-speaking rabbis and some Leo Baeck College staff, with university courses in Oriental languages and compulsory training with clergy of 6 different religions at the Political Sciences Institute, covering French institutions and secular society, art and science, management and leadership.

Another major achievement for France resides in the success of the youth programs and especially the summer camp, Mahanetzer, that gathered more than 100 children and 30 adults under the leadership of Rabbis Pauline Bebe, Tom Cohen and student Rabbi Etienne Kerber.

This report highlights the main aspects of our communities aside from basic celebration of Shabbatot and the festivals of the Jewish calendar, in addition to participation in a number of commemorations in our towns and cities.

Grenoble: The local CJL held Kabbalat Shabbat services every fortnight or so, sometimes accompanied by a potluck meal. Most of the festivals were also celebrated.

Lyon: The year saw the Keren Or community settling more into the recently acquired premises, continuing the inevitable physical installation process. The spring saw a change of president with Brigitte Frois handing over to Pamela Vennin. The latter quickly engaged the community in an energetic programme around four core values: welcoming, sharing, transmission and spirituality, with the aim of offering a wide range of programmes and activities and of engaging ever more members.

Study sessions range from Introduction to Judaism to deeper adult study and a vibrant Talmud Torah. Services include a monthly one, particularly built round families, followed by a Kabbalat Shabbat meal early enough for the youngest participants.

Interfaith activities were important in 2016, particularly with two local mosques and a Kids4Peace project involving youngsters from the three monotheistic religions.

At the end of the summer we were honoured to receive a Sefer Torah from KAM Isaiah Israel in Chicago, part of a WUPJ project. This scroll, smaller and lighter than many, will allow far more people to actively participate in services. This Sefer Torah was formally introduced to Keren Or in the presence of WUPJ president Rabbi Danny Freeland and other WUPJ and EUPJ officers at the beginning of December, coinciding with Keren Or hosting an EUPJ Executive Board meeting. That was also a very enriching opportunity to exchange with our visitors from around Europe.

As regards the rabbinic presence, student rabbi Haim Casas arrived in September to do his fifth year study community placement in Lyon, with a view to taking on a part-time rabbinic role after his ordination. He is supported by Rabbi René Pfertzel who oversees the community. Lyon is also privileged to count student rabbi Daniela Touati amongst its members. She too plays an active role, officiating and teaching.

Montpellier: Kehilat Kedem expanded rapidly reaching membership of 80, children included.

Alongside religious services run by the membership, the community had the regular rabbinic support of student rabbi Haim Casas, Haim Cipriani and Lior Ben-Ami.

The range of study activities grew for both children and adults, covering Talmud Torah, introduction to Judaism, reading the siddur and Bible study.

A major priority is to have a Sefer Torah and a subscription has been launched to have one written. There's also been an application for the loan of a Sefer Torah.

A cultural branch, La Maison des cultures juives, has been founded with a view to developing cultural activities.

Paris:

CJL Paris ile de France

The community continues to grow and develop strongly.

Shabbat Klezmer and Shabbat Rock are particularly successful initiatives that appeal to a large public.

Netzer activities for the youth cultural activities for adults, concerts and conferences are extremely popular.

ULIF Copernic

The size of the community can be reflected in the number of Bar/Bat mitzvah celebrations each year – well above 100. Special care continued to be given to making everyone feel comfortable and providing a range of activities and community life which would speak to different needs, with many opportunities to meet and chat. Amongst the different types of dinner opportunities, one is directed to singles.

An innovation in 2016 was cookery classes. Other classes at ULIF ranged from krav maga, to of course, Talmud Torah and Hebrew and biblical study sessions, the latter ran by rabbis, Jonas Jacquelin and Philippe Haddad.

A social and legal support system has also been elaborated, with the participation of members who give their time.

Cultural activities, lectures and music featured ever larger at ULIF during the past year.

Reaching outwards, much was done in the interfaith field. One can highlight the Prix Copernic, awarded to an individual or to an association for work favouring dialogue, peace and fellowship. In 2016, this went to a team who produced a documentary film entitled 'The French, that's the others' and their involvement in schools, working to break down prejudice. There was also involvement with French national Jewish institutions so as to coordinate relations with Israel.

Kehilat Geshet

Kehilat Geshet today is a community of about 200 families. This past year saw the introduction of a new program for its Talmud Torah; not only do students have the chance to study Judaica in the maternal tongue (French or English) but all the students spend part of their Sundays in a special "ulpan" conceived for everyone together! Additionally, Sunday mornings start off with a learner's service for both Parents and their children. We also introduced our new siddur this year. "Sefat HaLev" is a trilingual prayer book (Hebrew, French and English) that also includes a transliteration. The congregation has been involved in interfaith dialogue this past year. KG has proudly been part of the creation of the AJL, and we have been active in summer camp and Taglit groups for youth and young adults. A current challenge that preoccupies the leadership is our premises, which are too small. A committee has been searching possible locations and a capital campaign is being conceived. We are looking forward to a fruitful year, reaching out to unaffiliated and under-affiliated bilingual Jews in the Paris area.

Mouvement Juif Liberal de France (MJLF), Paris

As a movement of 1000 families, three Rabbis and two locations (Beaugrenelle and Surmelin), MJLF is dedicated to innovation while preserving tradition. Marc Konczaty, completing six years of achievement, hands over the presidency to Danielle Cohen.

MJLF continues to innovate in Sabbath services with music and young children services and shabbatons. Multiple study courses, cultural events and activities for the young and young adults are high priorities. Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur was given an honour by the French

government for her contributions to open Judaism and universal values. Rabbi Yann Boissière launched “Voices for Peace” to promote dialogue and mutual learning among all segments of society. Rabbi Floriane Chinsky joined her colleagues in bringing thoughtful Judaism to a wider audience via educational clips on social media and public interventions on societal questions.

The Beaugrenelle synagogue was smartly refurbished.

MJLF co-operated more and more with other communities: Tenou’a *Magazine*, run by Delphine Horvilleur; the school *Ecole Juive Moderne*; study groups; a joint *Purim* celebration; a book fair and other cultural activities. Talmud Torah Director, Revital Shloman, adopted the new “E-Talmud” developed by ULIF; MJLF translated the Domim-aLike *Haggadah* to celebrate *Israel-Diaspora Unity Day* with Arzenou France; Oren Giorno co-organised the first French Liberal Birthright trip to Israel and a Hanukah boat trip on the Seine for bnei mitzvot. MJLF participated actively in the London EUPJ conference in April and planted an avenue of trees at Yozma, Modi’in in the framework of ongoing co-operation in Domim-aLike.

Strasbourg: Lectures, presentations and musical events were often programmed alongside the celebration of festivals or commemorations, by UJLS or in cooperation with other Jewish associations. Among the themes covered were the place of women in the synagogue and the place of Jews in the city as, of course, a number of educational programmes.

UJLS is also active in interfaith work, participating in the event round the arrival in the city of the Jewish-Muslim friendship bus (this is an annual move which has come to many cities over the years). The community also shared in Iftar at the close of a day during Ramadan.

On the cultural front there was a fully attended celebration of the European Day of Jewish Culture, as also a highly successful production of the musical Yentl, the fruit of home-grown talent.

The community also engaged in providing members with information as to how to behave and react on the security front.

Rabbi Stephen Berkowitz was present regularly and is the community’s rabbinic authority. Student rabbi Daniela Touati officiated at Yom Kippur and was very well appreciated.

Toulouse: The most significant event of 2016 was the ordination in early December of Lior Ben-Ami who will henceforth be the community rabbi for AJLT, to the delight of all. For a year and a half as the rabbinic presence while completing his studies at Abraham Geiger College, Lior already made a great impact and was instrumental in supporting and advancing many programmes and activities.

The focus was also on growing the community and developing financial support, in particular with a view to answering the needs of ever more people, developing educational programmes and resources and providing as fully as possible for security concerns.

France – AJTM, Paris

No report received.

Germany - Union progressiver Juden in Deutschland (UpJ)

Our **annual conference** had to leave Berlin and we weren't sure whether people would like the new house in Bonn. Thanks to Irith Michlesohn's perfect preparations, it turned out to be a great success.

The **Winter- and summer-Machanot**, led by our youth worker Konstantin Seidler were so popular that we couldn't grant every child a place.

Our **chairperson**, Sonja Guentner, achieved a lot in political aspects in Germany for the UpJ; we'll reap the fruits of her work very soon. She was also very active for the EUPJ and the WUPJ.

About some German Congregations:

Bad Pyrmont served meals on Mitzvah Day for people living alone.

Jung and Juedisch (youth organisation) participated in three large seminars in Hannover, Budapest and Berlin.

Beth Shalom, Munich is growing fast: 500 members now. For the 10th anniversary of Rabbi Kucera as a rabbi in Munich, the congregations started collecting funds for a new Torah scroll.

Sukkat Shalom, Berlin celebrated a huge Pesach Seder with 150 guests.

Etz Chaim, Hannover hosted the ordination of rabbis and a cantor, Assaf Levitin who is now Hannover's new cantor, from Abraham Geiger College on December 1st.

Perusch, Oberhausen won the German Human Rights Film award for their film, Through the Curtain, and celebrated David Lang's Bar Mitzvah.

Emet weSchalom, Kassel region can now use the pre-war synagogue in Flesberg. The High Holidays were the first services held there. The Torah scroll given to them by the Cathedral in Frizlar as a permanent loan several years ago has now been donated as their property.

Beit Tikwa, Bielefeld offered four special services with Rabbi Dr Henry Brandt, Professor Dr Ralph Selig, organ and Cantor Paul Yuval Adam. Dr Ralph Selig's intention, who travelled from New York to Bielefeld, is to bring the sound of German synagogue music before 1933 in the liberal congregations these days.

Beitenu, Hameln: honored their rabbi of the last twenty years, Rabbi Irit Shillor passed her pulpit after 20 years to Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenbergl.

On Mitzvah Day "Shabbat at Home" bags for those members too frail or ill to attend Shabbat services were created. One group baked challah, one group put together safety Shabbat candles (battery lit) and the prayer sheet, which Rabbi Irit had prepared. In addition, personal notes were written on decorated cards. The members handed the bags to members at home. Rebecca Dohme, daughter of Chairperson, Rachel, had her Chuppah, led by Rabbi Irit Shillor, with Amitai.

Germany - Abraham Geiger College, Jewish Institute of Cantorial Arts

In the seventeenth year of its existence, the Abraham Geiger College has consolidated further. It has been assuming an increasing number of tasks, also by contributing to the academic conceptualisation of Jewish Theology. Thus, the international conference on the topic of "Re-Framing American-Jewish History and Thought: The Transnational Perspective" organised in July of 2016 met with significant resonance; it was followed in September by a forum on "German-Jewish Bible Exegesis: Theological Perspectives."

34 of our graduates are now actively pursuing their vocation as rabbis or cantors. They are doing so not only in Germany – we have alumni in France, Great Britain, Sweden, South Africa, and the United States, most recently also in Hungary and Austria. We were very

happy to admit five new students this year, of whom three are studying to become cantors and two have enrolled in the Rabbinical Studies program.

In April, ten students were accompanied by several members of our teaching staff to attend the “Building Bridges” conference of the European Union for Progressive Judaism in London. In July, the College was involved in the program of the Annual Conference of the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ) in Germany, which was held for the first time in Bonn-Bad Godesberg. From December 8th to 11th, the College was represented at the Berlin *Gemeindetag* assembly of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

For us, the interfaith dialogue is of great significance. Thus, the Institute for Islamic Theology in Osnabrück, the Theological Seminary of Wuppertal/Bethel, and the Abraham Geiger College launched a cooperation project in March for the training of theologians.

In late November, the Abraham Geiger College and the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) signed a Cooperation Agreement in order to enhance the training of rabbis in Russia. In 2016, the Abraham Geiger Medal was awarded to two laureates: to Rabbi Dr. Deborah Kahn-Harris, Principal of the Leo Baeck College, for her exceptional contribution to rabbinical training, and to Barbara Lerner Spectre, Founding Director of Paideia (The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden).

The highlight of the year being reported on was the ordination and investiture ceremony. This was our seventh, and it took place on December 1st in the Etz Chaim synagogue in Hanover. Two rabbis were ordained and one cantor was invested. Besides the Minister President of Lower Saxony, Stephan Weil, and the Minister President of Thuringia, Bodo Ramelow, numerous representatives of the Jewish community abroad and within Germany attended the ceremony. Attendees included UPJ President Sonja Güntner, EUPJ Chairman Miriam Kramer as well as Rabbi Denise Eger, President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. The Central Council of Jews in Germany was represented by its Vice President, Abraham Lehrer.

We wish to thank all of our friends and sponsors for their generosity, their good will, their continuous support, and their unflagging dedication. We are particularly grateful to the rabbinical training fund of the EUPJ for its support of our students, an essential contribution, and to the Women of Reform Judaism, who enable students to come to Germany on scholarships funded by their donations.

Hungary – Bet Orim, Budapest

Bet Orim was founded in 2006 to educate Hungarian Jews about Jewish traditions, practices, and ethics - knowledge that had not been passed down to them from their ancestors. We consider it our mission to make both members and drop-ins feel equally welcome.

Highlights:

This year we introduced our contemporary and fully participatory musical Kabbalat Shabbat services once each month. Flora Polnauer, our new cantor contributes to these events with much fun, dynamism and happiness by her wonderful singing and magnetic personality.

As in the past few years, Bet Orim’s Seder was the most popular and perhaps the best attended one in Budapest with more than 180 people gathered together. Public figures and celebrities participated in the event. Among them US Ambassador Colleen Bell was pleased to join Bet Orim to celebrate for the second year.

At Lag B'Omer we celebrated our 10th anniversary with a superb benefit concert with record attendance and donations which was also an important contribution to our budget.

Connections:

Together with young members of Bet Orim we had a wonderful Shabbat with our friends of Roswell Klal Yisrael Fellows. During a year-long program young leaders from all over the world together with a Hungarian participant of Bet Orim, WUPJ's Roswell Klal Yisrael Fellowship had a seminar in Budapest led by Rabbi Steve Burnstein.

Two members of Bet Orim attended the Bergman Seminar for Progressive Jewish Educators during an intensive 10-day program in Israel.

Bet Orim hosted a Kabbalat Shabbat dinner for 45 members of TaMaR, the International Progressive Jewish Youth Movement, who came from the four corners of the world.

GIL Geneva organised a trip to Budapest under the leadership of EUPJ Vice-President Alexander Dembitz. On a Shabbat evening they came together with the two Progressive congregations of Budapest for services with three rabbis, including Rabbi François Garai. It was joyous, fervent and moving, followed by a wonderful Shabbat dinner which was an occasion to sing together and to converse with each other freely of our experience.

On the 7th of Mar-Cheshvan (November 7), we celebrated Diaspora Israel Day – a new holiday marking connections between Jewish congregations all around the world.

Perspectives:

Bet Orim has become an affiliated member of Mozaik Hub, a Budapest Jewish organisation which was established recently with support from the JDC. One of the advantages of membership is that there is the possibility to get financial support for projects and activities, based on a grant application.

The Strasbourg Court unfortunately rejected our claim on the compensation pro rata resulted from the annuity sharing agreement between the Jewish "churches" and the Government of Hungary. This side issue severely impaired us along with the earlier "church law" which forced the de-registration of our congregation as a religious institution.

Despite all the handicaps we face we are fully convinced that Progressive Judaism, on the whole, is in a much stronger position in Budapest at present than it was ten years ago.

Everyone at Congregation Bet Orim is deeply grateful to our friends at the EUPJ and in all other corners of the world for enthusiastically supporting our further endeavours in the coming decades.

Hungary – Sim Shalom, Budapest

2016 was, like the past four years, a mixture of success, difficulty and uncertainty. The congregation's internal life continued much as in recent years, with much activity, modest growth and many joyful events involving the lives of our members. The same is true of our relations with the rest of the Reform Jewish world, here and internationally. Only in our relations with the Hungarian government does the situation continue to be bad, with the consequence that our financial situation also continues to be very difficult.

2016 was very much a year of transition. Rabbi Kelemen was away on sabbatical for 4 ½ months, mostly studying Talmud at the Department for Jewish Studies of Potsdam University near Berlin, and getting a much needed break from her busy life as the Congregational

mainspring. In Berlin, she and her husband sampled the lively Jewish life and culture there, attending the German long-weekend Limmud, as well as services and programs at half a dozen different Reform and Masorti congregations. Lay leaders in Sim Shalom, with considerable help from Rabbinical Student, Ariel Pollak, took up the task of leading the services and some of the educational programs. Meanwhile, the congregation twice moved to basically free premises, after giving up the comfortable flat we could no longer afford. Currently we are in the Budapest JCC, Balint Haz, where we spent several years in the previous decade. Finally, we again changed cantors. Milan Andic, who was our good cantor for eighteen months, left in the fall to start his studies in the cantorial programme of the Abraham Geiger College in Berlin. Since then, we have enjoyed the singing and very spiritual services of Flora Polnauer, who has also studied in Berlin. In spite of all these disruptions, the attendance at various programs has held up very well, attesting to the basic strength of the Congregation.

