

EUPJ ANNUAL REPORT 2020

EUROPEAN
UNION
FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



ANNUAL EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY MEETING
TUESDAY 31 AUGUST 2021
5 PM BST



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OFFICERS & STAFF AT DECEMBER 2020

Honorary Life Presidents:

President:

Vice-Presidents:

Chair:

Vice-Chair, Finance:

Vice-Chair, Finance:

Vice-Chair, Special Assignments:

Vice-Chair, Governance:

Vice-Chair, Education and Interfaith:

Vice-Chair, Organisational Development:

Convenor, European Beit Din:

Chair, European Rabbinic Assembly:

Board Members:

Leslie Bergman

Ruth Cohen

Gordon Smith

Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein

Miriam Kramer

Sonja Guentner

David Pollak (until 6 September 2020)

Paul Winter (co-opted from 1 May 2021)

David Pollak (retired 30 April 2021)

John Cohen

Rabbi Menno ten Brink

Robert Weiner

Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick

Rabbi Dr René Pfertzel

Stéphane Beder

David Bernstein

Joyce Bigio

Arthur Buchman

John Clark

Tamás Gróf

Anton Fishman

Marek Jezowski

Peter Jossi

Marc Konczaty

Gilbert Lederman

Sara Losch

Celia Naval

Sven Parsser

Rabbi Danny Rich

Rabbi Dr Edward van Voolen

David Weis

Jonathan Wootliff

WUPJ President:

WUPJ Chair:

Rabbi Sergio Bergman

Carole Sterling

Support:

Administrator:

Brussels Office Director:

Assistant to Brussels Office Director:

Communications Consultant:

Deborah Grabiner

William Echikson

Jesse Goldberg

Darryl Egnal

WUPJ'S MESSAGE

WORLD
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JUDAISM



האיגוד
העולמי
ליהדות
מתקדמת



The WUPJ is pleased to work collaboratively with the EUPJ in our shared mission which is to strengthen Reform, Progressive and Reconstructionist Judaism in Europe and in the world.

The EUPJ is the most complex region in its diversity of countries, languages and cultures as well as the one that offers us the greatest opportunities for development. The task that we continue to develop together and has priority is the formation of both volunteer and professional leaders, strengthening our rabbinical seminaries, and especially our youth as the future of our movement.



Connections 2021 last May brought us together with our extended family in the first virtual international convention and we have been migrating towards our value proposition that challenges us to develop a global virtual platform that connects and shares educational content, reformist ideological orientation and areas of exchange of good practices until we can all meet again personally soon in Jerusalem.

We cannot fail to mention that the year ends with a painful loss that fills us with sadness, the passing of Rabbi Richard (Dick) Hirsch z"l. His loss closes a historical cycle of the WUPJ and his work as a leader, master and builder remains an inspiration for all of us. The EUPJ together with the WUPJ are committed to continuing his legacy and honoring his blessed memory.

Rabbi Sergio Bergman
President

Carole Sterling
Chair

CHAIR'S REPORT

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Dear friends!

Most of us had to spend the largest part of the calendar year 2020 under strict lockdown conditions and all of our lives have been severely impacted by the manifold consequences of a pandemic raging across the globe. Beyond the practical implications of this unprecedented situation, many of us had to deal with illness and bereavement and very often with their longterm effects. It has been a particularly meaningful time, however, to have the privilege to work for a movement like ours, which connects people around a cause we all hold very dear.

In spite of the distressing circumstances, the EUPJ has managed to continue to be fully functional and I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to allowing us to continue to pursue our mission. They are our President, Gordon Smith, all members of our Management Committee, both lay and rabbinic, the representatives of all our member organisations and communities making up our Executive Board, the EUO Brussels and communications teams, our partners at ERA, the EBD and now the CEBD, and of course our fabulous administrator, Deborah Grabiner.

With all travel and in person meetings suspended for most of the year, the EUPJ turned to digital formats and we were able to not only maintain all our regular meeting schedules but in fact considerably expand both on meeting frequency and topics covered. To all participants a very warm thank you for your time and commitment.

It was uplifting and inspiring to see the incredible efforts and creativity of our member organisations and communities in ensuring that services and other activities continued online or were transformed into new formats. Due to the increased use of digital platforms, many have even been able to reach out to people who for whatever reasons were unable to attend in person meetings before the pandemic but have seen their lives greatly enriched by the possibility of online participation.

The EUPJ was able to support a large number of such activities by grants from the Roswell Fund and the Management Committee decided at an early stage to also make unrestricted funds available to assist communities who do not qualify for Roswell grants. We have continued to do so in 2021 and are aiming to keep this option open for as long as there may be a need.

The planning for our 2020 Biennial had been completed to a very advanced stage by the time we had to take the hard decision to cancel the event altogether. This led to the establishment

of the Next Generation Leadership Fund, which was created from registration fees donated after the cancellation of the conference and will be used to make good on our commitment to proactively support the formation of the leaders who will take our organisation into the future.

At this stage, planning has begun for a conference in 2022 and we have already realised that it will be impossible for us to return to any traditional biennial format in the short-term. I cordially invite all readers of these pages to reach out and join the task force and/or share any ideas and suggestions.

The EUO Office in Brussels and our projects there have naturally also been affected by the pandemic, but activities have overall been extended as evidenced by the separate report included in this Annual Report.

We have come to understand that with its degree of visibility and the scope of activities this highly relevant project has now outgrown its infancy and the time has come to move to the next phase with clear definitions of its objectives and the relationship between all EUPJ UK-based and Continental activities.

This question forms part of our ongoing constitutional review, as does a topic which has become relevant in many countries with Progressive representation across the WUPJ, not just EUPJ, namely our relationship with other Jewish denominations and religious organisations, such as e.g. the Reconstructionist movement. This conversation is being led by WUPJ President Rabbi Sergio Bergman and in cooperation with all rabbinic bodies of the EUPJ and across the Progressive world.

It is a great joy to report that the recognition of the Progressive movement by governments across Europe has made considerable progress in 2020, most significantly in Hungary. The conversation has intensified and continues in other countries such as Belgium and Italy.

A new communications initiative was agreed by the Management Committee and began in June 2020. Its projects have so far included an extensive update of as well as new features and pages being added to our website, the introduction of our new Facebook and YouTube channels and a number of other improvements. Most importantly, MailChimp is now used to circulate emails to our members. 21 campaigns were sent since the last European Assembly and while our average open rate of 57,2% is very favourable compared to the 39,2% industry standard, we continue to work on expanding our database and invite all our members to assist us with this effort.

The partnership and excellent cooperation between EUPJ and WUPJ have continued and grown throughout 2020 and we are deeply grateful to both WUPJ's Chair, Carole Sterling, and the new WUPJ President, Rabbi Sergio Bergman, for their inspired leadership of our movement.



Sonja Guentner
EUPJ Chair

FINANCE REPORT

Provided below are tables and pie charts reflecting the income and expenditure of the EUPJ for 2020 and comparative figures for 2019. The final table reflects our Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020. A summary of the main events that contributed to the annual results is provided on the final page.

