



EUROPEAN UNION
FOR
PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Annual Report
2017

for the
European Assembly
at

Regeneration: Building the Future
EUPJ Biennial Conference
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Honorary Officers, Office Holders and Staff 2017/18

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Contents

Page 2	Honorary Officers, Office Holders and Staff 2017/18
Page 3	Contents
Page 5	EUPJ Chairman's Report
Page 6	WUPJ President and Chairman's Report
Page 7	European Beit Din
Page 7	European Union Office (EUO)
Page 8	Domim-Alike
Page 8	Austria – Or Chadasch
Page 9	Belgium – Beth Hillel, Brussels
Page 10	Belgium – IJC, Brussels
Page 11	Czech Republic – Bejt Simcha, Prague
Page 12	Czech Republic – ZLU Hatikvah, Prague
Page 12	Denmark – Shir Hatzafon, Copenhagen
Page 13	France – AJL
Page 15	France – AJTM, Paris
Page 15	Germany - Abraham Geiger College, Jewish Institute of Cantorial Arts
Page 17	Germany – The Union for Progressive Judaism (UpJ)
Page 17	Hungary – Bet Orim, Budapest
Page 19	Hungary – Sim Shalom, Budapest
Page 20	Italy – FIEP
Page 21	Luxembourg - Communauté Israelite d'Esch-sur-Alzette
Page 22	Netherlands - Levisson Institute, Amsterdam
Page 23	Netherlands – NVPJ Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism
Page 24	Poland - Beit Polska
Page 26	Portugal - Associação HeHaver - Ohel Jacob
Page 27	Spain – Bet Januka
Page 29	Spain – Bet Shalom, Barcelona
Page 30	Spain – Bnei Israel, Galicia
Page 31	Spain - Comunitat Jueva Atid De Catalunya, Barcelona
Page 31	Spain - Kehilá Beit Emunah, Asturias
Page 31	Spain – Reform Jewish Community of Madrid (CIRM)
Page 32	Sweden – Progressive Judaism in Stockholm (PJS)
Page 33	Switzerland – Platform of Liberal Jews Switzerland (PLJS)
Page 33	UK - Alliance Desk
Page 33	UK - Belsize Square Synagogue, London
Page 33	UK – Community Connections
Page 34	UK - Leo Baeck College
Page 35	UK – Liberal Judaism
Page 36	UK – Reform Judaism
Page 37	UK - Westminster Synagogue, London
Page 38	EUPJ Honorary Treasurer's Report 2017
Page 40	Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2017
Page 43	Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of EUPJ
Page 44	EUPJ Statement of Financial Activities 2017
Page 45	EUPJ Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2017
Page 46	Notes to the EUPJ Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2017

Page 50	Notice and Agenda – EUPJ 2018 European Assembly
Page 52	Appointment as Constituent Delegate and Form of Proxy
Page 53	Minutes of the EUPJ 2017 European Assembly
Page 57	Report on the Reasons for the Proposed Amendment to the EUPJ Constitution from the EUPJ Management Committee and Executive Board
Page 58	Revised Constitution of The European Union for Progressive Judaism
Page 69	EUPJ Executive Board prior to 2018 Assembly
Page 70	EUPJ Executive Board after 2018 Assembly
Page 71	Countries of the EUPJ
Back Cover	EUPJ Contact Information

EUPJ Chairman's Report 2017

It seems like more than a year has passed since we convened in Israel last May because there has been so much happening. Because it is impossible to describe all developments I suggest you read the rest of this booklet in detail. Below you will find what I consider some highlights.

After some years of discussion EUPJ has established an office in Brussels. The primary purpose is to raise our profile among the many and various components of the European Union and European Commission. So often we are overlooked if there is a situation or issue which requires comment; a prime example is the positions taken by various countries about *shehita*. We are fortunate in having the services of William Echikson, a seasoned EU lobbyist, and Rabbi Ira Goldberg of our IJC community.

Since we last met in Jerusalem the European Rabbinic Assembly (ERA) has come into its own. Our Biennial Conference here in Prague is preceded by a rabbinic kallah which will bring together rabbis from Europe and beyond to meet, discuss matters of mutual interests, to study and to socialise. The founding chairman, Rabbi Ruven Bar-Ephraim of Or Chadash in Zürich, is retiring and on behalf of us all at EUPJ I would like to thank him for acting as midwife to this vital project.

One of the most important roles our rabbis have is serving on the European Beit Din (EBD). The convenor is Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick and it is chaired by Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein; Rabbi Bar-Ephraim completes the leadership team. In the past 12 months, in Rome, Bratislava, Barcelona, Krakow and London they have seen and heard 72 candidates for conversion (55 adults and 17 minors). The countries providing candidates were Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain. We are grateful to Rabbis Goldstein, Tabick and Bar-Ephraim as well as all their colleagues who undertake this holy work. It is important to note that it would not happen without the invaluable support of Odelia Silver in London who underpins the administration.

You will remember that Leo Hepner z'l died in November 2015. During and after tenure as EUPJ chairman he worked tirelessly to establish and give continuing support to communities, particularly in Germany and Spain. Another of his passions was music. On the evening of Tuesday May 29 at 19.45 there will be concert, called New Music for Leo Hepner, at the Purcell Room of London's South Bank Centre; it will reflect his love of the viola and of contemporary music. At the time of writing there were still some tickets available.

For more than a decade the EUPJ newsletter was edited in a most professional and superlative way by Arthur Buchman. Reluctantly we have allowed him to retire but I am pleased that Darryl Egnal has stepped into his shoes and is doing an outstanding job. If proof is needed I urge you to look at the newsletter archive on our website. This is also the best place to look for detailed information about what is happening in our region.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to the EUPJ team. Our Management Committee and Executive Board, whose names are listed elsewhere in this booklet, are all volunteers who do a fantastic job not only keeping EUPJ afloat but also steering it through occasional choppy waters. David Pollak, who bears the title Honorary Treasurer, does so much more than crunch numbers and keep a balanced budget. You will also know him as the person who administers the Roswell Fund, chairs the Biennial Conference Committee, supports and encourages our Italian congregations, and is the impresario of our Conference late-night Saturday cabaret. David's term as Treasurer comes to an end at our Annual Assembly but I'm delighted to report that we are not losing him altogether as he simply cannot stay away from us.

In previous years I have paid tribute to our administrator, Deborah Grabiner. Every compliment I have paid her before applies now – and then some. She is the person who keeps us all in order, ensures that everything that needs to be done is done by (or sometimes even before) the deadline and is also the first point of contact for so many wanting information about EUPJ. It is not an exaggeration to say that without Deborah we could not even imagine doing what we do.

In addition to David my own term now comes to an end so I will indulge in a bit of reflection. Events, both natural and political, all over the world have become increasingly unsettled and unsettling. Of one thing, however, I am certain: Progressive Judaism in Europe is growing and will continue to

flourish. When faced with challenges it is vital to remember that we are all part of a vibrant and important global movement. By remaining strong and committed we will ensure the future for our children, our children's children and many more generations.

Despite some challenging times I have greatly enjoyed my association with EUPJ and hope that I have made a small difference for the better. It has been a joy meeting so many people from our seventeen member countries and learning that in our diversity we have great strength. I ask God's blessing on the EUPJ Management Committee and to all our congregations as they continue the work which is so important.

Miriam Kramer
April 2018

WUPJ President and Chairman's Report

The Jewish world constantly evolves. The World Union for Progressive Judaism is proud to partner with our seven regions and 1200 congregational communities to make sure our Progressive Jewish world does not stand still.

Our WUPJ central pillars guide and move us forward:

Building Communities: During 2017 we provided Torah Scrolls to four emerging congregations in Europe, Israel and Asia to ensure that these new Reform communities have access to the most essential of Jewish spiritual objects – a Torah Scroll.

Nurturing Leadership: We welcomed our third cohort of future Jewish leaders to the Institute for Modern Jewish Studies, now with 19 students in Moscow and two Rabbinical students already spending their year in Jerusalem. In South America, the Iberoamerican Institute for Reform Rabbinical Education opened September, 2017 in Buenos Aires for Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking future rabbis.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Progressive Jews: Camping continues to serve as a pivotal and transformative vehicle for young Reform Jews around the world. During the summer of 2017, Netzer Olami welcomed more than 2,800 campers in 21 camps across Europe, the FSU, the UK, Israel, Australia, Spain and more.

CONNECTIONS '17 in May was, without a doubt, the highlight of the Progressive Jewish year. The conference was attended by 450 delegates from over 30 countries. Over 100 were young adults from our Netzer and Tamar movements. Our Beit Shmuel campus in Jerusalem was filled with the sounds and songs of learning, leadership and prayer. More than 1,000 Reform and Progressive Jews came together for Kabbalat Shabbat at the outdoor pedestrian mall, the First Station; with eight Progressive Israeli congregations partnering in the event, and hosting our delegates for home hospitality.

The values that propel us forward continue to expand our communities and enhance our efforts. We are proud to have partnered with the EUPJ in responding to the needs of so many communities, and are honoured to take an active role in shaping our movement's growth together in the years to come.

Daniel Freeland, President

Carole Sterling, Chair

European Beit Din

The EBD has seen an increase in the number of candidates for conversion in the past year, 72 in all, 55 adults and 17 minors. 24 (14 last year) were seen in London, some set up specifically for the candidates, others included in regular MRJ courts. The rest of the candidates were seen in Batei Din arranged in Rome, Bratislava, Barcelona and Krakow.

They came from the following countries:

Austria: 9 adults 4 children
Czech Republic: 2 adults
Denmark: 5 adults
Italy: 14 adults, 2 children
Norway: 1 adult
Poland: 14 adults 1 child
Portugal: 5 adults, 4 children
Slovakia: 3 adults, 3 children
Spain: 7 adults, 2 children

2016 numbers: Slovakia (7), Czech Republic (6), Denmark (5), Italy (7), Poland (9), Portugal (1), Spain (9). Finland (1), Morocco (1), Norway (1), Sweden (1), Austria (3).

We are grateful for the help we receive from Odelia Silver in the London Office and our treasurer, David Pollak, and Rabbis Goldstein (Chair of the EBD) and Bar Ephraim (EUPJ Rabbinic Advisor) for their support and advice. Also for the help from our rabbis who teach our candidates and who attend our courts in a voluntary capacity and who make the whole enterprise possible. In particular I wish to thank those who came to our courts on continental Europe, Rabbis Walter Rothschild, Andrew Goldstein, Alona Lisitsa, Stephen Berkowitz, Misha Kapustin, Joel Oseran, Andrea Zanardo, Charles Wallach, Lior Bar-Ami, Janet Darley and Mark Solomon.

I also want to thank lay members of the congregations in Rome, Warsaw, Barcelona and Bratislava who helped us make the arrangements for the courts to be held. This was our first court in Rome and the first time I have ever seen our Beit Din and even our mikveh protected by the local police. Quite an eye opener for us all.

Rabbi Goldstein and I also spend a considerable amount of time answering queries from potential converts from around Europe where there are no Progressive communities, such as Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia. We continue offering help with difficult cases where people have converted through Internet courses and their conversion is not acceptable to some of our communities. We also give advice to proselytes who wish to make Aliyah and are in constant touch with Israeli and other Progressive Batei Din. In this connection, I would wish to convey our thanks to Nikki Ma'or and Rabbi Yehoram Mazor who give us so much support on these issues.

Rabbi Dr Jacqueline Tabick (Convenor)

European Union Office (EUO)

The EUPJ recently created a European Union Office (EUO) staffed by Bill Echikson and Rabbi Ira Goldberg. The EUO is a result of a process spearheaded by the EUPJ community, the International Jewish Center in Brussels. This action has been contemplated for a number of years. With the ever expanding presence of Progressive congregations in the EU, the time is now right to establish such an office. The EUO will be the voice of the EUPJ enabling the expression of its opinion on European-wide religious issues. The EUO looks forward to working closely with our EUPJ communities to support our communities at the EU and its institutions where that is relevant as well as to request support from communities where the EUO advocates on EU wide issues.

The primary goals of the office are:

- To ensure that where the EU seeks Jewish representation, calls for a Jewish opinion on various matters and provides the opportunity for Jewish expert contribution in religious, social, educational and cultural matters, there will be a Progressive Jewish presence.
- To ensure that EU leadership and affiliated bodies are made aware of Progressive Judaism as a vital component of pluralistic Jewish life in Europe.
- To participate in EU projects to the benefit of EUPJ affiliates and institutions by making use of our unique network of communities in 17 European countries
- To make the EU aware of specific situations affecting our communities in various countries

- To provide a conduit for our local communities to make their voices heard in the EU and for the EU to reach out to our communities.

The EUO came into existence on October 1 and has already brought a major university-based interreligious dialogue programme to three EUPJ communities and applied for an EU grant to support the programme operations.

Domim-Alike

In the past 12 months there has been little change in the Domim Alike contacts between the Israel Reform Movement and EUPJ Communities.

An excellent meeting was held in Jerusalem before the start of Connections 2017 with 12 representatives from Europe and 12 from the IMPJ.

The only major change within Europe in the past 12 months is that the Liberal Jewish Community of Rotterdam has twinned with Mishkanot Ruth Daniel Community in Jaffa. Further consolidations from the UK have taken place between Westminster Synagogue and Kehillat Netanya, Finchley Reform Synagogue and Kol Haneshama in Jerusalem and Alyth Synagogue and the Leo Baeck Education Center and Ohel Abraham Synagogue in Haifa.

Mosaic Community in Harrow, London and Darchei Noam in Ramat Hasharon are in the early stages of Twinning.

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

2017 was a year of important new developments for "Or Chadasch, Liberal Jewish Community Vienna", the only non-orthodox Jewish community in Austria. Over the course of many years, Rabbi Dr. Walter Rothschild served the community with monthly visits from Berlin. Knowing that for several years one of the main goals of the community was to have a Rabbi based in Vienna, Rabbi Rothschild actively supported the search of the board and community for a qualified successor. At the end of 2016 the board was able to agree on a contract with Rabbi Lior Bar-Ami, a recent graduate of Abraham Geiger College in Berlin. Since 2017, Rabbi Bar-Ami resides in Vienna half of every month and has already started many new projects to strengthen the community. His introduction as new Community Rabbi of Or Chadasch was celebrated with many members and prominent guests on Sunday, March 26. Until May 2017, Rabbi Rothschild still visited Vienna at least once a month to allow for an adequate transition period. On May 14, Or Chadasch organized a farewell party for him to thank him for the many years that he has supported Or Chadasch and enabled the community to consolidate and grow.

Or Chadasch 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 can offer 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 of the "Tefilah Team".

The finances of our community have continued in 2017 to be in solid shape and allowed us to cover our expenses for the upkeep of the Synagogue and to pay for the half time position of our Community Rabbi, Lior Bar-Ami.

The festivals of 2017 started with a Tu Bi'Shvat Seder in January and a joyous Purim party in March. As always, the Pessach Seder, was a highlight of the festival calendar. Once again, we celebrated in the premises of our synagogue, for the first time with our new Community Rabbi. We also celebrated Shavuot 5777 with him, including a study session on Erev Shavuot.

The High Holidays 5778 services, which drew a big number of worshippers, were led by Rabbi Bar-Ami. For Sukkot, we were able to celebrate (with some limitations imposed by weather conditions) in

our Community Sukka, as well as Hoschana Rabba/Simchat Torah services, which were led by members of the Tefila Team.

With the assistance of Rabbi Bar-Ami, in 2017 a group for young adults and students in the community has formed and is meeting on a regular basis. Members of our community have also participated in many Jewish events outside our community. For example, for several years now Or Chadasch members are very active in organising the "Limmud Vienna". Or Chadasch is also present at the annual Jewish Street Fair in Vienna. Other activities include 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. It has continued its activities through 2017 and already benefitted a lot from the initiative taken by Rabbi Bar-Ami to introduce new courses. Last but not least, throughout the year a Sunday School has provided Jewish religious education, which is officially recognized by the Stadtschulrat (Board of education of the City of Vienna), for our young people.

Belgium - Beth Hillel, Brussels

[Beth Hillel - CILB](#) (Communauté Israélite Libérale de Belgique) was established in Brussels in 1965 as the first Liberal Jewish community in Belgium. Its mission statement is to be a dynamic and strong Jewish community for this day and age, supporting and transmitting our identity for consciously living a responsible Judaism. With 240 families, our yearly membership level slightly grew (+ 5%). Our large building has classrooms, meeting rooms, offices, a foyer, a kitchen and a library. We publish a weekly newsletter, a quarterly publication 'Le Shofar' and have a FaceBook fanpage and a FB group. Gan HaShalom, an associated organization, takes care of burial services. Our congregation is a member of CCOJB, who coordinates over 40 Jewish Belgian associations.

Beth Hillel offers services every Kabbalat Shabbat and Shacharit Shabbat - as well as for all the Jewish festivals. We have a monthly Ledor Vador, a Kabbalat Shabbat service dedicated to families and children. A monthly Saturday Shabbat service is especially shortened and followed by a study group of the parashah. On Wednesday afternoons, 28 children are educated in our own school at the Talmud Torah.

In January 2017, we started our special events with 'Side by Side' Shabbat services. These were a prelude for the yearlong discussions to have an agreement with our sister-community IJC (English-speaking congregation) to move to Beth Hillel from January 1, 2018. This Shabbat test was a moving experience: one building, two congregations! Not only because expats were the founders of Beth Hillel, before the birth of their own community International Jewish Center in 2002, but because sharing the same building with two communities enriches the prayer and strengthens the vivid life of Progressive Judaism in Belgium. Each community keeps their own identity. At the same time this change opens opportunities to share special occasions together. In March we supported "Esther & Sheherazade", a Judeo-Arab Festival in Molenbeek. In late March the European Rabbinical Assembly (abbreviated as ERA) held its first Kallah in our building. Nearly 20 rabbis from all over Europe came to this gathering. In May we celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut with a religious service followed by a communal dinner of Israeli specialties. In September we celebrated the 80th birthday of our founding rabbi, Abraham Dahan. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are well attended. We welcomed chazan students suggested by Rabbi Edward van Voolen from the Abraham Geiger Kolleg. For the second time in a row, Rabbi Marc Neiger was joined by the student chazan Yuval Hed and by the pianist Naaman Wagner. In November we supported "Women of the Wall" (WOW) by organizing our annual Shacharit service led by the women of our community. Beth Hillel celebrated the fifth night of Chanukah with a fun evening filled with games, a cooking workshop and scrumptious food including latkes and doughnuts.

Many secular activities have also been organized this year. Our Café Klatsch attracts seniors who discuss a subject and share cakes and coffee. "Tehima" (kind of Jewish Tai Chi) is a monthly activity. This workshop teaches how to harmonize body and mind by dancing sacred Hebrew letters. Our convenient space has been rented for family events and by Jewish organizations: youth movement, association of Israelis in Belgium. 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. 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. Last but not least, EUPJ has opened its European Union Office (EUO) at Beth Hillel. Rabbi Ira Goldberg and Bill Echikson (IJC) lead this activity.

Last November, after 10 years as President of the board, Gilbert Lederman has stepped down to pave the way for Benjamin Dobruszkes, a new and young leader. Many thanks are extended to rabbi Marc Neiger, our administration officer Yardenah Pressler, our board and our number of volunteers for their hard work. We are looking forward to a new exciting 2018. The best is yet to come!