Besides the usual weekly services, holiday celebrations and educational programmes, which include a very successful new Talmud course, there were a number of extraordinary events during the year. One was the baby naming of the twins born to Yvette Guba, the wife of our President. Once again we held a special Shacharit service for LGBT travellers on the weekend of the local Gay Pride March. We also had a joint service with the local Masorti congregation on the occasion of their International Masorti Youth Seminar. As a protest against a very unpopular anti-immigrant referendum promoted by the government, the three Progressive, Reform and Masorti congregations held a joint Shabbat service to show solidarity with the immigrants. Among the guest speakers were several Christian and Muslim members of like-minded non-Jewish organisations. Rabbi Kelemen has recently joined the international organisation, National Democratic Institute (NDI) whose local program in the four Visegrad nations is forming an inter-religious and inter-ethnic coalition to create projects working against prejudice in the majority society. They are holding some several-day workshops as they build their organisation. Among the groups visiting Sim Shalom during the year were a group of London teenagers led by a former British member of Sim Shalom, Nick Young, whose wife is Hungarian, and a large delegation from the GIL Reform Congregation in Geneva, led by Alex Dembitz, Vice-President of EUPJ and President of GIL. Rabbi François Garai, of GIL, delighted us with his fine voice, both during the service and at dinner.

The West London Synagogue (WLS) Budapest Project Committee, led by Rabbi David Mitchell, and now with participation of EUPJ, made several visits here last year. Rosalind Copisarow carried out the study of the needs of the Jewish community of Budapest, and the Project Committee made plans on how to contribute to the further growth of the Reform community here. The current plan has two main thrusts. One is to hire Rabbi Ariel Pollak, a Hungarian who is recently graduated from Abraham Geiger College in Berlin and who did a year of internship under Rabbi Kelemen's supervision in 2015-16, to make monthly visits to Budapest. He will put on programs/services which will attract unaffiliated young Hungarian Jews to some practice of Judaism, much as he has been doing in Berlin. The other is to continue the current plan of encouraging twinning of Bat and Bar Mitzvah celebrations as a way of building human bridges between WLS and Sim Shalom, and of giving some small financial support.

Our relationships to both the Neolog (Orthodox lite) Jewish Community and the Hungarian government continue to be adversarial. Once again we have brought a lawsuit in the European Court for Human Rights (ECHR) against the Hungarian government for the financial damage they have caused us by taking away our registration as a recognised religious institution in 2012. Our last such suit was partially successful. However the part of our previous suit in the same court for a much larger amount was finally decided against us. The reason given was that it was "...an internal matter in the Jewish Community..." in which they could not intervene.

Italy – Beth Hillel, Rome

Beth Hillel Rome keeps on growing, now with a membership of 165 people and more expected during the current year.

In 2016 we started working successfully with Rabbi Joel Oseran and thanks to his very active role we were able to add and plan significant activities, such as Hebrew and religious classes for the younger generation, a course for Bar and Bat Mitzvah, and a preparation course for public Teffilah.

We celebrated successfully all Jewish festivals and held monthly Shabbat services with good attendance levels. There were many cultural activities organised throughout the year.

We held a Bar and a Bat mitzvah, both marvellously prepared and conducted by Rabbi Joel Oseran, a wedding and a redemption of the first born.

Rabbi Leigh Lerner from Canada was able to hold a class for 10 gherim who on 15th February 2017 will go through a Bet Din in Rome, the first ever. In November another class has been organised for ghiur by Rabbi Lerner that will last for a full year.

Interfaith dialog was also another interesting field in which Beth Hillel has started to be an important protagonist, being a full member of Religions for Peace.

Our community worked very actively during the year in the preparation of the constitution for the Federation of the Italian Reform Communities, together with the other communities in the country.

Beth Hillel has been a support for many Jewish tourists visiting our marvellous city either to worship or to hold unforgettable Jewish life cycle events.

You are more than welcome to visit us! For more information please write to: bethhillelroma@gmail.com or visit our website www.bethhillelroma.org

Italy – Beth Shalom, Milan

As Frank Sinatra said “It was a very good year”... and 2016 at Beth Shalom Milano was a truly remarkable year.

Our first service in January was led by two young rabbis from Britain, Rabbi Leah Jordan and her husband Rabbi Benji Stanley, whose warmth, enthusiasm and dedication made us all feel a little younger and more humble.

February was marked by a truly unique event, the arrival of none other than Rabbi Angela Buchdahl, Senior Rabbi at Central Synagogue in New York, one of the most important Reform synagogues in the United States. Rabbi Buchdahl, accompanied by her class of 30 confirmation students, gave a Dvar Torah at our service. And what a memorable service it was! Our members and those attending, including several prominent officers of the Jewish Community, were absolutely awestruck by Rabbi Buchdahl’s magnificent voice and sermon which truly struck a chord in all of our hearts. Three members of her confirmation class read from the Torah and we felt truly honoured to be blessed by someone of her standing who told us that her aim is to convince young people to embrace Judaism and encourage a civilization frightened by extremism and disillusioned by scandals to rediscover how religion can be used as “a force of good”.

The event was further enhanced by the return to Beth Shalom of Rabbi Leigh Lerner who had been responsible for leading Beth Shalom's conversion classes in 2015, infusing students and members alike with his participative attitude, bringing all of us together as one large Jewish family.

On 20 March, Beth Shalom held a pre-Purim Happy Hour. A truly fun-filled event, it was well attended by young and old alike. Not only fabulous food but also a selection of 'aperitivi' mixed by one of our members who is a professional mixologist and a great soundtrack provided by another Beth Shalom member, DJ Nik of the award-winning Whiskey&Cigarettes Show.

On 23 April we held our second night Passover seder at Milan's Hotel De La Ville led by Rabbi Leigh Lerner.

May kicked off with our very first Bat Mitzvah at which Rachael Aghib, who had been taught by Rabbi Leigh Lerner, was called to the Torah. The service was attended by members and friends of the Aghib and Pigey family who had travelled from all over the world to share in the Simcha. It reminded us of our dreams and hopes, our traditions and values, and the passing of these traditions and values down through the ages.

In June we celebrated Shavuot with a fabulous kabbalat Shabbat organised and led by our honorary President David Ross. The service was based on a program that Cantor Evan Kent had kindly prepared and sent to us from Israel especially for the occasion. David, assisted by the amazing hosting skills of his indefatigable wife Carol, asked our members to be inventive by bringing dairy-based dishes that reflected their varying Jewish origins. A truly great evening!

September was also an event-filled month. On 17 September we held a potluck Kabbalat Shabbat at which our guest speaker was Dr. Massimo Gronich, an expert on Middle Eastern affairs who enlightened us about Middle Eastern laws and customs, shedding light on many aspects of which we were unaware.

In October, Rabbi Donald Goor and Cantor Evan Kent, returned to Milan for the High Holy Days. They led both our Rosh Hashanah services on 3 October and our Yom Kippur services on 11 and 12 October. A truly wonderful and inspiring duo who filled our hearts and souls with their touching words and beautiful music, offering us food for thought and inspiring us to commence the New Year with an open mind and an open heart.

At the end of October, Rabbi David Whiman arrived in Milan as our new resident rabbi. His first service was held on 29 October at which he gave a wonderful service on 'New Beginnings', a perfect way to embrace the year 5777. Rabbi Whiman boasts an extremely impressive CV and we, at Beth Shalom, are honoured to be hosting a scholar of his caliber. Services and Torah Study classes with Rabbi Whiman continued in November. On 26 November, his service, which included a thought-provoking service on 'Something to Die For' ended with a fantastic Kiddush offered by one of our newly converted families, Fred Serra and his mother Gabriella who at the venerable age of 83, had decided to convert to Judaism.

The secular year ended on a high note with our pre-Hanukah 'aperitivo' party which was held at the Rabbi's house. The event, organised by Carey Bernitz and Liat Komeni, one of our young Israeli members, was a huge success, with quizzes, songs, games and prizes for our younger members.

On looking back over the past year, I would like to thank everyone for their participation and enthusiasm. We have a lot of new members and, day after day, inspired by our wonderful

rabbis, industrious leaders and members we strive to make Beth Shalom a spiritual haven where everyone, young and old alike, are always made to feel welcome in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

Italy – Lev Chadash, Milan

During the year 2016 Lev Chadash has worked hard towards self-consolidation and self-extension in order to open up to all those people who sincerely want to approach a more welcoming form of Judaism and to those people who decided to leave the Orthodox Jewish community of Milan because of its excessive strictness towards any kind of religious openness.

Besides the religious services for Shabbat and for all the other festivals, besides the organisation of the Seder for Rosh Hashanah, Tu B'Shvat and Pesach (which were always attended by over eighty people) and besides the parties for Hanukkah and Purim we have also continued to give courses for gherim (they're six so far) and courses to prepare seven kids for their bar mitzvah and bat mitzvah. Four members of our synagogue did ghir in Barcelona. Moreover, we're currently holding regular meetings and lectures about Talmud Torah. We also had a very intense cultural activity: we hosted several presentations of books about Judaism and together with some experts we organised many initiatives which have always been successfully welcomed by our community. These initiatives regarded important issues such as bioethics (for example IVF and abortion), rights (same-sex marriage and adoptions), history (Bund, the Jewish presence in Milan and homosexual persecution during the Shoah), Zionism, solidarity (a member of our community gave us a report about her activities in Greece's refugees camps).

We also took part in political debates: during the local elections period we organised a debate between the candidates of Milan's municipal elections and the religious communities of the city (Muslim, Catholic and Jewish Orthodox) and we also had a debate about the constitutional referendum held in November.

Another successful initiative is the meetings that we're currently holding to discuss the role of Women in Judaism. The members of our community also enthusiastically welcomed the weekly meetings for "Jewish meditation", which have been taking place so far.

Regarding the cultural field, we organised many concerts and self-produced theatre plays about the "Jewish slang" of Jewish families (very ancient common expressions, like the ones of the thousand-year old Jewish community of Rome or more recent ones). Furthermore, our members together with the CNR (National Research Center) organised an exhibition about the Shoah and a course for high school professors and students who wanted to learn the history of Italian Jews and the Holocaust. We also held lectures about Judaism to an inter-religious audience.

In the religious field we took part in many initiatives in Bergamo to promote dialog with Catholic and Waldesian Christians. Together with some lecturers, we took part in the third conference of Limmud Italy: a member of our community is on the organising and promoting committee.

Regarding our relation with Orthodox Judaism, a member of our community who already was financial assessor of the Jewish community of Milan, has been elected to the Council of Ucei, the only structure recognised by the State that reunites the many orthodox communities. The relation with the Orthodox community is characterised by mutual respect and we have reached an agreement to have the army patrol in front our synagogue during religious services and cultural activities.

We also organised a market for Hanukkah and we have applied a considerable part of the proceeds to the Tikkun Olam.

From an organisational perspective, in the past few months the board has been working on the transformation of the community into a non-profit association (it would involve significant financial benefits) and we're now waiting for an answer from the authorities in charge.

Last but not least, the most important news: the engagement of Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild as spiritual reference for Lev Chadash. The agreement at the moment envisions her presence for three days per month.

Italy – Shir Hadash Italia, Florence

Shir Hadash is the smallest of Italy's four Progressive communities, with about 40 members, most of whom live a long way from Florence, yet we are in our 14th year and we are the Progressive Jewish "home" not only for our members, but for Florence's visitors and exchange students. Shir Hadash is community-centred rather than a rabbi-centred congregation and our visiting rabbis and cantors join us in our "do-it-yourself" ways. In the last year or so, we've increased the frequency of services to twice a month for nine months of the year, plus children's activities and classes for children and adults. This year we're also experimenting with varying the calendar from our typical Kabbalat Shabbat, kid-oriented Havdalah, and Sunday adult classes, so we now sometimes do Shacharit on Shabbat morning, or have class after Havdalah, or have an informal, social, gathering. All of this has meant an intensive commitment on the part of the few members who live in or near Florence - sometimes the strain of this shows, but they've never let us down.

Our numbers have slowly, but steadily grown and at Pesach and the High Holidays we always have a full house; our own members arrive from far and wide, visitors come from all over the globe. Our over-subscribed communal first Seder, with Rabbi Leigh Lerner leading, was again held at Villa Viviani in the Tuscan hills outside Firenze. There is indeed something special for our visitors and for us about the homelike atmosphere of our Seder amidst this beauty. For the High Holydays we even had to find a larger space than usual for our services.

We've been working together with our three sister Progressive congregations to form the Italian Federation of Progressive Jewish Congregations, and the dotting of i's and crossing of t's on our legal documents should happen on February 12th, 2017 when the four congregation presidents, and representatives of the EUPJ will meet in Florence. (I know, that's for next year's report, but the ground work was done this year, and last year and the year before that.) Kudos to Rabbi Joel Oseran who has helped keep us on track despite the differences that are automatic whenever two or more Jews (or Italians for that matter) discuss anything at all.

Last Spring, Rabbi Leigh Lerner was back for his fifth three-month stay in Italy. He was resident at Shir Hadash, travelled to Beth Shalom and Beth Hillel to occasionally lead services and, more regularly, to guide the studies of ghiur candidates, something he continues via Skype when he's back in Canada. He led our first night community seder at Pesach and officiated at a highlight of the year when Massimo Yaakov Stella and Barbara Ester Ciampi, who completed their ghiur last year when the Bet Din met in Florence, re-celebrated their marriage "under the chuppah". He and Loren will be back again this spring for a SIXTH stint here. Leigh, and every other rabbi who's been at Shir Hadash, has wanted to come back again and again. When things get to be "too much" and we feel a bit discouraged, this reaffirms our conviction that Shir Hadash is doing something right, and perhaps even important.

Cantor Louise Treitman, who led our High Holiday services the past two years, accepted a congregational position in the U.S., so wasn't available this time (though she's already let us know that she'd like to come back when she retires). Happily, we learned that Rabbi Ariel Friedlander might be able to help us out, and she joined us for Rosh Hashanah. At the same time as we were making those arrangements, we started talking with Rabbi Robert Levy about coming here this past fall. He led our services for Yom Kippur and stayed for the following two months - it was a marriage made in heaven. No surprise to us by now, but Rabbi Levy and Jo will be back again next fall! But Rabbi Friedlander has already been back as well as being Administrator of the Torah Scrolls Trust museum in London. She also has an Italian connection and comes to Italy a few times a year. On 16 December, Rabbi Ariel and Lior joined us for Kabbalah Shabbat, and we expect to see them again, probably for Shavuot if not before then. By the way, Rabbi Ariel has said that she'd be happy to help all four Italian Progressive congregations in any way that she can be useful. Not only do rabbis or cantors once here want to return, but word seems to be spreading - we had to tell another superb rabbi that he needn't be starting his Italian class, at least not for now, though we would have liked to welcome him too.

Luxembourg - Communauté Israélite d'Esch-sur-Alzette

As mentioned in our last annual report, Rabbi Alexander Grodensky was elected our community rabbi in July 2015. The installation of Rabbi Grodensky took place on January 21, 2016. The ceremony was attended by EUPJ Chairperson Ms. Miriam Kramer, Rabbi Gesa Ederberg of Berlin, representing the General Rabbinic Conference of Germany, Ms. Sonja Guentner, President and Ms. Irith Michelsohn, Chief Executive of the Union of progressive Jews in Germany, Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim, EUPJ Rabbinic Advisor, Rabbi Ira Goldberg of Brussels and many other distinguished guests from the Jewish and the wider community, as well as members of the Luxembourg Parliament and Government. Rabbi Edward Van Voolen had the honour of being the installing rabbi. Our special guest was Mr. Emil G. Hirsch 3rd, the great-great-grandson of the first chief rabbi of Luxembourg, pioneer of Reform Judaism, Dr. Samuel Hirsch. A week later our rabbi accompanied Mr. Emil G. Hirsch 3rd to the ceremony of dedication of 'Samuel Hirsch Square' in his native town Thalfang, Germany. A monument commemorating this famous Liberal rabbi will be erected on this square next year.

During the last year our synagogue offered Friday night services every week and every other week either Shabbat morning service or Torah Breakfast with discussion and abbreviated prayer. All Jewish holidays were celebrated in our community. Our community Passover Seder enjoyed a remarkable turnout. We held late night learning sessions on Shavuot and Hoshanah Rabbah. The High Holidays 5777 were led by Rabbi Grodensky together with then senior Student Rabbi Ariel Pollak from Abraham Geiger College. Ariel Pollak got his rabbinic *semicha* on December 1, 2016. Rabbi Grodensky served as his sponsoring rabbi during the ordination ceremony.

Since July 2016 we have modernised and renovated the social hall and kitchen in our synagogue building thanks to the generous support by the city of Esch. This allowed us to have more community gatherings and meals. Several shabbatot were celebrated under a theme. For instance, during the Africa Shabbat, devoted to the holiday Sigd of the Ethiopian Jewish community, we tasted traditional Ethiopian cuisine with Ethiopian Jewish music in the background and we listened to the Rabbi's explanations about this particular Jewish community. As last year we devoted a Shabbat to the International Day of Human Rights.