EUPJ Income and Expenditure 2020

All £

<u>Income</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Affiliation Fees	62,970	59,612
All Donations	10,000	70,854
Other Income	627	1,818
Conference/Kallah Income	31,756	-
Roswell Fund	43,807	38,455
Rabbinic Training Fund (RTF)	23,217	25,812
European Beth Din (EBD)	5,656	9,605
TOTAL	178,033	206,156

EUPJ Income and Expenditure 2020

All £

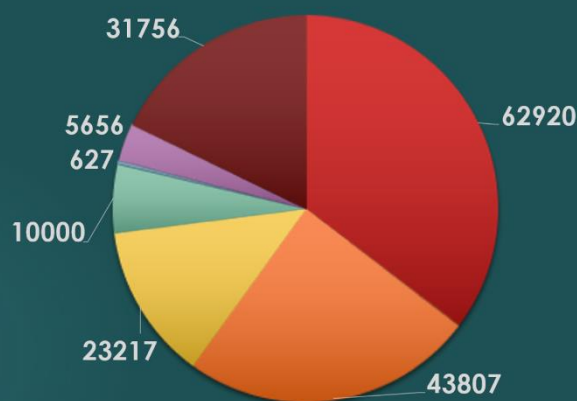
<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Administration	30,366	40,761
Conference & Shabbaton	24,664	14,414
EUO and Other Payments	11,334	3,977
Loss on Exchange	2,449	2,911
Roswell Fund	40,596	33,141
Rabbinic Training Fund (RTF)	23,217	25,812
Donations	11,892	72,620
European Beth Din (EBD)	4,430	9,406
TOTAL	148,948	203,042

EUPJ Income and Expenditure 2020

► All £

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
► Income	178,033	206,156
► Expenditure	148,948	203,042
► Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>29,085</u>	<u>3,114</u>

EUPJ Income 2020



■ Affiliations Fees ■ Roswell ■ RTF ■ Donations ■ Other Income ■ EBD ■ Coference/Kallah

EUPJ Balance Sheet 2020

Assets

Debtors	32,171
Cash	<u>385,315</u>

417,486

Liabilities

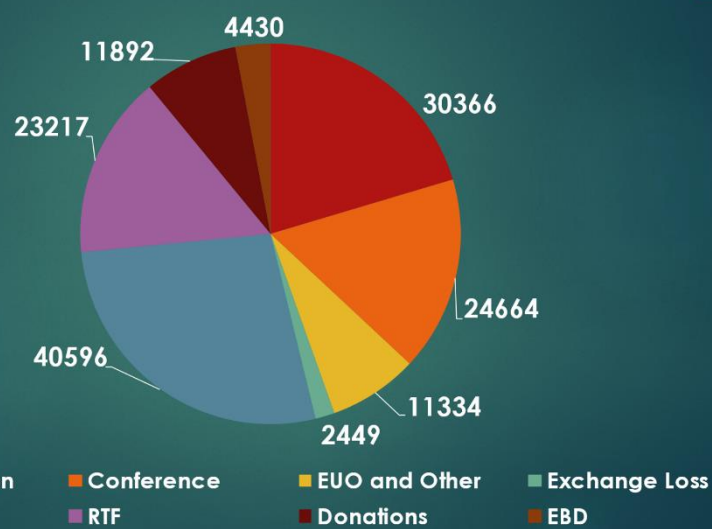
Creditors	179,800
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Funds

Unrestricted	165,395
Restricted	<u>72,291</u>

417,486

EUPJ Expenditure 2020



FINANCIAL REPORT - NARRATIVE

1. Affiliation fees for the year totalled £86.2K which was £700 more than in 2019.
2. Donations in 2020 were £10K of which £8.8k were designated. We also received significant donations from donors in Switzerland towards the funding of Next Generation delegates to the EUPJ Biennial in Geneva, planned for April 2021. Regrettably, the conference was cancelled. From the registration fees paid towards the conference, a further £15K was donated to a newly created Next Generation Leadership Development Fund in place of refunds.
3. The Rabbinic Training Fund received income totalling £23.2K which included a transfer of £5.2K from Restricted Reserves and £18K from Affiliation Fees.
4. The European Beit Din made a small surplus of £1.2K on total income of £4.4K which was £4K lower than the previous year, largely due to the limitations on Batei Din caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic.
5. Administration expenses recorded a reduction of £10.3K against the previous year. Having invested in the development of IT and the EUPJ website in previous years, further development was disrupted by the Pandemic.
6. A surplus of £7K was achieved under Conference and Shabbaton. Provisions from the previous year were not required following the cancellation of the EUPJ Biennial which resulted in a surplus being recorded.
7. The Brussels office incurred expenditure of £11K. The office has won grants which currently exceed €100K for projects including “Networks Overcoming Antisemitism” and “Training Progressive Leaders”.
8. The manner in which funds are transferred from the Roswell Fund to the EUPJ was changed in 2020. There was a one-off transfer of 7.5% of the Fund value totalling £45K and instead of reimbursing grant expenditure in arrears, the income from the Fund is now transferred half-yearly. The result was that cash reserves increased from £261K in 2019 to £385K in 2020, almost wholly accounted for by Roswell Fund receipts.
9. There was a £2.4K loss on exchange, down from £2.9K in the previous year.

A copy of the certified accounts can be viewed [here](#).

For more information, please contact Paul Winter

Email: Treasurer@eupj.org

EUPJ BRUSSELS PROJECTS

The EUPJ Brussels office achieved a series of significant successes, both in fundraising and in the promotion of Progressive Judaism in the European Union.

We have won grants from the European Commission (EC), the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), the Rothschild Foundation and the NLPS (Supporting Baalei Tefillah Europe). These allow us to participate in and run a series of important programmes:

- **Baalei Tefillah Europe:**

Participants from communities across the continent are receiving a year of online training – and will participate in an in-person gathering in Brussels in December 2021. The programme teaches how to run religious services in the absence of a rabbi. Baalei Tefillah Europe's monthly Shabbatot are attracting record audiences across the continent. Read more details [here](#) about this programme.

You can check out a snippet from the first class [here](#).



- **Know Your Neighbour:**

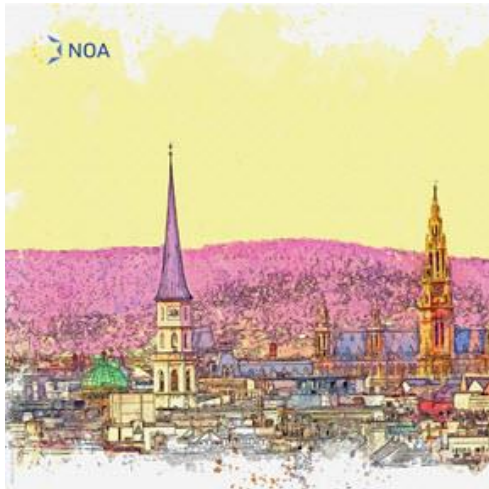
The programme, which was developed in Amsterdam, brings schoolchildren into our synagogues. The programme is being exported to Brussels. Our long-term plan is to spread it throughout the continent. In June 2021, we assembled 10 EUPJ communities to bid for European Commission funding. For more details please click [here](#).



Jewish, Muslim and Christian students visit the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in Amsterdam

- **Networks Overcoming Antisemitism (NOA):**

We continued work with five other Jewish organisations on this European Commission-funded project. The project promotes many EUPJ activities. Look [here](#) for examples. NOA runs until the end of 2022.



Austria's Surprising Turnaround
(For the full story click [here](#))

- **Webinars:**

We started monthly webinars in September 2020 around issues ranging from the growth of Progressive Judaism in Germany to the preservation of Jewish Heritage and more. These are posted [here](#) on the EUPJ YouTube page and written up [here](#) in the Times of Israel. They have also been uploaded to the [EUPJ website](#).