Belgium - IJC - Brussels

The IJC remains a small, unique community attracting international, English-speaking residents from the capital of Europe and beyond. The IJC exists because of Jews moving to Belgium for career or family reasons linked to the EU, NATO and other Brussels-based international institutions and companies. Our community, currently 60 members (family units) strong, features over 15 nationalities as well as native Belgians.

2017 kicked off on January 13-14 with our first, extremely moving, all-women-planned and led Shacharit service. Two weeks later we experimented with a side-by-side Shabbat and Shacharit service at our sister shul, Beth Hillel. This event, celebrated with Miriam Kramer, saw impressive attendance (at least 40 IJC members and 40 Beth Hillel members attended on both Friday and Saturday) and deemed a success by all IJC members, who unanimously agreed it was a wonderful venue and experience. In fact, this test set of services led to the decision to move IJC into Beth Hillel's building by year's end (more below).

2017 highlights included: a well-attended Purim party planned by Hebrew School parents with fun outdoor attractions (a bouncing castle) and innovative indoor activities (a reading for children inside a tent, within our sanctuary). In April we hosted our first 100% potluck Seder entirely coordinated by volunteers and led by Rabbi Ira Goldberg. We celebrated three Barmitzvahs, one in April for a family that had already relocated to France two years earlier but wanted to celebrate in Brussels with the IJC, and two other bar mitzvahs in June.

In May we replaced our usual Farewell Shabbat (when we typically bid farewell to families leaving Brussels) with an exceptional Welcome Shabbat to acknowledge newly joined members.

Nearly 100 people attended Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services, including relatives from abroad accompanying IJC members and unexpected drop-in visitors, travelling through Belgium during the High Holidays. For the second consecutive year, Berlin-based Cantor and Tenor Ido Ben-Gal accompanied our Rabbi through the High Holidays. Congregants partook in IJC's traditional Tashlich walk to the closest body of water on Rosh Hashanah.

The Giur class, launched in 2016 with 10 students, successfully saw 3 individuals through to the French Liberal Beth Din, which convened in Tilburg last spring.

Since early 2013 the IJC has held monthly Friday night services in Leuven (historic university town 25 km outside Brussels) attracting local Israelis and international Jewish students. The group has developed enough momentum to adopt its own identity—Ohel Yachdav (Leuven Havurah)—and offers monthly Kabbalat Shabbat services, Shabbat dinners and other events around the Jewish holidays. It is still very closely linked to IJC as it offers services only on weekends when IJC does not.

The IJC has continued its relationship with the Brussels Quakers whose House provides an ad hoc venue for Friday night services in a more central part of the city.

The IJC hosted 4 lectures in its adult education series on Sunday evenings. Meanwhile, the Hebrew School students went on a collective tree climbing outing in the spring, and visited the Red Star Line museum for Emigration in Antwerp.

The IJC continues to field ongoing security concerns shared by every Jewish organisation in Belgium today. This translates into specific restrictions and increasing financial constraints.

The IJC board is busy with efforts aimed at securing its future in an exceptionally challenging environment. Not benefiting from any state recognition or funding (unlike non-liberal shuls in Belgium) the IJC can only afford to employ a rabbi part-time (two services a month) and relies on annual dues to cover all its costs. The IJC continues to seek funding wherever it can through its network of generous donors, including members and alumni, scattered across the world.

In order to save costs, the IJC accepted the generous invitation from its liberal sister community, Beth Hillel, to move in under the same roof and share their physical facility. This arrangement ushers in numerous advantages for both communities. The IJC will maintain its unique identity and all its services will be held simultaneously in a separate space, within the existing Beth Hillel building. IJC's Hebrew school classes are held in the same rooms as Beth Hillel's, except on different days. The last quarter of 2017 was taken over by the negotiation, planning and ultimately the move to the Beth Hillel premises. IJC congregants rolled up their sleeves and volunteered, over 3 weekends, to sort, clean up, pack and move all IJC wares (from liturgical objects to furniture, and from school materials to myriad kitchen supplies) out of the American Women's Club (a home we had rented for 4 years) and into Beth Hillel. A core team of volunteers oversaw this major undertaking and rallied a dozen more to help out. IJC's services in its new home officially began on January 6th 2018.

2017 ended with a massive Hanukkah party held at a members' home featuring afternoon games, songs and sweets buffet and segued into evening drinks and an impressive buffet dinner after candle-lighting and havdallah, for those arriving or staying later. Every Hanukkah, IJC members donate food to a local charity it has traditionally supported. This year, donations in kind went towards 100 individual food baskets, redistributed to families in need across Brussels, in time for Christmas.

Czech Republic - Bejt Simcha, Prague

We have continued all our **regular activities** in 2017: **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 also lead the services occasionally. Traditionally, we have the highest attendance in 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 also by some of our members who participated in the preparation and leading of services.

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

In 2017, as in previous years, we were focused on **programs for children and youth**. We have organized a series of workshops and Shabbat programs for children and also a great **„Family Sukkot weekend in the nature“** (in a small pension in Central Bohemia) for families with children that included a rich program with Shabbat services (a shortened form of service adapted especially for children), Havdalah, indoor and outdoor activities including art and craft workshop and other games. The children built their own sukkah in the nearby woods and learned Bible stories as well.

Our **monthly „Maskil“** has entered its seventeenth year already. 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.

In 2017, we also organized Kabbalat Shabbat dinner as a partner of renewed initiative Or Tamid striving to develop Progressive, Jewish social and cultural life in Prague with an emphasis on the participation of young people and entire families.

Last year, our community benefited from the Roswell Fund which provided grants to our projects – Maskil and Family Sukkot weekend. We are grateful to the European Union for Progressive Judaism for their support that made this possible.

Czech Republic – ZLU Hatikvah, Prague

No report received.

Denmark – Shir Hatzafon, Copenhagen

Now that we are well into the Jewish year of 5778 I am able to look back at the year that has gone and also look ahead, as we have now taken a number of steps for innovation.

There is a lot going on in our synagogue which is not always immediately visible. There are many who volunteer to make our synagogue work, arranging our chagim, ensuring purchases for various events and services and hosting for our rabbis and other guests when they are in town. These volunteers have been the backbone of Shir Hatzafon, not just in the past year, but throughout the life of the community. These are the committed enthusiasts who create the framework for our synagogue and for our Progressive Jewish Community.

In the past year we have had several baby blessings, together welcoming the new little members of our Jewish community. There have been more Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, and there have been weddings. There is a conversion team studying with our rabbis. We have held chagim and walked out of Egypt with approximately 70 guests. We have participated in ØresundsLimmud and we have supported and participated in the Jewish contingent in the Copenhagen Pride Parade. Last but not least, the final work is being done on our new Siddur.

Shir Hatzafon might be a small community but we are very active. In addition to developing our unique Progressive Jewish community, we actively participate in the surrounding community of which we are also a part. The Progressive Jewish Community in Denmark is gaining recognition, and it is a community I am very proud to represent.

The coming year will bring many exciting events and new initiatives in Shir Hatzafon.

Firstly, we now have two regular rabbis attached to Shir Hatzafon. Tirzah Ben-David, who has been our rabbi for many years, will alternate with Rabbi Sandra Kviat to take care of our community and services. We will also definitely continue our tradition of inviting guest rabbis who add an exciting and different angle to our worship services.

The first major initiative in Shir Hatzafon in 2018 will be the change of the time of our Shabbat morning service, which as of January starts promptly at 11:00 and not at 10-ish as in the past. This does not derive from the Chairman's wish to sleep an extra hour on Saturday morning; the hour before worship will be dedicated to events for children and their families under the guidance of Rabbi Sandra.

Another major initiative will be the strengthening of Friday's Kabbalat Shabbat in order more to make it more accommodating to everyone and not least family-friendly.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who are the backbone of Shir Hatzafon and who make a huge effort for our community and to express our gratitude to our rabbis and musicians for creating a wonderful framework for our worship and events. Last but not least, I would like to thank all members and guests who make Shir Hatzafon a living and exciting Jewish community.

France – Assemblée du Judaïsme Liberal (AJL)

The AJL, Assemblée du Judaïsme Liberal focuses on structuring and strengthening the Progressive Movement in France. Its actions are based on three pillars:

- Community Building: - Support to existing communities, development of relationships with larger Jewish institutions such as CRIF (the French Jewish Board of Deputies) as well as with French government officials (such as the Ministry of the Interior), distribution and promotion of books and pedagogical materials.
- Youth Engagement - Development of common programmes for youth (such as pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah events), vibrant Netzer activities and a summer camp.
- Training Of Rabbis - Currently six French students are enrolled at Leo Baeck College and training to become rabbis.

The Assemblée plans to increase its visibility in the coming year via social networks and other communication channels.

With two new rabbis inducted into part-time positions and a goodly number of student rabbis at different stages of their studies, the French communities have much to anticipate and look forward to. Below is a collation of activities and developments over 2017.

AJLT, Association Juive Libérale Toulouse saw a significant increase in membership in 2016, 2017 showed a slowdown with only 4 new families joining the community. The rabbi effect there was not as good as we had anticipated. Rabbi Lior Bar-Ami took up the position in Toulouse as of 1st September 2016 and is now our reverend. Many new activities have been created but attendance is still unfortunately below our expectations.

AJLT is now able to provide full brit mila service to the community.

The 2017 main events were:

In April: Organization of the second night community Pessah seder with a hundred participants.

In May: Commemoration of Yom Hashoah. Despite the security constraints still in force in France and like every year, AJLT organised, in partnership with CRIF (French Jewish institutions Council) the public reading of the names of the Jews deported from France, including an official ceremony with the local and religious authorities.

In October: AJLT celebrated the 25th anniversary of its creation. We had the pleasure and the honour of welcoming Miriam Kramer (EUPJ Chairman), Stephane Beder (Senior Vice Chair WUPJ) and 3 rabbis; Rabbi François Garai (GIL, Geneva) narrowly linked to our community throughout these 25 years, Rabbi Stephen Berkowitz, friend of AJLT, and Rabbi Marc Neiger (from Beth Hillel, Brussels) a native son and founding member of our community. This was also the opportunity to officially present our rabbi Lior Bar-Ami to representatives of Jewish and secular associations as well as to the Mayor of Toulouse Jean Luc Moudenc.

In 2017, **ULIF Copernic** celebrated 110 years of existence and is proud to report on a year rich in developments.

- As regards the Talmud Torah, a further two classes were equipped to benefit by the E-Talmud programme, making it accessible to 90% of our pupils. Further, a third adult was recruited to help run the *gan*.
- In the cultural and musical fields, programme highlights were two world premières of the *Kol Nidre* and a recital by two pianists who had earned distinctions at the French classical music Victoire awards. The major lecture events continued to attract large audiences, 150 people on average.
- We continued to develop our Jewish-Christian interfaith dialogue with regular events and a new partnership was started with an association providing support to young adults facing mental health issues, the Arche centre in the 16th arrondissement of Paris.
- Finally, on the social action front, a large number of our members responded to an appeal for a collection of non-perishable foods which was organised to support the *Restos du Cœur* national charity which reaches out to those in need.
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We are delighted to report the on-going growth in the number of members and friends of the synagogue who give time and energy, thus building on the educational, social and cultural dynamics.

In 2017 **Kehilat Kedem** attained a major achievement with the arrival of a Sefer Torah in our community. Our congregation, established at the end of 2012, has grown regularly. Having a Sefer Torah had become an urgent need for us to fulfil our mission as a Jewish congregation. We were able to acquire a Sefer Torah in Los Angeles through fundraising from our members and friends of Kehilat Kedem. We have received sizable financial and practical/material support from several rabbis and communities in the United States, including helping us to locate a Sefer Torah that would be right for our community. At the same time we have found a small place for our Shabbat services in the historical centre of Montpellier, at the heart of the medieval Jewish quarter, only a few meters away from Montpellier's medieval mikveh. We can now have regular Shaharit services, twice a month, in addition to the weekly Shabbat evening services we have held since our establishment. In 2017 our community was also happy to welcome four new Jewish members who were recognized by the Beit Din in June. Our Talmud Torah class has grown and we recently celebrated the first Bat Mitzvah of the community. In addition we now regularly host visiting rabbis and speakers for Shabbat learning and other events, adding to Jewish activities beyond the celebration of festivals.

At **Keren Or** we had a rich year, with many activities, new members and movement on the rabbinic team.

Rabbi René Pfertzel was with us until July 2017, navigating between London and Lyon, mentoring then student rabbi Haim Casas and coordinating services and activities involving also student rabbi Daniela Touati and a number of lay leaders.

In July, Keren Or officially said goodbye to Rabbi René after 13 years during which he himself had evolved from lay leader to student rabbi, to rabbi. In a cheerful but also moving farewell party, we wished him all the best and celebrated the time shared over the years. We look forward to further association between our communities on either side of the Channel.

July 2nd saw the ordination of Rabbi Haim Casas in London and several members of the board were pleased to attend the ceremony and celebration. Haim took up his rabbinic role in September and was officially inducted on 3rd December, in the presence of EUPJ chair Miriam Kramer, his teachers Leo Baeck College principal Rabbi Deborah Kahn-Harris and Dean Rabbi Charles Middleburgh and the full cohort of rabbis associated with Keren Or over the years. There were moving speeches, but what will stay in all our memories was the very symbolic handing over of a Torah scroll from one rabbi to another into the arms of our new spiritual leader.

Co-constructed by the board and Rabbi René, Keren Or identified 4 values which link us together as a community:

- Sharing : Jewish ethics, generosity, tzedaka, engagement
- Welcoming : openness to others, equality, tolerance, accepting those converting to Judaism and non-Jews
- Transmission: teaching, remembering, tradition, Minhag HaMakom, link between generations
- Spirituality : rabbinical presence for members, Minhag HaMakom, liturgy and music

Our range of activities grew considerably, some developing, some total innovations. The five Sunday morning Talmud Torah classes, run by a vibrant team of junior and senior madrichim, all graduates of our TT, benefitted by the French e-talmud programme, the classes now having access to by a new touch screen and computers donated by a member. The parents, and other members, were meanwhile invited to participate in a monthly Café Olé initiated by our Spanish rabbi for informal learning and discussion.

Adult education also saw an increase in classes, some weekly, others monthly, be they Introduction to Judaism, study of the parasha, modern Hebrew, philosophy or a deeper understanding of the Talmud.

We continued to organize public commemoration of Yom HaShoah and have introduced a 'Passeurs de Mémoire' activity, in which seniors recount their memories, of journeys to save their lives, of being hidden and protected as children.

We participated in Mitzvah Day and the French Tzedaka Day, collecting and distributing food, clothes, toys and other essentials for refugees.

Amongst all the festival celebrations, one can note the interfaith Succot gathering in the beautiful succa erected and decorated in our garden, as also the unfurling of the Torah scroll all round the synagogue for Simhat Torah. Last in the year, a wonderful concert of Sephardi music and a delicious buffet filled the synagogue for the lighting of the 5th Hanukah candle.

Friday evenings in particular have seen a growing range of services, some dedicated to families, some to new members, generally followed by a meal and all intended to allow people to get to know one another better.

Keren Or, the Liberal synagogue of Lyon, with its cultural branch, the CPJL (Cercle de la Pensée Juive Libérale) had a full year and has plans for more!

In 2017, **Mouvement Juif Liberal de France (MJLF), Paris**, marked another year of progress in building tomorrow's community by investing in today's young people. Some 250 Talmud Torah students were the beneficiaries of modern instruction by a devoted team of teachers. A new post bar/bat mitzvah programme was launched, and three identity-building trips were organised for different age groups to Normandy, Berlin and three weeks in Israel where the 14-17-year olds enjoyed desert walks, camel rides and kayaking in the Negev, embraced Jewish history and made new friends at *Yozma*, MJLF's twin *Domim* community in Modi'in.

The MJLF Book Fair, a major feature of the cultural calendar, was a notable success in 2017 attracting 30 authors and innumerable visitors, organised by Evelyne Vitkine. The authors were historians, philosophers, poets, psychoanalysts, politicians, journalists, medical doctors, teachers and young novelists. A highlight was the workshop devoted to Georges Perec, a child of the Holocaust and [novelist](#), [essayist](#) and [filmmaker](#), most famous for his novel "Life A User's Manual". Regular Friday night community meals were often accompanied by contemporary book presentations arranged by Catherine Siguret.

Throughout the year, MJLF's three Rabbis –Yann Boissiere, Floriane Chinsky and Delphine Horvilleur – brought liberal values to public debate on topical issues, including interfaith dialogue, women's rights, the place of religion in secular France and immigration. Yann Boissiere published a book "In praise of the Law" ("Eloge de la Loi") discussing the search for truth beyond secularism, asserting identity within the framework of French "laïcité" ... With Islamic scholar Rachid Benzine, Delphine Horvilleur published "A thousand ways to be Jewish or Muslim", leading to numerous media appearances on radio, television and the written press.

During 2017 **C.J.L Montpellier** celebrated the Festivals and Shabbats.

The highlights of the year were:

We organized a day of celebration and community meeting;

We developed a Torah reading workshop for beginners.

We organized a conference with the Theme: "110 Years in France: The Liberal Movement of Judaism, History And Ideas". This conference was moderated by Rabbi Stéphane Berkowitz.

We celebrated Purim with Bet Shalom in Barcelona.

We organized a conference with the theme: "History of the Jews of Iran". This conference was moderated by Youssef Hourizadeh.

We participated in Gala Jerusalem Day.

We participated in the program Radio AVIVA.

France – AJTM, Paris

No report received.

Germany - Abraham Geiger College, Jewish Institute of Cantorial Arts.

2017 was yet another productive and exciting year for Abraham Geiger College. Awarding the Abraham Geiger Prize to Amos Oz in May 2017 was undoubtedly the high point of the first half of the year. Over 2000 guests attended the two events featuring and honouring Amos Oz, held in the concert hall of the Berlin University of the Arts. In particular, the jury named Oz for this distinction because of his unyielding courage and his commitment to dialogue – and eventually peace – between

Israelis and Palestinians, as well as his engagement with the role of present-day Germany. Dr. Klaus Lederer, *Mayor of Berlin* and *Senator for Culture and Europe*, made the laudation.

The end of this year saw another major highlight – the celebration „200 Jahre Hamburger Israelitischer Tempel“, honouring the bicentennial of the establishment of Hamburg’s first Reform congregation in December 1817. This event’s full and varied programme, organised in cooperation with the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany and the Institute for the History of the German Jews, included two festive Shabbat services, a cantorial concert – which spotlighted Hamburg’s cantorial traditions and honoured the city’s renowned cantors Moritz Henle and Leon Kornitzer – and, not least, hosted an international conference. Prof. Michael A. Meyer (HUC-JIR) was the guest of honour and keynote speaker at this conference.

A change in the leadership of cantorial education has recently been initiated: Cantor Isidoro Abramowicz, an alumnus of Abraham Geiger College and the cantor of the Great Synagogue of Stockholm, will take over from Prof. Eliyahu Schleifer, who plans to gradually withdraw from his duties at the College.