Our Talmud Torah continued to meet once or twice a month on Sundays. The Hebrew part of the program is being taught according to the Leo Baeck College curriculum "Eizeh Kef". We have been gathering on Saturday afternoons for family oriented Seuda Shlishit too. We

were blessed to share the joy of one wedding and of one bat mitzvah. Along with the child education program, the shiurim for adults were offered all year long.

During the past year the community participated in several Shoah commemoration events: at the Place de la Synagogue in Esch on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 26, the Memorial service for the deported Jews in Cinqfontaines (Fünfbrunnen) on July 3 and especially the state ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of first deportation of Jews from Luxembourg to Litzmannstadt (Lodz) with attendance of the H.R.H. Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg on October 16.

Moreover Rabbi Grodensky accompanied an Austrian group of activists and descendants of Shoah victims on their memorial journey to Minsk and Maly Trostinec, Belarus. Maly Trostinec was an extermination camp, where from 1942 to 1943 virtually all Jews remaining in Minsk were murdered. More than 20,000 Jews from Germany and Austria were deported and murdered there. That figure makes Maly Trostinec the place with the most Austrian victims of the Shoah. Thanks to this civic initiative the Austrian Parliament unanimously resolved on October 13, 2016 to erect a decent memorial for the Austrian victims of the Shoah in Maly Trostinec. It has become a tradition that at these memorial journeys the participants join the Progressive Jewish community of Minsk for the celebration of Yom Yerushalaim. Rabbi Grodensky will accompany the memorial journey in 2017 as well, marking the 75th anniversary of the first deportations from Vienna. In 2017 the Austrian group will, for the first time, be joined by representatives of the Union of progressive Jews in Germany.

The National Holiday on June 25 was celebrated with a traditional service attended by members of the Grand-Ducal Government, members of parliament, the Mayor of Esch, ambassadors and representatives from various religious communities. Rabbi Grodensky was officially invited to attend the interfaith Te Deum Service at the cathedral of Luxembourg and to join the clergy section together with the Chief Rabbi of Luxembourg.

Throughout the year our rabbi was involved in various interfaith activities in Luxembourg and abroad. He has been developing the partnership with the Luxembourg School of Religion and Society. LSRS is an institution of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Luxembourg for dialogue with other religious communities and for a general discussion on the role of religion in Luxembourg.

In Germany our rabbi was honoured to preach on the so-called "Israel Sunday" in St. Mary's, which is the church of the bishop of the Protestant Church of Berlin-Brandenburg and one of the two main protestant churches in Germany. Israel Sunday is a special Sunday in the calendar of the Protestant Church in Germany for the Christian-Jewish dialogue.

Our relationship with the other Jewish community in Luxembourg continued to be friendly and constructive. We have been organising cultural activities jointly. Our community awarded the President of the Israelite Consistory of Luxembourg, Mr. Claude Marx the title "Mensch of the Year" for his incredible contribution to the development of Judaism in Luxembourg in general and for establishing a partnership between the two communities in particular.

The annual general membership meeting was held on May 23.

Netherlands – Levisson Institute, Amsterdam

Our only rabbinical student continued his studies. He had studied for a few years at the Institute, but stopped. In 2015 he restarted his studies. At the same time he works as an assistant-rabbi in the Amsterdam-community, next to Rabbi Menno ten Brink, who is also dean of the Levisson Institute.

The Institute started to develop a new training for people who don't want to study for rabbi, but will lead services and have pastoral tasks in their community. We hope to start the new training after the High Holidays in 2017.

The new academic year was opened in October with a lecture by Professor. Dr Frank van Vree, the new director of NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies (Amsterdam). He spoke about "The Second World War and the dynamics of remembrance – on the cross point of generations".

During 2016 two rabbinical seminars were given. Leo Mock (Holland) studied Talmud several times with the rabbis. In August Rabbi Amy Scheinerman (USA) came and gave derashot during Shabbat in Amsterdam and The Hague and had learning sessions with the rabbis and everybody who was interested.

For a third year in a row our chazzanim attended a seminar by the Dutch chazzan Gilad Nezer and singer Shura Lipovsky. The Focus was the Ne'ilah service on Yom Kippur.

A special digital ba'al kore project started in 2015 is still going on. The whole Torah is sung, according to the Dutch Progressive tradition, as a help for all ba'alei kore, bar/bat mitzvah children. As soon as the books are finished, they will be accessible in the Music library of the Levisson website.

Together with the Dutch Progressive-Jewish Educational Centre 'Rimon', part of the Levisson Institute, we organised two seminars for all Talmud Torah teachers in the country, linked to the Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism. The theme of the first seminar was How to make a positive atmosphere in the classroom, and the second seminar, How to speak about God in the classroom. In September we started training for new teachers. This will be continued in 2017. In 2017 the Rimon website (www.rimon-ljloc.nl) will also be renewed.

Together with the Board of the Levisson Institute, the Academic Committee and the Vocational Committee, we work hard to train rabbis, chazzanim, teachers, gabbaim, ba'al kore for the continuation of our Progressive Jewish Movement in the Netherlands.

You can find the Levisson Institute on the web: www.levisson.nl.

Netherlands - Verbond voor Progressief Jodendom NVPJ (Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism)

The Progressive Jewish community in the Netherlands (**NVPJ**) – Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism - is a modern, powerful community and consists of 10 communities: Amsterdam, Brabant, Den Haag, Flevoland, Gelderland, Friesland, Noord Nederland, Rotterdam, Twente and Utrecht. The cooperation between the rabbis, the executive board and members of the communities is intensive and the executive board of the NVPJ keeps in intensive contact with these 10 communities. The executive board also communicates on a regular base with the rabbinical council and the members of the boards of the respective communities.

The NVPJ is the representative organ for the 10 communities, on the national level in the Centraal Joods Overleg (CJO, the council of all major Jewish organisations), internationally in the WUPJ and the EUPJ. Besides the 10 communities the NVPJ consists of 3 associated foundations: the Robert Levisson Stichting (the rabbinical school), Stichting Sja'ar (publishing company) and the Stichting Levend Joods Geloof (responsible for the Verbond's magazine Joods Nu).

Ron van der Wieken has been chair of the NVPJ since June 2013.

Highlights in 2016 were, among others:

Arza: Arza is very active in promoting the bar/bat mitzvah project. The meaning of this project is to let children collect some money for handicapped children in Israel so they can have a bar/bat mitzvah too.

There was a very successful trip to Israel. There is an urge to increase the members of Arza. It is very important to strengthen Arzenu to make the Progressive movement in Israel stronger.

In the Netherlands there is a very active interfaith organisation. They are working at national level.

CIO: the NVPJ is represented in the Inter-Church Centre in Public Affairs (CIO).

CJO activities: the Centraal Joods Overleg (CJO) is a co-operational organisation consisting of 8 Dutch-Jewish institutions. This organisation was established in 1997 to represent the interests of the Jewish community to external and governmental parties. Foremost among their interests is the safety and security of the Dutch Jewish community. The president of the NVPJ presently serves as chairman of CJO.

Interfaith: In the Netherlands there is a very active interfaith organisation. They are working at national level.

Sja'ar: Sja'ar is the NVPJ's book publisher and works as an independent institute, covered by the NVPJ. The NVPJ has given Sja'ar the assignment to publish a revised edition of our Machzor. Sja'ar will be working under the supervision of the rabbinical council.

Stichting Levend Joods Geloof: the NVPJ periodical "Joods nu" has not been issued in 2016.

Stichting Robert Levisson : Please see the annual report under "Levisson Institute".

Youth work: in 2016 there were many Netzer activities, among many others: a trip to London and visitors from the Wimbledon synagogue (London), in the light of Tikun Olam a visit to the zoo (Artis) with residents of the Sinai Center, Netzer lessons in Talmoed Tora classes, a Talmoed Tora weekend, as well as a Jitschak Rabin commemoration.

In 2016 special events in our communities included:

Den Haag: In June the national Oneg Sjabbat was held in Den Haag. Many people joined.

Utrecht: Special attention was given during Chanoeka festivities to Rabbi Nava-Tehilla Livingstone's retirement.

Poland - Beit Polska - Gmina Lokalna w Gdansku/ Beit Trojmiasto (TriCity)

Working together with the Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland, EUPJ and supporters from around the world, we at Beit Polska have been opening the doors of Judaism to many of Poland's estimated 200,000 unreached Jews and building the framework for renewed Progressive religious life.

A number of local communities operate under the egis of Beit Polska with Beit Warszawa, our largest congregation, based in the country's capital, Warsaw. The next two in terms of membership are Beit Konstancin and Beit Trójmiasto (in the northern metropolis of Tri-city). At the beginning of the year, a group of Beit Warszawa members established Beit Ki Tow, a new prayer and meeting house in the centre of Warsaw, which seeks to develop independently. We are also in discussions with the Beit Krakow community about new areas of collaboration.

Since the communities are growing and we see the need for local engagement, in the past years, Beit Polska has focused on training a cadre of shatzim, lay prayer leaders, who could serve the liturgical needs of the local communities. This objective is achieved through the respective editions of the Shatz Training Course. In 2016, a group of six completed this 12-month training, which included an intensive summer course in Miecmierz near Kazimierz Dolny, with Hazzan Michael Stein. In 2016 we coordinated the assignment of five active prayer leaders and additional three who officiated occasionally.

We are also looking into a number of requests for assistance in the formation of Progressive Jewish communities from a number of cities in Poland, including Zielona Góra and Wrocław. We have supported the nascent groups there for some years, providing them with teachers and prayer leaders, etc.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In November 2016 the EUPJ Beit Din held their proceedings in Krakow, at which eight graduates of the Step by Step course from Warsaw and Gdansk successfully completed their conversion process and joined their respective Beit communities.

In April 2016 a delegation of Beit Polska took part in the EUPJ Building Bridges Biennial Conference in London. As a part of the conference, our representative presented the winning project of the Dragon's Den Competition.

Two of our shatzim (Izabela Riwka Foremniak and Piotr Menachem Mirski) held a concert tour of Western United States, where they were well received by local communities.

Below, we provide individual reports for three main Beit Polska affiliated and supported communities.

1. Beit Warszawa

PRAYER SERVICES

Beit Warszawa has provided a number of services for the local Progressive Jewish community. Above all, we organise Shabbat prayers on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, in the past year conducted by our trained shatzim, Rabbi Boris Dolin (until April), Matti Kirschenbaum, a Geiger College rabbinical student (from October) and, whenever possible, by visiting rabbis. Since completion of the contract by Rabbi Boris Dolin, the community on standing basis in the previous year, the community have relied on the rabbinical support of visiting rabbis while searching for a new appointee. We also run Jewish holiday celebrations, regular study sessions and community meetings.

EDUCATION

Another crucial area of Beit Warszawa activity has been that of learning. We developed and run the Step by Step, Introduction to Judaism course addressing itself to those determined to go through the conversion process or just interested in expanding their knowledge about Judaism. Classes take place once a week and are held in the centre of Warsaw. The complete course starts in September each year and runs until July. The number of participants in the new 5777-year course cycle is 16, who are mostly persons seeking to reconnect with their Jewish heritage and some spouses of Jewish persons. In the latter part of 2016, we launched the Second Step course addressed to community members interested in Jewish life-long-learning and in developing their liturgical skills. The weekly lectures in that series were provided before the Friday evening services and were open to the public.

In addition to the regular courses, Beit Warszawa has been involved in a number of local initiatives throughout Poland. One example is a series of six educational meetings run in collaboration with local schools in Zielona Gora, Miedzyrzecze and Jasien, which reached over 100 students. We engaged Irena Wiszniewska, the author of "We, the Jews of Poland," as the series' special guest.

ANNIVERSARIES, ARTISTIC EVENTS & GUESTS

Beit Warszawa regularly hosts guests, who provide lectures and presentations for the community members. We also organize concerts of esteemed local and international artists. In 2016 these included singer Anna Riveiro, violinist Marcin Król and the Shir Aviv choir.

2. Beit Trójmiasto

PRAYER SERVICES

Beit Trójmiasto is a dynamically growing community, which provides a number of services to its members and supporters. Shabbat Friday evening and Saturday morning services are conducted twice a month by prayer leaders and, whenever possible, by visiting rabbis. Celebrations of Jewish holidays were also organised. Each of them was accompanied by community building activities, including arts&crafts and cooking workshops.

EDUCATION

Step by Step, Introduction to Judaism course is offered for local conversion candidates. Relevant classes were led by Piotr Menachem Mirski, a rabbinical candidate, on monthly basis. A Hebrew study Ulpan programme led by Kasia Mazurkiewicz took place on weekly basis.

Beit Trójmiasto also carried out programmes reaching the local non-Jewish community. The two main ones included: (1) meetings with secondary school students as part of the 'Tell Us Their Story' Project, by Kasia Mazurkiewicz and Piotr Menachem Mirski; and (2) meetings with representatives of the Arteria Association as part of the 'On a Trail of Voice – Oral History as a Method of Fighting Discrimination' Project, by Kasia Mazurkiewicz and Piotr Menachem Mirski.

ANNIVERSARIES, ARTISTIC EVENTS & GUESTS

In August Beit Trójmiasto received a wonderful gift from a sister congregation in New Jersey: a Torah scroll found "somewhere in Europe" right after the Second World War.

In 2016, a delegation of the community took part in The 70th Anniversary of Kielce Pogrom and the 71st Anniversary of the liberation of the Stutthof Concentration Camp.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In August a member of the community, Anna Hamanowicz, began her studies at the Stockholm Paideia. In November two of the community attendees successfully completed

their conversion process before the Beit Din in Krakow and became full-fledged congregation members.

3. Beit Konstancin

PRAYER SERVICES

Throughout the year the community held their local Shabbat services at least once a month. They were held in various locations, mostly at the home of Marta Koscielecka, possibly the only kosher household in Konstancin, at the Biala Dalia Jewish Old People's Home in Konstancin, and at the local Konstancin Community Centre, in co-operation with the local community council of Konstancin.

Our main focus was on presentation of Judaism as not just a unique tradition and religion, but also the Jewish way of life. Most of the Shabbat services were officiated by our lay cantors, hence we could enjoy the true Jewish celebration of the Shabbat.

In the course of the year, together with our friends from the Orthodox congregation, we organised a number of Shabbat evenings at the Biala Dalia Old People's Home, each of them bringing together at least 30 participants, including our members and the residents of the house, for many these Shabbat services were their first encounters with Judaism. Biala Dalia has a number of Jewish residents and is an establishment founded and managed by Jewish management.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

We wish to thank EUPJ for their continual moral and financial support of Beit Polska and our Polish communities.

Portugal - Associação HeHaver - Ohel Jacob

We want to take this opportunity to tell you a bit more about our activities and our accomplishments during the year.

Before we begin, we would like to point out that we have been supported with the amazing help of Dr. Annette Boeckler, a scholar at the Leo Baeck College in London. Dr. Boeckler has been our unofficial "scheliach" helping us with our celebrations, assisting us with liturgy doubts, and, most importantly, helping with the organisation of our library. We have a great deal of books brought by the founders of Ohel Jacob during the 30's and 40's and Dr. Boeckler has taken upon herself the task of organising our library.

Here is a list of our activities and events during 5776-5777:

- We have an active and well-structured web page. We can say that our page is very successful as it has helped many visitors find our congregation, join us for services, celebrations and subscribe to our newsletter. This has been the work of one of our amazing volunteers Diva de Almeida. Diva is a talented graphic designer and we've been lucky to count on her help for this project.
- After meeting one of our members in London in February 2016, Dr Annette Boeckler has been coming to Lisbon for ten months now. She organised and catalogued our precious books. This project has been a major undertaking for Dr Boeckler who came to Lisbon for the past months, at her own expense, in order to finish this task. Our next step is to make these books available to all through an online catalogue. There are 545 titles and most of the books have inscriptions from Germany, Austria, Poland and Russia.

- We have been having Friday night services every Shabbat and recently started a tradition to have Kiddush and Challah blessing after services allowing for members to sit down, talk, and nurture friendships.
- We celebrated Pesach with our own leadership (23 people), Shavuot with Dr Annette Boeckler, Rosh Hashanah with Rabbi Alona Lisitsa (40 people), Yom Kippur with our own leadership which included Torah readings (10 people), Sukkot services at night, morning, studies in the Sukah, Shabbat Chol Hamoed, and Simchat Torah. Thanks to Dr Annette each one of us had our own lulav and she helped us celebrate the Chag. Finally, we celebrated Chanukah with Annette..
- During this year, we also celebrated one wedding and one brit milah. Unfortunately, we also buried one of our eldest members.
- Presently, we have 20 members and we do receive a great deal of visitors.

We are proud of our achievements and very hopeful for our future. We had a few new members coming from Hong Kong and Israel who are helping us move forward with great energy.

We are also very thankful to the WUPJ and to the EUPJ for all your help and support this year. It has made a huge difference to become associated with the Progressive Movement. We hope that our relationship grows, as well as our congregation!

From strength to strength we move forward!