Most important, we have engaged in a vigorous effort to encourage the European Commission to call on EU governments to end their discrimination against Progressive Judaism. In June, 2020, nine major Jewish organisations endorsed our demand for the European Commission to “ensure that Jewish Europeans who adhere to representative denominations, which enjoy a historic past and legitimacy, do not suffer discriminatory effects in terms of recognition, security or funding”.

[Click here to read the document explaining these recommendations.](#)

For more information, please contact Bill Echikson

Email: bill.echikson@eupj.org

EUROPEAN RABBINIC ASSEMBLY (ERA)



איגוד רבני אירופה
EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly

Like any other organisation in the rest of the world, the EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly (ERA) has faced unprecedented challenges during the pandemic.

Our first aim was to offer support to our colleagues in need. In that respect, we have held weekly online meetings to catch up and to do some Torah study.

Following the postponement of the EUPJ Geneva Kallah in 2020, we decided to hold our annual Kallah online in January 2021. In the past, Rabbis were invited to attend a Rabbinic Kallah right after the EUPJ Conference.

By the end of 2020, ERA reached a membership of 150 Rabbis. Both UK Rabbinic bodies have joined the European Rabbinic Assembly. Rabbis elsewhere in Europe have also joined. We now have an ERA Google group which enables fast communication.

ERA works closely with the European Beit Din. Its convenor, Rabbi Jackie Tabick, and its President, Rabbi Andrew Goldstein, who are now *ex officio* members of the ERA board.

ERA and the EBD have assisted in creation of the Central European Beit Din, which operates in four central European countries: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

In cooperation with FIEP (the Italian movement for Progressive Judaism) and the EBD, we have established a list of accepted Rabbis in Italy to clarify the situation concerning Progressive conversions.

We have strengthened our cooperation with the WUPJ, MARAM and the CCAR by holding regular meetings with senior members of these bodies. Today's challenges are global, and only a global answer will help address them.

We have started an ongoing rabbinic education programme which allows Rabbis from all over Europe to study together.

For more information, please contact contact@eupj-ra.eu
Website: <http://www.eupj-ra.eu/>

During the year ending 31st December 2020, 6 courts were convened of which 5 were held online.

The numbers of cases has declined a little this year as in some countries, especially in Eastern Europe, people have made decisions to wait until in person courts can take place. We have continued to see candidates, mostly from Spain, Portugal and Italy in Zoom courts that have been held in accordance with advice given us from IRAC. The courts have been recorded, provisional certificates presented to the candidates and then, as Tefillah has taken place, we have been issuing special certificates noting the delayed mikveh. Getting these certificates signed has been something of a nightmare as the judges have often resided in three different countries and the postal services have not been that reliable, but we are gradually coping with the backlog.

It has been my pleasure to help with the setting up of the court for Central Europe. I wish them mazel tov and will be there as a resource for them the first year of their operations.

	2020	2019		2020	2019
No. of Proselytes accepted (including minors)	28	39	No. of males	18	19
Brussels	1	0	No. of females	10	20
Italy	11	33	Ages 16-18	0	1
Poland	3	0	Ages 19-40	9	8
Prague	0	1	Ages 41-60	8	17
Portugal	1	1	Ages 61-80	3	4
Serbia	3	0	Ages 81+	0	1
Slovakia	1	1	Age unknown	0	8
Slovenia	0	1			
Spain	10	3			
Sweden	0	0			
Switzerland	1	1			

I would like to express my thanks to Lynsey and the RJ IT department who have had to cope with all the extra strains and difficulties of organising a Zoom court, the rabbis who have helped so much by volunteering to sit on these courts, David Pollak who has helped organise the financials and my friend and colleague, Rabbi Andrew Goldstein who has always been available to help with advice and practicalities. I could not have done this sacred work without them.

For more information, please contact Rabbi Jackie Tabick
Email: rabbijackie@rjuk.org

CENTRAL EUROPEAN BEIT DIN (CEBD)

The creation of the Central European Beit Din was announced by the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) and the EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly (ERA) on 1 January 2021.

The CEBD was established as the only Progressive Beit Din for the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia and has already been accepted by all local Jewish federations in these four countries.

The founding rabbis of the CEBD are Misha Kapustin, David Maxa, Thomas Salamon, Anita Kantor, Tom Kučera and Stas Wojciechowicz, assisted by Rabbis Andrew Goldstein and Jackie Tabick (EBD) and René Pfertzel (ERA). Rabbi David Maxa was appointed the Convenor of this Beit Din. Daniel Rux will serve as its Administrator.

The rabbinic members of the CEBD are currently working on establishing clear rules for Batei Din, setting up a set of standards valid for all countries involved and preparing all the documents, which will be used. This process is supervised by Rabbi Jackie Tabick, who is serving as the honorary convenor during the first year, mentoring and supporting the CEBD.

The CEBD is being established as a Czech legal entity, the registration by the local authorities and commercial register is in process.

The mission of the CEBD is to support the development of Progressive Judaism in Central Europe by facilitating gyyurim and status recognitions and, when needed, religious divorces as well as providing rabbinic responses for Jewish communities.

Despite our intentions to hold the first meeting in spring 2021, the epidemiological situation did not allow it. Therefore, we had to postpone it and will do it tentatively in autumn 2021.

We hope to be a good partner for other Progressive Batei Din in Europe and worldwide and we would like to extend our deep appreciation to everyone who has been involved in the process of the creation of the CEBD, particularly to the EUPJ.

For more information, please contact Rabbi David Maxa.

Email: david.maxa@ecchajim.cz

2020 was an arduous year for our institution.

We are very grateful to our supporters - the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs, the State of Brandenburg and the Central Council of Jews in Germany - for the institutional funding that enabled us to fulfil our task despite the pandemic. - A big Thank You goes to the EUPJ and the WRJ for their support and the scholarships for our students. The Abraham Geiger College mastered the transition to the online period from the summer semester 2020 without any problems. All events, including the services, took place as web conferences, and internships were conducted online. Students connected from Sao Paulo in Brazil to Tomsk in Siberia.

This year's Abraham Geiger Prize went to the director of the Oberammergau Passion Play, Christian Stückl. Stückl has renewed this most famous Passion Play in the world: away from Christian hatred of Jews towards a balanced portrayal of inner-Jewish conflicts.