Eight cantorial students are currently enrolled at the College. Since 2008, eight cantors have completed their studies and are now practicing in congregations in Hannover, Magdeburg, Mannheim, Munich, and Weiden, as well as in Paris, Stockholm, and Los Angeles.

The rabbinical programme boasts an additional twelve students, seven of whom are currently completing the obligatory “Year in Israel” programme. Many of these students receive stipends from the Rabbinic Training Fund of the EUPJ – and we are very grateful for this support!

Of the 34 graduates of Abraham Geiger College, 26 attended our first Alumni Conference, which took place in November in Berlin and Potsdam. These three days were filled with work and learning, but also with celebration and reminiscence. At the conference, two events especially stood out: a personal meeting with the Vice President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Abraham Lehrer, as well as a public panel discussion, which was organised by alumni and took place in the Centrum Judaicum.

In 2017 Abraham Geiger College was able to further its international connections, especially its relationship with Moscow. This was made possible thanks to the granting of an Erasmus Plus Programme which allows instructors and students to travel between the participating Universities in Potsdam and Moscow.

The School of Jewish Theology at the University of Potsdam was also able to establish a relationship with Paideia (The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden) in Stockholm. Potsdam instructors are now teaching for Paideia; in the future, though, students from the Paideia programme will also be able to receive their MA at the University of Potsdam.

In the area of research and publication, particular focus has been placed on Jewish and Israeli law. The *Encyclopaedia of Jewish-Christian Relations* is another important research theme which received extensive attention.

At the School of Jewish Theology a summer academy was held for the first time: the Jewish Activism Summer School. In 2018 it will also bring young European and American Jews to Germany –all who are interested are cordially invited.

A research focus on Biblical Archaeology is also being developed at the School of Jewish Theology to further round out the school’s course offerings.

We are grateful for all of these exciting new developments – and we give heartfelt thanks to all those who support and assist us!

Germany - Union progressiver Juden in Deutschland (UpJ)

The highlights for UpJ were:

Bad Pyrmont: The congregation celebrated its 20th anniversary this year hosting Cantor Shmuel Barsilai from Vienna Synagogue. Our choir "Simha" sang at the Liberale Congregation in Hamelin for Mitzva Day.

Liberale Juedische Gemeinde Mischkan ha-Tfila Bamberg: For this Seder Pessach we chose the „Hogwarts Haggadah“ by M. Rosenberg, which delighted our young ones. Our first Bar Mitzva combined the Ashkenazi and Sefardi traditions in the service.

Bet Haskala, Berlin:

Our highlight in 2017 was Maya's Bat Mitzva, our vice chairperson, who is 70 years old!

The Jewish Community in **Bielefeld** honoured longtime Rabbi Dr. Henry G. Brandt and celebrated his 90th birthday with his family, friends and colleagues on November 18th in the Synagogue Beit Tikwa. Also present were politicians like the President of the Northrhine-Westphalian Parliament, André Kuper, the Bishop of the Archdiocese Paderborn, Manfred Grothe and the Bishop of the Protestant Church of Westphalia, Annette Kurschus.

Chavurah Gescher, Freiburg

Our Rabbi Diane Tiferet Lakein was ordained in 2017. In the summer, Celia Ma'ayan became Bat Mitzvah and beautifully led parts of the service, and in October we celebrated Gescher's Bar Mitzvah. Other highlights included the interfaith weekend seminar entitled, 'My God, Your God, No God?' and Israel Diaspora Day with poignant accounts of Jewish life.

Goettingen: 2017 was a quiet year for us. Chasan Daniel Kempin celebrated six Shabbatonim with us, praying, singing and learning. At the end of this year we concentrated on working out a security concept together with the local police.

Reform Synagoge Hamburg: Our two-years old congregation has become an integral part of the local Jewish Einheitsgemeinde. Together with the UpJ we celebrated the 200 anniversary of the Hamburger Israelitischer Tempel.

Emet weSchalom Region Kassel

We finally moved to the former synagogue in Felsberg and filled it with Jewish life: services, holidays, cultural events. This is one of the few synagogues surviving Nazism that is again a synagogue for a Jewish congregation.

Sukkat Schalom, Berlin: Situated in Berlin means that we enjoy many Jewish visitors from abroad: USA, Russia and The Netherlands. Services are accompanied by our Synagogue choir following Minhag Debbie Friedman. On Lag ba Omer and on Sukkot all the Jewish congregations in Berlin opened their doors to the public and 600 people came. We could partially renovate our little synagogue, situated by the Parents' Home.

Hungary – Bet Orim, Budapest

Bet Orim was founded a dozen years ago 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

Last June, exactly 50 years after receiving his rabbinic diploma, our founding rabbi, Dr Ferenc Raj was awarded the Golden Diploma from the Budapest University of Jewish Studies, formerly known as the Budapest Rabbinical Seminary. The awardee's family, friends, members of Bet Orim Reform Jewish Congregation, representatives of the Federation of Jewish Communities and other congregations, university professors, students and diplomats of several countries were present.

He delivered his speech in Hungarian and English from the pulpit, in which he thanked the Almighty for everything he has achieved and received throughout his life; he also emphasized the importance of the freedom and the knowledge he obtained not only from his masters, but particularly from his students. Rabbi Raj pleaded for a tent so big, that it, one day, would cover all Hungarian Jewish organizations, from the orthodox all the way to the reform.

Bet Orim celebrated Passover Seder in a renowned restaurant in central Budapest. 180 guests took part in the festivity. The evening was somewhat influenced by the current political situation in Hungary, namely the government's efforts to exercise tighter control over the higher educational system in general and over the Central European University (CEU) in particular. Michael Ignatieff, President and Rector of the CEU, was among the guests. The acting ambassador of the United States to Hungary, Chargé d'Affaires David J Kostelancik and his delegation also joined our event. The ceremony was accompanied by lively music, with the active participation of children throughout the ceremony.

The Pozsonyi Street Picnic in Budapest became a meeting event of the Hungarian Jewry. It offered again a diverse cross-section of classical and contemporary culture in hundreds of genres. Among the many Jewish organizations, Bet Orim was also represented.

The congregation joyously celebrated the High Holidays of 5778. The blowing of the Shofar served as a reminder that we are all part of K'lal Yisrael, the Universal House of Judaism. On the first day of Rosh Hashana, the Tashlich ceremony, held on the banks of the Danube, was very well attended. This year's Sukkot celebration was particularly successful. A family Sukkah was erected in a member's garden in Buda, in the mountainous area of the city. The program included the decoration of the Sukkah with handcrafts and creative fruit variations, an explanation of the holiday and its associated customs, the shaking of the lulav and a festive picnic. Many guests attended this event, old and new friends met and – to our great pleasure – a lot of children enjoyed the festival.

The fourth evening of Chanukah was a family program. The chanukiah and the drawings about the history of Chanukah were made under the instruction of our artists. Nearly forty adults and children together with a number of foreign guests greeted the Shabbat and enjoyed the delicious Chanukah Sufganiyot during this special Kiddush.

Our Bet Orim Reform Jewish Congregation offered two different lecture series as its outreach effort to unaffiliated Jews who have had little or no connection with their ancestral faith.

In the first series Rabbi Ferenc Raj explained the origins, customs, prayers and melodies of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur along with modern meanings and interpretations, consistent with progressive Jewish thought.

In his second lecture series, he launched a new Jewish culture and Hebrew language course based on a proven method developed in the US. In seven weeks, i.e. in 49 days, the diligent student can learn how to read Hebrew while mastering the key words and phrases of Jewish liturgy.

Bet Orim has had to move to new premises for its services and other programs. Balint House, the JCC where we have been meeting for the past years, was closed in mid-May for extensive renovations. Fortunately we got access to a building housing the Jewish Heritage Foundation of Hungary. The space is large, sufficient for our programmes.

Connections

The progressive Congregation Bét Orim, Budapest was honoured to meet the members and Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum of the New York based Congregation Beit Simchat Torah on the 7th June 2017. They participated on the Budapest Pride 2017 where not only the liberal Jewish community but all good-hearted Hungarians demonstrated that prejudice and discrimination cannot be tolerated.

Bet Orim welcomed Anna Kislanski, the Chief Operating Officer of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ). She gave a presentation entitled "The Current Role of Reform Judaism in Israel" highlighting the history of the reform movement in Israel to our present day, possibly paving the way of the Hungarian progressive efforts as well.

Rabbi Ariel Pollak led a few joint Kabbalat Shabbat services for Sim Shalom and Bet Orim congregations at the Milestone Institute in Budapest. This is part of the Budapest Judaism Development programme sponsored and paid for by West London Synagogue and EUPJ. It happens about once a month. Ariel's services should be reconsidered, though their spirit is warm, members of Bet Orim were not fully satisfied.

Perspectives

It was eighteen years ago, when the sociologist András Kovács (Central European University, Budapest) initiated the first large-scale empirical study on Jews and Jewry in contemporary Hungary. The study examined a wide variety of demographic, social and cultural issues, including Jewish identity and practices, as well as respondents' ideological, social and economic attitudes. However, this database became outdated. To fill the lacunae of new reliable data on present-day Hungarian Jews a number of Hungarian and international Jewish organizations expressed their wish to organize a consortium with the aim to repeat the survey conducted in 1999, and entrusted András Kovács again to direct the new study.

Bet Orim is looking forward to the new results for finding and activating the numerous hidden Jews in Hungary. We are convinced that the progressive Jewish congregations can attract them more than any other.

Hungary – Sim Shalom, Budapest

In general, the past year for Sim Shalom Congregation has been much like other recent years, a mixture of ups and downs, successes and frustrations. The congregation continues to have modest growth, some turnover in membership, and many joyful events in the lives of our members. The downside has mostly to do with our continuing bad relationship with the Hungarian government and the more traditional side of the local Jewish community.

We have a good relationship with and support from progressive Jews in England. This is most strongly expressed in their Budapest Project to build up liberal, progressive Judaism in Hungary with their financial support. They send the dynamic young Hungarian Rabbi, Ariel Pollak, here once a month to conduct services and work with unaffiliated young Jews to attract them into the Reform movement. The services are attended by members of Sim Shalom and Bet Orim congregations, as well as others who belong to no present group.

Sim Shalom's programs continue much as before; weekly Kabbalat services, biweekly Shacharit services alternating with a very popular Torah Study circle, Adult education programs, and celebration of Haggim and life cycle events of the members. Very recently we have been very fortunate to obtain the services of an American woman working in Hungary who is trained to leyn Torah, adding a wonderful dimension of spirituality and beauty to our Torah service. She'll be with us for a couple of years. Our Pesach Seder attracted 130 people, as did the High Holidays, in spite of venue problems. There was even a twinning Bar Mitzvah celebration of a West London youth with Hungarian family connections, held here under the auspices of Rabbi David Mitchell of WLS. Sim Shalom participated very actively in three street fairs in the summer and fall, featuring "Ask the Rabbi" sessions, giving out information on Reform Judaism, and silk painting for all. For Sukkot we returned to our former practice of holding the celebration in a public park in a Jewish neighborhood, with considerable success.

Rabbi Koti Kelemen found her sabbatical in 2016 so valuable that she took a mini sabbatical of three weeks this past summer to study Talmud again at the Department for Jewish Studies at Potsdam University near Berlin. And starting last summer she has led Sim Shalom congregation into a new activity promoting tolerance and diversity. Sim Shalom is a copartner in an interfaith group getting funding and support from National Democratic Institute, based in Washington DC. This group of Jewish, Christian and Muslim organizations have held four one-day-long expo programs in recent months attended by 120-150 people. The topics have been "Religions Against Violence", "Religions For the Oppressed", and "Religions For Freedom and Openness". The strong media response to these programs has resulted in a very significant increase in the awareness of people in Hungary about the positive stand of Progressive Judaism on these issues, a big contrast to the inward looking

stances of Chabad and the majority Neolog movement for instance. Rabbi Kelemen herself has contributed greatly to this media response, having been invited to give several interviews on Radio and TV programs as a result of our participation in this effort. The participants are considering the possibility to do further such work together.

With the help of the Mozaik Hub, which is sponsored by the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), the leadership has been engaged in an intense training program to build up our management effectiveness and increase our potential for becoming financially sustainable for the long term. We're learning new ways of looking at ourselves and our relationships with other entities who might give us support in various ways, financial, legal, governmental, etc. One very tangible result is that Mozaik has given us a grant to hire and train a person to engage in fundraising on our behalf. She has just started work, so no results so far.

One potential piece of good news is that the Hungarian government has agreed to our request that instead of going through the legal charade of our periodically bringing a suit in the European Court of Human Rights for the money we lost when they took away our religious institution registration, and after an appeal, they finally agree to pay us the money; they just pay us the money from time to time. Recently they agreed to pay us for 2 or 3 years, but they're being quite slow in actually making the transfer to our bank account. When it comes, it will refill our coffers for a while.

I leave for last our main current problem; LACK OF SATISFACTORY PREMISES. We've lacked a stable and big enough and pleasant place to hold our services, educational programs and holiday celebrations ever since 2 years ago when we had to give up the very nice flat we rented for 5 years. For the first half of this year, we did our programs in the Budapest JCC known as Balint Haz. But it was an anxious time due to the threat that they could start a big renovation at any time. When the shoe finally dropped suddenly in May, we were very lucky to be offered the use of a small space basement space owned by the Methodist Church, with whom we've started to do some programs (see NDI mention above). We've now been there for 9 months and they've been very gracious and kind, arranging their own use in a way not to conflict with our needs. So we have two shabbat programs there every weekend and a biweekly adult ed class. They even put a Mezzuzah at the entrance to make us feel more at home. The main problem is that the space can only seat 25 people, and we have very limited storage space for books, Torah, potluck supper stuff, etc. For most holidays we have to find space elsewhere. Due to the continual changes of venue and not so nice premises, we find it hard to attract new people and grow.

It is likely that we can move back to Balint Haz in a month or two, which has bigger rooms to use, but is equally limited in storage space, and has no place for our library or office needs. We badly need to find a place to call our own, big enough for all our activities and programs. Unfortunately, at this time, we can't afford anything very expensive. We continue to actively search for a suitable and affordable place.

Italy – Italian Federation for Progressive Judaism FIEP

2017 marked the establishment of the **Italian Federation for Progressive Judaism – Federazione Italiana per Ebraismo Progressivo (FIEP)**, linking all of our 4 congregations under one umbrella organization.

Representatives from all 4 Progressive Congregations in Italy gathered in Florence at the first General Assembly and elected as co-presidents Joyce Bigio, Milan, and Franca Eckert Coen, Rome. Sandro Ventura, Florence, was elected as Secretary. All three leaders bring love of Progressive Judaism in Italy to their role as well as the respect of the general Jewish Community in Italy.

We have many challenges in Italy. How can we further enrich the spiritual lives of the members of our congregations? One of our objectives is to translate Progressive Jewish prayer books and source material into Italian. We are also coordinating Bnei Mitzvah, Ghiur and Jewish studies program so that each congregation can benefit from the experience of the other.

Another big challenge which we share with other European Progressive Jewish Movements is to gain recognition from the established Jewish legal Entity (UCEI – the Union of Italian Jewish Communities). We look forward to working with you also at the European level to reach this objective.

It was clear from the spirit of first board meeting that the synergy we have created will benefit our 4 congregations.

Highlights from our Congregations:

Beth Hillel in Rome - President Stefano Ridolfi and served by Rabbi Joel Oseran, WUPJ Vice President Emeritus, is our youngest and fastest growing congregation. With approximately 160 members, they are offering ghiur and bnei mitvah classes for both adults and children, reaching over 40 souls. Beth Hillel offers vibrant cultural activities, utilizing Italian scholars, reflecting the rich Roman Jewish history which goes back over 2,000 years.

Beth Shalom in Milan - President Carey Bernitz, Honorary President David Ross and served by Rabbi David Whiman. One of our more established congregations, Beth Shalom has grown to over 90 people, offers services that cover all of the holidays and selected shabbats and provides a showcase for visiting Rabbinical scholars.

Lev Chadash in Milan - President Carlo Riva, served by Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild. Our first congregation, Lev Chadash now numbers over 160 members. Services are held weekly either by our Rabbi or our lay leaders who have learned to chant Torah and lead services. Rich cultural events and classes are on offer during the week, including Jewish meditation. Lev Chadash is buying its rented space, giving them a stronger foothold in the community.

Shir Hadash in Florence – President Leonard Robbins, served by Rabbi Leigh Lerner and Rabbi Robert Levy. Our smallest but still very active congregation, our 40 members located in central Italy provide Progressive Jewish values to our members as well as visitors in a home-like atmosphere surrounded by the Italian Renaissance.

Luxembourg - Communauté Israelite d'Esch-sur-Alzette

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 Sedarim enjoyed a remarkable turnout. We held late night learning sessions on Shavuot. The High Holidays 5778 were led by Rabbi Grodensky together with Cantor Aviv Weinberg.

Several shabbatot were celebrated under a theme. It is becoming a tradition to celebrate Africa Shabbat, devoted to the holiday Sigd of the Ethiopian Jewish community. As last year we devoted a Shabbat to the International Day of Human Rights and invited Victor Weitzel as a guest speaker. Mr. Weitzel was a member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in 1994-1998 and board member of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in 2000-2013, he is a co-author of the report "Perceptions of Antisemitism in the EU" published in 2004. Mr. Weitzel spoke on the highly relevant topic of conflict of norms in cases of child protection, animal protection, human rights on one hand and the freedom of religion on the other.

Our Talmud Torah continued to meet once or twice a month on Sundays. We were blessed to share the joy of one wedding and of two bnei 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, followed by a concert at the Theater of Esch and the Memorial service for the deported Jews in Cinfontaines (Fünfbunnen) in July. As last year Rabbi Grodensky accompanied an Austrian group of activists and descendants of Shoah victims on their memorial journey to Minsk and Maly Trostinec, Belarus, marking the 75th anniversary of the first deportations from Vienna. This year the Austrian group was for the first time joined by representatives of the Union of progressive Jews in Germany.

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 Shoa. Thank to this civic initiative the Austrian Parliament unanimously resolved on October 13, 2016 to erect a decent memorial for the Austrian victims of the Shoa 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.

The National Holiday on June 28 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 took part in the "InterFaith – Run for a United World ", an interreligious and intercultural run for peace in the framework of the "ING Night Marathon Luxembourg", organized every year under the patronage of the Dalai Lama and the Archbishop of Luxembourg. Among the run participants were ordained ministers, representatives and committed staff of world religions. Rabbi Grodensky 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. Several prominent liberal rabbis were invited to speak at LSRS, among them were Rabbi Prof. Walter Homolka PhD PhD DHL, rector of Abraham Geiger College and Rabbi Bradley Artson DHL, dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Our relationship with the other Jewish community in Luxembourg continued to be friendly and constructive. We have been organizing cultural activities jointly.

The annual general membership meeting was held on June 7, 2017

Netherlands – Levisson Institute, Amsterdam

Our only rabbinical student continued his studies. At the same time he works as army chaplain and assistant-rabbi in the Amsterdam-community, alongside Rabbi Menno ten Brink, who is also dean of the Levisson Institute.

The Institute started to develop Ba'al tefilla training for people who want to lead services on Shabbat and shiva. The training will start in January 2018 and exists of five weekends.