Spain – Bet Januká, Rota

This year has been full of a variety of activities which reflect our dedication to traditions and education, as well as a growing agenda of cultural activities shared between the Reform communities in Spain and other local associations dedicated to supporting Israel and Jewish cultural heritage in Spain.

One of our goals each year is to participate in interfaith initiatives, and we were successful in this by representing the Jewish faith in the annual interfaith dialogue conference, Estella, Spain. Deborah Rios Rey and Ahuvah Gipson participated in the round table talk with members of the Christian faith, Pedro Alvarez and Sister Elena with a lively discussion on the concept of embracing faith and embracing civilizations. Bet Januká was also represented in April by Mati Langer in Madrid for the annual Interfaith Seminar organised by the Iberian Commission of Friends of Inter-faith and Monastic Dialogue. The topic of discussion on this occasion was the concept of compassion viewed by the various world religions.

As part of the education initiative, Bet Januká holds two Hebrew courses per year, one beginning in January and the other beginning in August, geared toward beginners with the goal of learning to read from the siddur as well as verses from the Torah. The success and popularity that this course has enjoyed depends partly on the volunteer time of our congregation member, our moreh, Matitياهو Langer.

The end of this year marked one full year of monthly Rosh Hodesh study sessions led by Rabbi Alona Lisitsa. This initiative is one of several activities that we hold online and in which we have participants from diverse locations across Spain. This year we joined the Jewish Literature Reading club led by Yael Cobano (Reform Community of Madrid), where we have enjoyed enriching our knowledge of Jewish writers from around the world. The group, comprised of members from the Reform Community of Madrid, Bet Shalom, Bet Januká, Bnei Israel (Galicia) and Bnei Sefarad (Valencia), suggests books and authors according to

geographic location, and then meets online every three months to discuss impressions and opinions based on the readings.

In our inter-association activities, Bet Januká joined other cultural associations in the Cádiz area for the International Holocaust Remembrance Commemoration. In March we celebrated Purim in the community with a visit and talk on the Book of Esther from Dr. Abraham Haim, President of the Sephardic Communities Council of Jerusalem. The annual Pesach Seder was celebrated in the community in the home of one of our members, Anna Fox, for whom we are grateful; having to host the entire community on a very short notice due to renovations being done in our usual spaces. In May we had the opportunity to collaborate with members of the U.S. Navy in Rota in the Yom Ha Shoah Remembrance ceremonies were held at the U.S. Naval Hospital and the base chapel with the help of the Naval Station Rota Diversity Team. Finally, we rounded out our celebrations in the Jewish calendar in December with the annual Chanukah party in the community in the Fellowship Hall. It was a good opportunity to include all the members of our dual-faith families, as the date coincided with the Christian celebration on the 25th of the month.

Our cultural activities came to a highpoint in November, when our cultural association Yehudá HaLevi received the Four Sephardic Synagogues "Praise Jerusalem" medal, a highly esteemed and appreciated recognition from Dr. Abraham Haim and the Council of Sephardic Communities in Jerusalem. The presentation was given in conjunction with Dr. Haim's conference on the 750 year anniversary of the Sephardic community in Jerusalem.

Spain – Bet Shalom, Barcelona

2016 is going to be remembered as a very significant year for Bet Shalom, with its joys and successes.

With joy, we celebrated the dedication of our synagogue and the celebration of our 10th Anniversary in March. Both events represented our consolidation as a sacred kehillah. Our new synagogue was inaugurated in a ceremony led by our Rabbi Stephen Berkowitz and our friend Rabbi Rifat Sonsino. We were accompanied by representatives of the EUPJ Chairman, Miriam Kramer, other Jewish communities in Barcelona, Reform Jewish Community of Madrid and Bet Januka, Rota, as well as by representatives of the Government of Catalonia, the City Council of Barcelona and members and friends of Bet Shalom.

Another reason of joy for Bet Shalom was the donation of an awesome and historical Aron Hakodesh from Swansea Hebrew Congregation, the oldest Jewish community in Wales. We received it with immense gratitude as well as a great kavod.

Another joyful accomplishment has been the support to the Rabbinical Programme for Bet Shalom-Madrid Community. A visit per month programme has turned into a more complete one so that Rabbi Berkowitz has moved to Barcelona to serve two weeks in this city and one in Madrid. It has been possible thanks to the invaluable help received from EUPJ, especially to the effort that David Pollak has put in to this matter.

On the other hand as we have been doing for years, we have celebrated all the chagim of our calendar, including all shabatot and after Friday night services, it offers a Shabat dinner with its oneg. Also a Shacharit Shabat per month led by Rabbi Berkowitz.

Other highlights during 2016 have been the following:

Our commitment to Holocaust memory being, in January 2016, protagonists in the driving of this ceremony, gathering local and Catalan government authorities and Parliament, feeling so proud of the speech that Rabbi Berkowitz pronounced in Catalan on behalf of all Jewish

Communities in Catalonia. It was a historical event because no rabbinical representative had commemorated it before in the local language.

María Prieto, our treasurer, with the Deputy Major of Barcelona, made a speech to the general public in a square in front of the Town Hall with crowds of citizens as witnesses.

In February, the most celebrated event was a Shabaton held in Bet Shalom Barcelona to welcome Bet Januka-Rota-Andalucia and the Reform Jewish Community of Madrid. We worked with Rabbi Cliff Kulwin, Rabbi Nir Barkin and Rabbi Stephen Berkowitz to provide content to our gathering. This Shabaton has been a previous step towards a more cooperative working group. In fact, since then, these communities including Bnei Israel Galicia and Bnei Sefarad Valencia, we have been collaborating through a Chinuch program, Comic Club, Jewish Book Launches, Videoconferences on Pirkei Avot, etc.

Bet Shalom attended London EUPJ Conference with some delegates.

After London's Conference it was necessary to enhance Passover 2016, the most numerous until now, led by Rabbi Berkowitz.

Yom Haatzmaut was celebrated with an exhibition focused on Israel landscapes by an Israeli local artist and Bet Shalom promoted a Hummus Day event, very successfully.

Along the year, Bet Shalom is helping NEDER, a local Jewish association to create a Beit Avot in the city. It would be the first one in Spain.

Another successful and fruitful event is Bet Shalom's presence in Interfaith Dialogue, so we could participate in the "Nit de les religions" "Night of the religions", when more than 150 people visited our synagogue in a night of open doors. We explained Progressive Judaism at the same time we made a tour of our kehillah. We have also received visits from many public and private schools and associations, allowing us to demonstrate who we are in society.

Last but not least, Bet Shalom attended EUPJ Strategical Plan Presentation in December in the city of Lyon.

To finish this report, we have to mention the sweetest successes during the year, for Bet Shalom community, it has to have been the consolidation of our future: Kinder Shabat and Bnei Miztvah course.

Spain – Bnei Israel, Galicia

January/February

Memorial Day for the liberation of Auschwitz: We commemorated the 71st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by showing two short films provided by the Embassy of Israel at the Anxel Casal library (Santiago) for the general public. The films were preceded by an introduction about Shoah filmography by Ricardo Kukulka.

The movies exhibited were:

- a. ***The Last Korczak Boy:*** Itzchak Belfer, a well known Israeli artist in his nineties share his memories when he was at an orphanage in Poland headed by the MD and educator Yanusz Korczak, whose enormous love for the children lead to his tragic and untimely death in a concentration camp. (2013, Directed by Roy Krispel)
- b. ***The final victory:*** The movie tells the story of Dr. Felix Zandman, a well renowned scientist and inventor, who escaped the atrocities of the Holocaust by hiding during the WW2 in a burrow in the ground of the house of his former housekeeper. After the war he studied at

the College de France and become the founder of a multinational company called Vishay, the name of his grandmother's birthplace. (2008, Directed by Haim Hecht)

March/April

Board Meeting Kehila Bnei Israel (Galicia) (March 6, 2016)

EUPJ biennial meeting in London: (April 14-17, 2016), attended by the president of the Kehila.

Webinar about Pesach, its meaning, customs and music given by the president of the Kehila (April, 19, 2016)

Pesach Seder attended by our members and Jewish tourists officiated by the kehila's president (April, 22, 2016)

September/October

One of our Kabbalat Shabbat get-togethers had as a guest of honour Dr. Faydra Shapiro, the head of the centre for studies in Jewish-Christian relations of the Jezeel Valley College in Israel. (September, 17, 2016)

Seder Rosh-Ha'Shana Attended by our members and Jewish tourists. (October 2, 2016)

December

Brundibar and the Terezin ghetto. In partnership with the Friends of the Opera Society from Santiago we organised the presentation of the Opera Brundibar, created by the Jewish composer Hans Krasa for a children's choir and that was performed 55 times in the Terezin ghetto, before its author and performers were sent to Auschwitz.

Brundibar was performed at the Teatro Principal in Santiago (December 17, 2016) and was an unqualified success. The tickets were sold out well before performance date and the presentation by the Cathedral of Santiago children's choir was received with a standing ovation

This event was preceded (December 16, 2016) by a conference delivered by Dagmar Lieblova (87), the last survivor of the Brundibar's Terezin choir. Mrs. Lieblova moved everybody in the audience with her lucid answers to endless questions about her fight for survival.

We also participated in a documentary around the efforts behind the staging of Brundibar in Galicia, which we expect to be released soon.

Chanuka/Kabbalat Shabbat We lit the seventh Chanuka candle with members of our Kehila and went over the history

Spain - Comunitat Jueva Atid De Catalunya, Barcelona

2016 was a year of growth for the ATID. We have increased the number of members; have organised a number of new activities while the existing ones have been strengthened and improved. We have also renovated and modernised our weekly newsletter "Hineni" and we finally have a new and friendly website.

In the youth field, Netzer Barcelona has already more than 50 children coming for the activities each week. They have successfully conducted a summer camp with more than 40 chanichim and one in winter with more than 30 chanichim. For its part, the madrijim are continuously trained with monthly classes, workshops and seminars throughout the year.

In terms of activities for adults, one theatre trip has been made, We held several meetings of The Book Club, we had DIY Rosh Hashanah classes, a shofarim workshop, a selichot workshop and we continue with our Ivrit course where in addition to learning to speak and write, we also learn to cook traditional Israeli recipes: Another innovation is our new Bnei mitzvah group and also we hosted a new group of Talmud Tora for non-Jewish people, plus

our monthly thematic conferences. We do not want to forget mentioning the creation of a "Permanent exhibition space" where we have already enjoyed two exhibitions 'Jueus just like you' in collaboration with the Baruch Spinoza Foundation and "Kol echad hu or Katan vejulanu or Eithan" with the participation of our members.

In the religious sphere, apart from carrying out the weekly Kabbalat Shabbat, we have held every Jag: Purim, Passover, Shavuot, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Chanukah with a huge participation (almost 300 people) of both community members and foreign visitors. In addition we have also celebrated Yom HaAtzmaut and have community commemorated Yom HaShoah and Yom HaZikaron.

For next year 2017, we expect to continue growing in both number and variety of members and quality of cultural and religious activities.

Spain - Kehilá Beit Emunah, Asturias

During 2016 we celebrated all the services of Kabbalat Shabbat and the Shacharit of Shabbat. Currently, we are broadcasting live services for people from all over Spain.

We have celebrated all the Chagim of the Jewish calendar with communal meals and dinners. We have planted a tree of shade and another tree of fruit for Tu bi'Shvat; we had a great costume party to celebrate Purim; carried out a community Passover Seder; celebrated Shavuot and the Nimnimim. As in every other year we have built a sukkah to celebrate Sukkot and Simchat Torah.

We had a public lighting of the Chanukia which took place in a different location this year and, despite this, we were able to gather people from all over and it was a very successful evening. The local news broadcasted part of the celebration.

Like every year, we publically commemorated the Victims of the Shoah and we have organised a great educational event with the participation of 920 people (876 students and 44 teachers) from different institutes and colleges of Asturias.

We have taught several online classes such as: Hebrew, Rikudim, Jewish Tradition, Judaism with Rabbi Alona Lisitsa and with other rabbis who gave us free lectures.

We continued to publish and distribute a weekly newsletter, as well as keeping our Hasbarah blog www.sefarad-asturias.org/wp/ we also have an active educational platform dedicated to the Shoah. A program focused on primary and secondary school students: "Zivia Lubetkin" www.zivialubetkin.org.

We have received visits to the synagogue from four high school institutes and three elementary schools in Asturias, so that they will know more about Judaism.

Spain – Reform Jewish Community of Madrid (CIRM)

2016 has been a significant year for Reform Jewish Community of Madrid- Comunidad Judía Reformista de Madrid (CJRM).

We have progressively moved from one to two gatherings per month to two to three at the moment which shows some stability despite not having our own Beit Kneset.

Reform Jewish Community of Madrid continues its strategy of celebrating Shabbat services, other Jewish festivals and a programme of educational and cultural activities that overall gives the impression that although we are very new, but at the same time CJRM behaves and organises itself as if it was a medium sized congregation.

We hold one or two Kabbalat Shabbat per month, with Dvar Torah which encourages more of the community to be involved with a great Shabbat dinner too. We also hold Shacharit Shabbat, once every two months when Rabbi Berkowitz comes to Madrid. In summer, we hold Kabbalat Shabbat in the park and last June we had the honour to have, among us, Andrew Keene, former NFTY President and current member of WUPJ Executive Board. We also received Rabbi Maya Leibovitz, from Israel, during one Shabbat as well as other EUPJ congregations' members that made our experience richer.

This year Rabbi Berkowitz led all festivals from Tu Bishvat to Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur (including Tashlich at the Manzanares River). Chazanit Romina Reisin from Israel led a Passover Seder with different Jewish customs and personalised our hagadah with modern refugee concerns. Rabbi Alona Lisiitsa led Purim, Shavuot and Succot, Simchat Torah. Rabbi Berkowitz organised a Pre-Chanukah programme for adults and children and led the Channukah celebration.

Rabbi Berkowitz not only provides new resources to empower our Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner but provides rabbinical teachings and assistance to the community which is the star attraction for both, religious and secular people,

Rabbi Berkowitz also teaches in some Shorashim classes (Judaism by choice-shared with Bet Shalom) and supports candidates from Bet Shalom, Barcelona and Madrid before the European Bet Din.

Rabbi Berkowitz visits our Kehillah once per month as part of the rabbinic program we share with Bet Shalom, Barcelona which is heavily co-financed by Bet Shalom and EUPJ. CJRM contributes with a small share of the costs. The presence of Rabbi Berkowitz with his many years of experience is important for Progressive Jewry in Madrid.

Without any doubt, the momentum of the year for the CJRM came with its official affiliation to the EUPJ and through it, to the WUPJ.

We were also honoured to receive a beautiful 200 year old Sefer Torah on loan for two years from West London Synagogue, in partnership with EUPJ. It has given us the chance to read from it during Shabbat, Yom Kippur and other Jewish festivals and it will enable our first bar mitzvah to read his parsha from it. This loan is the first in a new tradition that West London Synagogue and EUPJ will offer this torah to a small congregation in need of it, at every European biennial.

Apart from these events centred on the Jewish calendar, another important pillar of the CJRM is its educational and cultural programmes.

Some of these events are organised jointly by the Reform Jewish Communities in Spain (Bet Shalom Barcelona, Bet Januka in Rota-Andalously, Bnei Israel-Galicia) such as an online Jewish Book Club, and Susannah Heschel's vision of sexuality in Judaism or the Pirkei Avot annual study with Rabbi Berkowitz, as well as other rabbis and scholars contributing with hot Jewish topics. Working and learning together is the path to giving shape and empowerment to Reform Judaism in Spain. To this end, CJRM President, Yael Cobano, and Bet Shalom leaders attended Lyon EUPJ Strategy Plan Presentation in Lyon.

In September we launched our own Hebrew Programme with an Israeli member of the community.

We also organised social events to the cinema to view films with Jewish content to concerts by Israeli musicians; to a Chagall exhibition; to a theatre production of Jean Claude Grumberg's play and a visit to the Archive at Avila to see an original manuscript of the Expulsion of Jews from Spain, followed by a guided tour to the Jewish area, courtesy of the city.

New achievements during 2016: the establishment of the Madrid group of Reform Jewish Women who took their first and necessary steps in interfaith dialogue, Yael Cobano and Rut Timon represented CJRM at an event for refugees in one of Madrid Mosques and will continue working with a group of other religions based in Madrid. And finally, the community, together with the Orthodox and Masorti communities helped organise a public Channukah event in Madrid's city centre.

The Reform Jewish Community of Madrid is working hard to grow and offer a vibrant new face to Progressive Judaism in Madrid and working hard along with Bet Shalom Barcelona to empower Reform Judaism in Spain.

Sweden - Progressive Judaism in Stockholm (PJS)

No report received.

Switzerland – Platform of Liberal Jews Switzerland (PLJS)

PLJS Delegate's Meeting, 25 May 2016 in Bern

After the statutory business (acceptance of the previous minutes and formal discharge of the Board for its management and accounting) was completed, discussion was opened concerning the future of the organization. The internal structure needs to be updated as well as new guidelines for working with the SIG (orthodox umbrella organization). Especially, a successor for the President, Nicole Poell, who will be stepping down at the Delegate's Meeting in 2017, needs to be found.