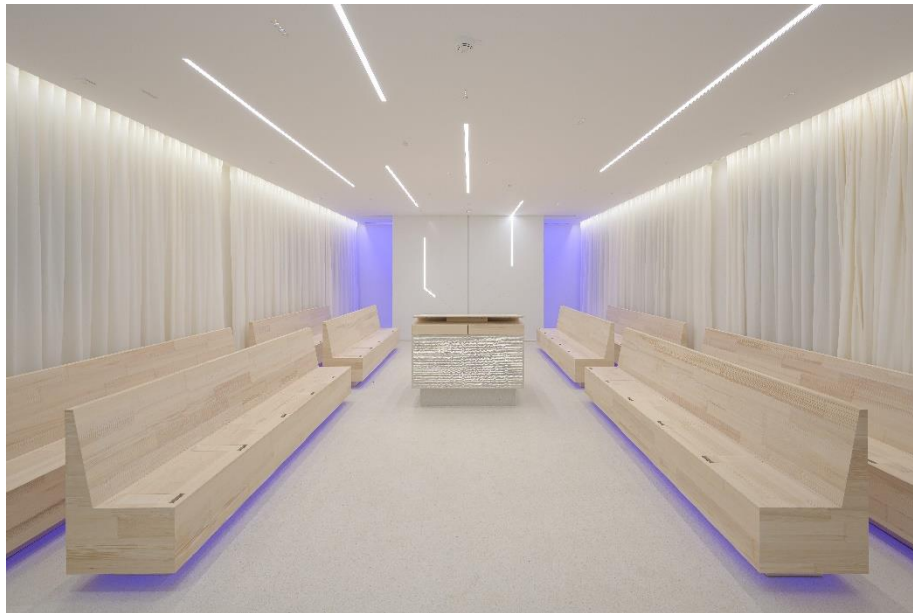
On 10 September, we celebrated the ordination of five rabbis and the investiture of a cantor in an impressive ceremony at the Rykestraße Synagogue in Berlin. The four men and two women now serve in congregations in Czech Republic, in Hungary, in Kiel and Pinneberg, in Hanover and Göttingen, in Stockholm and at the Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk in Berlin. 300 guests celebrated with us, another 6,000 were present worldwide via livestream. With 41 alumni, the AGK is actively involved in shaping European Jewish communities.



Ordination and Investiture at the Rykestrasse Synagoge in Berlin, September 2020

©Tobias Barniske

The relocation to the Royal Court Gardener's House on the campus of the University of Potsdam took place in March 2021. The three-part ensemble includes the premises of the School of Jewish Theology, the Abraham Geiger College and the Zacharias Frankel College, as well as a synagogue that will seat around 40 people. For the first time in continental Europe, rabbinic and cantorial education is on a par with Christian theologies at university level. In recent years, we have developed a successful relationship with the Institute for Modern Judaism in Moscow. It enables us to train rabbis for communities in Russia, Ukraine or Belarus in collaboration with the WUPJ. In 2019, we have begun to strengthen our relationship with the Hungarian National Rabbinical Seminary OR-ZSE in Budapest, founded in 1877.



The Synagogue of the Abraham Geiger College

© Maro Niemann



School of Jewish Theology at the University of Potsdam and Abraham Geiger College

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For further information, please see our [Results 2020 brochure](#).

RABBINIC COLLEGES



Some of the year's highlights include:

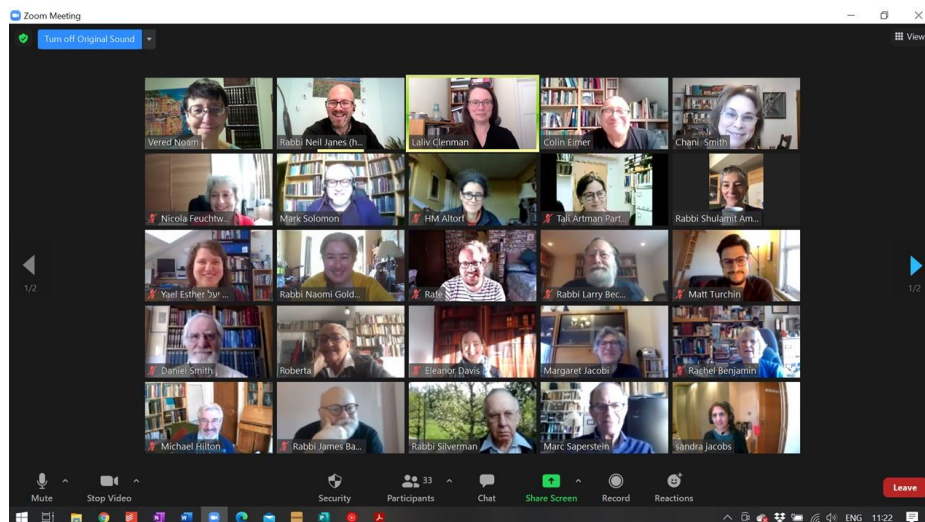
- In July, Rabbi Deborah Blausten, Rabbi Dr Elliott Karstadt, Rabbi Mati Kirschenbaum and Rabbi Anna Posner were ordained at the West London Synagogue. Because of the pandemic there was no congregation, and the ceremony was led by Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris; semikhah was done within social distancing guidelines. Although far from its usual scale the four new rabbis were moved and uplifted by the ceremony and their unique ordination.
- In late March, as the UK government called on the country to lockdown due to the Covid pandemic, LBC closed down at the Sternberg Centre and transferred all its activities online. Classes, meetings, services and more have all taken place through the medium of Zoom and continued to do so through the end of 2020 and into 2021. Our faculty and our students rose magnificently to this challenge. Among many other positives, Zoom enabled us to offer access to our daily Shacharit services to members of both movements' synagogues and to the newly bereaved.
- Our institutional and academic revalidation was postponed from this year to next due to the pandemic, but it will go ahead in autumn 2021. In addition to the revalidation of our current provision, we will also be putting forward a new MA in Hebrew and Jewish Studies for those who wish to study the subject area outside the rabbinic programme.
- The fifth unit of the Eizeh Kef Hebrew programme, entitled synagogue, was launched on-line in February together with a whole range of on-line interactive games to supplement the programme. Dr Jo-Ann Myers worked with Jewish Interactive to make Eizeh Kef more compatible with 21st digital age learners. Eizeh Kef is now used in over 20 communities in the UK and internationally.
- Three students graduated with an MA in Jewish Educational Leadership. They are: Frankie Gruzd (UK), Adela Kobic (UK) and Oren Giorno (JEM, Paris). A face-to-face graduation ceremony is planned for October/November 2021.
- The College's Adult Learning Programme, the Lehrhaus attracted 380 participants on its on-line courses, a record number. Students hailed from the UK, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Australia.
- Our beit midrash opened up online this past academic year for two extremely well-received special seminar series, welcoming LBC Alumni who are serving in congregational roles across Europe and the UK and beyond. Participants thoroughly enjoyed studying with LBC faculty and students in sessions run by outstanding international scholars. Rabbis, cantors, faculty and students together formed a dynamic and engaged learning community that promises to grow and develop. These very popular seminar series featured Prof. Amy-Jill Levine, Emeritus Prof. Philp Alexander, Dr. Alon Goshen-Gottstein, Emeritus Prof.

Steffan Reif and Prof. Vered Noam amongst others. LBC faculty also lead our alumni in chevruta study, allowing congregational rabbis to benefit from in-depth study guided by experts.

- We have had three applications for the rabbinic programme and look forward to interviewing them in March 2021.
- We still have three French students on our rabbinic programme, two to be ordained in 2021 and one in 2022.



The class of 2021: Rabbi Dr Elliott Karstadt, Rabbi Anna Posner, Rabbi Deborah Blausten, Rabbi Mati Kirschenbaum



Screen shot of online Beit Midrash: faculty, students and alumni

For more information, please contact: info@lbc.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)20 8349 5600

Website: www.lbc.ac.uk

It was an unusual year. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, all work, meetings and classes took place at home via Zoom. Physical meetings were impossible after mid-March.

Since the beginning of 2020 we have a new rabbinical student studying at our Institute: Asjer Waterman. Annette Boeckler has been our student for a while longer.

They take some classes together, others separately, because their studies are not synchronous. All classes are taught digitally because of Covid-19.

The Institute started a new Shaliach Tzibbur course at the end of 2020, with 14 participants. It consists of eight study weekends between 2020 and 2022.

