



LEO HEPNER AWARD

Leo Hepner, who died in 2015, was a major figure in European Progressive Judaism. Born in Germany and raised in a strictly orthodox family, Leo was fortunate to escape Nazism when he and his family came to England, arriving on September 3, 1939, the day Britain declared war on Germany. He continued with a traditional orthodox education but at some time in early adulthood was attracted to Liberal Judaism. The appeal, for a trained scientist who was taught to question and challenge, was a natural fit for Leo. He subsequently played a leading role in the EUPJ helping to establish emerging communities in continental Europe, particularly in Germany, Denmark and Spain. Leo was a past Chairman of the EUPJ and an active member of its Management Committee at the time of his death.

Leo was married to Regina who continues to take an active interest in European Progressive Judaism. Regina has proposed to fund the Leo Hepner Award to help perpetuate Leo's ideals. The prize would recognise Leo's passionate commitment to Liberal Judaism as manifested by his Jewish philosophy:

- questioning and seeking
- expansive and outreaching
- respectful of tradition where tradition contributes rather than diminishes
- honouring the tradition of Jewish study
- valuing a broad European Jewish culture
- uncompromising on matters of principle; pragmatic in execution
- forward-looking, learning from the past
- flexibility in accommodating well-thought out alternative and innovative approaches
- demanding of effort and result
- initiating and accepting change

AWARD DETAILS

The award will be in the form of funding to a maximum of €5,000 for a project lasting two years, commencing with its presentation at the EUPJ Biennial Conference and concluding at the following EUPJ conference. It is open to all congregations and other affiliated institutions of the EUPJ.

Applicants are asked to submit proposals for a project which will advance Progressive Judaism in Europe, which could be their own community or beyond, being mindful of Leo Hepner's Liberal Jewish philosophy described above. Examples of the types of projects are listed below; these are not limitations but suggestions:

- innovative education, for example through the use of technology
- increasing membership and activity level
- effective and productive use of scarce rabbinic and other resources
- spreading "the message" to the broader community
- youth leadership

APPLICATIONS

Please send applications in English to EUPJ at administrator@eupj.org by 31 January, 2020 in a PDF attachment, using the following format:

- a. Objectives of project
- b. Expected result and benefits – how will success be measured?
- c. Personnel and other resources to be used in project
- d. Leadership and management of project bearing in mind that Leo Hepner believed that strong leadership having personal responsibility is a requirement for successful project outcomes
- e. Governance including the process and to whom progress will be reported
- f. Outline budget

ADJUDICATION

Adjudication of the award will be by a committee convened by the Chair of the EUPJ. This committee will draw up a short list from which the winning project will be selected by Regina Hepner. The first award will be announced at the EUPJ Biennial Conference in Geneva April 30 to May 3, 2020.