150 Years Equal Rights for Swiss Jewry

The PLJS was present at the Opening Event, which took place in mid-January, of this celebratory year. However, during the planning phase for the year's event calendar, it was decided that the PLJS would not be participating to a further degree. The other parties involved were not open for input from our organization, which we regret, and therefore we had to draw the line concerning a financial participation.

The PLJS did, however, play a small role in that we participated in a Podium discussion at the University of Zurich on June 1st titled "Integration as a Path to Recognition".

Representing the PLJS was our President, Nicole Poell, who took part in the debate about what Integration means to different immigrant/religious groups, as well as our concerns about increasingly open verbal attacks on Jews and Muslims in Switzerland. The audience did not hold back in discussing this topic, which continued long after the podium ended, well into the following cocktail hour.

Refugees

Three Jewish organizations, PLJS, SIG and VSJF (Union for Swiss Jewish Welfare), worked together to offer a variety of activities for refugee children, to occupy them and help with their integration during the school vacation. The motto chosen was “better together” and the activities were very well visited and well received.

Jewish-Muslim Dialogue

The work group “Jewish-Muslim Dialogue” held their first event at the end of November. A Rabbi and an Imam discussed the topic “How did the world begin” from their respective points of view. The dialog was well received by those in attendance, the atmosphere extremely friendly and provided the motivation to follow up with further events of this nature.

In addition, the leaders of the Jewish and Muslim umbrella organizations met to locate and discuss topics of common interest, such as “the Status of Minorities” in Switzerland.

Participation at (other) Events

- Delegates Meeting of the SIG (observer status)
- Informational event hosted by the Switzerland-Israel Society
- A lecture by Ronal Lauder (World Jewish Congress) entitled “Lost Art – Lost Justice”
- Ten-year celebration of the Council of Religions in Zurich

Security of the Swiss Community in Switzerland

Working together, the SIG and PLJS continued their contact with the Swiss Federal Councilors. As events unfolded, worldwide, concerning the security of Jews in various European countries, we were disappointed to read the Federal Councilors’ Report on the State of Security in Switzerland. The situation of Swiss Jewry was not mentioned at all. The SIG and PLJS intensified their lobbying efforts, placing emphasis on the oppressive costs that the Jewish Communities (Congregations) were being forced to shoulder. We asked for state and federal assistance, citing the European Parliament Accord concerning the protection of national minority groups (passed February 1, 1995). There it was stated that the governments are obliged to provide protection to their national minority groups, and we argued to the Swiss Federal Council that this Accord was also binding in Switzerland. To our astonishment, they countered with the suggestion that we start our own fund to cover the security costs. They saw no need to increase security for our buildings, institutions and members. The PLJS and SIG will not accept this answer. Although the political process is both difficult and time-consuming (it is unclear who is ultimately responsible for our security; the state, local or federal government), we are continuing our efforts receive help in securing our communities.

Holocaust Continuing Education for Teachers in the German-speaking part of Switzerland

In November, the PLJS and SIG held a 2-day Continuing Education Program for Teachers in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. A one-day guided trip to the Concentration Camp Memorial in Dachau, Germany was offered. As usual (this trip is carried out every other

year), we were able to fill an airplane with interested teachers and had trained educational staff escort them through the site. Ten days later, after the participants had time to digest all that they had seen and learned, a follow-up seminar was held at the Lucerne Teachers College, where these teachers received further information, materials and input as to how they could plan effective lessons for their students on the subject.

UK - Belsize Square Synagogue, London

No report received.

UK - Community Connections - Supporting Progressive Judaism in the Former Soviet Union

Since September 2014 the twinning between British Communities and the Former Soviet Union (FSU) have continued, with the Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus:

In Russia - Menorah Synagogue, Manchester with Chelyabinsk, and, Mosaic Reform Harrow with Moscow. In Belarus - Finchley Progressive with Mogilev and, Newcastle Reform with Minsk

However with the changing situation in the Ukraine this past year, Kingston Liberal Synagogue is now twinned with Simferopol, and Alyth (NWRS) with Kerch, in the Crimea.

Due to the changing political situation in the Ukraine the needs are greater for the existing Progressive Jewish Communities. Edgware Reform Synagogue is twinned with Odessa, Mosaic Liberal with Atikva in Kiev, and Northwood and Pinner Liberal with Lviv. Future twinning opportunities are being sought by up to seven other Ukrainian communities throughout Europe where they can gain the required assistance. Rabbi Andrew Goldstein, together with Michael Reik, have embarked on the project to find these twinning arrangements.

We are now taking on an additional project to co-ordinate twinning and partnering between existing communities that can provide assistance to each other, for example West London Synagogue with the communities in Hungary and Finchley Reform with Beit Simcha in Prague, Czech Republic. These twinning arrangements will involve, Rabbi to Rabbi contact, visits to each other's communities, distribution of each other's magazines, video and telephone communications and gifts of Jewish memorabilia. Please contact Michael Reik to facilitate such arrangements. Contact details are Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein agoldstein@f2s.com and Michael Reik jhgroup.t21@btinternet.com

UK – Leo Baeck College

This year marks the commencement of the celebrations of Leo Baeck College's 60th anniversary. From its foundation by Rabbi Dr Werner Van der Zyl in 1956 we have ordained more than 180 rabbis, who serve all parts of the WUPJ. Between 1997 and 2016 LBC has also produced 86 graduates in the MA in Jewish Education and Advanced Diploma in Jewish Education.

Some of the year's highlights to date include,

- Faculty, students, and alumni were very involved in the EUPJ's successful London conference in April. The Shabbat morning sermon was delivered by Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, the College's Principal.
- The eminent UK Moslem academic, Professor Mona Siddiqui, in conversation with LBC's own Professor Melissa Raphael, addressed the College's annual dinner in May.
- In November, the Service of Celebration honouring LBC's 60th anniversary was held at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue. Attended by many friends from the UK and beyond, the service was led by senior faculty, the music by current students, and a moving final blessing saw all alumni present, including Rabbi Lionel Blue, gather at the front of the bimah.
 - At a reception after the Service of Celebration, Fellowships were presented to Rabbi Pauline Bebe and Rabbi Professor Seth Kunin, marking twenty five years plus since their Ordination. Fellowships in absentia were also awarded to Rabbis Aviva Kipen, Helen Freeman and Pete Tobias.
 - Rabbi Dr Edward Van Voolen presented the Abraham Geiger Medal to Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, recognising her 'vision and leadership for rabbinical training in the 21st century', and Rabbi Oded Mazor, Leo Baeck Educational Center Haifa, presented her with the Center's Order of Merit for Tikkun Olam, marking the College's contribution to worldwide Progressive Judaism over the last sixty years.

UK – Liberal Judaism

Liberal Judaism as a movement has enjoyed another exceptional 12 months of growth – with strengthening communities, enhanced social action work and a louder voice in Anglo-Jewry, Britain generally and, indeed, the rest of the world. Key themes and highlights include:

LJ senior rabbi on historic Srebrenica visit

Liberal Judaism's senior rabbi, Rabbi Danny Rich, was part of the Joseph Interfaith Foundation's Council of Imams and Rabbis May visit to Srebrenica, the site of the first genocide on European soil since the Second World War. This ground-breaking trip was the first time that such a group, of very senior imams and rabbis, have visited Srebrenica together. The Council of Rabbis and Imams has existed for some time, but the trip offered a pastoral opportunity to explore and understand the human condition in both a theological and practical sense.

Biennial Weekend a great success

Nearly 300 Liberal Jews, from 39 different communities, saw a confident movement looking to the future at the Liberal Judaism Biennial Weekend in July. Liberal Judaism's flagship event, the conference marked a step change in the movement's growth and standing through its radical programme and speakers – including author Cole Moreton, Imam Sayed Razawi and Rabbi Dr Dalia Marx – which did not shy away from addressing challenging issues including Israel and the Diaspora, the role of religion in public life and politics, sexuality and identity and campaigning for social justice. It also looked at how all of these tie into Liberal Jewish liturgy and prayer, now and in the future.

First Jewish group forms in Durham for 60 years

In July, a group of Liberal Jews formed the first local Jewish group in Durham since the last synagogue there closed in 1955. The Durham community – which prides itself on being inclusive and child friendly – has already made local and national news with a number of interfaith activities, including a Mitzvah Day tea for refugees, held jointly with local Muslims.

Woodford and Bet Tikvah unite to form East London & Essex Liberal Synagogue

In parallel EGMs in September, members of Bet Tikvah and Woodford Liberal Synagogues voted in favour of the dissolution of their existing communities and the formation of a new single congregation – which will be called East London & Essex Liberal Synagogue. The unification will take place on January 1, 2017, creating a new Liberal community of approximately 700 members of all generations – led by Rabbis Richard Jacobi and David Hulbert.

Liberal Jews win major volunteering awards

In November, Liberal Judaism communities and members won a series of volunteering awards. Simon Cooper and Rebecca Woolfe were named as The Jewish News and Mitzvah Day's Community Heroes for 2016, in a moving ceremony, for their incredible charity work. At the same ceremony, Dublin Jewish Progressive Congregation won the Mitzvah Day 365 Award for its work with Inner City Helping Homeless. In addition, Ben Combe was honoured at the Jewish Volunteering Network Awards as a result of his work for Liberal Judaism's youth movement LJY-Netzer.

UK – Movement for Reform Judaism

2016 was a fantastic year of development and renewal for Reform Judaism, the national umbrella organisation of 42 autonomous thriving congregations in the United Kingdom. Our communities provide meaning, comfort, education, social activities, support and spiritual fulfilment to their members and are engaged in the building of a just society through social action and *tikkun olam*. We are enormously proud of them and their outstanding work.

A stand out moment of 2016 was the hosting in London of EUPJ's Biennial Conference including an inspirational Friday night service at West London Synagogue. We were proud to unite with Progressive Jews from across Europe and to celebrate, in the words of Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, our "bold, loving, joy-filled, skill filled Judaism of equality and integrity".

Another highlight of the year was Chagigah, our biennial celebration of Reform Judaism which took place in June. Chagigah means just that, a celebration, and almost 250 people spent a weekend away learning, praying, socialising and engaging with their Reform Judaism.

Chagigah 2016 was especially significant as it saw the launch of three major initiatives as part of Reform Judaism's commitment to strengthening communities and inspiring members. The initiatives focus on [re-imagining leadership](#), [tackling adult social care and empowering Jewish spiritual practice](#) and are designed to benefit all communities, regardless of their size and geography. Reform Judaism is now partnering with communities to continue their implementation and development. The initiatives were crafted by rabbis, Reform Judaism professionals, community welfare, education and development professionals and our lay people in collaborative partnerships.

Geoffrey Marx of West London Synagogue was elected as Chair of Reform Judaism at our AGM in June and Sir Trevor Chinn CVO succeeded Rabbi Professor Tony Bayfield

as Reform Judaism President representing Reform Judaism and our values on the communal and national stage.

Our youth movement, RSY-Netzer had an incredibly successful summer with over 1000 young people taking part in Shemesh summer camps, Reform Jewish day camps for younger children and a transformative leadership seminar. 240 young people had an incredible experience on Israel Tour developing their connection to Reform Judaism, Israel, social justice and each other.

2016 was a year of reaching out. We launched Ya'ad: a Jewish leadership programme for young adults and hosted our second residential weekend for people considering conversion to Judaism, currently in the process of conversion or who have recently converted. 45 young adults took part in Reform and Liberal Judaism's UJIA Progressive Birthright trip to Israel and hundreds of students and young adults took advantage of our programme offering free tickets to High Holy Day services.

We were delighted to join with Liberal Judaism, our Partners in the Alliance for Progressive Judaism in celebrating the 60th anniversary of Leo Baeck College, the only fully validated and accredited Jewish seminary in the UK.

Rabbi Janner-Klausner, Senior Rabbi to Reform Judaism and our community rabbis across the country represent a strong voice for the movement and our values in wider society. In 2016 the plight of refugees remained strongly in focus and having called on the government to re-establish a private sponsorship of refugees programme, Reform Judaism was delighted to welcome the launch of Full Community Sponsorship for refugees helping vulnerable people reach safety in the UK.

The public profile of Reform Judaism flourishes with expanding media coverage. Increasingly, the Jewish voice in broadcast media is a positive and engaging Reform voice.

2016 was also a time for reflection and uncertainties in the wider world as well as sadness in our own community. Reform Judaism mourned Sir Sigmund Sternberg KC*SG z"l, our Life President who died in October. His contribution to Reform Judaism in the United Kingdom was immense and cannot be overstated. And in December we mourned our friend, colleague, rabbi and mentor, the inspirational Rabbi Dr Lionel Blue OBE z"l.

The year ended with a renewed focus on learning as we launched 'Reform Judaism in 1000 Words' with weekly articles from rabbis across the country exploring Reform Jewish thought and practice in the 21st century.

UK - Westminster Synagogue, London

The year in question has been an eventful period which has affected the lives of the people of the United Kingdom and of the other European Countries. The Jewish community was together with the citizens of United Kingdom involved in the decision making process casting their votes. We have, as a community, been concerned with the lives of our fellow Jews in Israel and those throughout, particularly feeling the pain with the people of the world who have witnessed increased terrorist activities. We are concern with the people of Syria and have watched with horror the suffering of the refugees seeking safe shelter. We have certainly played our part in fund raising and helping those in need.

As a community we have had to deal with Anti-Semitism which seems to be on the rise, and we have supported the work of the CST- the Community Security Trust as well worked closely with the Board of Deputies in combating racism and antisemitism.

In the year we have welcomed the former Prime Minister David Cameron to our community who helped us to launch our Patrons initiative. He has also visited the Czech Memorial Scrolls Museum. We are grateful to our Government for its support and protection. We believe that the role of the Diaspora Jewry is both to support Israel but also to ensure that our lives here or wherever we live in the world to help our society in reaching Tikun Olam - to repair the World.

Westminster Synagogue as a community is fortunate to have a meaningful group of families who wish to worship with us in our beautiful Sanctuary and who contribute not only to our services but also to the society in which we live. We are fortunate to have so many young families who encourage their children to attend Or Shabbat and B'nei Mitzvah classes, and this year we have celebrated more B'nei Mitzvah than at any other year in our almost sixty years history.

We believe in openness and being welcoming to all who wish to be part of our community, ensuring that Judaism which is tolerant and accepting thrives and survives in the world of extremism and intolerance.

Our synagogue is run by an extraordinary group of dedicated members who serve on the Executive Committee, and Council. Volunteers are involved in running every aspect of community life. We have a fine and up-to-date unique Jewish Library. We have also been fortunate to launch this year a new group called the Westminster Young Professionals group, who have been involved in most innovative and new programs such as developing a mentoring program for all age groups, involving all parts and age groups of the community. Our WS Scrolls Committee is active both with an annual commemorative event honouring those who died in the towns from whence come our Scrolls; and also in connecting with the inhabitants of those towns (where no Jews reside since the Second World War).

Our members have been extremely generous in their contributions towards the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund which has enabled me to help both individuals and charities throughout the past year, such as fresh water in an African country, research into Dementia and Alzheimer's as well as Holocaust Education Trust and Leo Baeck College.

As the Rabbi of the community, I am proud of our achievements and look forward to many years, with ever more challenges as we grow and play our part in the wider Jewish community.

Rabbi Dr Thomas Salamon

Honorary Treasurer's Report 2016

Before writing my fifth report over as many years, it becomes increasingly difficult to find something new to report. Happily we have enjoyed a number of significant events during the last year which have included equally significant amounts of income and expenditure.

Before I reflect on the income and expenditure for the year, I'd like to highlight a few changes in the presentation of our Report and Accounts which I hope will meet with general approval. In previous years, accounts have listed Trustees only. We have now decided to list Trustees and members of the Management Committee. We could have included a further list of Executive Board members, Life presidents and more, all of whom deserve our recognition and our gratitude. I hope that they, and everyone else, will understand our decision to limit the list as we did. This does not, in any way, reflect on the contribution that everyone makes to the smooth running of our organisation.

The financial accounts now include a number of additional notes which are made necessary by new regulations. We hope that they provide more answers than questions!

And now for the accounts themselves. They record a total income of £269.6K in 2016 of which £229.7K was unrestricted. Of this total, £123K related to Conference income. This compares with £175.7K in 2015 of which £99.2K was unrestricted income. Mathematicians will recognise that after conference income, unrestricted income in 2016 totalled £106.7K which is just £7.5K more than in 2015. The London conference was remarkable in many respects and financially, we should be proud and pleased that a total of over £30K was raised from donations, sponsorships and advertising income.

In addition to designated donations, which totalled £31.8K and undesignated donations of £9.6K, the EUPJ was also able to make grants totalling just under £40K which were financed by income from the Roswell Fund. This total more or less equates to the allocation made from the Roswell Fund at the end of 2015 as was reported last year. We should be pleased that the allocation to the Fund at the end of 2016 was a record \$62.8K which, together with the increased value of the US dollar against the pound sterling, will allow us to offer more support in 2017 than in 2016.