The main teachers are Josée Wolff and Avery Tracht, both former chazzanim of Liberal Jewish Congregations in The Netherlands and both living in New York City.

The first study weekend was planned for October, but Covid-19 made it impossible to meet physically. In order to be able to start the course, it was decided to begin with digital weekends. The 3rd digital weekend was in May 2021. We hope to meet completely in person in the next weekend in October 2021.

The annual David Lilienthal Lecture and opening of the new academic year was held on Sunday 1 November. Because of the digital nature of the meeting, more people (147) than usual had signed up. Eventually 87 participants attended. At the beginning of the evening a short introductory video about the Institute was shown. This video can now be watched (in Dutch) on the home page of the Levisson website.

Guestspeaker was philosopher dr. Yoram Stein. He spoke about *Dealing with Uncertainty and what we can learn about it from Spinoza*.



The *Gabbay Guide (Madrish Hagabbay)* is the first publication by the Levisson Institute. It came out in March 2020. It is the first gabbay guide published in The Netherlands and is intended for Progressive Jewish congregations. It is a manual for the gabbay, but also for everyone who is interested in the subject. It describes the proceedings during shul services, especially the Torah service and the duties of the gabbay. The first part describes background, regulations and customs, the second part contains the Hebrew texts that are used for calling people to the Torah, special b'rachot, and misheberachs. Many of these texts can also be found in the siddur and machzor, but this Dutch gabbay guide expands many texts with variations and also adds new ones, and has adaptations to modern society.

Together with the Management Team, Board of the Levisson Institute, the Academic Committee and the Vocational Committee, we work to train rabbis, chazanim (shlichei tzibbur), teachers, gabbaim, ba'alei koreh, ba'alei tefillah, etc. for the continuation of our Progressive Jewish Movement in The Netherlands.

Please visit the Levisson Institute on: www.levisson.nl/en/.

TRIBUTE ELIZABETH ROSWELL

Elizabeth Blaustein Roswell



Elizabeth Blaustein Roswell, 90, of Bridgewater, NJ passed away on December 30, 2020, at her home at Laurel Circle. She was born on August 3, 1930, in Baltimore, MD.

After attending The Park School of Baltimore, she graduated with a music degree from Connecticut College with a major in piano. Betty earned a Master's degree in Music Education from the Peabody School of Music and later a Master's in Social Work from Rutgers University.

In 1956, she married Arthur Roswell. They completed each other: partners in raising three children, philanthropic endeavours, and a lifetime of laughter.

Betty loved her work as a social worker with Jewish Family Service of Southern Middlesex County. She used her decades-long JFS experience to help found JFS of Somerset County and served as its first President. In both roles, aided by her self-deprecating wit and warm, conspiratorial questions, Betty gave her clients courage and grounded advice to face personal challenges.

Betty's passion for Jewish life and community engagement animated her decades of philanthropy and service. She held board roles at Temple Beth El, the World Union for Progressive Judaism, Hebrew Union College, and The Jacob Blaustein Institute for Human Rights at the American Jewish Committee.

Betty treasured connection and maintained deep lifelong friendships that spanned cultures and continents. Her joy of life was evidenced by her exuberant smile, her infectious laugh, her teasing wit, and her never-ending curiosity.

Betty is survived by her husband, Arthur Roswell; son Robert Roswell and wife Barbara; daughter Marjorie Roswell; daughter Judith Weinstein and husband Kenneth Weinstein; and grandchildren Michael, David, Ari, Naomi, Evan, and Noah.

May her memory be for a blessing.

NEW COMMUNITY PROFILE EC CHAIM WARSAW



The Ec Chaim Synagogue and Centre for Progressive Judaism is a community established in 2010 and is situated in Warsaw city centre. It is formally a part of the Jewish Community of Warsaw.

- A small, vibrant community, welcoming people of all backgrounds with over 100 members, mostly young adults and families with children
- Rabbi Stas Wojciechowicz, an HUC Jerusalem alumni, class of 2006, has served the community since 2010
- Polish, English, Hebrew and Russian are spoken in the community
- The synagogue can host up to 100 worshippers
- Synagogue operated non-stop throughout the pandemic, with online prayers and Zoom classes during lockdown and in-person shacharit prayers since May 2020 (with COVID restrictions)
- The community annually hosts large seders for Rosh Hashannah and Pesach for 150 people at a hotel
- Annual Shabbaton retreat for members and families
- Proud of our Musical Shabbat project – a collaboration with the Abraham Geiger College and the Roots of Reform Judaism foundation, with 13 editions to date
- Printed our first Ec Chaim Siddur in February 2021

For more information, please contact Rabbi Stas Wojciechowicz
Email: s.wojciechowicz@jewish.waw.pl



Three Sifrei Torah, Ec Chaim



Kol Nidre Service, Ec Chaim

NEW COMMUNITY PROFILE EC CHAJIM PRAHA



We are incredibly happy to convey that the last 18 months represented a true turning point in the development of Ec chajim as a fully-fledged Progressive Jewish Community in Prague. Despite all challenges posed by the pandemic, we are proud to say that we faced them with flexibility and invention. During the first lockdown in March 2020, we switched all our activities to online and started to offer regular services, educational courses and lectures via Zoom or Facebook. However, whenever it was safe, we organised in-person events, indoors or outdoors. Our virtual and in-person events attracted a huge number of Jews of all generations, especially families with children, who are the backbone of our future development.

Our main activities were regular Shabbat services, Parashat Ha'Shavua study and online Havdallah services for children with our rabbi. In addition to this, he provided pastoral care, Bar and Bat Mitzvah education, mentorship for Giyur candidates and officiated at various life cycle events. We offer an excellent course of introduction to Judaism, which is meant for giyur candidates as well as wider public interested in Judaism, and special activities for children.

During the last year, we experienced three highlights in our development.

- The rabbinic ordination ceremony of our Rabbi David Maxa and three other graduates from the rabbinic programme at the Abraham Geiger College which took place at the Synagogue Rykestraße in Berlin on 10 September 2020.
-
- In September 2020, we opened our synagogue, which is located in the city centre and consists of a vestibule, a special room for children, a small kitchen, a rabbinic office, a classroom as well as a prayer room, which has just been furnished.
-
- On 21 March 2021, Ec chajim was accepted as a constituent member of the EUPJ. We are immensely proud to become a part of Progressive Jewish family!
-

In the course of the year, we have developed truly outstanding public relations. We regularly host interfaith dialogue events in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and various religious organisations. We are an official partner of Charles University in Prague fighting antisemitism and xenophobia. In August 2020, our synagogue was visited by Mrs Christine Lambrecht, Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany. Moreover, we regularly appear in both national and local newspapers.

We managed to develop an independent security department called Bitachon Ec chajim, which is responsible for the security of those present in the synagogue. In this area, we cooperate with the Police of the Czech Republic as well as the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic.

We are immensely humbled and honoured that the premises of our synagogue were chosen as the administrative centre of the Central European Beit Din, which serves as the Progressive Rabbinic court for the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. We hope that we will, together with our partners, other members of the EUPJ, contribute to the revival of Progressive Judaism in Central Europe.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our sponsors, without whose generous support none of the above-mentioned achievements would have been possible. Last but not least, we would like to acknowledge the tremendous support we received from the EUPJ and the WUPJ. We are particularly indebted to Sonja Guentner, EUPJ's Chair, for her leadership and guidance.