The new academic year was opened in October with a lecture of dr. Tirtsah Levie Bernfeld, an independent Dutch historian, specialized in the European Jewish History. She spoke about "Rich and poor in Jewish Amsterdam. The Portuguese Jewish Community and her care for the poor in the Golden Age of Amsterdam".

The seminar for our chazzanim was entirely dedicated to the new Dutch machzor. As a test only the machzor for the Kol Nidre service was used during last Yom Kippur in the Netherlands. The seminar was a cooperation between the rabbis working on the machzor and the chazzanim, led by Amsterdam chazzan Gilad Nezer.

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 mitzwah children, etc. Three books are already accessible in the Music library of the Levisson website (Dutch side): www.levisson.nl/nl/muziek/toralezingen-voor-sjabbat.html.

The Dutch Progressive-Jewish Educational Centre 'Rimon', part of the Levisson Institute, organised twice a seminar for all Talmud Torah teachers in the country, associated in the Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism. A new training for new teachers began in September 2016 and continued in

2017. In 2017 Rimon also developed a new vision on Talmud Torah and built a completed new website (www.rimononderwijs.nl).

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'alei kore, ba'alei tefilla etc. 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 9 communities: Amsterdam, Brabant, Den Haag, Flevoland, Gelderland, Noord Nederland, Rotterdam, Twente and Utrecht (In 2017 Friesland and Noord Nederland joined, so that makes now 9). 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 9 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 9 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 9 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.

Hannah Verhulst and Ron van der Wieken joined the EUPJ Executive Board in 2017.

Highlights in 2017 were, among others:

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

There are anti-semitic incidents on several fronts. As a result of this the interface committee sent a letter to Prime Minister Rutte, Mayors and the chairmen of the parliamentary parties with the following points:

- Univocal instructions to the police
- Univocal instructions coordination to the football stadiums
- A meeting with leading persons from the Jewish- and Muslim communities and the minister for Social Affairs and Employment: the board of governors are to stimulate and give opportunity to local consultation between Jews and Muslims.

Soon there will be another meeting between the interface committee, MP Rutte and the minister for Justice.

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

CJO: 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.

In the EU circulates a new definition of antisemitism that is accepted by many countries, in what forms of antizionism is considered antisemitism. The CJO is in discussion with many political parties to get this definition supported.

Rabbinical Council:

Rabbi Menno ten Brink joined the board of the E.R.A. (European Rabbinic Assembly)

Joram Rookmaker is the new army rabbi for the Verbond. Joram succeeded Albert Ringer because of retirement.

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 in 2016 the assignment to publish a revised edition of our Machzor. This will take about 3 years. Sja'ar will be working under the supervision of the rabbinical council. The machzor "Sjalosj Regaliem" was ready to use in 2017. This is a provisional machzor. When the "big" machzor is ready, this provisional machzor will be adapted to the revised machzor.

Stichting Levend Joods Geloof: the NVPJ periodical "Joods nu" has been issued three times in 2017.

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

Youth work: in 2017, after 3 years of enormous input, sjlicha Tal Branitzky went back to Israel. Naomi Lootstein, also from Israel, took her place. There were many activities, among many others: in October there was a trip to Berlin.

In 2017 special events in our communities included:

Rotterdam: In June the national Oneg Shabbat was held in Rotterdam. It was a wonderful, well organised day. Many people joined.

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

Beit Polska is a registered Polish religious community established in 2009 in Warsaw made up of three constituent communities and supporting three other progressive communities. This report includes updates from: **Beit Warszawa** in Warsaw; **Beit Trojmiasto** serving the community of the tri-city of Gdansk, Gdynia and Sopot; and from the nascent community of **Beit Centrum Ki Tov** in Warsaw's central district.

Marek Jezowski is the Beit Polska chair, with Kasia Mazurkewicz a board member and Dominika Zakrzewska the coordinator. Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak residing in California is Beit Polska's rabbi of record. In the course of 2017 Rabbi Walter Rothschild, a resident of Berlin, has taken on the task of the visiting rabbi of the Beit Polska communities, bringing great practical experience and depth through his monthly visits; we look forward to his continuing efforts. We also look forward toward the respective graduations of two Polish born rabbinic candidates: Mati Kirschenbaum and Menachem Mirski.

The umbrella organisation's key developmental tasks include: the Step by Step Introduction to Judaism Course, an entry point for individual conversion processes under rabbinical supervision, its syllabus coordinated with the European Beit Din; the training and subsequent assignment of lay cantors (*shatzim*), by now a handful with the *kavanah* and competences to lead prayers in our communities; and coordination of a range of Jewish education and culture oriented short-term programmes and occasional events for our older and younger members, including *tikkun* informed social action.

Sustainability of Beit Polska's activities in the year 2017 was secured by The Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland, with Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak at the helm, an American foundation with a clear mission they have pursued to our great benefit.

Most recently, the European Beit Din was in session for the benefit of Polish candidates in mid-November 2017, in Krakow; as a result, we were honoured to welcome 12 new Jews – Beit Polska members, most of them Jews by choice.

We also sent a strong, five-member representation to the WUPJ Connections 2017 conference held in Jerusalem, this to great joy and benefit of us all.

Beit Warszawa, the community of Warsaw

The oldest and most established of the Beit Polska family, the Beit Warszawa community has enjoyed a rich calendar of regular and elective communal activities.

This year we wish to notify you of the growing awareness and active concern of our members for the needs of the broader community of the city we live in. Let us illustrate this through a specific *tikkun olam* activity we initiated as part of our Chanukah celebrations. A small group of young professionals amongst us presented a series of needs of a small orphanage located in the very heart of Warsaw. They identified it having learned of its history: it served as a refuge for orphaned Jewish children in the initial years following the end of the Second World War. Today, the same institution provides care to more than 50 minors with special needs, a group of small pre-school and early school age children with disabilities. What started as a drive among our members to buy presents for these kids led to much more than we expected: the collection exceeded our boldest expectations; we were able to visit and deliver nice presents to the young residents but also to meet what turned out to be the institution's greatest need, a substantial supply of disposable diapers. We have continued the relationship, with a recent outing to Polin, The Museum of the History of Polish Jews, where a special children's workshop was provided to our charges. The affection and concern continue.

The Warsaw community continues to pursue its main short-term goals of: relocating from our peripheral premises to a central location in order to better serve its members and our visitors; securing a dedicated burial ground for our members; and fundraising in order to ensure a sustainable rabbinical pulpit.

Beit Centrum Ki Tov, a home synagogue in Warsaw's city centre

Three Rabbis opened Beit Centrum Ki Tov, in Warsaw's heart on 1st Nisan 5776 (8th April 2016). Temple Hadar Israel (Pennsylvania) donated a Sefer Torah which left Poland 111 years earlier, returning home for Purim 5776. Temple Hadar held its last Shabbat on 30th December 2017 and next day buried their remaining artefacts.

After furnishing and koshering our Italian Style Synagogue, we received our Sefer Torah with great joy, lit Shabbat candles and our Lay Cantors led the first Beit Centrum Ki Tov services.

We hold Shabbat evening and morning Services weekly and celebrated Festivals, Feasts and HHD twice.

Beit Polska reimburses our Shatz and donated Siddurim, Machzorim and Chumashim. Our Members give their time, bring food and fill our Pushke. One of our Shatz toured USA Synagogues. We greet visitors with our Kosher kitchen and singing, building relationships. With the effort of many devoted people, Beit Centrum Ki Tov is a thriving Synagogue in the heart of Warsaw:

Beit Trojmiasto, the community serving the tri-city of Gdansk, Gdynia and Sopot

In 2017 the Beit Trojmiasto community came together for Shabbatot every other week; the *shatzim* who led us in the prayers included: Miriam Klimova, Iza Rivke Foremniak and Piotr Menachem Mirski. The community celebrated the holidays of Tu b'Shvat, Purim, Pesach, Lag b'Omer, Shavuot, Tisha b'Av, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkoth, Simchat Torah and Chanukah. We also held meetings and lectures for Yom haShoah, Yom haZikaron and Yom Haatzmaut.

Our members initiated, organised and participated in numerous programmes and events. These included: lectures on Judaism given by Piotr Menachem Mirski on a monthly basis between March – August; introductory Hebrew classes prepared and led once a week by Kasia Mazurkiewicz, monthly musical workshops provided by Małgorzata Gron, Iza Rivke Foremniak and Piotr Menachem Mirski; and a weekly class in Israeli dances by Alicja Stark.

In May our delegation took part in the annual memorial services on the occasion of the liberation of the Struthof concentration camp. In June we opened our doors to the "Night of the Temples," with about 200 visiting our synagogue and learning about our communal life through a workshop prepared for the occasion.

Throughout the year, we organised concerts of Jewish music, including one for the local community of Kartuzy, and a series in the three main cities of the region, engaging the visiting Yiddish folklorist Cindy Paley. We enriched our Chanukah celebrations by inviting the Tri-City Women's Action Choir TAK (YES).

Our chairperson, Kasia Mazurkiewicz, took part in the Beutel Seminar for Jewish Leaders in Jerusalem; and one of our members, Piotr Menachem Mirski, began his rabbinical studies at the Zeigler School of Rabbinic Studies at The American Jewish University.

Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland, the USA

Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland (FJRP) is a non-profit organisation incorporated in the state of California. It is the main financial support for Beit Polska and related programmes that advance the work of renewal of Progressive Jewish life in Poland.

FJRP transitioned to a new board of directors during the past year. FJRP has continued to expand its fundraising efforts. Two major projects have helped to expand the reach of our work. These included the promotion of *Bogdan's Journey*, a documentary film focusing on the efforts of Polish-Jewish reconciliation and historical memory in Kielce. Also, through a series of concerts in October 2017 and February 2018, a number of American Conservative and Reform Congregations have met four prayer leaders of Polish congregations and their teachers. Over 1000 people heard Avigail Geniusz and Menachem Mirski this past February.

FJRP is an active supporter of Beit Polska's main three goals: (1) move of the Beit Warszawa Progressive Community's activities to the centre of Warsaw; (2) fundraising for the office of a Polish speaking Progressive rabbi in Poland; and (3) providing for a burial site incorporated under Jewish practices.

We are fostering the career development of five Polish speaking rabbinic students; several lay leaders with academic and community building skills as well as Beit Polska's Step by Step classes. The on-going programme to train prayer leaders is continuing under the leadership of Dominika Zakrzewska, Menachem Mirski and other leaders. Rabbi Walter Rothschild has been a key pillar of the Polish communities.

Each week Mati Kirschenbaum and Menachem Mirski publish their insights on the Torah portion. We are in the midst of two major publications: the translation of the Crooked Mirror: A Memoir of Polish-Jewish Reconciliation by Louise Steinman and The Honey and Sting by Walter Rothschild.

Portugal - Associação HeHaver - Ohel Jacob

2017 was a year of growth and development for Ohel Jacob.

We celebrated Kabbalat Shabbat every Friday night this year and a few Saturday mornings with the presence of our Sheliach Dr. Annette Boeckler. All of our services normally included a Kiddush and Shabbat dinner afterward which has been a great way to nurture our community.

We hosted many guests this year amongst them a group of French citizens led by Rabbi Stephen Berkowitz which gave us tremendous joy. Our guests hailed from the US, UK, Canada, Brazil, France, Russia, Israel and other cities of Portugal. We also had the privilege of welcoming new members to our ranks.

In October, two of our members successfully finished their conversion process led by Rabbi Alona Lisitsa. It is always a special moment for our community to witness descendants of B'nei Anussim rejoin the faith of their ancestors. We feel that Portugal is living a unique moment in its history with people rediscovering their roots and looking to join a faith that they feel in their hearts is their own. It was a great joy for our community to welcome these members into our kahal as Jews after their Beit Din.

This year we started our project "Expansion of Progressive Judaism in Portugal" supported and financed by the EUPJ through a grant from the Roswell Fund. The project consists of the celebration of the all Jewish Holidays in both Lisbon and Porto, a program of Adult Education in Lisbon, and the creation of a youth movement in Porto. We started the project after the Yamin Noraim and it has been growing strong ever since. The Porto youth movement in particular is showing incredible potential with children who are eager to learn and develop their Jewish identity. We have been blessed with the leadership of Dr. Annette Boeckler and also with the amazing contribution of Cynthia Levitan, an experienced madrichah from Brazil who lives in Porto at the moment. Cynthia has had extensive experience as a participant and as a leader of youth movements in Brazil since she was a child. She gets the credit, together with her sister Deborah Levitan, for being the co-creator of the youth movement in Florianopolis, Brazil which is now celebrating 15 years of existence. Cynthia has

been a major force behind the success of our youth movement in Porto. We also must mention and give proper thanks to Rosane Schonblum who is the manager of the project in Porto and the mother of two bright girls, Maria and Sarah, who are already showing strong leadership skills and commitment to the movement. Without this amazing team that we have been able to amass, this project could not have been possible.

Other highlights of 2017:

Pesach - Our Seder was led by Annette Boeckler and it was very successful. We had about 40 people between our members and visitors from Azores, France, the US, and the UK.

Iaimn Noraim - We had the good fortune to have the leadership of the Brazilian Hazan David Alhadeff and his wife Regina Szterenfeld, who is a teacher. We could not have asked for a better leader for our services. David's moving voice and Regina's inspiring classes and drashot came as an incredible gift to our community. We had study sessions as well and wonderful meals together. They gave their time and expertise generously and contributed immensely for the best Yamin Noraim Ohel Jacob has ever seen.

Leadership in the larger Lisbon community - Our synagogue was invited to take part of the annual local meeting of the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) which took place in Lisbon on the 13th of November. This meeting addressed issues related to racism, hate crimes and antisemitism in Portugal. Firstly, the different groups that were present, including our synagogue, were able to voice their concerns and current problems that affect each one of them to the panel of three members of the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance. Secondly, we had the opportunity to give suggestions for policies against racism and prejudice that were to be taken to the Portuguese House of Representatives by the panel. Two of our board members participated in this meeting; Ana Scherer and Ana Paula Vieira.

Spain – Bet Januká, Rota

In this 4th year since its founding, the Bet Januká congregation in the south of Spain reached important goals by gaining official recognition for our lay leader, Ahuvah Gipson by the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, a division of the JCC Assn. of North America. This essential recognition facilitated the celebration of our first ever Yom Kippur services to be held in our prayer spaces.

Our civil calendar year was full as we celebrated all of the major holidays and commemorations starting with lighting memorial candles in the Int'l Holocaust Remembrance Day with our network of associations dedicated to preserving and raising social consciousness of the Jewish culture in Spain. In cooperation with the U.S. Navy installation in Rota, Bet Januká led the Yom HaShoah commemoration along with members of the military community, followed by a commemorative tree planting.

In a very special High Holy Day experience, we were pleased to unite members of our congregation with many new-comers as well as Americans who are temporarily working in the area. For Hanukah we hosted Dr. Abraham Haim, Pres. of the Council of Sephardic communities in Jerusalem to lead us in a public candle lighting ceremony in the Rota City Hall facilities and to offer a talk on the origins of this holiday. We gave tribute to Dr. Haim's long history of activities in Spain, and read a communiqué from Israel's Ambassador in Spain, Daniel Kutner congratulating both Dr. Haim's efforts as well as our own for helping to keep good relations alive. We invited representatives of other faiths, and they participated by lighting candles in the name of religious freedom.

Learning and Inter-community activities

Our 2nd year of offering Hebrew classes led by our moreh Mati Langer was successful with the completion of two courses over the year with 10 students from communities across Spain and Portugal. Congregation leaders Deborah Rios and Ahuvah Gipson offered five study sessions on special topics on Jewish History, the Jewish Canon and Beit Ha'am units. These programs are supported by Arzenu.

While attending the International Congress *EducaShoah 2017* at the University of Seville, several members of Bet Januká broadened their knowledge of how the history of the Shoa fits into the Spanish educational system.

We continued into our 2nd year of Mejiná Leyahadut classes with the collaboration of the Bnei Sefarad community in Valencia. This project, which is made possible by financial support from the EUPJ, consists of weekly classes given by Rabbi Alona Lisitsa, HUC-JIR/Jerusalem in the preparation of candidates for the European Beit Din. Additionally, our monthly Rosh Hodesh study sessions led by Rabbi Alona, continued by covering a wide variety of topics, with attendance from members of several reform communities across Spain and Portugal. As our communities are dispersed across the Iberian Peninsula, we rely on web-based activities in order to share knowledge and experience between congregations.

Bet Januká actively participates with the other Reform and Progressive Jewish communities in Spain, whether they be spiritual, educational or cultural activities. This year we were co-founders of the Sephardic Institute of Jewish Studies along with Bnei Sefarad, Bnei Israel, the Reform Community of Madrid and Bet Shalom. At the inter-community Shabbaton hosted by Bet Shalom in June, we offered a presentation on the organization of the WZO and Arzenu in preparation for the creation of Arzenu España. Also, our members participate in the year-round, online Jewish Literature Reading Club hosted by the Reform Jewish Community in Madrid as well as the Jinuj cycle of videoconferences hosted in Bet Shalom in Barcelona.

Inter-organizational, Inter-faith and Volunteer activities

Our congregation participates in inter-organizational activities across the Iberian Peninsula, such as the International Sefarad Congress held in the north of Portugal. In September, we hosted an informative table in conjunction with our sister organization, Yehudá HaLeví, on Jewish culture as part of the 9th Fair for Volunteer Associations in Rota, Spain. This is part of our Hasbarah effort in the promotion of Jewish culture and history.

In November, representatives of Bet Januká and Arzenu España attended the first ever European Beit Haam congress, iVision in Paris. This was an optimum occasion for expanding our network of friends in the realm of Zionist activities and supporting the State of Israel. In addition, as part of the “Friends of Rambam Hospital” network and members of the Spanish directive committee, we had the honor of attending a seminar in Madrid on the latest advances in regenerative medicine hosted by the Rambam Association of Spanish doctors. Our collaboration with this association includes translation of Rambam Medical Center news bits into Spanish.

Bet Januká members participated in 3 inter-faith gatherings this year: the Int’l Women’s Day round table held in Rota with a talk on the history and impact of women rabbis; the 3rd annual Conference on Peace and Ingathering in Madrid; and the Inter-faith Thanksgiving prayer held in Morón (Sevilla) with a prayer from the Psalms.

Cultural Visits

Bet Januká hosted a guided tour of Jewish points of interest in the historical center of Cádiz, starting with the Admiral’s Home in the Barrio del Populo, culminating in a special Kabbalat Shabbat on the Caleta beach led by Rabbi Haim Casas. This was an emotional moment, being the first Shabbat led by Rabbi Haim on his home ground since his ordination in May, 2017.

In a guided visit with other local Jewish cultural associations we travelled to Lucena to view the medieval cemetery and focal points from this city’s Jewish past. For Shavuot we enjoyed a community visit to the antique clock collection at the Time Palace in Jerez and to the local goat farm for the children.

Appreciation and Goals for 2018

We are thankful for the support we’ve received from friends and sponsors, from Rabbi Alona Lisitsa, from Dalya Levy at Arzenu, and especially from Sonja Guentner and all the folks at the EUPJ head offices. Without your encouragement we wouldn’t be able to do everything we strive for. Our goals for the coming year are to improve our outreach program using best-practices from other communities around Europe and to twin our community with a small community in Israel.