There have been a number of developments during this last year which give us cause for optimism in the future wellbeing of the EUPJ. Miriam, in her chairman's report, has referred to the EUPJ joint project with West London Synagogue in Hungary. We have made a three year commitment to helping to fund this project as well as a similar, but different, project in the Czech Republic and in particular, Prague. In addition, we are happy to continue our support for communities in Spain and Portugal, all of which requires financial support. We have spent in excess of £30,000 in these four countries alone during the past year and our commitment is to maintain, if not increase, that level of expenditure in the future.

After such a successful and uplifting Biennial in London in 2016 to which a record 335 delegates attended from 27 different countries including 11 outside the European region, we now look forward to Prague in 2018. One of the ways in which we can achieve such a high level of participation is through the generosity of individuals across the world, the contribution made by the Roswell Fund and from our own unrestricted funds which, over the years, have been maintained at a little more than £130K. At our conference in 2016, we were able to offer subsidies and full grants to 39 delegates, many of them young adults from relatively new communities.

We have also enabled young people to attend summer camps and Netzer camps in Spain, Germany, Hungary and Israel and we also helped to fund members of communities in Hungary, Spain, Portugal and Italy in attending the Beutel and Bergman seminars in

Jerusalem. Add to this the education projects, Shabbaton weekends, the provision of rabbinic leadership throughout the year, Batei Din and the development work in places such as Italy, we can understand and appreciate the extent to which our financial resources are put to work. Without the money that you contribute, our support would be severely curtailed. The affiliation fees from each of our 40 member communities, Federations, Platforms, Movements and Colleges totalled over £71K in the year. Of the total, £19K was transferred to the Rabbinic Training Fund which, together with another £7K taken from the capital fund, allowed us to donate £26K to our rabbinic training colleges. At this point, we should pay tribute to the strength of the euro which added more than £3K to our surplus for the year.

I cannot end this report without mentioning one notable appeal which was made earlier in the year to mark the “retirement” of our President, Leslie Bergman. I place the word in inverted commas because his energy and commitment continues unabated and he is fully deserving of his new title as Life President. His wisdom, guidance and leadership over so many years cannot be overstated and it was very appropriate that an appeal was made in his name which enabled us to make donations to causes close to his heart.

Once again, thanks go to Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP, whose partners and staff continue to support the EUPJ by providing their services willingly and freely. Any treasurer will inevitably get drawn into almost every activity and decision taken by an organisation such as the EUPJ. It is therefore with a degree of pride and considerable satisfaction that I feel privileged to play a part in what is very much a team effort in support of Progressive Judaism within the EUPJ and beyond.

As ever, the last word goes to my wife who continues to support, encourage, criticise and defend my every effort and to whom I shall be indebted always.

David Pollak
Honorary Treasurer

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2016

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2016. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The Objective of the EUPJ is to strengthen Jewish life and values in Jewish communities throughout Europe by supporting and advancing a Progressive approach to Jewish tradition.

The EUPJ, in collaboration with its constituent members, works to accomplish its objectives by:

- * Supporting the development of and connecting Progressive Jewish communities and National Movements in Europe
- * Securing the Jewish future by investing in youth and young adults
- * Developing lay, rabbinic and other Jewish professional leadership
- * Advocating social justice and fostering interfaith understanding
- * Supporting the foundations of Judaism being: Torah (study), Avodah (worship), and G'millut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness)

The EUPJ continued to grow in membership and range of activities throughout the year. The highlights for 2016 included a biennial conference in London which generated a significant increase in revenues and expenditure, continuing support for our communities in Spain, Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic and assisting members of communities to attend educational seminars conducted at the Saltz Institute in Jerusalem. There was less money available to spend from the Roswell Fund during the year which is reflected in the accounts. The improvement in the surplus for the year is, in part, explained by a stronger euro which resulted in a turnaround from currency depreciation of £5.3K in 2015 to currency appreciation of c. 3.3K in 2016, a net improvement of c. £8.6K

The Management Committee is actively involved in reviewing all grant applications and proactively seeking out suitable recipients in order to develop and expand its activities. All grant allocations are approved and minuted by the Management Committee. In particular, grants were made to support rabbinic services in various communities in Europe.

The EUPJ is not involved in any public fund raising. The bulk of its income is derived from subscriptions from its constituents and donations made by other charitable institutions and individuals.

Public benefit

The Management Committee believes that the EUPJ benefits the public by promoting Progressive Judaism throughout Europe with particular emphasis on the investment in youth and young adult training, the development of lay, rabbinic and other Jewish professional leadership, the promotion of social justice and the fostering of interfaith understanding.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The balance sheet on page 6 shows the financial position of the EUPJ as at 31st December 2016.

Total assets less liabilities amounted to £210,531 (2015: £200,692) which are represented by the accumulated balances on both the unrestricted and restricted funds.

The Management Committee has reviewed the unrestricted reserves of the EUPJ and considers that these funds are sufficient to cover the management and administration costs for the forthcoming year. At this level the Management Committee feels that they would be able to continue the current activities of the EUPJ and meet its ongoing expenses in the event of a fall in income.

**Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31st December 2016**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Management Committee will continue to adopt a policy of making regular grants to suitable recipients, having regard to the level of the EUPJ's annual income from year to year. It regularly appraises new opportunities for direct charitable expenditure consistent with the EUPJ's overall charitable objectives.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) is a registered charity and was established under a deed dated 6th July 1967. The Deed provided that the charity be called The European region of The World Union for Progressive Judaism, but the charity changed its name to The European Union for Progressive Judaism in 2010.

Organisational structure

The EUPJ is governed by its Constitution which was revised and adopted on 3rd May 2013. The officers who constitute the Management Committee responsible for the day-to-day running of the EUPJ are the Chairman, two Vice Chairmen, the Treasurer and the Secretary of the EUPJ. The officers are deemed to be the Trustees of the EUPJ for the purposes of the UK Charities act.

The Management Committee meets regularly, and on average, ten times a year.

The EUPJ's day-to-day activities are administered by its Administrator. Its Management Committee is responsible for consideration and authorisation of the charitable donations made by the EUPJ consistent with its policy and its strategy.

The Management Committee of the EUPJ regularly reviews the major risks, which the EUPJ faces and believes that maintaining the free reserves at the levels stated, combined with an annual review of the controls over the key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the face of adverse conditions. The Management Committee has also examined other operational and business risks which it faces and considers the EUPJ's internal control systems to be appropriate, given the size and nature of operations, to mitigate any significant risks.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

253000

Principal address

80 East End Road
Finchley
London
N3 2SY

Trustees

Mr Stéphane Beder
Mr John Cohen
Mrs Miriam Kramer
Mr David Pollak
Mr Michael Kurt Reik
Ms Sonja Guentner

- appointed 16.4.2016

**Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2016**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent examiner

Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor
Healthaid House
Marlborough Hill
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1UD

Management Committee

Rabbi Ruven Bar-Ephraim
Mr Stéphane Beder
Mr Leslie Frank Bergman
Mr John Cohen
Rabbi Andrew Goldstein
Ms Sonja Guentner
Dame Helen Hyde DBE
Mrs Miriam Kramer
Mr David Pollak
Mr Michael Kurt Reik
Mr Gordon Smith

European Rabbinic Assembly (ERA)
Vice Chairman
Life President
Secretary
Vice President
Vice Chairman - appointed 16.4.2016
Appointed 21.3.2016
Chairman
Treasurer
Vice Chairman
President

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Management Committee believes that the EUPJ benefits the public by promoting Progressive Judaism throughout Europe with particular emphasis on the investment in youth and young adult training, the development of lay, rabbinic and other Jewish professional leadership, the promotion of social justice and the fostering of interfaith understanding.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 1 March 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Miriam Kramer - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of European Union for Progressive Judaism

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 set out on pages 54 to 59.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Chartered Certified Accountant.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jeremy Harrod FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountant
Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor Healthaid House
Marlborough Hill
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1UD

Date: 1 March 2017

European Union for Progressive Judaism
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2016

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2016 Total funds £	2015 Total funds £
	Notes				
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		229,678	39,962	269,640	175,738
Investment income	2	<u>4,318</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,318</u>	<u>904</u>
Total		233,996	39,962	273,958	176,642
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Rabbinic Training Fund		-	26,167	26,167	23,839
General EUPJ - costs		204,122	-	204,122	89,347
Roswell Fund		<u>-</u>	<u>33,831</u>	<u>33,831</u>	<u>63,076</u>
Total		<u>204,122</u>	<u>59,998</u>	<u>264,120</u>	<u>176,262</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		29,874	(20,036)	9,838	380
Transfers between funds	8	<u>(19,018)</u>	<u>19,018</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		10,856	(1,018)	9,838	380
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		119,502	81,190	200,692	200,312
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>130,358</u></u>	<u><u>80,172</u></u>	<u><u>210,530</u></u>	<u><u>200,692</u></u>

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

The notes form part of these financial statements

European Union for Progressive Judaism

**Balance Sheet
At 31 December 2016**

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2016 Total funds £	2015 Total funds £
	Notes				
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	5	8,980	-	8,980	8,980
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	20,584	-	20,584	11,403
Cash at bank		<u>132,090</u>	<u>80,172</u>	<u>212,262</u>	<u>217,766</u>
		152,674	80,172	232,846	229,169
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(31,296)	-	(31,296)	(37,457)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>121,378</u>	<u>80,172</u>	<u>201,550</u>	<u>191,712</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>130,358</u>	<u>80,172</u>	<u>210,530</u>	<u>200,692</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>130,358</u></u>	<u><u>80,172</u></u>	<u><u>210,530</u></u>	<u><u>200,692</u></u>
FUNDS	8				
Unrestricted funds				130,358	119,502
Restricted funds				<u>80,172</u>	<u>81,190</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u><u>210,530</u></u>	<u><u>200,692</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 1 March 2017 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Miriam Kramer -Trustee

Mr David Pollak -Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2016**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2016	2015
	£	£
Eurocurrency appreciation	3,286	-
Deposit account interest	<u>1,032</u>	<u>904</u>
	<u>4,318</u>	<u>904</u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2016 nor for the year ended 31 December 2015.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2016 nor for the year ended 31 December 2015.

**Notes to the Financial Statements – continued
for the year ended 31st December 2016**

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	99,244	76,494	175,738
Investment income	<u>904</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>904</u>
Total	100,148	76,494	176,642
 EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Rabbinic Training Fund	-	23,839	23,839
General EUPJ - costs	89,347	-	89,347
Roswell Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>63,076</u>	<u>63,076</u>
Total	<u>89,347</u>	<u>86,915</u>	<u>176,262</u>
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	10,801	(10,421)	380
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>108,701</u>	<u>91,611</u>	<u>200,312</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>119,502</u></u>	<u><u>81,190</u></u>	<u><u>200,692</u></u>

5. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016	<u>8,980</u>
 NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2016	<u><u>8,980</u></u>
At 31 December 2015	<u><u>8,980</u></u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2016 £	2015 £
Other debtors	<u><u>20,584</u></u>	<u><u>11,403</u></u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements – continued
for the year ended 31 December 2016**

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2016 £	2015 £
Other creditors	<u>31,296</u>	<u>37,457</u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.16 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.16 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	119,502	29,874	(19,018)	130,358
Restricted funds				
Rabbinic Training Fund	76,967	(26,167)	19,018	69,818
Community Connections Travel Fund	2,983	-	-	2,983
Roswell Fund	<u>1,240</u>	<u>6,131</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,371</u>
	81,190	(20,036)	19,018	80,172
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>200,692</u>	<u>9,838</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>210,530</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	233,996	(204,122)	29,874
Restricted funds			
Rabbinic Training Fund	-	(26,167)	(26,167)
Roswell Fund	<u>39,962</u>	<u>(33,831)</u>	<u>6,131</u>
	39,962	(59,998)	(20,036)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>273,958</u>	<u>(264,120)</u>	<u>9,838</u>

The Rabbinic Training Fund benefits students at Abraham Geiger College and Leo Baeck College.

Community Connections (formerly Exodus 2000) work covers twinning of UK Communities with Communities in the Former Soviet Union, to assist in travel there, and to aid the youth.

The Roswell Fund represents the income received from a \$1 million fund set up by Betty and Arthur Roswell through the World Union for Progressive Judaism, for the purpose of training, educating, assisting and supporting young adult leaders from Central and Eastern European WUPJ and EUPJ congregations.

**Notes to the Financial Statements – continued
for the year ended 31 December 2016**

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2016.

10. FIRST YEAR ADOPTION

Transitional relief

On transition to FRS 102, the charity has taken advantage of the following transitional relief:

- to measure fair value at date of transition to FRS 102 and use as deemed cost on:
 - an item of property, plant and equipment;
 - an investment property;
 - an intangible asset which meets the recognition criteria and criteria for revaluation in Section 18 Intangible Assets other than Goodwill;
- to use a previous GAAP revaluation as deemed cost on:
 - an item of property, plant and equipment;
 - an investment property;
 - an intangible asset which meets the recognition criteria and criteria for revaluation in Section 18 Intangible Assets other than Goodwill.

**Reconciliation of Income and Expenditure
for the Year Ended 31 December 2016**

	Notes	UK GAAP £	Effect of transition to FRS 102 £	FRS 102 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies		175,738	-	175,738
Investment income		<u>904</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>904</u>
Total		176,642	-	176,642
EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable activities		<u>176,262</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>176,262</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		<u><u>380</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>380</u></u>

**Reconciliation of Funds
At 1 January 2015
(Date of Transition to FRS 102)**

	Notes	UK GAAP £	Effect of transition to FRS 102 £	FRS 102 £
		-	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		-	-	-
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		-	-	-
FUNDS		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

**Reconciliation of Funds
At 31 December 2015**

	Notes	UK GAAP £	Effect of transition to FRS 102 £	FRS 102 £
FIXED ASSETS				
Investments		8,980	-	8,980
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors		11,403	-	11,403
Cash at bank		<u>217,766</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>217,766</u>
		229,169	-	229,169
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year		(37,457)	-	(37,457)
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>191,712</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>191,712</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>200,692</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,692</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>200,692</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,692</u>
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds		119,502	-	119,502
Restricted funds		<u>81,190</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,190</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>200,692</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,692</u>

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 Meeting of the European Assembly of the European Union for Progressive Judaism** ("EUPJ") will be held at Beit Shmuel, 6 Elihayu Shama Street, Jerusalem, Israel on Friday 19 May 2017 at 11:45 am.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. **The Minutes (a copy of which accompanies this Notice) of the last meeting of the European Assembly** held in London on 17 April 2016.
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 **Chairman's Report on 2016 by the Chairman Miriam Kramer**, on the past year's activity of the Management Committee and Executive Board. (The full Chairman's Report will be included with all the other 2016 reports in the Annual Meeting Booklet which is to be circulated to members and made available on the EUPJ website before this meeting. Some brief supplementary comments will be presented by the Chairman under this agenda item).
5. Consideration and approval of **the examined annual Accounts of the EUPJ for 2016** (included with all the other 2016 reports in the Annual Meeting booklet) **with the Treasurer's Report presented by Honorary Treasurer David Pollak**.
6. **Resolution to ratify the appointment of the Examiner of the 2016 Accounts and to re-appoint the Examiner of the 2017 Accounts:** "Resolved that the appointment of the accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP to perform an examination of the 2016 annual accounts of the EUPJ, be ratified and that the appointment of Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP to perform an examination of the 2017 annual accounts for the EUPJ, be approved."
7. **Resolution to amend the Constitution:** "Resolved that the Constitution of the EUPJ be amended as provided for in the draft Deed of Amendment which accompanies this Notice and which is presented to the meeting, with effect from the close of this meeting." Note – A memorandum with the reasons for the proposed changes to the Constitution accompanies this Notice, along with the draft Deed of Amendment. The proposed amended Constitution will also be available on our website.
8. **Proposals to approve the admission to membership as a member of the EUPJ of the Federazione Italiana per L'Ebraismo Progressivo:** "Resolved that Federazione Italiana per L'Ebraismo Progressivo (the newly established Italian Federation known as FIEP) be admitted as a Constituent Member of the EUPJ with effect from the date of this resolution, subject to the condition that if (i) an EUPJ Constituent Member (Joining Community) joins FIEP and resigns its membership of EUPJ; and (ii) FIEP subsequently ceases to be a member of EUPJ; then in such case the Joining Community shall be entitled to be re-instated as a Constituent Member of EUPJ provided that at such date the Joining Community meets EUPJ membership criteria."
9. **Elections to EUPJ Offices**
 - a. Jonathan Lewis, the representative of Reform Judaism in the United Kingdom on the Executive Board, retired in July 2016 and Reform Judaism in terms of Section 6.1.4 of the Constitution nominated **Robert Weiner** as their new representative. This appointment

was ratified by the Executive Board in December 2016 and now requires ratification by the European Assembly.