Ec Chajim, Praha

For more information, please contact Rabbi David Maxa
Email: david.maxa@ecchajim.cz

Austria

Jewish Liberal Congregation - Or Chadasch Vienna and Austria

Belgium

Communauté Israélite Libérale de Belgique (Beth Hillel)

IJC Brussels

Czech Republic

Bejt Simcha

Ec chajim Praha

ZLU – Hatikva

Denmark

Shir Hatzafon

France

Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral (AJL)

Alliance pour un Judaïsme Traditionnel et Moderne (AJTM)

Association des juifs libéraux de Toulouse (AJLT)

Communauté Juive Libérale Dauphine à Grenoble

Communauté Juive Libérale de Montpellier

Kehilat Gesher - Communauté Juive Franco-Anglophone de Paris

Kehilat Kedem - Synagogue Libérale de Montpellier

Keren Or, la Synagogue Libérale de Lyon

La Communauté Juive Libérale - Île de France

Le Mouvement Juif Libéral de France (MJLF)

Maison du Judaïsme Libérale à Toulouse

Union Juive Libérale de Strasbourg

Union Libérale Israélite de France (ULIF)

Germany

Union Progressiver Juden in Deutschland (UpJ) K.d.ö.R.

Egalitäre Jüdische Chawurah Gescher Freiburg

Jüdische Gemeinde – Ahrensburg – Stormarn

Jüdische Gemeinde – Bad Pyrmont

Jüdische Gemeinde – Bad Segeberg

Jüdische Gemeinde – Celle

Jüdische Gemeinde – Elmshorn

Jüdische Gemeinde – Göttingen

Jüdische Gemeinde HaKochaw - Unna

Jüdische Gemeinde – Hameln

Jüdische Gemeinde – Kiel

Jüdische Gemeinde zu Magdeburg

Jüdische Gemeinde – Pinneberg
Jüdische Gemeinde – Seesen
Jüdische Kultusgemeinde Bielefeld Beit Tikwa
Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Emet weSchalom Kassel
Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Köln Gescher La Massoret
Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Mischkan ha-tfila – Bamberg
Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde – Hamburg
Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Beth Shalom München
Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Hannover Etz Chajm
Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Ruhrgebiet Perusch
Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Wolfsburg-Braunschweig
Menorah – Jüdische Gemeinde zu Bremerhaven
Reformsynagoge der Jüdischen Gemeinde Hamburg
Synagogengemeinde Sukkat Schalom Berlin
Unabhängige Synagogengemeinde Berlin Bet Haskala

Hungary

Bet Orim Reform Jewish Congregation
Szim Salom Congregation

Italy

Federazione Italiana per l'Ebraismo Progressivo (FIEP)

Beth Hillel, Roma
Beth Shalom, Milan
Lev Chadash, Milan
Or'Ammim, Emilia Romagna
Shir Hadash, Firenze

Luxembourg

Communauté Israélite d'Esch-sur-Alzette

Netherlands

Beit Ha'Chidush

Nederlands Verbond voor Progressief Jodendom (NVPJ)

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

Poland

Ec Chaim Synagogue and Centre for Progressive Judaism of the Jewish Community of Warsaw
Or Hadasz – Association of Progressive Jews in Krakow

Beit Polska – The Union of Progressive Jewish Communities in Poland

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

Portugal

Assoc.J.I.Hehaver (Ohel Yaakov)

Republic of Ireland

Dublin Jewish Progressive Congregation

Spain

Comunidad Judía Bet Januká de Andalucía

Comunidad Judía Bnei Israel de Galicia

Comunitat Jueva Bet Shalom

Jewish Community of Valencia Bnei Sefarad

Jewish Congregation Beit Rambam of Andalusia

Reform Jewish Community of Madrid

Sweden

Progressive Judaism in Stockholm

Switzerland

[Platform of Liberal Jews of Switzerland \(PLJS\)](#)

Communauté Juive Libérale de Genève (GIL)

Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Or Chadash Zürich

Migwan - Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Basel

United Kingdom Independent Synagogues

Belsize Square Synagogue

Westminster Synagogue

[United Kingdom - Liberal Judaism](#)

Bedfordshire Progressive Synagogue

Beit Klal Yisrael

Birmingham Progressive Synagogue

Brighton & Hove Progressive Synagogue

Bristol & West Progressive Jewish Congregation

Crawley Jewish Community

Crouch End Chavurah

Ealing Liberal Synagogue

East London & Essex Liberal Synagogue

Eastbourne Progressive Jewish Congregation

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Finchley Progressive Synagogue

Kehillah North London

Kent Liberal Jewish Community

Kingston Liberal Synagogue

Leicester Progressive Jewish Congregation

Lincolnshire Jewish Community

Manchester Liberal Jewish Community

Mosaic Liberal Synagogue (Harrow)

Norwich Liberal Jewish Community

Nottingham Progressive Jewish Congregation

Oxford Jewish Congregation

Peterborough Liberal Jewish Community

Reading Liberal Jewish Community

South Bucks Liberal Jewish Community

Southgate Progressive Synagogue

South London Liberal Synagogue (Streatham)

Stevenage Liberal Synagogue

Suffolk Liberal Jewish Community
The Ark Synagogue (formerly Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue)
The Liberal Jewish Synagogue (St John's Wood)
The Liberal Synagogue Elstree
Three Counties Liberal Jewish Community (Gloucestershire and Herefordshire)
Wessex Liberal Jewish Community
West Central Liberal Synagogue
York Liberal Jewish Community

United Kingdom - Reform Judaism

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

Tivah Chadasha, Shenfield & Brentwood
Totnes Reform Jewish Group
The Wimbledon Synagogue
West London Synagogue



NOTICE & AGENDA FOR EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY

Registered Charity No 253000

EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

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

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the **Annual General Meeting of the European Assembly of the European Union for Progressive Judaism** ("EUPJ") will be held on Tuesday 31 August 2021 at 5pm (BST). This meeting will be held electronically via Zoom – See full note at end of Notice.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome, Opening Prayer and Apologies** for absence.
2. **The Minutes (a copy of which accompanies this Notice) of the last Annual General Meeting of the European Assembly** held via Zoom on 6 September 2020.
3. **Welcome** and brief presentation on the World Union for Progressive Judaism by **Carole Sterling**, the Chair of the WUPJ.
4. Presentation and consideration of the **Chair's Report for 2020 by the Chair Sonja Guentner**, on the past year's activity of the Management Committee and Executive Board. (The full Chair's Report will be included with all the other reports in the 2020 Annual Report, which will be made available on the EUPJ website before this meeting). Some brief supplementary comments will be presented by the Chair under this agenda item.
5. Consideration and approval of **the examined Annual Accounts of the EUPJ for 2020** (the Accounts). The Accounts will be available for inspection on the EUPJ website by no later than 16 August 2021. The Treasurer's Report to be presented at the Meeting, together with a brief financial summary, will be included in the 2020 Annual Report.
6. **Resolution to ratify the appointment of the Examiner of the 2020 Accounts and to appoint the Examiner of the 2021 Accounts:** "Resolved that the appointment of the accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP to perform an examination of the 2020 annual accounts of the EUPJ, be ratified and that the appointment of Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP to perform an examination of the 2021 annual accounts for the EUPJ, be approved."