Spain – Bet Shalom, Barcelona

2017 for Bet Shalom Barcelona has been a year of consolidation and growth. When returning from the EUPJ Executive Board meeting in Lyon we adapted some of our objectives to the Strategic Plan that was approved there. We have intensified our intervention and multiplied our activities.

We have reached the goal of having at least one community activity almost every day of the week and many of our activities are regular, so for example Bet Shalom offers an Introduction course to Judaism, weekly - Shorashim – Talmud lessons and a course about Jewish education itself -Jinuj- with many and varied focusses: traditional texts, Philosophy, Art, etc.

We have a successful Jewish Authors Book Reading Club that we share with the Reform Jewish Community of Madrid, being face-to-face in Barcelona and by videoconference with Madrid and other locations, pointing out the participation, among others, authors, such as Eshkol Nevo, Dory Sonthheimer or Deborah Feldman.

The community celebrates all the *jaguim* and commemorations throughout the year, and we celebrate every week a successful Kabbalat Shabbat and then a communal dinner along with oneg Shabbat with an average participation of 35 people.

Our community has also been active in cultural activities such as books presentations, exhibitions and concerts, being especially proud of the one by the opera singer, Elena Pereg, performed in Januka.

During this year we have created two new work groups within the Reform Movement *tnuot*: the Youth group, creating TaMaR and the Women Sisterhood, a global affiliate to the WRJ.

The activity of our Rabbi Stephen Berkowitz, with the help of the Rabbinic Program of the EUPJ, has provided consolidation and visibility.

His educational activity focuses especially on several courses: Shorashim, Talmud, Meguilot and leading two religious services.

At the end of June, a Beit Din of the EUPJ was held in Barcelona and, taking advantage of that same weekend, we celebrated a Shabbaton of Reform Jewish Communities, with the participation of Sonja Guentner, where leaders from the communities of Madrid, Rota, Galicia and Valencia participated.

Our Community was represented at the Biennial Conference of the WUPJ in Jerusalem in the month of May.

Especially significant is the work we have done in the fight against anti-Semitism, working closely with the institutions to improve the situation.

It is also significant the work done in regard to the Remembrance Holocaust day, working with the Institutions (Parliament, Government and City Councils) for the Commemoration of January 27th.

Our Community is a benchmark for Barcelona in terms of the work we do in Interreligious Dialogue, participating in numerous (dozens) events, meetings and visits received in our synagogue by schools and other civic groups.

Bet Shalom participates in great event in the city, open to the general public -people from other traditions- called "La Nit de las Religions" and this year in addition to being the reference event, we celebrated a concert with Jazanit Romina Reisin that was a huge success.

For the first time in these years, the Community has maintained the activity throughout the year and we have not closed for summer, spring or winter holidays.

At the end of the year we are preparing a new Strategic Plan for the period from 2018 to 2020, which will be our 15th Anniversary.

Spain – Bnei Israel, Galicia

January-February 2017

In order to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, Kehila Bnei Israel in Galicia assembled an exhibition of the drawings made by some of the children at the Terezin Ghetto. Copies of the drawings were provided by the Czech cultural centre in Madrid and were supplemented by photographs taken during the war inside the Terezin Ghetto from Yad Vashem. The University of Santiago kindly provided the space for the exhibition at the Fonseca Palace located in the old city of Santiago de Compostela. At the inauguration date we commemorated the Auschwitz death camp liberation date. During the Terezin ghetto's early times some artistic expressions were allowed as a propaganda tool for the Nazi regime. Later, many of the children's drawings depicted the inhumane living conditions and were used against high ranking Nazis at the Nuremberg trial.

The exhibition was well received by the public and the local press and a few schools groups undertook guided visits in what it may have been their first and probably the most direct contact with the tragedy that visited the Jewish people during the Shoah.

March 2017

Representatives of our Kehila attended the Galician parliament's passage of the law that allowed the existence of burial grounds for people of non-Christian faiths, including Jews.

April, 2017

Pesach Festival,

Passover festival was celebrated with the erev Pesach seder. The Haggada was read and sang by the attendants and the seder was officiated by the Kehila's president.

May-June 2017

Sukkot

The sukkot festival was celebrated by a gathering that included the reading of the book of Ruth and the tasting of traditional dairy foodstuff (May 31)

On June 1, we inaugurated the exhibition of the Terezin drawings, previously shown in Santiago, in Rivadavia, a town with a buoyant and prosperous Jewish community before the 1492 expulsion of the Jews from Spain. This second leg from this touring display was inaugurated at this city's Jewish information centre in the presence of the city hall's mayor and Galician parliament representatives.

The art exhibit in this town was an unqualified success and has been prolonged until the third week of July.

September – October

Rabbi Berkowitz (from Beit Shalom's Kehila in Barcelona) visited Santiago and A Coruña with members of the Bnei Israel board. In A Coruña, they visited the remains of the old Jewish Quarter and had the opportunity to view a copy of one of the masterpieces of Shepardi illustration in Spain, the *Kennicot Bible*. He also officiated what was probably the first Jewish wedding in Galicia since the banishment of the Jews from the area in 1492.

High Holidays

On the 20 of September, we celebrated Rosh Hashana with a Seder, attended by members of our Kehila and officiated by the Kehila's president.

The end of Yom Kippur and Havdala Yom Kippur were officiated by members of our Kehila.

November-December

Hannuka was celebrated the 17th of December, with candle lighting, Hannuka songs and traditional foodstuffs.

Year-round activities:

Jewish book of the month video-conference.

Under the auspices of the Kehilot of Madrid, Rota, Barcelona and Valencia, the contents of books written by Jewish authors were discussed in a videoconference format

Spain - Comunitat Jueva Atid De Catalunya, Barcelona

No report received.

Spain - Kehilá Beit Emunah, Asturias

No report received.

Spain – Reform Jewish Community of Madrid (CJRM)

2017 has been a significant year for the Reform Jewish Community of Madrid- Comunidad Judía Reformista de Madrid (CJRM) in terms of expansion.

We have progressively moved from one-two Kabbalat Shabbat per month to two-four at the moment which marks a tendency of stability despite not having an own Beit Kneset.

Reform Jewish Community of Madrid continues its strategy of celebrating Shabbat services, the rest of the Jewish Holidays and a wide circle of educational and cultural activities.

One or two Kabbalat Shabat per month, with Dvar Torah, different encouragements for people to be involved and a great Shabbat dinner; Shacharit Shabat, once every two months when Rabbi Berkowitz comes to Madrid. We use to move to the park in summer to Kabbalat Shabbat in the park.

All Jewish Holidays, from Tu Bishvat to Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur and a Passover Seder with different Jewish customs and activities for children, were led this year by Rabbi Berkowitz (including Tashlich at Manzanares River) and Chazanit Romina Reisin from Israel, respectively;

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

Rabbi Berkowitz visits our Kehillah once per month thanks to the Rabbinic programme we share with Bet Shalom Barcelona, EUPJ in a co-financing basis, in which CJRM contributes too..

Apart from these events centered on the Jewish calendar, another important pillar of the CJRM is the educational and cultural ones. For the second consecutive year, the Jewish Author Book Club is organized by Bet Shalom and CJRM with incredible educational and personal impact to a group of about 18 people. CJRM launched with Fulbright Sara Gardner a five sessions course called *“From Adafina to Schmaltz and Za’atar: the Jewish tradition through the Jewish cuisine all over the world”* And about Jewish Philosophy, Bet Shalom and CJRM organized two different courses *“Tanaj, Art and Opera”* and *“Fundamentals of Contemporary Jewish Thought”*.

We also continue studying Pirkei Avot, twice per month, with Rabbi Berkowitz, as well as other Rabbis and scholars on Jewish hot topics sessions. Working and learning together is a bright path to give shape and empower Reform Judaism in Spain.

For a second year CJRM launched its own yearlong Hebrew Programme with an Israeli member of the community.

Related to cultural events, CJRM organized trips to the cinema with Jewish content films, documentaries; and to concerts by Israeli musicians.

For International Women Day, Bet Shalom Barcelona and CJRM held a videoconference with Noga Tarnopolsky, public and media adviser of Women of the Wall.

For Holocaust Day Remembrance, CJRM went to the event at the Senate and had the privilege to welcome at Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner Annette Cabelli, a Ladino speaking survivor, born in Greece. For Tisha B’Av we received Rabbi Michael Farbman and a group from his community,

Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven, Connecticut, in a wonderful gathering and sharing in this special day of the calendar.

CJRM celebrated its first Bar Mitzva and having a real Sefer Tora, on loan from West London Synagogue and EUPJ.

CJRM is involved in Interfaith dialogue and this year four big events were organized in which we participated. And finally, we continue to participate in the Channukah public event in the city centre of Madrid, along with the Orthodox and Masorti.

The Reform Jewish Community of Madrid is working hard to grow and offer a vibrant new face to Madrid Jewry together with Bet Shalom Barcelona, as we have been doing through difficulties in the past, to empower Reform Judaism in Spain.

Sweden - Progressive Judaism in Stockholm (PJS)

No report received.

Switzerland – Platform of Liberal Jews Switzerland (PLJS)

PLJS Annual General Meeting, 2017 May 7 at GIL in Geneva

After the statutory business (acceptance of the previous minutes and formal discharge of the Board for its management and accounting) was completed, the assembly moved on to electing the two new co-presidents of the PLJS. Peter Jossi and Jean-Marc Brunschwig were elected unanimously. Both of them are well known in our organization, Jean-Marc being the former vice-president, Peter a board member.

We closed our meeting early in order to pay homage to Nicole Poëll. Nicole, who was the driving force in both founding the platform and in advancing and pushing it to what it is today, was honored with a festive dinner, Klezmer music and a number of speeches. The newly elected co-presidents stated that they are well aware that it will not be an easy task to follow the big footprints Nicole has left.

Refugees

The PLJS continued the project “better together” with SIG and VSJF (Union for Swiss Jewish Welfare), offering a variety of activities for refugee children, to occupy them and help with their integration during the school vacation.

Participation at Events

- Delegates Meeting of the SIG (observer status)
- Informational event hosted by the Switzerland-Israel Society
- Patronage and active participation at the commemorating event “100 years: 1st Zionist Congress in Basel”
- Various local events

Press Releases

As is our custom, press releases and position statements were made as needed.

Security of the Jewish Swiss Community

Working together, the SIG and PLJS continued their contact with the Swiss Federal Councilors intensifying lobbying efforts and placing emphasis on the oppressive costs that the Jewish Communities (Congregations) are being forced to shoulder. Although the political process is both difficult and time-consuming, we are continuing our efforts to receive help in securing our communities.

Summary

A lot of our work is done behind the scenes. This year, our main goal was to consolidate the newly elected board and to strengthen our position within the mainly traditional/orthodox Jewish environment.

UK – Alliance for Progressive Judaism

This year The Alliance for Progressive Judaism appointed Carrie Shaw as its Israel Desk coordinator, the first ever position in UK Reform or Liberal Jewry to be funded by partners in Israel. Having previously worked in Progressive communities throughout the USA and Israel, Carrie now brings her experience in leadership, programming, Israel education and community engagement to the UK. Carrie also works as the co-ordinator for the Alliance.

As the aim of the Alliance is to facilitate projects that neither the Liberal nor the Reform Movement is doing and that are best done by both Movements together, the Alliance is partnering on three major initiatives: safeguarding, student chaplaincy and Israel via the Israel Desk.

Safeguarding

Having formed a steering committee comprised of members of professional staff from both Liberal and Reform Judaism as well as community representation, we have laid the ground work for establishing safeguarding needs. A comprehensive survey has been distributed to all communities to help the committee ensure that the protocol developed meets their needs. This spring the steering committee will be reconvening to move forward with the results from the community surveys.

Student chaplaincy

Rabbi Daniel Lichman has joined Rabbi Leah Jordan in offering rabbinic/pastoral, educational and religious support for Progressive Jewish university students through this joint initiative. The Chaplaincy supports students in building vibrant Progressive Jewish life on university campuses and this winter saw the first student retreat held in the Peak District. Reconnect: A Retreat for Jewish Students was a success and the overall partnership of this year has led to them to reach more students than ever before.

Israel Desk

The Israel desk has connected communities and resources in the UK and Israel. An autumn visit to Israel included time with the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ), several IMPJ communities, the Leo Baeck Education Center in Haifa, and the Sir Charles Clore Community Center in Akko.

In the last six months the Desk has facilitated multiple meetings with Ambassador Mark Regev and published newspaper articles relating to important events both in the UK and in Israel.

We have also debuted our recurring newsletter and provided important and timely updates to communities. Additionally we have ensured a presence at both movement and communal events. This winter Carrie and Reut Noyman, the Director of Yachdav, the Jewish Peoplehood Education Center of IMPJ presented at Cheder teacher training of the movements.

Carrie personally has visited several communities in England to speak on a range of topics, offered support on Israel trip planning and arranged speaker from Israel for special events.

We are now begin the process to reach out to each communities Israel groups to connect further and ensure we are provided needed resources.

UK - Belsize Square Synagogue, London

No report received.

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

The current twinning arrangements with Ukrainian communities have continued to flourish over the last year and we have seen many relationships progress and evolve.

Khmeinitzky is currently twinned with Ealing Liberal Synagogue. The communities are working together to develop and expand the Progressive Jewish community in Khmeinitzky. The Lutzk community is proud of the twinning relationship they have established with Elstree Liberal Synagogue. They correspond regularly and maintain a special relationship. Liviv Progressive Jewish Community is flourishing as a result of the twinning relationship with Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue. The Hatikvah partnership in Kiev with Mosaic Liberal Synagogue (formerly Harrow and Wembley Progressive Synagogue) has been in place since the late 1990's and has benefitted many people along the way and continues to do so. Edgware and Hendon Reform Synagogue continue to provide support to the new Shirat Hayam Progressive Jewish Community in Odessa.

During the coming year we shall be looking for a suitable community within the EUPJ to provide support to the Cherkassy Community in the Ukraine.

Within Europe we have seen the twinning relationship blossom with West London Synagogue with Budapest's two Progressive communities, Sim Shalom and Bet Orim.

There is also news of a very new and exciting twinning between Beth Hillel, Rome and GIL, Geneva. This is an excellent example of how a newly formed community can benefit from the experience of a very well established and experienced community. We look forward to seeing how this relationship develops throughout the rest of the year.

Additional twinning projects are being sought. If you would like to be part of, or know of a community that would perhaps benefit from a twinning arrangement, please contact Michael Reik or Sarah Smerald at jhgroup.t21@btinternet.com and communityconnections@eupj.org. We are particularly interested in settling up arrangements between smaller, less established Progressive communities and larger, more established communities.

UK – Leo Baeck College

This has been another successful year at Leo Baeck College a highlight of which was the ordination of Rabbi Haim Casas, Spain's first indigenous Progressive Rabbi, together with his six UK colleagues.

Some of the year's highlights to date include,

- LBC Annual Dinner. The dinner was held in June at the Institute of Directors in London. Our guest speaker was Dame Diane Lees CBE, the current and first female Director-General of the Imperial War Museum.
- We welcomed a new cohort of 5 students to their first year studies, Lev Taylor, Gabriel Webber, Annette Boeckler, Anthony Lazarus and David Yehuda Stern with 2 more, Ann-Gaelle Athias and Matthias Elasari, beginning their training in Paris.
- Cementing the relationship between the College and French Progressive Judaism. LBC now has six French students on the rabbinic programme, some studying with us in London, others preparing in Paris to do so from next September.
- Leo Baeck College has undergone a review for educational oversight monitoring visit by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and has received its final report, which is available in full at: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/ReviewsAndReports/Documents/Leo%20Baeck%20College/Leo-Baeck-College-HER-AP-16.pdf>
- In September, our annual lecture in memory of the College's founder, Rabbi Dr Werner Van der Zyl, z"l, was given by Professor Michael Berkowitz, Professor of Modern Jewish History at University College London. The lecture entitled ***Photography, film, and the Holocaust: new perspectives from Second World War Britain and America*** was fascinating and much appreciated by all who attended.

MA in Jewish Educational Leadership

We currently have four students on this course who are now in their second and final year of their studies. One student, Oren Giorno, is an informal educator from the MJLF in Paris. As the MA is delivered through blended methods, namely a combination of intensive seminars and on-line learning, people from Europe are able to study at Leo Baeck. In addition to Oren, who is our second French student, we have had the privilege of students from Belarus and Switzerland study with us as well. Please contact Dr Jo-Ann Myers, Director of Jewish Education for more information: jo-ann.myers@lbc.ac.uk.

Lehrhaus

The Lehrhaus is the home of adult Jewish learning at Leo Baeck College. Every year we offer two semesters of courses taught by members of the LBC faculty and other subject specialists. This spring semester we are offering two on-line courses: "Exploring Radical Torah to Create Social Change" with Rabbi Robyn Ashworth-Steen and "Jews, Taboos and Tattoos" with Rabbi Emily Jurman. Please go to this link for details of these and other courses: <http://lbc.ac.uk/study-with-us/lehrhaus/>. We would love to have you join us!

Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, LBC's Principal, adds: 2017 has been another exciting year for Leo Baeck College. The ordination of so many new colleagues, followed by their inductions throughout the autumn and winter, has been a real thrill. I look forward to our 2018 Admissions Board and continuing the work we do with all of our rabbinic and education students.

UK – Liberal Judaism

Liberal Judaism is the dynamic, cutting edge of modern Judaism. We are welcoming, open and forward-looking. We engage with society as we find it, and lead from the front. We play an active role in building collaboration across the Jewish community and with other faiths and causes.

In 2017, as we celebrated 115 years of Liberal Judaism, the movement once more expanded its membership, its outreach and its influence both within and outside of the Jewish community.

Liberal Judaism's flagship event for 2017 was the Day of Celebration, held at Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue (NPLS). The conference saw 250 impassioned Jews of all ages, and representing 32 different communities, debating everything from fighting antisemitism to how to use faith as a force for good.

Tackling the theme 'Is Liberal Judaism Political Judaism?', the event's keynote speakers were Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin – chaplain to both the Queen and the Speaker of the House of Commons – and Lord (Alf) Dubs, who came to Britain on the Kindertransport in 1939 and is a renowned campaigner for today's refugees.

The other key event in 2017 was Liberal Judaism inaugural fundraising concert, the first time such an event has been held in the movement's 115 year history.

The event – which took place at The Liberal Jewish Synagogue – saw world-renowned musicians David Dolan, Abigail Dolan and Thomas Carroll receive a standing ovation for their programme of classical music and improvisation. It also included a champagne reception, raffle and silent auction.

Liberal Judaism joined with Jews around the world in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration with a series of events around the country.

The whole movement's commitment to all forms of social action continued to gather pace in 2017.

South London Liberal Synagogue's plan to turn part of the shul into a flat to house a refugee family made headlines across the UK and Israel and has now raised enough funds that building work can begin.

Rabbi Danny Rich helped to build a sukkah inside East London Mosque, assisted by a refugee family and local Muslim leaders, as part of an event to launch a new foundation for those fleeing Syria.

Many community events – including a fun day at Ealing Liberal Synagogue, a South Bucks Jewish Community relay and a two-day 103km walk by Southgate Progressive Synagogue's Rabbi Yuval Keren – raised thousands of pounds for good causes.