- b. **John Clark** was nominated by Or Chadash, our sole member in Austria, in terms of Section 6.1.4 of the Constitution to represent Austria on the Executive Board. This appointment was ratified by the Executive Board in December 2016 and now requires ratification by the European Assembly.
- c. **Gilbert Lederman** was jointly nominated by Beth Hillel and IJC, our two members in Belgium, in terms of Section 6.1.4 of the Constitution to represent Belgium on the Executive Board. This appointment was ratified by the Executive Board in December 2016 and now requires ratification by the European Assembly.
- d. **Jonathan Wootliff** was jointly nominated by Bejt Simcha and ZLU, our two members in the Czech Republic, in terms of Section 6.1.4 of the Constitution to represent the Czech Republic on the Executive Board. This appointment was ratified by the Executive Board in December 2016 and now requires ratification by the European Assembly.
- e. **Arthur Buchman** was nominated by Shir Hatzafon, the Progressive Community in Denmark, in terms of Section 6.1.4 of the Constitution to represent Denmark on the Executive Board. This appointment was ratified by the Executive Board in December 2016 and now requires ratification by the European Assembly.
- f. **Marc Konczaty** and **Celia Naval** were nominated by the Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral Français, our member in France, in terms of Section 6.1.4 of the Constitution to represent France on the Executive Board. This appointment was ratified by the Executive Board in December 2016 and now requires ratification by the European Assembly.
- g. **Tamás Gróf** was jointly nominated by Bet Orim and Szim Shalom, our two members in Hungary, in terms of Section 6.1.4 of the Constitution to represent Hungary on the Executive Board. This appointment was ratified by the Executive Board in December 2016 and now requires ratification by the European Assembly.
- h. **Joyce Bigio** was jointly nominated by Beth Hillel (Rome), Beth Shalom (Milan), Lev Chadash (Milan) and Shir Chadash (Florence), our four members in Italy, in terms of Section 6.1.4 of the Constitution to represent Italy on the Executive Board for the period 1 December 2016 to 31 May 2017 and for **Fabio (Ben) Fantini** to represent Italy on the Executive Board from 1 June 2017 until 31 December 2017, whereafter a representative will be nominated by FIEP. These appointments were ratified by the Executive Board in December 2016 and now require ratification by the European Assembly.
- i. **Rabbi Jackie Tabick** was nominated by the European Beit Din in terms of Section 6.1.5 of the Constitution to represent the European Beit Din on the Executive Board. This appointment was ratified by the Executive Board in December 2016 and now requires ratification by the European Assembly.
- j. **Rabbi Ruven Bar-Ephraim** was appointed to the Executive Board as a co-opted member for a second term at the 2014 European Assembly but has now been nominated by the EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly in terms of Section 6.1.5 of the Constitution to represent the EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly on the Executive Board and Rabbi Bar-Ephraim has accepted this new role on the Executive Board. This appointment was ratified by the Executive Board in December 2016 and now requires ratification by the European Assembly.
- k. **Rabbi Mark Goldsmith** has served two consecutive terms as a co-opted member of the Executive Board and is, accordingly, not eligible for a further term and will be standing down from the Executive Board at the Meeting.

10. **Report by the European Beit Din.**

11. Any other business.

**BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR
PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM**

John Cohen - Honorary Secretary

Dated: 18 April 2017.

Note: 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 place provided that notice of intention to appoint a proxy has been received by the Chairman or Secretary or administrator not less than 48 hours prior to the start time of the meeting and the actual proxy (in the form attached) and copy of the notice of intention to appoint a proxy which was given in time, is given to the Chairman of the meeting prior to the start of the meeting.

Appointment as Constituent Delegate and Form of Proxy

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 [*insert name of Constituent Delegate* _____]

as a Constituent Delegate in terms of Clause 5.3 of the EUPJ Constitution to represent us at the
Annual European Assembly Meeting of the EUPJ, to be held on 19 May 2017.

Signed _____ (the Constituent Member)

Date _____

I, [*insert name of Constituent Member* _____] of
[*address* _____]

being a duly appointed Constituent Delegate, hereby appoint -

[the Chairman of the meeting] or [_____]

to act as my proxy and to vote on my behalf at the Annual European Assembly Meeting of the EUPJ,
to be held on 19 May 2017 and any adjournment of it.

Signed _____ (the Constituent Delegate)

Date _____

EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) held at the Holiday Inn – Kensington Forum Hotel, 97 Cromwell Road, London, SW7 4DN, **United Kingdom** on **Sunday 17 April 2016** at 9 am.

Present: Chairman of EUPJ Miriam Kramer and the other Honorary Officers and representatives of various Constituent Members of EUPJ as follows: Mr Isak Aasvestad (Abraham Geiger College) Germany, Ms Sandra Abramson (Women of Reform Judaism) USA, Mr Stephen Abramson (Women of Reform Judaism) USA, Mr Paul Yuval Adam (Arzenu) Germany, Ms Ester Yael Adamova (The Jewish Community Liberec) Czech Republic, Mrs Christele Amar (MJLF) France, Mr Jai Anguita (Comunitat Jueva Bet Shalom) Spain, Mr Antonio Filipe Escobar R.F. de Araujo (Beth Jacob) Portugal, Mr Juan Antonio Baile (Comunitat Jueva Bet Shalom) Spain, Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim (Or Chadash Zurich/EUPJ) Switzerland, Mr Stéphane Beder (AJL) France, Rabbi Bernhard (Haim) Beliak (Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland/Beit Polska) USA, Mr Leslie Bergman (EUPJ) UK, Mrs Julie Bergmannová (Jewish Community Prague) Czech Republic, Professor Claude Bismut (Kehilat Kedem) France, Ms Sophie Bismut (Kehilat Kedem) France, Dr Annette Boeckler (Leo Baeck College) UK, Rabbi Yann Boissiere (MJLF) France, Mr Hartmut Bomhoff (School of Jewish Theology) Germany, Mr Jean-Paul Borgerhoff (Beth Hillel Brussels) Belgium, Mr Steven Brummel (IJC Brussels) Belgium, Mr Arthur Buchman (EUPJ) Denmark, Mr Graham Carpenter (Liberal Judaism) UK, Mr Mac Michael Chao (Beth Hillel Roma) Italy, Ms Karolina Chmielewska (Beit Krakow) Poland, Ms Yael Cobano (Reform Jewish Community of Madrid) Spain, Mr John Cohen (EUPJ) UK, Mrs Noeleen Cohen (Leo Baeck College) UK, Mr Ron Cohen (North American Advisory Board) USA, Mrs Joan Cohen (North American Advisory Board) USA, Mrs Ruth Cohen (WUPJ) Israel, Mr Harvey Cohen (Kehillat Raanan) Israel, Mrs Danielle Cohen (MJLF) France, Ms Phyllis Dorey (WUPJ) Australia, Rabbi Alexander Dukhovny (Kyiv and Ukraine Jewish Congregations) Ukraine, Mr Fabio Fantini (Beth Hillel Roma) Italy, Mr David Feder (Or Chadash) Switzerland, Mr Maximilian Feldhake, (Abraham Geiger Kolleg) Germany, Mr Thomas Francies (Liberal Judaism/LJY-Netzer) UK, Rabbi François Garai (Communauté Juive Libérale de Genève) Switzerland, Ms Amanda Gipson (Congregation Bet Januka) Spain, Mrs Sharon Goldstein (Northwood & Pinner Liberal) UK, Mrs Deborah Grabiner (EUPJ) UK, Dr Tamàs Gróf (Bet Orim Budapest) Hungary, Mrs Sonja Guentner (UpJ Germany) Germany, Ms Cornelia Haberlandt-Krüger (Egalitarian Jewish Chawurah Gescher) Germany, Rabbi Jordan Helfman (Holy Blossom Temple) Canada, Mrs Eva-Britt Henmark Lapidus (Progressive Judaism in Stockholm) Sweden, Ms Deborah Hofer (PLJS) Switzerland, Ms Anat Hoffman (IRAC) Israel, Rabbi Walter Homolka (Abraham Geiger College) Germany, Dame Helen Hyde (Radlett) UK, Ms Monica Jankel (West London Synagogue) UK, Mr Peter Jossi (Migwan) Switzerland, Rabbi Deborah Kahn-Harris (Leo Baeck College) UK, Mr Andrew Keene (WUPJ) USA, Dr Ivan Kohout (Bejt Simcha) Czech Republic, Mr Marc Konczaty (MJLF) France, Mr Stephen Kramer (Wimbledon Synagogue) UK, Mr David Kraus (Czech Union of Jewish Students) Czech Republic, Ms Tamar Krieger (JLG Or Chadash Zurich) Switzerland, Ms Dee Lehane (West London Synagogue) UK, Mr Jean-François Levy (MJLF) France, Mr Jonathan Lewis (Reform Judaism/EUPJ) UK, Rabbi Alona Lisitsa (HUC-JIR) Israel, Mr Jose Martin (Bet Shalom Barcelona) Spain, Mr Geoffrey Marx (Reform Judaism) UK, Mr David Maxa (Abraham Geiger College) Germany, Mrs Judita Maxa Bergmannová (Bejt Simcha) Czech Republic, Mrs Jaroslava Maxová (Jewish Liberal Union Prague Jewish Community of Liberec) Czech Republic, Mrs Olga Melzochova (Bejt Simcha) Czech Republic, Mrs Irith Michelsohn (UpJ Germany/Jewish Community Bielefeld) Germany, Rabbi David Mitchell (West London Synagogue) UK, Mr Robin Moss (Liberal Judaism) UK, Dr Theodor Much (Or Chadash Vienna) Austria, Dr Verena Muehlstein (Beth Shalom Munich) Germany, Dr Jan Muehlstein (Beth Shalom Munich) Germany, Rabbi Lea Muehlstein (NPLS) UK, Mrs Celia Naval (Keren Or) France, Rabbi Marc Neiger (Beth-Hillel, Brussels) Belgium, Dr Felipe Ojeda Pérez (Comunitat Jueva Bet Shalom) Spain, Mr Arthur Oledzki (Beit Polska) Poland, Rabbi Joel Oseran (WUPJ) Israel, Mr Shai Pinto (WUPJ)

Israel, Mr David Pollak (EUPJ) UK, Mrs Karen Pollak (Mosaic Reform) UK, Mr Ariel Pollak (Abraham Geiger College) Germany, Dr Halina Postek (Beit Polska) Poland, Mrs Maria Prieto (Comunitat Jueva Bet Shalom) Spain, Mrs Francine Püttmann (Levisson Institute) Netherlands, Mr Michael Reik (EUPJ) UK, Mrs Gillian Reik (Mosaic Reform) UK, Mrs Suzette Reiter-Slama (Keren Or) France, Mr Alexander Reschetnikow (UpJ/Netzer Germany) Germany, Rabbi Danny Rich (Liberal Judaism) UK, Ms Deborah Rios Rey (Congregation Bet Januka) Spain, Mr David Robinson (WUPJ) New Zealand, Mr Joram Rookmaaker (LJG Amsterdam) Netherlands, Mrs Rosita Rosenberg (Liberal Judaism) UK, Rabbi Walter Rothschild (Or Chadash Wien), Austria, Ms Tina Roubitschek (Czech Union of Jewish Students) Czech Republic, Mrs Colette Samama (MJLF Paris) France, Mr Konstantin Seidler (UpJ Germany) Germany, Ms Erika Siegfried-Tompson (Bet Orim Budapest & Arzenu) Hungary, Mr Gordon Smith (EUPJ) UK, Mrs Judy Smith (EUPJ) UK, Mr Joe Smoczynski (Beit Polska/Beit Warszawa) Poland, Mrs Adriana Souza (Beth Jacob) Portugal, Dr Piotr Stasiak (Beit Polska) Poland, Ms Carole Sterling (WUPJ) Canada, Mrs Estera Stopińska (Beit Krakow) Poland, Mrs Norma Suvana (Jewish Religious Union Mumbai) India, Mrs Deborah Tal-Ruettger (UpJ Germany) Germany, Mrs Linda Thorn (SAUPJ/Temple Israel Cape Town), South Africa, Mr David Tilles (Beit Krakow) UK, Mrs Daniela Touati (Leo Baeck College) France, Mr Herve Touati (Keren Or) France, Rabbi Edward van Voolen (Abraham Geiger Kolleg) Germany, Ms Lawrence Vogel (WUPJ) USA, Mrs Linda Vogel (WUPJ) USA, Ms Katerina Weberova (Bejt Simcha) Czech Republic, Dr Jesse Weil (Sim Shalom Congregation) Hungary, Mr Robert Weiner (Reform Judaism) UK, Mr David Weis (Liberal Jewish Community of Luxembourg) Belgium, Mr Jonathan Wootliff (Bejt Simcha/ZLU) Czech Republic, Mrs Dominika Zakrzewska-Oledzka (Beit Polska) Poland, Mr Paul Zatz (Mosaic Liberal) UK, Mrs Pat Zatz (Mosaic Liberal) UK.

1. Apologies for Absence

The Chairman reported apologies received from Libby Burkeman (Reform Judaism) UK, Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner (Reform Judaism) UK, Jeffery Rose (EUPJ) UK, Gilly Shulman (Reform Judaism) UK, Rabbi Menno ten Brink (Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Amsterdam & Levisson Institute) Netherlands.

2. Approval of Minutes of 2015 European Assembly Meeting

The Chairman advised that the minutes of the European Assembly Meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland on 22 March 2015 were included in the EUPJ Annual Report booklet for 2015 ("the Booklet") which had been circulated and which was also made available on the EUPJ website before the meeting. In response to her request, the Chairman received no comments or suggestions for change to the Minutes, which were duly accepted as a correct record of the meeting and were then signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman referred the meeting to the Chairman's Report included in the Booklet which had been circulated, which was read and noted.

4. Annual Accounts for 2015

The Chairman introduced the Honorary Treasurer David Pollak who referred to the Accounts, Independent Examiner's Report and his own Treasurer's report included in the Booklet, which he summarised for the meeting. The Treasurer added the following to his report – (a) he thanked EUPJ members for their generosity and support of the 2016 Biennial Conference in their attendance in record numbers and for sponsoring conference events and the conference brochure. This would result in the conference achieving a break even position. (b) he referred to the query from Alex Dembitz at the 2015 European Assembly on why EUPJ does not raise funds from donations in addition to normal subscription income, and advised that EUPJ had

always received some donations in the past and, in view of the donations received for the 2016 Conference, would consider this method of fundraising in the future.

The Treasurer thanked the outside accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP and its partner Jeremy Harrod for providing the statutory examination of the 2015 Accounts without charge and also thanked his fellow officers and the EUPJ Administrator Deborah Grabiner for their support during the year.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his work and invited the meeting to approve the Accounts. The proposal to do so was made by David Tilles and seconded by Paul Zatz and, on a show of hands, the Accounts were approved without objection.

5. Appointment of Examiner

The Chairman reminded the 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 Booklet. Michael Reik seconded by Joe Smoczynski proposed the resolution to ratify the appointment of Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP as Independent Examiners of the annual accounts for 2015 and to re-appoint them as Independent Examiners for EUPJ's accounts for 2016. On a show of hands the resolution was approved without objection.

6. New Membership Proposals

6(a) Proposal to admit Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral Français to Membership.

The Chairman referred to the proposed resolution in the Booklet and advised the meeting that the EUPJ had received an application from Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral Français (the newly established French Assembly known as AJL) requesting to be admitted as a Constituent Member of the EUPJ. The EUPJ Management Committee had consulted with representatives of the French Progressive Jewish communities as well as with rabbinic advisers and was provided with all the documentation and information which EUPJ normally requires from prospective members. The Chairman advised that, after its investigation, the EUPJ Management Committee and Executive Board considered that AJL met all the requirements to become a Constituent Member and recommended that it be so admitted. The Chairman notified the meeting that the resolution to admit AJL as a Constituent Member is subject to the condition that if (i) an EUPJ Constituent Member (Joining Community) joins AJL and resigns its membership of EUPJ and (ii) AJL subsequently ceases to be a member of EUPJ; then in such case the Joining Community shall be entitled to be re-instated as a Constituent Member of EUPJ provided that at such date the Joining Community meets EUPJ membership criteria.

The Chairman invited the meeting to approve the resolution and the proposal to do so was made by Stéphane Beder and seconded by Rabbi Lea Muehlstein. On a show of hands the resolution to admit AJL as a Constituent Member of the EUPJ with effect from the close of the meeting was approved without objection. Stéphane Beder, representing AJL, stated that all in France had been going through difficult times recently and the fact that our communities in France are now able to speak with one unified voice should inspire France.

6(b) Proposal to admit Comunidad Judía Reformista De Madrid to Membership.

The Chairman referred to the proposed resolution in the Booklet and advised the meeting that the EUPJ had received an application from Comunidad Judía

Reformista De Madrid (known as the Reform Jewish Community of Madrid or CJRM) requesting to be admitted as a Constituent Member of the EUPJ. The EUPJ Management Committee had consulted with representatives of the Spanish Progressive Jewish communities as well as with rabbinic advisers and was provided with all the documentation and information which EUPJ normally requires from prospective members. The Chairman then advised that the EUPJ Management Committee and Executive Board considered that CJRM met all the requirements to become a Constituent Member and recommended that it be so admitted. The Chairman notified the meeting that the resolution to admit CJRM as a Constituent Member is subject to the condition that when a federation or union of Spanish Progressive Jewish Communities is formed and is admitted to membership of the EUPJ, then CJRM shall resign as a member of the EUPJ (together with all the other Spanish Progressive Jewish Communities) and shall become a member of that union or federation, and the Chairman stated further that this condition is now EUPJ policy when admitting new members in countries which do not already have a national association.