7. **Resolution to ratify the admission of Ec Chajim Praha**, known as **Ec Chajim** and based in Prague, Czech Republic as a **Constituent Member of the EUPJ** by the EUPJ Executive Board on 21 March 2021: **"Resolved that** the decision by the EUPJ Executive Board on 21 March 2021 to appoint Ec Chajim Praha of Prague in the Czech Republic, known as Ec Chajim, as a Constituent Member of the EUPJ with effect from that date, in terms of Section 4 of the Constitution, be and is hereby ratified in terms of the proviso to Section 4.2 of the Constitution."
8. **Ec Chaim Synagogue Warsaw**: To update the EUPJ membership on the change of status of Ec Chaim Warsaw from Associate Member to Constituent Member.
9. **Appointments to the EUPJ Executive Board** – To appoint or to ratify the appointment of the following Officers, office holders and nominated representatives to the Executive Board, and for which no other nominations were received –
 - As Vice-Chair Finance – Paul Winter
 - Ex Officio and Representative Appointees – the names of which will be provided at the Meeting
10. **Rabbinic Matters** – brief presentations from the EUPJ European Rabbinic Assembly and the European Beit Din, as well as a brief presentation on the newly formed Central European Beit Din.
11. **EUPJ Brussels Office** – brief presentation on the activities of the Brussels Office.
12. **Other EUPJ Reports and Updates**
13. **Any Other Business.**
 - (a) Proposal to encourage communities to ensure full marriage equality. The full wording of the proposal is available on the EUPJ website.

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

John Cohen – Vice-Chair Governance and Honorary Secretary

Dated: 2 August 2021.

Note:

- (1) **Online Meeting Only** - Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and following the guidelines of the UK Charities Commission and good practice, this meeting will not be in person as is usual, but will be held electronically via Zoom, as it was in 2020.
- (2) **Constituent Members - Registration and Attendance** - **Only Delegates appointed by Constituent (full) Members (Constituent Delegates) may attend and vote at the Meeting.** A Constituent Delegate Appointment Form is attached as **Schedule 1** and must be completed and returned to administrator@eupj.org as soon as possible but by no later than 25 August 2021. Each Constituent Delegate will then receive an email link to the Zoom meeting by no later than close of business on 27 August 2021, and this link must not be shared.
- (3) **Associate Members** – Associate Members may appoint one Delegate each to attend the meeting, but such delegates are not entitled to vote. An Associate Delegate Appointment Form is attached as **Schedule 2** and must be completed and returned to administrator@eupj.org as soon as possible but by no later than 25 August 2021. Each Associate Delegate will then receive an email link to the Zoom meeting by no later than close of business on 27 August 2021, and this link must not be shared.
- (4) **Guests and Invitees** - Should Constituent or Associate Members wish to invite delegates in excess of the number permitted in the Constitution, then they should request permission from the EUPJ ManCom by contacting administrator@eupj.org with the name and contact details of the delegate in question. Such person, if permitted to attend, will receive a separate email link which must not be shared, and may only attend as an observer and shall not be entitled to speak or vote.
- (5) **Voting** – Constituent Delegates will be able to vote on resolutions by using the "Zoom Polling system", as we did in 2020 and which will be explained during the meeting.
- (6) **Proxy** - A Constituent Delegate who is unable to attend the meeting of the European Assembly, may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her place provided that notice of intention to appoint a proxy has been received by the Administrator at the above address not less than 48 hours prior to the start time of the meeting.

SCHEDULE 1, 2 & FORM OF PROXY



Schedule 1 - Constituent Delegate Appointment form

European Union for Progressive Judaism

I, the undersigned, hereby appoint _____ of _____
being a Constituent Member of the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ), hereby
appoint the person set out below as a Constituent Delegate in terms of Clause 7.5 of the EUPJ
Constitution to represent me at the Annual General Meeting of the European Assembly of the EUPJ to
be held on 17 August 2021.

Delegate name: _____
Delegate email address: _____
Delegate mobile phone number: _____

(If information provided by the EUPJ is not to be used in accordance with the Privacy Policy, a copy of
which can be obtained from its website.)

Signed: _____ (the Constituent Member)
Date: _____

Schedule 1

Constituent Delegate appointment form. A Constituent Delegate appointment form must be completed and returned to administrator@eupj.org by no later than 25 August 2021. Each Constituent Delegate will receive an email link to the Zoom meeting by no later than close of business on 27 August 2021, and this link should not be shared



Schedule 2 - Associate Delegate Appointment form

European Union for Progressive Judaism

I, the undersigned, hereby appoint _____ of _____
being a Constituent Member of the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ), hereby
appoint the person set out below as a Constituent Delegate in terms of Clause 7.5 of the EUPJ
Constitution to represent me at the Annual General Meeting of the European Assembly of the EUPJ to
be held on 17 August 2021.

Associate Delegate name: _____
Associate Delegate email address: _____
Associate Delegate mobile phone number: _____

(If information provided by the EUPJ is not to be used in accordance with the Privacy Policy, a copy of
which can be obtained from its website.)

Signed: _____ (the Constituent Member)
Date: _____

Schedule 2

Associate Members may appoint one delegate each to attend the meeting, but such delegates are not entitled to vote. An Associate Delegate appointment form is attached as **Schedule 2** and must be completed and returned to administrator@eupj.org by no later than 25 August 2021. Each Associate Delegate will receive an email link to the Zoom meeting by no later than close of business on 27 August 2021, and this link should not be shared.



Form of Proxy

I, the undersigned, hereby appoint _____ of _____
being a Constituent Member of the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ), hereby
appoint the person set out below as a Constituent Delegate in terms of Clause 7.5 of the EUPJ
Constitution to represent me at the Annual General Meeting of the European Assembly of the EUPJ to
be held on 17 August 2021.

Proxy name: _____
Proxy email address: _____
Proxy mobile phone number: _____

(If information provided by the EUPJ is not to be used in accordance with the Privacy Policy, a copy of
which can be obtained from its website.)

Signed: _____ (the Constituent Member)
Date: _____

Form of Proxy

A Constituent Delegate who is unable to attend the meeting of the European Assembly in person, may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her place provided that notice of intention to appoint a proxy has been received by the Administrator at the above address not less than 48 hours prior to the start time of the meeting

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 6 SEPTEMBER 2020

EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the European Assembly of the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) held electronically via Zoom on **Sunday 6 September 2020** at 17H00 BST.