And Liberal communities all over the country took part in Mitzvah Day, the UK's biggest faith-based day of social action.

Liberal Judaism continued to grow outside of London, bringing a Judaism that is both modern and authentic to people and communities away from the usual bubbles. The first ever combined service of Liberal Judaism's northern communities took place in York, attended by around 120 people. The year also saw the first batmitzvah in Preston for half a century, the first ever Liberal Judaism Shabbat service in Leeds and Rabbi Mark Solomon addressing the Scottish Parliament in his capacity as rabbi for Sukkat Shalom: Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community.

Liberal Judaism's ground-breaking LGBTQI+ work continued in 2017 with campaigns, seminars and the launch of Rainbow Pilgrims – a landmark project that discovers the hidden history of LGBTQI+ migrants in the UK past and present.

Liberal Judaism also made history by becoming the first Jewish movement in the world to offer ketubot especially written for same sex couples and those who prefer a non binary or gender neutral format.

Liberal Judaism kept a high media profile throughout the year with regular news stories, pictures and commentary in the Jewish press and local newspapers, as well as crossing over into the national and mainstream media.

Youth movement LJY-Netzer sent its largest ever delegation of young people on Israel Tour, with 49 participants and five leaders spending a month in the country, as well as running hugely successful spring and summer camps, leadership training and weekend events.

Finally, the Alliance for Progressive Judaism – formed by Liberal Judaism and the Movement for Reform Judaism – appointed Carrie Shaw as its Israel Desk coordinator.

UK – Reform Judaism

Reform Judaism is a community of communities, a multiplier for each congregation, creating and delivering Reform Judaism in all its diversity, underpinning growth and well-being and devolving best practice across all our communities for their and our future together.

2017 was a year of renewal and innovation with some exciting key appointments with a particular focus on working with young people, students and young adults.

Shirei Chagigah, our biennial music conference, took place in July, with four days of workshops, concerts and prayer hosted by Radlett Reform Synagogue and Finchley Reform Synagogue and attended by people from five countries; a perfect example of Reform Judaism and communities working together.

Northern Chagigah, our residential weekend for northern communities was an uplifting gathering of 120 people from 11 out of the 13 communities in the region. To quote Sherry Ashworth from Manchester, "Reform Judaism in Scotland and the north of England is on an upswing – we are growing in numbers, enthusiasm, learning and commitment".

Josh Martin was appointed as Informal Education Director heading the Youth Department, taking responsibility for RSY-Netzer and Jeneration, our young people's Mental Health and Wellbeing Team, as well as helping Reform communities to develop their informal education work for young people.

We have deepened our capacity to work with young people with mental health challenges through the appointment of Mark Greenfield, who joins Sharon Daniels as part of our young people's Mental Health and Wellbeing team. The expansion of this team to form a unique and nationally trend setting endeavour has been funded by the generosity of a single donor and responds to the needs of our

communities and our desire to provide a safe and inclusive environment for participants on our programmes for young people.

Chaplain Rabbi Daniel Lichman has joined us and together with Rabbi Leah Jordan from Liberal Judaism, they are supporting our students around the country as chaplains to the Alliance for Progressive Judaism. Maya Skaarbreik began her important work as Jeneration Fieldworker working with Jewish students on campus to provide Progressive-led Shabbat dinners, social events, student training, shabbatons and residential trips abroad, and that important warm feeling of community. Jeneration and the Alliance Chaplaincy are already working closely together to ensure that our students are supported and represented on campus by a strong Reform voice.

Our work with young adults beyond university continues with the appointment of Yael Roberts as Reform Judaism's Young Adults Community Organiser providing inspirational learning and programming for young adults across the country.

And crucially, 2017 saw the ordination of six remarkable and exceptional new rabbis for Reform communities from Leo Baeck College. Our partnership with the college – the heart of the intellectual and spiritual life of the Progressive Jewish community – is a key part of our work.

There is much to look forward to in 2018.

Our Communities that Care Initiative team are organising a conference on Combatting Loneliness and Isolation in March and it promises to be a great opportunity to learn about practical ways to combat loneliness and isolation.

Already this initiative has launched tea parties and telethons reaching out to our synagogue members. Communities are responding well and have reported that these events have even helped to shape care provision.

A highlight of 2018 promises to be Chagigah – our biennial weekend away in June celebrating Reform Judaism and being part of something bigger. Last Chagigah, as well as the Communities that Care Initiative we launched our Re-imagining Leadership Initiative through which over 150 leaders have been trained.

In 2018 as well as continuing the development of these initiatives we have listened to, and worked with, our communities to launch our newest Initiative: Financial Sustainability. This will focus on developing and co-creating new approaches learning from different experiences in the UK and around the world.

We look forward to welcoming our friends and colleagues from across the region to our synagogues – do please let us know if you are visiting.

UK - Westminster Synagogue, London

No report received.

Honorary Treasurer's Report 2017

My sixth and final report as Treasurer of the EUPJ is tinged with sadness and joy. Sadness that the six years have come to an end and that they have passed so quickly and joy for the great times I've had as a member of a committee of wonderful people who work so hard for a cause we all believe in.

Being the treasurer of our Movement allows one to become involved in almost every aspect of the work of the EUPJ. Whether it's collecting affiliation fees, receiving grant requests, learning about community projects and exploring ways in which we can supply resources and manpower as well as funding, helping with the smooth running of the European Beth Din or even managing conference finances. It's not so much a job as a voluntary service to Progressive Judaism which brings its own rewards in helping others. I hope that my description might encourage you to offer your services in the future.

Now for the accounts. Years between conferences inevitably reflect lower income and expenditure than conference years. Hence, 2017 records total income of £188.1K against £269.6K in 2016 of which £134.2K was unrestricted against £229.7K the previous year. If we ignore £123K which, in 2016, related to Conference income, our revenues actually increased by £22K.

Our main source of income is from Affiliation Fees which, in 2017, totalled £72.5K. Next in line is the Roswell Fund from which we received a record \$63K or approximately £45K in 2017. Donations totalled £40K which was nearly 30% more than in 2016. We are all very grateful to a relatively small number of individuals who regularly support communities and causes through the EUPJ. Other income comes from the Rabbinic Training Fund, which continues to provide valuable support to our Rabbinic Colleges, and Beth Din fees which cover the expenses of holding Courts around the region and meet the fees applied by Reform Judaism.

Our administration costs remain almost unchanged against last year and we are grateful to our one member of staff, Deborah Grabiner, who continues to provide the cement that holds our organisation together. Deborah has experienced a challenging year and we are all glad that her health is now on the mend and that she is now on the road to a full recovery. Our colleges received £27K of which £20.5K was generated by affiliation fees and the balance was transferred from the Rabbinic Training Fund.

I trust that everyone has accessed our new website which was unveiled during 2017. Our previous website was well beyond its sell-by date and an enormous amount of work has been expended by our team of officers and our administrator. We are confident that we are now well placed to provide excellent information and news through our website and its cost, totalling approximately £20K, will prove to be an excellent investment in the coming years. We have also secured the services of a number of people who have supported our activities in Community Connections, the production of our Newsletter and manning our new European Union Office of the EUPJ in Brussels. These have been exciting developments and in 2017, their combined cost totalled c.£8.5K.

The Roswell Fund in 2017 funded projects and individuals valued at \$56K or c.£40K in Hungary, Czech Republic, Spain, Italy and for the first time, Portugal. There have been significant advances made in our Twinning project with West London synagogue in Budapest where we are now in the second year of our three-year commitment. There have been some innovative initiatives in Prague where a new community group called Or Tamid have met several times, attracting up to 140 people to each event including an encouraging number of young families and young adults. In Italy, the EUPJ was privileged to be present at the inaugural Annual Assembly of the Federation of Italian Progressive communities, or FIEP. Portugal received our support for their first Roswell funded project and once again, Spain received the largest share of the Roswell Fund expenditure in 2017. We have spent a little more than \$23K supporting our 6 communities which, all being well, will become 7 at this year's Annual Assembly. The Roswell Fund also contributed \$9K to youth camps during the year and there are plans to increase support for young adults and our youth movements in 2018. Our conference in Prague, where we have supported a Leadership Seminar and enabled over 60 young adults and student rabbis to share our conference, is a good example of that commitment.

Our investment in countries where Progressive Judaism is in its relative infancy is showing positive returns. We are grateful to our lay leaders and rabbis for their tireless efforts in what we like to call the

Roswell Territories. We shall continue to support our communities, and individuals attending the Saltz Institute in Jerusalem, for as long as the Roswell Fund is able to make funds available. We all owe Arthur and Betty Roswell a huge vote of gratitude.

Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP, have once again examined and certified our accounts without any financial reward. Our Movement could not exist without the enormous contribution of time, energy and often personal funding by our officers and members of our Board. While our accounts can never put a figure on the value of their contribution, we should all recognise the generosity of all those who make the EUPJ the force that it is.

I cannot end without a tribute to the one woman whose personal sacrifice has enabled me to serve the EUPJ for the last 6 years and, God willing, for several years to come. I give you my wife, Karen.

David Pollak
Honorary Treasurer

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2017

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2017. 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. 2017 was a year in which no conference was held so income and expenditure are significantly lower than 2016. Our support for our communities in Spain, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and now Italy has continued to grow and benefit from the Roswell Fund. We have also continued to assist members of communities to attend educational seminars conducted at the Saltz Institute in Jerusalem. The fall in net surplus of c.£9.5K for the year is largely explained by a reduction of c.£2K in currency appreciation and investment income, expenses incurred in advance of our Biennial Conference in 2018 in Prague totalling c.£4K and the absence of any surplus from a Biennial conference.

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 43 shows the financial position of the EUPJ as at 31st December 2017.

Total assets less liabilities amounted to £210,926 (2016: £210,530) 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 2017**

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

**Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2017**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent examiner

Jeremy Harrod FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountant
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
Rabbi Jackie Tabick

European Rabbinic Assembly (ERA)
Vice Chairman
Life President
Secretary
Vice President
Vice Chairman
Resigned May 2017
Chairman
Treasurer
Vice Chairman
President
Convenor of the European Beth Din

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 8 March 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Miriam Kramer - Trustee

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

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of European Union for Progressive Judaism

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the European Union for Progressive Judaism (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement:

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me no cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

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

8 March 2018

European Union for Progressive Judaism
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2017

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2017 Total funds £	2016 Total funds £
	Notes				
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		134,208	53,856	188,0640	269,640
Investment income	2	<u>2,572</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,572</u>	<u>4,318</u>
Total		136,780	53,856	190,636	273,958
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Rabbinic Training Fund		-	26,805	26,805	26,167
General EUPJ - costs		114,659	-	114,659	204,122
Roswell Fund		<u>-</u>	<u>48,776</u>	<u>48,776</u>	<u>33,831</u>
Total		114,659	75,581	190,240	264,120
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		22,121	(21,725)	396	9,838
Transfers between funds	8	<u>(18,200)</u>	<u>18,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		3,921	(3,525)	396	9,838
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		130,358	80,172	210,530	200,692
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>134,279</u></u>	<u><u>76,647</u></u>	<u><u>210,926</u></u>	<u><u>210,530</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 2017

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2017 Total funds £	2016 Total funds £
	Notes				
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	5	8,980	-	8,980	8,980
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	48,928	-	48,498	20,584
Cash at bank		<u>160,388</u>	<u>76,647</u>	<u>237,035</u>	<u>212,262</u>
		208,886	76,647	285,533	232,846
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(83,587)	-	(83,587)	(31,296)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>125,299</u>	<u>76,647</u>	<u>201,946</u>	<u>201,550</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>134,279</u>	<u>76,647</u>	<u>210,926</u>	<u>210,530</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>134,279</u></u>	<u><u>76,647</u></u>	<u><u>210,926</u></u>	<u><u>210,530</u></u>
FUNDS	8				
Unrestricted funds				134,279	130,358
Restricted funds				<u>76,647</u>	<u>80,172</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u><u>210,926</u></u>	<u><u>210,530</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 8 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 2017

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

	2017	2016
	£	£
Eurocurrency appreciation	1,843	3,286
Deposit account interest	<u>729</u>	<u>1,032</u>
	<u><u>2,572</u></u>	<u><u>4,318</u></u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2017 nor for the year ended 31 December 2016.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2017 nor for the year ended 31 December 2016.

**Notes to the Financial Statements – continued
for the year ended 31st December 2017**

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

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

5. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017	<u>8,980</u>
 NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2016	<u>8,980</u>
At 31 December 2015	<u>8,980</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

**Notes to the Financial Statements – continued
for the year ended 31 December 2017**

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2017	2016
	£	£
Other debtors	<u>48,498</u>	<u>20,584</u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2017	2016
	£	£
Other creditors	<u>83,587</u>	<u>31,296</u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.17 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.17 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	130,358	22,121	(18,200)	134,279
Restricted funds				
Rabbinic Training Fund	69,817	(26,805)	18,200	61,212
Community Connections Travel Fund	2,983	-	-	2,983
Roswell Fund	<u>7,372</u>	<u>5,080</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,452</u>
	80,172	(21,725)	18,200	76,647
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>210,530</u>	<u>396</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>210,926</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	136,780	(114,659)	22,121
Restricted funds			
Roswell Fund	53,856	(48,776)	5,080
Rabbinic Training Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>(26,805)</u>	<u>(26,805)</u>
	53,856	(75,581)	(21,725)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>190,636</u>	<u>(190,240)</u>	<u>396</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements – continued
for the year ended 31 December 2017**

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 WUPJ and EUPJ congregations in certain countries..

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2017.

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 the Prague Marriott Hotel, V Celnici 8, Prague 110 00, Czech Republic on Sunday 29 April 2018 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 Jerusalem on 19 May 2017.
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 2017 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 2017 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 2017** (included with all the other 2017 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 2017 Accounts and to re-appoint the Examiner of the 2018 Accounts:** "Resolved that the appointment of the accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP to perform an examination of the 2017 annual accounts of the EUPJ, be ratified and that the appointment of Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP to perform an examination of the 2018 annual accounts for the EUPJ, be approved."
7. **Resolution to approve the admission of Comunidad Judía Progresista de Andalucía Beit Rambam**, the Jewish Congregation Beit Rambam of Andalusia, Seville, Spain (and known as Beit Rambam) **as an Associate Member of the EUPJ:** "Resolved that Comunidad Judía Progresista de Andalucía Beit Rambam (known as Beit Rambam) be admitted as an Associate Member of the EUPJ with effect from the date of this resolution."
8. **Resolution to amend the Constitution:** "Resolved that the Constitution of the EUPJ be amended by substituting it with the proposed new Constitution 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 new Constitution will also be available on our website www.eupj.org together with a marked up copy of the proposed new constitution showing the changes from the existing constitution.
9. **Elections and Appointments to EUPJ Offices –**

The election, or the ratification thereof in certain instances, of the following people to the following positions –

- **Chairman** – Miriam Kramer's term as chairman has come to an end and Sonja Guentner is standing for this office;

- **Vice-Chairmen** – noting that the term of office of Stéphane Beder as Vice-Chairman has come to an end and subject to the passing of the resolution in Item 8 above, David Pollak is standing for the office of Vice-Chairman Finance, and John Cohen is standing for the office of Vice-Chairman Corporate Governance for a period of one year only ending at the 2019 European Assembly;
- **Ratification of Appointments to the Executive Board** - the appointment of the following people under Section 6.1.4 of the Constitution since the 2017 European Assembly – Ron van der Wieken and Hannah Verhulst (representing the Netherlands); Peter Jossi and David Bernstein (representing Switzerland) and Joyce Bigio (representing Italy);
- **Ratification of Further Appointments to the Executive Board** under Section 6.1.4 of the Constitution, it being noted that the terms of office as Vice-President of Rabbi Walter Homolka, Rabbi Deborah Kahn-Harris and Alex Dembitz have come to an end – Dan Rattan (representing Germany), Rabbi Edward van Voolen representing the Abraham Geiger College, Rabbi Deborah Kahn-Harris (representing the Leo Baeck College) and Marek Jezowski to represent Poland.

Note – If the EUPJ Constitution is amended in terms of Item 8 of this Agenda, then the periods of office of EUPJ office holders will change. In addition, the constitution of the EUPJ Executive Board will change as a result of the implementation of Item 9 of this Agenda. Two schedules accompany this Agenda – one showing the EUPJ Executive Board immediately prior to the implementation of the resolutions in this Agenda and the other showing it immediately thereafter.

10. EUPJ Brussels Office – European Union Representation.

11. Any Other Business.

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

John Cohen - Honorary Secretary

Dated: 23 March 2018.

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 Beit Shmuel, 6 Elihayu Shama Street, Jerusalem, Israel on **Friday 19 May 2017** at 11.45 am.

Present: Chairman of EUPJ Miriam Kramer and the other Honorary Officers and representatives of various Constituent Members of EUPJ as follows: Mr Paul Yuval Adam (Arzenu) Germany, Mr Jai Anguita (Bet Shalom Barcelona) Spain, Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim (Or Chadash Zurich/EUPJ) Switzerland, Mr Stéphane Beder (AJL) France, Mr Leslie Bergman (EUPJ) UK, Mrs Julie Bergmann (Or Tamid) Czech Republic, Mrs Joyce Bigio (Lev Chadash Milan) Italy, Ms Madelon Bino (LJG Amsterdam) Netherlands, Mr Hartmut Bomhoff (School of Jewish Theology) Germany, Mr John Clark (Or Chadash Vienna) Austria, Ms Yael Cobano (Reform Jewish Community of Madrid) Spain, Mr John Cohen (EUPJ) UK, Mrs Noeleen Cohen (Alyth Synagogue and Leo Baeck College) UK, Mrs Ruth Cohen (WUPJ) Israel, Mr Harvey Cohen (Kehillat Raanan) Israel, Mr Alexander Dembitz (GIL Geneva) Switzerland, Mr Josh Dubell (Alyth Synagogue London) UK, Mr Pierre Elkaim (Kehilat Geshar Paris) France, Mr Fabio Fantini (Beth Hillel Roma) Italy, Mr Frantisek Fendrych (ZLU Prague) Czech Republic, Mr Edward Gold (Alyth Synagogue and Jewish Interactive London) UK, Rabbi Mark Goldsmith (Alyth Synagogue London) UK, Rabbi Andrew Goldstein (EUPJ/LJ) UK, Mrs Sharon Goldstein (Northwood & Pinner Liberal) UK, Mrs Deborah Grabiner (EUPJ) UK, Mrs Jane Grabiner (Finchley Reform Synagogue London) UK, Mr Michael Grabiner (Finchley Reform Synagogue London) UK, Ms Sonja Guentner (EUPJ/UpJ) Germany, Rabbi Walter Homolka (Abraham Geiger College) Germany, Rabbi Harry Jacobi (Liberal Judaism) UK, Mr Peter Jossi (PLJS/Migwan) Switzerland, Dr Alex Kagan (WUPJ) Israel, Dr Ivan Kohout (Bejt Simcha) Czech Republic, Mr Marc Konczaty (MJLF) France, Mr Gilbert Lederman (Beth Hillel Brussels) Belgium, Mr Jean-François Levy (MJLF) France, Mr Robert Ley (MJLF) France, Mr David Maxa (Abraham Geiger College) Germany, Mrs Judita Maxa Bergmannová (Or Tamid) Czech Republic, Mrs Jaroslava Maxová (Jewish Liberal Union Prague Jewish Community of Liberec) Czech Republic, Mrs Irith Michelsohn (UpJ /Jewish Community Bielefeld) Germany, Mr Robin Moss (Liberal Judaism) UK, Dr Verena Muehlstein (Beth Shalom Munich) Germany, Dr Jan Muehlstein (Beth Shalom Munich) Germany, Mrs Celia Naval (Keren Or) France, Mr Neil Nerva (Belsize Square Synagogue London) UK, Mr Mikhail Orel (Bet Shalom Barcelona) Spain, Mr Paavel Orlov (Bet Shalom Barcelona) Spain, Rabbi Joel Oseran (WUPJ) Israel, Mr David Pollak (EUPJ) UK, Mrs Maria Prieto (Bet Shalom Barcelona) Spain, Mr Michael Reik (EUPJ) UK, Rabbi Danny Rich (Liberal Judaism) UK, Mr Haim Sanchez Casas (LBC/Keren Or) UK and France, Mr Gordon Smith (EUPJ) UK, Mrs Judy Smith (EUPJ) UK, Mr Joe Smoczynski (Beit Polska/Beit Warszawa) Poland, Mrs Carole Sterling (WUPJ) Canada, Mrs Deborah Tal-Ruettger (UpJ) Germany, Rabbi Menno ten Brink (LJG Amsterdam) Netherlands, Rabbi Natalia Verzhbovska (LJG Cologne) Germany, Mr Robert Weiner (Reform Judaism) UK, Mr Jonathan Wootliff (Bejt Simcha/ZLU/Or Tamid) Czech Republic.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman reported apologies received from Jeffery Rose, Honorary Life President.