The Chairman invited the meeting to approve the resolution and the proposal to do so was made by Rabbi David Mitchell and seconded by Fabio Fantini. On a show of hands the resolution to admit CJRM as a Constituent Member of the EUPJ with effect from the close of the meeting was approved without objection. The Chairman introduced Yael Cabano, representing CJRM, and welcomed her and CJRM into the EUPJ family.

6(c) Proposal to admit Associação Hehaver (Sinagoga Ohel Jacob) to Membership

The Chairman referred to the proposed resolution in the Booklet and advised the meeting that the EUPJ had received an application from Associação Hehaver (called Ohel Jacob) of Lisbon, Portugal requesting to be admitted as a Member of the EUPJ. The Chairman advised the meeting that as there are no existing EUPJ members in Portugal, the EUPJ Management Committee sent representatives to Ohel Jacob, consulted with representatives of this community and WUPJ representatives who had visited Ohel Jacob, as well as with rabbinic advisers and was provided with all the documentation and information which EUPJ normally requires from prospective members. The Chairman reported that the EUPJ Management Committee and Executive Board consider that, at this point in time, it would be more appropriate for Ohel Jacob Lisbon to become an Associate Member and recommended that it be welcomed into the EUPJ family on this basis, explaining that this was due to the current stage of development and number of members of this community.

The Chairman invited the meeting to approve the resolution and the proposal to do so was made by Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim and seconded by Jai Anguita. On a show of hands the resolution to admit Ohel Jacob as an Associate Member of the EUPJ with effect from the close of the meeting was approved without objection. The Chairman introduced Adriana Souza and Filipe Escobar, representing Ohel Jacob, and welcomed them and Ohel Jacob into the EUPJ family.

7. Proposals relating to Beit Krakow

The Chairman reminded the meeting that (a) at its annual meeting in Dresden on 27 April 2014 the EUPJ European Assembly admitted Beit Krakow as a Constituent Member, subject to the condition that it join Beit Polska within a certain specific time period; (b) that this condition was discussed at the European Assembly Meeting held in Geneva on 22 March 2015; and (c) that the EUPJ Management Committee, in terms of its powers, agreed to extend the date for fulfilment of that condition until 17

April 2016. The Chairman informed Members that this condition has still not been fulfilled and advised that the EUPJ Management Committee has agreed to extend the date for fulfilment of this condition until the date of the 2017 European Assembly Meeting. The Chairman expressed her hope that by this date Beit Krakow would have joined Beit Polska.

8. EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly.

The Chairman introduced Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim (RBE) who reported that at the Kallah, held on 13 and 14 April 2016 and attended by over 80 rabbis, the EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly (called ERA) had been formally established after four years of discussions. RBE thanked Leslie Bergman, Gordon Smith and Andrew Hart for all their help with ensuring that the correct paperwork and documentation were in place.

RBE then explained the three main functions of ERA, and these were –

- (a) That ERA would be the Progressive Rabbinic voice in Europe. RBE pointed out that in the past, whenever situations arose which demanded a reaction from a European Progressive Rabbinic perspective (such as circumcision, kosher slaughter and Antisemitism) there was none. Now, ERA will be the channel through which issues in Europe that concern our rabbis and our communities, will be commented on through press releases and through direct contact with the institutions of the EU.
- (b) To improve rabbinic skills. ERA will develop on-going learning opportunities for its members through Kallah and on-line meetings, with in-depth study sessions and discussions on various halachic subjects. ERA members will be asked for their ideas for themes to be taught and/or discussed and ERA will facilitate easy contact between its members through Facebook. ERA will also be advising the EUPJ on halachic issues and will support the European Bet Din when required.
- (c) For rabbis to support each other. RBE said that the work of a rabbi can be lonely, particularly as many rabbis do not like to talk about problems that arise. ERA can be a partner in dealing with work related issues, as well as personal issues, and can provide coaching, if required.

Ruth Cohen congratulated all involved in the formation of ERA and wished it well. She pointed out that CCAR and WUPJ regularly issue statements on important issues and asked that ERA coordinate with WUPJ in this regard. Rabbi Danny Freeland said that WUPJ had rabbinic partner associations around the world for the purposes of agreeing public statements and the fact that there was now one association to cover Europe for this purpose was excellent news.

9. Elections and Appointments

The Chairman reported that there were a number of appointments for the meeting to approve and that she had a number of retirements to announce and so would deal with them in the order set out below.

9.1 President and Honorary Life President

The Chairman advised that **Leslie Bergman** (LB) had served two consecutive terms as EUPJ President and, accordingly, was not eligible for a further term. She then reported that the EUPJ Executive Board and Management Committee had considered this matter and the contribution that LB has made to the EUPJ and, hopefully, will continue to make and unanimously recommended that LB be elected as an **Honorary Life President** along with Ruth Cohen and Jeffery Rose. The Chairman pointed

out that the Constitution allows the EUPJ European Assembly to elect one or more persons as Honorary Life Presidents as a token of particular esteem and appreciation.

The Chairman proposed that, rather than asking for a formal vote on this, LB be appointed Honorary Life President by acclamation and asked all those in favour to say Aye. In view of the positive response the Chairman declared LB duly elected an Honorary Life President by acclamation.

The Chairman then thanked LB for all his wisdom and support during her tenure as chairman and a gift and certificate were presented to LB on behalf of EUPJ. LB thanked all for the honour accorded him, thanked the EUPJ Board for their commitment and dedication and thanked the Chairman and Management Committee for all their hard work and said how much he had enjoyed working with them. LB said that he was particularly pleased to end his term as President at the same meeting as the formation of ERA was announced.

The Chairman then pointed out that EUPJ now needed to elect a new President and that **Gordon Smith** (GS) had served two consecutive terms as Vice-President and was, accordingly, not eligible for a further term as Vice-President. She reported that the EUPJ Executive Board and Management Committee had considered this matter and the contribution that GS has made to the EUPJ and the WUPJ and unanimously recommended that GS be elected as **President**.

The Chairman proposed that, rather than asking for a formal vote on this, GS be appointed President by acclamation and asked all those in favour to say Aye. In view of the positive response the Chairman declared GS duly elected as President by acclamation.

9.2 Vice-Presidents

The Chairman advised that the second 3 year term of office of **Félix Mosbacher** as Vice-President had come to an end and that he was not eligible for a further term. The Chairman thanked Felix Mosbacher for his years of service to EUPJ.

The Chairman also advised that two further Vice-Presidents would stand down at the meeting – GS as he was elected President and also **Sonja Guentner** (SG), as she was standing for the position of Vice-Chairman. The Chairman then pointed out there were now a number of vacancies for the post of Vice-President and EUPJ was on the lookout for people to fill this position.

9.3 Vice-Chairman

The Chairman advised the meeting that EUPJ is entitled to appoint up to three Vice-Chairmen but currently only has two in office, Michael Reik and Stéphane Beder. She pointed out that SG was re-elected for a second term as Vice-President at the 2015 European Assembly but has recently joined the EUPJ Management Committee and has indicated her willingness to take on the responsibilities of a Vice-Chairman. She reported that the EUPJ Executive Board and Management Committee unanimously recommended that SG be elected as a Vice-Chairman and that SG would stand down as a Vice-President if so elected.

The Chairman proposed that, rather than asking for a formal vote on this, SG be appointed Vice-Chairman by acclamation and asked all those in favour to say Aye. In view of the positive response the Chairman declared SG duly elected as Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

9.4 Executive Board

The Chairman advised that **Deborah Hofer** had served two consecutive terms as a co-opted member of the Executive Board and was, accordingly, not eligible for a further term in that role. However, the Chairman announced that Deborah Hofer had been nominated to the Executive Board by The Platform for Liberal Judaism in Switzerland as its representative in terms of the EUPJ Constitution.

The Chairman advised that this appointment required to be ratified by the European Assembly and again proposed that this ratification be made by acclamation and asked all those in favour to say Aye. In view of the positive response the Chairman declared the appointment of Deborah Hofer to the Executive Board duly ratified by acclamation.

The Chairman then said that it saddened her to advise that **Rabbi Joel Oseran** and **Rabbi Lea Muehlstein** had each served two consecutive terms as a co-opted member of the Executive Board and were, accordingly, not eligible for a further term in that role and would be standing down as members of the Executive Board at this Meeting. The Chairman thanked both Joel and Lea for all their effort and contributions to the EUPJ and its communities around Europe and was hopeful that both of them would remain involved with EUPJ for years to come.

9.5 Honorary Officers

The Chairman advised that this year the initial 3 year term of John Cohen as Honorary Secretary came to an end and the EUPJ Executive Board and Management Committee unanimously recommended that he be re-elected for a second term. Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim proposed the resolution which was seconded by Rabbi Danny Rich.

The Chairman proposed that John be elected by acclamation rather than by her calling for a formal vote and asked all those in favour to say Aye. In view of the positive response the Chairman declared John Cohen duly elected Honorary Secretary by acclamation.

10. Any Other Business

The Chairman 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 but invited comments, questions or statements from the meeting.

10.1 Resolution relating to the Kotel. Tamás Gróf raised the issue of access to the Kotel and the implementation of the decision taken by the Israeli Government and proposed the following resolution to the meeting -

“We, the Members of the European Union for Progressive Judaism, are committed to the state of Israel and its declaration of independence. We believe in the integrity of Israel and its leaders. It is with these sentiments

that we urge the Government of Israel and Prime Minister Netanyahu to abide by their decision of 31 January 2016 and begin immediate implementation of the recommendations of the task force on issues related to the practice at the Western Wall.”

The resolution was proposed by Tamás Gróf and seconded by John Cohen and supported by Anat Hoffman. It was put to a vote by a show of hand and was passed unanimously, with no objections or abstentions.

10.2 Resolution in relation to the Refugee Crisis. Rabbi Danny Rich raised the issue of the refugee crisis in Europe and proposed the following resolution to the meeting –

“The 2016 Meeting of the European Assembly of the European Union for Progressive Judaism – (i) notes the refugee crisis that has engulfed Europe; (ii) deplores the lack of a cohesive coordinated Europe-wide response; and (iii) encourages its participants to approach the relevant authorities in their own countries and apply pressure on them to increase their efforts for a comprehensive humanitarian response.”

The resolution was proposed by Rabbi Danny Rich and seconded by Rabbi Charley Baginsky. It was put to a vote by a show of hand and was passed unanimously, with no objections or abstentions.

10.3 Tribute to Leo Hepner. Leslie Bergman give the following tribute to Dr Leo Hepner –

“The European Assembly of the EUPJ records with deep gratitude the contribution of Dr Leo Hepner and the work he has done over more than 3 decades. We miss his presence and his wise counsel. We extend our sympathies to Regina and say that she will always be welcome at all EUPJ meetings and events in the future.”

The Chairman then thanked David Pollak (the Honorary Treasurer), John Cohen (the Honorary Secretary) and Deborah Grabiner (the Administrator) for all their work.

The Chairman thanked all present for attending the 2016 European Assembly meeting and declared the meeting closed at 10:08 am.

.....
Chairman of meeting

DEED OF AMENDMENT
TO THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

(as adopted on 16 March 2008 at the meeting of the European Assembly in Vienna, Austria; with name amended on 7 March 2010 at the meeting of the European Assembly in Paris, France; and amended and replaced by a new deed on 3 May 2013 at the meeting of the European Assembly in Jerusalem, Israel; and as further amended on 27 April 2014 at the meeting of the European Assembly in Dresden, Germany).

It is hereby agreed that the Constitution of the European Union for Progressive Judaism, as described above ("the EUPJ Constitution"), be amended as follows –

By inserting the following new Section 7.2.6 into the EUPJ Constitution immediately after Section 7.2 5 of the EUPJ Constitution -

“7.2.6 the President;”

By inserting the following new Section 7.2.7 into the EUPJ Constitution immediately after new Section 7.2 6 of the EUPJ Constitution -

“7.2.6 the Convenor of the European Beit Din;”

By inserting the following new Section 7.2.8 into the EUPJ Constitution immediately after new Section 7.2 7 of the EUPJ Constitution -

“7.2.6 the Chairman of the EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly;”

By the deletion of the words “the current or” in the second line of Section 7.3.2 of the EUPJ Constitution and replacing them with the word “a”; and by the deletion of the words “the immediate” at the end of the second line of Section 7.3.2 of the EUPJ Constitution and replacing them with the word “a”.

Adopted by a resolution passed at the annual meeting of the European Assembly of the European Union for Progressive Judaism held in Jerusalem on 19 May 2017.

A Report on the Reasons for the Proposed Amendment to the EUPJ Constitution from the EUPJ Management Committee and Executive Board

At the meeting of the European Assembly in Jerusalem in May 2013 a new constitution was adopted. This constitution was amended at the meeting of the European Assembly in Dresden in April 2014.

The new constitution included a new Section 7, dealing with the EUPJ Management Committee (ManCom) and which permitted a maximum of 11 ManCom members, being the Chairman, three Vice-chairmen, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary and up to five co-opted members.

Since the date of the new constitution, ManCom has felt it necessary to include the Convenor of the European Bet Din (EBD) and the Chairman of the newly formed EUPJ Rabbinic Association (ERA) as members of ManCom due to their active and valuable involvement in day to day EUPJ activities. In addition, the EUPJ President also takes an active and leading role in the management of EUPJ activities.

Accordingly, it is proposed that the constitution be amended so that the individuals who hold the positions of EUPJ President, Convenor of the EBD and Chairman of the ERA become ex-officio members of ManCom. This enables ManCom to include people who are actively engaged in EUPJ issues on a day to day basis and also frees up ManCom to co-opt other individuals for specific skills and contributions.

The EUPJ ManCom and Executive Board both unanimously recommend that the constitution be amended as proposed.

We attach a draft deed of amendment for consideration and approval by EUPJ Constituent Members. We also attach a schedule showing the amended Section of the EUPJ Constitution should the Deed of Amendment be approved by the European Assembly, with the new or amended sections highlighted.

A full copy of the EUPJ Constitution (including all amendments) can be found on our website.

**EUPJ Management Committee
EUPJ Executive Board
18 April 2017**

A Schedule to the Report on Proposed Amendment to EUPJ Constitution

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The following shall apply in respect of the Management Committee ("ManCom") –

ManCom shall be responsible for the conduct and management of the day to day work of the EUPJ and for the implementation of EUPJ policies and strategies under the supervision of the Executive Board and shall have the power to deal with all matters which arise between meetings of the Executive Board and which may need immediate attention;

The Chairman shall, at each meeting of the Executive Board, present to the Executive Board a report of the actions taken by ManCom since the last board meeting and which may be required to be taken before the following board meeting. The Executive Board shall review this report and, if considered appropriate, shall ratify and/or approve (as the case may be) any actions taken or required to be taken by ManCom;

In addition, the Executive Board may from time to time delegate to ManCom such duties, responsibilities and authority as it deems fit and in accordance with this Constitution, and may determine ManCom's mode of operation.

ManCom shall consist of –

the Chairman;

not less than one and not more than three Vice-Chairmen;

the Treasurer;

the Secretary;

any person co-opted in terms of the procedure set out in Clause 7.3 below;

the President;

the Convenor of the European Bet Din;

the Chairman of the EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly.

ManCom may from time to time, by a majority resolution of the ManCom Members, co-opt people with relevant experience to be members of ManCom on the following basis -

such co-opted members shall not exceed five in number, and shall be approved at the next meeting of the Executive Board;

such co-opted members may include, without limitation, the following persons – **a past President, a past Chairman,** a Rabbinic adviser, a WUPJ representative, a person appointed to carry out a specific project or projects and a representative of Youth organisations;

the period of office of a co-opted ManCom member shall be as set out in Clause 11.5, provided that ManCom shall be entitled at the time of such co-option, to limit that period of office to an initial term of one year, after which that person may once again be co-opted to serve on ManCom.

Registered Charity No 253000

EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

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

Amendment to the Notice and Agenda

Please note that the Notice sent out on 18 May 2017 calling the European Assembly of the EUPJ to be held on 19 May 2017, is hereby amended by adding the following new paragraph 9.I to the Notice -

9. Elections to EUPJ Offices

- I. **Rabbi Alexander Grodensky** was nominated by Communauté Israelite d'Esch-sur-Alzette, our sole member in Luxembourg, in terms of Section 6.1.4 of the Constitution to represent Luxembourg on the Executive Board. This appointment was ratified by the Executive Board in December 2016 and now requires ratification by the European Assembly.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

John Cohen - Honorary Secretary
Dated: 21 April 2017.

Countries of the European Union for Progressive Judaism

Austria

Belgium

Czech Republic

Denmark

France

Germany

Hungary

Italy

Ireland

Luxembourg

The Netherlands

Poland

Portugal

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

United Kingdom

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EUPJ is an affiliate of
The World Union for Progressive Judaism