2. **Approval of Minutes of 2016 European Assembly Meeting**

The Chairman advised that the minutes of the European Assembly Meeting held in London, United Kingdom on 17 April 2016 were included in the EUPJ Annual Report booklet for 2016 ("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. **Welcome by WUPJ Chair**

The Chairman introduced Carole Sterling, the chair of the WUPJ, to the meeting, who in turn welcomed EUPJ delegates to the WUPJ 2017 Biennial Conference in Jerusalem. Mrs Sterling referred to her report in the Booklet and confirmed that the WUPJ, and especially she and Rabbi Daniel Freeland, were working hard to involve European communities in the work of the WUPJ. She advised that they both looked forward to working with and supporting EUPJ communities.

4. 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. The Chairman added the following items – (a) She informed the meeting of the recent death of Raymond Goldman, a pillar of the Reform Movement in the UK, Israel and beyond and said he would be missed. (b) She advised that since the publication of the Booklet, certain of the Spanish communities had agreed to form a Spanish federation and hoped that all the Spanish communities would join and that it would become a member of the EUPJ. (c) The next EUPJ Biennial Conference would be held in Prague from 26 to 29 April 2018, with the next Annual Assembly being on 29 April at that conference.

5. Annual Accounts for 2016

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 and then opened the meeting to questions. (a) Alex Dembitz referred to affiliation fees, which had not been increased for at least 6 years, and suggested they be increased (possibly on a two tier basis) to fund EUPJ costs, especially to allow young people to attend events. The Treasurer pointed out that EUPJ does assist young people where possible, but would consider the possibility of increasing fees. Ruth Cohen urged the Treasurer to try to build up reserves for EUPJ. (b) The Treasurer was asked what funding opportunities were available to young people, and advised that the EUPJ website and monthly newsletters would show this, but that he would see if this could be made available in other formats and confirmed that he could be contacted to provide full details at any time. (c) Rabbi Celia Surget queried whether EUPJ should be employing a full time professional manager and the Treasurer reported that the current administration system was fully functional and did not require further full time resources at this stage.

The Treasurer thanked the outside accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP and its partner Jeremy Harrod for providing the statutory examination of the 2016 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 Rabbi Danny Rich and seconded by Joyce Bigio and, on a show of hands, the Accounts were approved without objection.

6. 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. Jan Muehlstein 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 2016 and to re-appoint them as Independent Examiners for EUPJ's accounts for 2017. On a show of hands the resolution was approved without objection.

7. Resolution to Amend the Constitution

The Chairman advised the meeting that the EUPJ Executive Board (Board) and Management Committee (ManCom) had recommended that the EUPJ Constitution be amended by increasing the membership of the ManCom to include the EUPJ President, the Convenor of the European Beit Din and the Chairman of the EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly. Detailed reasons for this proposal were set out in the Booklet, which also contained a draft Deed of Amendment, and were read to the meeting.

Gordon Smith proposed the resolution that the Constitution of the EUPJ be amended on the basis provided for in the Deed of Amendment contained in the Booklet, and Michael Reik seconded the proposal. The resolution was put to the meeting and, on a show of hands, was passed unanimously, there being no objections or abstentions.

8. Proposal to admit Federazione Italiana per L'Ebraismo Progressivo to Membership.

The Chairman referred to the proposed resolution in the Booklet and advised the meeting that the EUPJ had received an application from Federazione Italiana per L'Ebraismo Progressivo (the newly established Italian Assembly known as FIEP) requesting to be admitted as a Constituent Member of the EUPJ. The Chairman told the meeting that ManCom consulted with representatives of the Italian Progressive Jewish communities as well as with rabbinic advisors and was provided with all the documentation and information which EUPJ normally requires from prospective members.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Board and ManCom consider that FIEP meets all the requirements to become a Constituent Member and recommends that it be admitted as a Constituent Member of the EUPJ. The Chairman notified the meeting that the resolution to admit FIEP as a Constituent Member is 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.

The Chairman invited the meeting to approve the resolution and the proposal to do so was made by Leslie Bergman and seconded by Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim. On a show of hands the resolution to admit FIEP as a Constituent Member of the EUPJ with effect from the close of the meeting was approved without objection. The Chairman introduced Joyce Bigio and Ben Fantini of FIEP to the meeting and Joyce Bigio thanked Miriam Kramer, David Pollak and John Cohen for their help in getting FIEP admitted as a EUPJ member, and then thanked especially Rabbi Joel Oseran for all his help in getting FIEP established.

9. EUPJ Officers and Board Members

The Chairman advised the meeting that when the EUPJ Constitution was amended in Jerusalem in May 2013, one of the amendments was to provide that the Board, in addition to having members appointed in the "traditional" manner, should also have representation from each of the countries in Europe in which there are EUPJ members and that this resulted in the addition of Appendix 2 to the Constitution, which provides that each country in Europe with at least one Constituent Member is entitled to at least 1 representative on the Board.

However, the Chairman pointed out that very few appointments were made as a result of this amendment and so last year ManCom requested that the Honorary Secretary canvass the leadership of EUPJ communities across Europe reminding them of this right and requesting nominations to the Board. The Chairman expressed her pleasure in the very positive outcome of this exercise and advised that at the Board meeting in Lyon in December 2016, 12 new members were appointed to the Board, making it much more representative.

The Chairman advised the meeting that these appointments now needed ratification by the European Assembly, but first she expressed her thanks and appreciation to Jonathan Lewis and Deborah Hofer, who retired from the Board during the year, and to Rabbi Mark Goldsmith, whose second term as a member of the Board ended at this meeting.

The Chairman then advised the meeting that Item 9 of the Notice convening the meeting (which can be found at page 63 of the Booklet) read with the Amendment to that Notice (which can be found at page 78 of the Booklet) set out the names of the new members nominated to the Board. The Chairman suggested that, rather than asking for a formal vote on each and every nominee, these appointments be dealt with by acclamation and that she would read out the name of each nominee and asked all those in favour to say "Aye". The Chairman then read out the names as follows –

- Representing Austria – John Clark
- Representing Belgium - Gilbert Lederman
- Representing the Czech Republic – Jonathan Wootliff
- Representing Denmark – Arthur Buchman
- Representing France – Marc Konczaty and Celia Naval
- Representing Hungary – Tamàs Gróf

- Representing Italy for the period from 1 December 2016 to 31 May 2017 – Joyce Bigio
- Representing Italy for the period from 1 June 2017 to 31 December 2017 – Fabio (Ben) Fantini.
- Representing Luxembourg – Rabbi Alexander Grodensky
- Representing Reform Judaism UK – Robert Weiner
- Representing the European bet Din – Rabbi Jackie Tabick
- Representing the EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly – Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim.

Each Board member present at the meeting stood after his or her name was called and all present acclaimed each appointment. The Chairman, on the basis of the acclamations received, declared the nominees duly elected as members of the Board.

The Chairman then said that EUPJ will keep on working to ensure that the Board is fully representative of our communities in terms of the EUPJ Constitution. However, the Chairman announced some good news, which was that Board nominations had now been received from the Netherlands and Switzerland – these arrived too late for inclusion in the agenda for the meeting, but will be included in the next Board meeting in July and will be put to members next year in Prague for formal ratification. These nominations are – to represent the Netherlands, Ron van der Wieken and Hannah Verhulst, and to represent Switzerland, Peter Jossi and David Bernstein.

10. European Beit Din

Rabbi Andrew Goldstein gave a brief update on the activities of the European Beit Din (EBD). He explained that it sat in those EUPJ territories which did not currently have their own batei din, being Spain, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria and Poland. The EBD also works in conjunction with the Reform Bet Din in London and its convenor is Rabbi Jackie Tabick. The most recent sittings of the EBD have been in Krakow, Barcelona and Florence and he said that they needed to be held in a place where EBD could use a Mikveh.

11. 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.

- 1.1 Leslie Bergman advised that he and other EUPJ representatives had met with EU officials in Brussels responsible for religious affairs. He stressed that it was important that EUPJ and Progressive Judaism have a voice at the EU and that he was investigating setting up an EUPJ representative office in Brussels.
- 1.2 Rabbi Bar Ephraim advised the meeting that he and other rabbis attending a kallah in Brussels, as well as the first annual general meeting of ERA, had also met the same EU officials and supported an EUPJ presence at the EU.

The Chairman then thanked David Pollak (the Honorary Treasurer), John Cohen (the Honorary Secretary) and Deborah Grabiner (the Administrator) for all their work. She also welcomed Rabbi Danny Freeland to the meeting but could not ask him to address the meeting as time had expired.

The Chairman thanked all present for attending the 2017 European Assembly meeting and declared the meeting closed at 12:45 pm.

.....
Chairman of meeting

Proposed Replacement EUPJ Constitution Explanatory Memorandum

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 and at the meeting of the European Assembly in Jerusalem in May 2017 to take account of specific issues that had arisen. A full consolidated copy of the EUPJ Constitution can be found on our website <http://eupj.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/EUPJ-Constitution-Consolidated-Version-April-2017.pdf>.

The Management Committee has reviewed the existing Constitution and considers that it should be comprehensively revised as consequence of a number of major changes, and these are –

Term of Office - it is proposed that instead of three year terms with a maximum of two terms (ie six years in any one position), the term of any EUPJ Office should be two years with the same six year maximum. This enables officer election to always coincide with EUPJ biennial conferences and brings the EUPJ into line with WUPJ practice. It also provides more flexibility for individuals holding office.

Portfolio Based Management Committee - Instead of Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, Vice Chairmen without designated roles and members without titles, it is proposed that the Management Committee move to a focused portfolio structure with a greater number of Vice Chairmen each with a designated responsibility. This recognizes that the old style title of Treasurer now encompasses much wider financial functions and that the narrow concept of Secretary is replaced with a broader concept of governance, including legal and organizational structure oversight functions. It ensures that each other member of the Management Committee will have a specific responsibility (e.g. Vice Chairman- Development, Vice Chairman- Community Relations, Vice Chairman - Israel Liaison and so on.

Comprehensive Statement of Criteria for Admission to EUPJ Membership - the existing constitution is incomplete and unclear in certain respects in this regard. This section has now been completely revised and enhanced to give more clarity.

Reconfiguration of Responsibilities between Organisational Structures within the EUPJ - at present many important decisions have to be made by the European Assembly, a body which only meets once a year (for example - admission of new members and approval of budgets). This is unwieldy in terms of the smooth functioning of the EUPJ. It is proposed that certain of the responsibilities of the European Assembly be delegated to the Executive Board, whilst ensuring that the European Assembly is still the ultimate governing body of the EUPJ.

Operational Matters – the constitution has also been updated to tidy up how EUPJ meetings are conducted, to permit that meetings be held by electronic means and to permit the Executive Board to create bye-laws from time to time, if required.

Accordingly, it is proposed that the existing constitution be amended by replacing with a new document. A copy of the proposed new constitution, together with a second copy clearly marked up to indicate the proposed changes from the existing constitution, can also be found on our website, together with the Notice calling the EUPJ 2018 Annual Assembly and other documents related thereto.

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

EUPJ Management Committee
EUPJ Executive Board
23 March 2018

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

(as adopted at the Meeting of the EUPJ European Assembly on 29 April 2018 in Prague, Czech Republic).

1. DEFINITIONS

Constituent Member	-	An organisation situated within Europe (all of whose members are Jewish) which has been admitted to full membership of the EUPJ in accordance with Clause 4.1..
Associate Member	-	An organisation situated within Europe which has been admitted to limited membership of the EUPJ in accordance with Clause 4.2.5.
EUPJ	-	The body (composed of all the Constituent Members and Associate Members, as set out in Clause 4.1) called the European Union for Progressive Judaism and which constitutes a Regional Organisation in Europe of the WUPJ, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the WUPJ Constitution.
European Assembly	-	The body responsible for governing the EUPJ, composed as set out in Clause 5.2.
Executive Board	-	The body responsible for carrying out the policy and activities of the EUPJ and for making executive decisions, composed as set out in Clause 6.1.
EUPJ Membership Criteria		The criteria for admission to membership of the EUPJ, as determined by the Executive Board from time to time, and as published on the EUPJ website;
Jewish	-	For the purposes of this Constitution, shall mean a person with at least one Jewish parent or who has been converted to Judaism by the European Beit Din or by a Beit Din recognised by the European Beit Din.
Management Committee		The body responsible for managing and conducting the operations of the EUPJ on a day to day basis, composed as set out in Clause 7.2.
Officers	-	The Chairman and each Vice-Chairman.
WUPJ	-	World Union for Progressive Judaism.
WUPJ Constitution	-	The constitution of the WUPJ.

2. THE EUPJ

The Constituent Members shall constitute a regional organisation to be known as the European Union for Progressive Judaism in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the WUPJ Constitution. The term "Progressive" shall include all forms of Judaism which are in harmony with the principles of the Preamble and Mission Statement of the WUPJ Constitution, whether designated as "Liberal," "Reform," "Progressive," or by any other name.

3. MISSION AND OBJECTS

The mission and objects of the EUPJ shall be to further the mission of the WUPJ within Europe and in pursuance thereof to do all such things as may seem desirable for the attainment of that mission and in particular all such things as are required to be done by a Regional Organisation constituted pursuant to the WUPJ Constitution.

In summary, the mission of the WUPJ is to strengthen Jewish life and values in Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world by supporting and advancing a Progressive approach to Jewish tradition and this includes –

- Building and connecting Progressive Jewish communities worldwide;
- Partnering in the development of Israel as a democratic and pluralistic Jewish state;
- 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; and
- Supporting the foundation of Judaism: *Torah* (study), *Avodah* (worship) and *G'millut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness).

In order to carry out the mission and objects, the Officers shall have the power to raise funds, receive grants and donations, apply funds to carry out the work of the EUPJ, co-operate with and support other charities with similar purposes and do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the mission and objects.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUPJ

4.1. The members of the EUPJ shall consist of (a) all organisations which are members of the EUPJ as at 29 April 2018 and (b) organisations which qualify for membership under the EUPJ Membership Criteria and which are admitted as Constituent Members in the manner provided for in Clause 4.2 below. These organisations include –

- 4.1.1. unions of congregations in a country;
- 4.1.2. individual congregations where no union of congregations exists in that individual congregation's country;
- 4.1.3. individual congregations where a union of congregations exists in that individual congregation's country, but where the Executive Board, in its discretion, has approved such membership;
- 4.1.4. such other Jewish organizations established to maintain and advance the practice and principles of Progressive Judaism and having objectives and purposes similar to those of the WUPJ such as rabbinical seminaries in Europe, the Rabbinic Court for the Jewish Communities of Europe (known as the European Beit Din), the Friends of Progressive Judaism in Israel and Europe and relevant youth organisations.

4.2. Admission to Membership –

- 4.2.1. Membership is open to organisations which meet the EUPJ Membership Criteria. The Management Committee may require applications for membership to be made in any reasonable way that they decide, and all applications for membership shall be determined by the Executive Board, upon the recommendation of the Management Committee;
- 4.2.2. The Management Committee shall, if an application for membership is approved, notify the applicant of the decision within 30 days.
- 4.2.3. The Executive Board may refuse an application for membership if, acting reasonably and properly, it considers it to be in the best interests of EUPJ to refuse the application. The Management Committee must inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the refusal within 30 days of the decision and must consider any written representations the applicant may make about the decision. The Board's decision following any written representations must be notified to the applicant in writing but shall be final.

- 4.2.4. Membership is not transferable to anyone else and the Management Committee must keep a register of names and addresses of the members which must be made available to any member upon request.
- 4.2.5. Congregations and organisations in Europe which do not appear to the Executive Board to justify current acceptance as Constituent Members may be accepted as Associate Members on such terms as to representation and other matters as the Executive Board may from time to time decide and any such Associate Member may be accepted as a Constituent Member when the Executive Board (upon the recommendation of the Management Committee) shall determine that it is duly qualified.

and all such appointments to membership shall be referred to the next meeting of the EUPJ European Assembly for ratification.

- 4.3. By its membership of the EUPJ a Constituent Member and an Associate Member shall be deemed to have –

- 4.3.1. Undertaken to further the mission and objects of the EUPJ;
- 4.3.2. Agreed to contribute funds in such amounts as may be determined by the Executive Board, in which determination the Executive Board shall be required to take account of the membership and resources of the Constituent Member or Associate Member and of any other circumstances of the Constituent Member or Associate Member which shall appear to the Executive Board to be relevant.

- 4.4. Termination of Membership. Membership is terminated if –

- 4.4.1. the member organisation ceases to exist or resigns; or
- 4.4.2. the member is removed from membership by a two-thirds majority resolution of the Executive Board that that member no longer meets the EUPJ Membership Criteria and/or that it is in the best interests of the EUPJ that the membership is terminated. A resolution to remove a member from membership may only be passed if - (i) the member has been given at least 14 days' notice in writing of the meeting of the Executive Board at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed; and (ii) the member has been allowed to make representations to the meeting; or
- 4.4.3. any sum due by the member to the EUPJ is not paid in full within 6 months of the due date for payment thereof, or within such further period as the Management Committee in its discretion allows.

- 4.5. Where in any country in Europe there is one or more national federation or union or group of congregations which has been recognised by the European Assembly and which has itself become a Constituent Member, an individual congregation in that country will be expected to participate in the EUPJ as a member or an affiliate of one of those national bodies and will not be accepted or retained as a Constituent Member in its own name, save that in particular circumstances the Executive Board, on the recommendation of the Management Committee, may agree that such a congregation may be admitted or retained as a Constituent Member or an Associate Member.

5. THE EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY

- 5.1. The EUPJ shall be governed by the European Assembly, which shall normally meet at least once in each calendar year for the following purposes: (a) to consider the work of the EUPJ and its members since the previous meeting of the European Assembly, (b) to elect officers to fill any vacancies, (c) to discuss and promote the development of Progressive Jewish communities in Europe and in support of Israel and the WUPJ, (d) to consider and, where appropriate, adopt resolutions setting forth the position of the EUPJ and (e) to better enable the members to carry out the mission of the EUPJ.
- 5.2. The European Assembly shall consist of the following persons (all of whom shall be Jewish)] –
 - 5.2.1. The President, all Honorary Life Presidents and all Vice-Presidents;
 - 5.2.2. The Officers;
 - 5.2.3. The members of the Executive Board who are entitled to vote on that Board;
 - 5.2.4. Representatives nominated by Constituent Members in such numbers as determined under Clause 5.3 below (“Constituent Delegates”);
 - 5.2.5. Any person whom the European Assembly may, by simple majority vote, co-opt.
- 5.3. The total number of Constituent Delegates and the number of Constituent Delegates to be nominated by each Constituent Member from time to time shall be as follows –
 - 5.3.1. The number of Constituent Delegates shall be not less than 30 and not more than 100, as decided by the European Assembly based upon the recommendation of the Executive Board.
 - 5.3.2. Each Constituent Member shall be entitled to nominate that number of Constituent Delegates which is determined by the Executive Board from time to time. The Executive Board shall make its decision based on its understanding of the number of individuals in membership of each Constituent Member and what that number is as a proportion of the total number of individuals in membership of all Constituent Members, but subject to the following –
 - 5.3.2.1. Each Constituent Member shall be entitled to nominate at least one (1) Constituent Delegate;
 - 5.3.2.2. Of the total number of Constituent Delegates, no more than one third shall be residents or citizens of the same country, provided that if any Constituent Delegate is also one of the persons holding the positions referred to in Clauses 5.2.1, 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 above, then that Constituent Delegate shall not be counted in the total number of Constituent Delegates for the purposes of determining whether the above percentage limit has been reached.
- 5.4. As at the date of adoption of this Constitution, the number of Constituent Delegates which each Constituent Member is entitled to nominate has been determined by the Executive Board to be as set out in Appendix 1 to this Constitution. The Executive Board shall keep under review the number of delegates to whom each Constituent Member is entitled and shall make a report to the European Assembly at intervals of

no more than three years about any changes to be made by the Executive Board to the delegate entitlements set out in Appendix 1.

- 5.5. At any meeting of the European Assembly only Constituent Delegates shall be entitled to vote and each Constituent Delegate shall have one vote.

6. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

- 6.1. The Executive Board shall consist of the following persons (all of whom shall be Jewish) –

- 6.1.1. The President and the Vice-Presidents;
- 6.1.2. The most recently retired Chairman;
- 6.1.3. The Officers and the other members of the Management Committee;
- 6.1.4. The Honorary Life President(s) and the Honorary Life Members, provided however that no such person shall have a vote by virtue of that status alone;
- 6.1.5. In respect of each country in Europe with one or more Constituent Members, the number of representatives set out in Part 1 of Appendix 2 to this Constitution, provided that the Executive Board shall, with the approval of the European Assembly, be entitled to amend that number of representatives from time to time;
- 6.1.6. In respect of the Constituent Members listed in Part 2 of Appendix 2 to this Constitution, the number of representatives set out in that Appendix;
- 6.1.7. Such persons as the Executive Board may co-opt from time to time, not exceeding eight in number, and whose names shall be approved by the next meeting of the European Assembly. Such persons shall be appointed to permit the overall membership of the Executive Board to fairly reflect the scope and diversity of the EUPJ's membership and activities and also to reflect the disproportionate membership of and contribution to the EUPJ by Constituent Members in certain countries.

- 6.2. The following shall apply in relation to any vacancy arising in respect of a representative of a union of congregations or of one or more Constituent Members –

- 6.2.1. if any representative of a union of congregations or of one or more Constituent Members ceases to serve on the Executive Board between scheduled meetings of the European Assembly, then that union of congregations or those Constituent Members shall appoint a replacement representative to serve for the balance of the term of the person in question;
- 6.2.2. if the union of congregations or one or more Constituent Members cannot agree on who the replacement representative should be, then the Executive Board shall be entitled (but not obliged) in its discretion and after consultation with the relevant union of congregations or Constituent Members in question, to appoint that replacement representative.

- 6.3. The Executive Board shall be responsible for supervising the activities of the Management Committee and for ensuring that the Management Committee conducts the business of the EUPJ in accordance with the principles, policies and procedures approved by the European Assembly from time to time. The Executive Board shall

be entitled to form such sub-committees as it sees fit to deal with specific interests or matters from time to time, and to make presentations to the Management Committee.

- 6.4. Individual members of the Executive Board (apart from the Officers) shall have no executive authority except where specifically requested by the Officers to carry out particular tasks.
- 6.5. All representatives duly nominated and appointed to the Executive Board in terms of Clause 6.1 shall be entitled to attend and vote at meetings of the Executive Board. A member of the Executive Board who is unable to attend a meeting of the Executive Board either in person or via conference call or similar electronic methods, may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his place, provided that notice of appointment of such a proxy has been received by the Chairman or Secretary not less than 48 hours prior to the start time of the meeting.

7. THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

- 7.1.1. 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;
- 7.1.2. 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;
- 7.1.3. 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.

- 7.2. ManCom shall consist of –

- 7.2.1. the Chairman;
- 7.2.2. the President;
- 7.2.3. the following Vice-Chairmen - ;

- 7.2.3.1. the Vice-Chairman – Finance, whose role shall be as determined by the Management Committee from time to time but which will include the role of Treasurer or which will include the role of supervising any person appointment or employed as Treasurer;

- 7.2.3.2. the Vice-Chairman – Governance, whose role shall be as determined by the Management Committee from time to time but which will include the role of Secretary or which will include

the role of supervising and person appointed or employed as Secretary;

7.2.3.3. not more than five further vice-chairmen who, at the time of election, will have specific portfolio designations in accordance with the needs and priorities of EUPJ at the time in question.

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

7.2.5. the Convenor of the European Beit Din;

7.2.6. the Chairman of the EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly.]

7.3. 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 -

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

7.3.2. 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 or a person to fulfil the role of Treasurer or Secretary;

7.3.3. 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.

8. FUNDS

Funds for the conduct of the business and activities of the EUPJ (including the business and activities of the European Assembly, the Executive Board and the Management Committee) shall be raised from the Constituent and Associate Members by such annual subscriptions as the Executive Board (upon the recommendation of the Management Committee) shall determine and by such other means and in such other manner as the Executive Board may determine.

9. PRESIDENT AND HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENTS

9.1. The President shall be the titular head of the EUPJ and, together with the Chairman, is responsible for representing the EUPJ within the Progressive Jewish Movement and in the broader community. When there is a vacancy for the office of President it shall be the duty of the Executive Board to submit to the European Assembly a nomination or nominations for the Presidency for election at the next election meeting of the European Assembly. Notice of such nominations shall be sent out two months before the meeting and the European Assembly shall have the right to make and vote upon nominations other than those made by the Executive Board, provided that the names of such alternative nominations have been submitted to the European Assembly not less than one month prior to the European Assembly election meeting.

9.2. From time to time the European Assembly may elect one or more persons as Honorary Life President as a token of particular esteem and appreciation.

10. VICE-PRESIDENTS

10.1. There shall be not more than eight Vice-Presidents, who shall be persons with acknowledged experience of participation in the conduct of the affairs and management of the business of the EUPJ and who remain willing to assist the EUPJ to pursue its mission and objectives.

10.2. A Vice-President shall be nominated and elected by the same procedure as the President under the provisions of Clause 9.1.

11. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS OF THE OFFICERS, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

11.1. Elections of Officers shall take place during the first meeting in the year of the European Assembly.

11.2. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall be elected for a term of two years and shall not serve more than three consecutive terms in that office.

11.3. The most recently retired Chairman shall be appointed for a term of two years and shall not serve more than one term in that capacity.

11.4. Members of the Executive Board appointed under Clause 6.1.4, 6.1.5 and 6.1.6 shall be appointed for a term of two years and shall serve no more than three successive terms in that capacity.

11.5. All Officers shall be elected for a term of two years and shall not serve more than three terms in any one office.

11.6. Members of the Management Committee appointed under Clause 7.2.5 and 7.2.6 shall be appointed for the period that they hold the office in question.

11.7. Members of the ManCom appointed under Clause 7.3 shall be appointed for a term of two years and shall serve no more than three successive terms in that capacity.

11.8. The Officers shall be deemed to be the Trustees of the EUPJ for the purposes of the English law regulating charities.

12. MEETINGS

12.1. Frequency

12.1.1. The European Assembly shall meet at least once in each year.

12.1.2. The Executive Board shall meet at least twice in each year.

12.1.3. The Management Committee shall meet regularly and also when requested by the Executive Board.

12.2. Quorums, Minutes and Electronic Attendance

12.2.1. The quorum of the European Assembly shall be twelve representing no fewer than five Constituent Members.

12.2.2. The quorum of the Executive Board shall be four and its meetings may be conducted by electronic communication.

12.2.3. The quorum of the Management Committee shall be three and its meetings may be conducted by electronic communication.

No business may be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum is present within 15 minutes of the start of the meeting. If a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the starting time specified for the meeting, the chair must adjourn the meeting. The date, time and place at which the meeting will resume will be notified at least seven clear days before the date on which it will resume. If a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the start time of the adjourned meeting, the member or members present at the meeting constitute a quorum. If at any time during the meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting may discuss issues and make recommendations but may not make any decisions.

Minutes – The Management Committee shall ensure that appropriate minutes are taken of proceedings at meetings of the European Assembly, the Executive Board and the Management Committee and are kept in the records of the EUPJ.

Participation in meetings by electronic means - A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by Management Committee in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants. Meetings held by electronic means must comply with rules for meetings, including chairing and the taking of minutes.

12.3. Chair

At all meetings the chair will be taken by the Chairman, provided that in the absence of the Chairman, the Chair shall be taken by the President or one of the Officers.

12.4. Notices

Notices of meetings of the European Assembly shall be in writing and shall be given to members of the European Assembly not less than 28 days before meetings of the European Assembly. Notices of meetings of the Executive Board shall be given to members of the Executive Board not less than 14 days before meetings of the Executive Board. The notices shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the business to be transacted, provided that business of which due notice has not been given may be transacted if the Chairman thinks fit, save that the meeting may overrule the Chairman if it passes a Resolution to that effect by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and eligible to vote.

Notices for meetings of the ManCom shall be given in such reasonable time and with such content as the ManCom may determine or approve from time to time.

12.5. Voting at Meetings

Unless otherwise provided in this Constitution, any decision shall be taken by a simple majority of votes cast at the meeting (including proxy votes). Every member has one vote. A resolution put to the vote of a meeting shall be decided on a show of hands, unless (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands) a poll is duly demanded. A poll may be demanded by the chair or by at least 10% of the members present in person or by proxy at the meeting.

12.6. EUPJ Financial Year

The EUPJ year shall, for subscription, accounting and membership purposes, be from the 1st January to the 31st December.

13. MEETINGS OF THE EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY

At its meetings the European Assembly, shall, in addition to any other business which it considers appropriate -

- 13.1. Consider a written report of the business of the Executive Board since the last meeting of the European Assembly.
- 13.2. Decide matters of policy referred to it by the Executive Board (or by any Constituent Member who has given 42 days' notice thereof to the Secretary) and give such directions as it thinks fit for the implementation of the policy by the Executive Board.
- 13.3. Discuss any matters referred to it by the WUPJ.
- 13.4. If the meeting be the first in the year, elect the Officers and consider and, if thought fit, approve the appointments of representatives to the Executive Board as provided for in Clause 6.
- 13.5. Consider and, if thought fit, approve the annual accounts of the EUPJ for the immediately preceding year.
- 13.6. Consider and, if thought fit, pass any resolution of which 28 days' notice in writing has been given which in the Chairman's opinion is proper for it to consider.
- 13.7. Approve or ratify the appointment of an independent and appropriately qualified person to carry out an examination of the annual accounts of the EUPJ for the immediately preceding year and/or the current year.
- 13.8. Ensure that the following procedural requirements are observed in the conduct of business at its meetings –
 - 13.8.1. Voting on a proposed resolution shall be by secret ballot where a Constituent Delegate has made a written request for such voting, received at the administrative office of EUPJ no later than 21 days prior to the meeting at which the resolution is to be proposed;
 - 13.8.2. 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 provided with the notice of the meeting) 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.

14. DISSOLUTION

Should the EUPJ be dissolved, any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any liabilities shall not be distributed amongst the Constituent Members but shall be given to such charitable organisation or organisations with objects similar to that of the EUPJ as the European Assembly may determine (subject to the approval of the English Charity Commission if that is required).

15. DECISIONS AND AMENDMENTS

- 15.1. Any decision as to the interpretation or meaning of this constitution shall be the responsibility of the European Assembly alone whose decision shall be final.
- 15.2. Adoption of this constitution shall be the responsibility of the European Assembly which shall also have the right to amend it (save that Clauses 2, 3 and 4 shall be

amended only with the approval of the WUPJ) by resolution carried by a majority of two-thirds of the Constituent Delegates present, provided that the wording of the proposed amendment and the reason for it shall have been sent out in the notice convening the meeting.

- 15.3. The Executive Board may from time to time make rules or bye-laws for the conduct of the business of the EUPJ. The bye-laws may regulate the following matters but are not restricted to them – (a) the Membership Criteria and the rights and privileges of organisations admitted to membership; (b) the entrance fees, subscriptions and other fees or payments to be made by members; (c) the conduct of members in relation to one another, and to the EUPJ's employees and volunteers; (d) the procedure at general meetings and other meetings in so far as such procedures are not regulated by this constitution; (e) the keeping and authenticating of records; and (f) generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of the rules of an unincorporated association.

The EUPJ shall, in general meeting, have the power to alter, add to or repeal the rules or bye-laws.

The Management Committee must adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring the rules and bye-laws to the notice of members.

The rules or bye-laws shall be binding on all members. No rule or bye-law shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in, this constitution

EUPJ Executive Board Prior to 2018 Assembly

NAME	SURNAME	ManCom	OFFICE	Elected	Retires(1)	Retires(2)
Gordon	Smith	Yes	President	2016	2019	2022
Miriam	Kramer	Yes	Chairman	2012	2015	2018
Stéphane	Beder	Yes	Vice Chairman	2012	2015	2018
Sonja	Guentner	Yes	Vice Chairman	2016	2019	2022
Michael	Reik	Yes	Vice Chairman	2016	2019	2022
David	Pollak	Yes	Treasurer	2012	2015	2018
John	Cohen	Yes	Secretary	2013	2016	2019
Leslie	Bergman	Yes	Hon Life President	2016	-	-
Ruth	Cohen		Hon Life President	2010	-	-
Jeffery	Rose		Hon Life President	2007	-	-
Alex	Dembitz		Vice President	2012	2015	2018
Deborah	Kahn-Harris		Vice President	2012	2015	2018
Walter	Homolka		Vice President	2012	2015	2018
Edward	van Voolen		Alternate for Rabbi Homolka	2012	2015	2018
Andrew	Goldstein	Yes	Vice President	2015	2018	2021
Ruven	Bar-Ephraim	Yes	Board - ERA	2017	2020	2023
Danny	Rich		Board - Liberal Judaism (UK)	2015	2018	2021
Robert	Weiner		Board - Reform Judaism (UK)	2017	2020	2023
Jackie	Tabick	Yes	Board - EBD	2017	2020	2023
John	Clark		Board - Austria	2017	2020	2023
Gilbert	Lederman		Board - Belgium	2017	2020	2023
Jonathan	Wootliff		Board - Czech Rep	2017	2020	2023
Tamas	Grof		Board - Hungary	2017	2020	2023
Joyce	Bigio		Board - Italy	2017	2020	2023
Alexander	Grodensky		Board - Luxembourg	2017	2020	2023
Celia	Naval		Board - France	2017	2020	2023
Marc	Konczaty		Board - France	2017	2020	2023
Arthur	Buchman		Board - Denmark	2017	2020	2023
Peter	Jossi		Board - PLJS	2017	2020	2023
David	Bernstein		Board - PLJS	2017	2020	2023
Ron	van der Wieken		Board - Verbond	2017	2020	2023
Hannah	Verhulst		Board - Verbond	2017	2020	2023

This is the EUPJ Executive Board before the implementation of the resolutions proposed at the 2018 EUPJ Assembly

EUPJ Executive Board After 2018 Assembly

NAME	SURNAME	ManCom	OFFICE	Elected	Retires 1	Retires 2	Retires 3
Gordon	Smith	Yes	President	2016	2018	2020	2022
Sonja	Guentner	Yes	Chairman	2018	2020	2022	2024
Michael	Reik	Yes	Vice-Chair Israel & Twinning	2016	2018	2020	2022
David	Pollak	Yes	Vice-Chair Finance	2018	2020	2022	2024
John	Cohen	Yes	Vice-Chair Corporate Gov	2018	2019	-	-
Leslie	Bergman	Yes	Hon Life President	2016	-	-	-
Ruth	Cohen		Hon Life President	2010	-	-	-
Jeffery	Rose		Hon Life President	2007	-	-	-
Deborah	Kahn-Harris		Leo Baeck College	2018	2020	2022	2024
Dan	Rattan		Board - Germany	2018	2020	2022	2024
Edward	van Voolen		Abraham Geiger College	2018	2020	2022	2024
Andrew	Goldstein	Yes	Vice President	2015	2017	2019	2021
René	Pfertzel	Yes	Board - ERA	2018	2020	2022	2024
Danny	Rich		Board - Liberal Judaism (UK)	2015	2017	2019	2021
Robert	Weiner		Board - Reform Judaism (UK)	2017	2019	2021	2023
Jackie	Tabick	Yes	Board - EBD	2017	2019	2021	2023
John	Clark		Board - Austria	2017	2019	2021	2023
Gilbert	Lederman		Board - Belgium	2017	2019	2021	2023
Jonathan	Wootliff		Board - Czech Rep	2017	2019	2021	2023
Tamas	Grof		Board - Hungary	2017	2019	2021	2023
Joyce	Bigio		Board - Italy	2018	2020	2022	2024
Alexander	Grodensky		Board - Luxembourg	2017	2019	2021	2023
Celia	Naval		Board - France	2017	2019	2021	2023
Marc	Konczaty		Board - France	2017	2019	2021	2023
Arthur	Buchman		Board - Denmark	2017	2019	2021	2023
Peter	Jossi		Board - Switzerland	2017	2019	2021	2023
David	Bernstein		Board - Switzerland	2017	2019	2021	2023
Ron	van der Wieken		Board - Netherlands	2018	2019	2021	2023
Hannah	Verhulst		Board - Netherlands	2018	2019	2021	2023
Marek	Jezowski		Board - Poland	2018	2020	2022	2024

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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
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