Present: EUPJ Chair Sonja Guentner and the other Honorary Officers and representatives of various Constituent Members and Associate Members of EUPJ, as well as invitees as follows: Jai Anguita (Comunidad Judia Progresista Bet Shalom de Barcelona) Spain, Rabbi Charley Baginsky (Liberal Judaism) UK, Stéphane Beder (Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral) France, Leslie Bergman (EUPJ) UK, David Bernstein (Platform of Liberal Jews Switzerland) Switzerland, Joyce Bigio (Federazione Italiana Ebraismo Progressivo) Italy, Arthur Buchman (Shir Hatzafon) Denmark, John Clark (Or Chadash, Vienna) Austria, Ros Clayton (Liberal Judaism) UK, Yael Cobano (Comunidad Judia Reformista de Madrid) Spain, Franca Coen (Federazione Italiana Ebraismo Progressivo) Italy, John Cohen (EUPJ) UK, Bill Echikson (EUPJ Brussel's Office) Belgium, Ben Fantini, (Federazione Italiana Ebraismo Progressivo) Italy, Anton Fishman (Leo Baeck College) UK, Sergio Fraile (Comunidad Judía de Valencia Bnei Sefarad) Spain, Deborah Grabiner (EUPJ Office) UK, Rabbi Alexander Grodensky (Liberal Jewish Community Luxembourg Esch/Alzette) Luxembourg, Tamás Gróf (Sim Shalom Congregation) Hungary, Marek Jezowski (Beit Polska) Poland, Marc Konczaty (Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral) France, Miriam Kramer (EUPJ) UK, Deborah Malamud (Comunidad Judia Progresista Bet Shalom de Barcelona) Spain, Geoffrey Marx (Reform Judaism) UK, Celia Naval (Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral) France, Sven Parsser (Nederlands Verbond voor Progressief Jodendom) Netherlands, Rabbi René Pfertzel (EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly) UK, David Pollak (EUPJ) UK, Maria Prieto (Comunidad Judia Progresista Bet Shalom de Barcelona) Spain, Michael Reik (EUPJ) UK, Rabbi Danny Rich (Liberal Judaism) UK, Deborah Rios Rey (Comunidad Judía Bet Januká de Andalucía) Spain, Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich (Liberal Judaism) UK, Gordon Smith (EUPJ) UK, Carole Sterling (WUPJ) Canada, Rabbi Jackie Tabick (European Beit Din) UK, David Tilles (Or Hadasz Progressive Jewish Community of Krakow) Poland, Rabbi Edward van Voolen (Abraham Geiger Kolleg) Germany, Jesse Weil (Sim Shalom Congregation) Hungary, Robert Weiner (EUPJ) UK, David Weis (Liberal Jewish Community Luxembourg Esch/Alzette) Luxembourg, Rabbi Stas Wojciechowicz (Ec Chaim Synagogue Warsaw) Poland and Jonathan Wootliff (EUPJ) Czech Republic.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair advised that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the 2020 European Assembly Meeting, saying it was the first and hopefully last Assembly meeting to be held entirely online. The Chair mentioned that the meeting was being recorded for minute purposes and that the recording would be deleted as soon as the minutes were prepared. The Chair reported apologies had been received from Ruth Cohen (Honorary

Life President), as well as from Rabbi Sergio Bergman, Rabbi Menno ten Brink, Rabbi Andrew Goldstein and Peter Jossi.

The Chair then introduced EUPJ President, Gordon Smith, who made the opening prayer. The Chair also introduced John Cohen (EUPJ Vice-Chair Governance) who explained the system of voting to be implemented for resolutions using the Zoom Polling System, with the kind assistance of Adam Martin of Alyth Synagogue.

2. Approval of Minutes of the 2019 European Assembly Meeting held in Rome

The Chair advised that the minutes of the European Assembly Meeting held in Rome on 19 May 2019 were included in the EUPJ Annual Report for 2019 ("the 2019 Report") which had been made available on the EUPJ website before the meeting. In response to her request, the Chair had not received any comments or suggestions for changes to the Minutes, which were duly accepted as a correct record of the meeting and were then signed by the Chair, the resolution to approve them having been proposed by Jesse Weil and seconded by Miriam Kramer.

3. Welcome by WUPJ Chair

The Chair introduced Carole Sterling (CS), the chair of the WUPJ, and welcomed her to her fourth EUPJ European Assembly Meeting and thanked her for all her support. CS, on behalf of herself and Rabbi Bergman, thanked the Chair for her leadership and commitment and expressed greetings to the European communities from the WUPJ leadership. CS highlighted the WUPJ activities over the year and the impact of the Covid pandemic on the activities of our communities worldwide. CS advised that the Connections 2020 conference had been postponed to May 2021, and would be mainly an online conference but would operate in different time zones to accommodate all communities. CS reminded members of the education and leadership training opportunities offered by the Saltz, Beutel and Bergman seminars, which are available online.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair referred the meeting to the Chair's Report included in the 2019 Report, which was read and noted. The Chair added the following items – (a) EUPJ was reacting to the new challenges arising from the Covid pandemic and had offered assistance to communities requiring upgrades to their communications infrastructure and technology. EUPJ would not be holding any in-person meetings during 2020 and would be using Zoom and other electronic formats for meeting and seminars. (b) The Newsfeed on the website now includes all EUPJ events as does the Facebook page and the Chair invited members and their representatives to get involved with the communications team by contacting her. (c) Once again the Chair invited members to contact her and the EUPJ team with any questions or concerns regarding EUPJ and its activities.

5. Annual Accounts for 2019

The Chair introduced the Vice-Chair Finance/Treasurer, David Pollak (DP), who referred to the Accounts, Independent Examiner's Report and his own Treasurer's Report included in the 2019 Report, which he summarised for the meeting with detailed slides. DP supplemented his report with the following – (a) The Accounts reflected a surplus of £3 114, compared with a deficit of £5 438 for the 2018 year. Income had benefitted from donations made in recognition of EUPJ Life President, Leslie Bergman, together with his brother Stanley, who were honoured at the WUPJ IHAD dinner. (b) The reduction in Admin Costs was due to the suspension of the newsletter and a reduction in website

development. (c) The accounts showed a reduction in expenditure for the Brussels Office, which would in time become self-funding on the receipt of grants. (d) DP gave special thanks to Betty and Arthur Roswell for providing the funds to support so many activities in certain EUPJ countries, now expanded to include Italy and Spain. He pointed out that applications for funding for permitted projects should be submitted via him. He also advised that many of those who had paid their registration fee for the cancelled 2020 biennial conference had donated these to the Next Generation Leadership Fund, and he thanked them for their generosity.

DP opened the European Assembly Meeting to questions but none were forthcoming.

DP thanked the outside accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP, and its partner Jeremy Harrod for providing the statutory examination of the 2019 Accounts without charge and also thanked his fellow Officers and the EUPJ Administrator Deborah Grabiner for their support during the year.

The Chair thanked DP for his work and invited the meeting to approve the Accounts – the wording of the resolution was posted on the Zoom Polling System and the resolution was proposed by Joyce Bigio and seconded by Tamás Gróf. All delegates were given the opportunity to vote using the Zoom Polling System, which showed that the Accounts were unanimously approved.

6. Appointment of Examiner

The Chair reminded the European Assembly Meeting that, as EUPJ is a UK registered charity, the UK Charity Commission requires its annual accounts to be examined by an independent qualified accountant who issues a report. Accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP had provided a clear report, included in the 2019 Report.

The Chair invited the meeting to approve the resolution to ratify the appointment of Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP as Independent Examiners of the annual accounts for 2019 and to re-appoint them as Independent Examiners for EUPJ's accounts for 2020 – the wording of the resolution was posted on the Zoom Polling System and the resolution was proposed by Ben Fantini and seconded by Michael Reik. All delegates were given the opportunity to vote using the Zoom Polling System, which showed that the resolution was unanimously approved.

7. Resolution to ratify the decision to admit Bnei Sefarad of Valencia to Associate Membership.

The Chair referred to the proposed resolution in the 2019 Report and reminded the meeting that, at the European Assembly in Prague in 2017, the EUPJ Constitution was amended to give the Executive Board the authority to decide all applications for membership, subject to ratification by the European Assembly.

The Chair advised the European Assembly Meeting that in early 2019 the EUPJ received an application from **Bnei Sefarad Jewish Community of Valencia, Spain (Bnei Sefarad)** for Associate Membership. The Chair advised that the EUPJ ManCom carried out a full due diligence and review in respect of Bnei Sefarad and asked its members responsible for Spain to visit and assess this community, and also received a detailed and favourable report from Rabbi Alona Lisitsa, who assists our communities in Iberia. The EUPJ was also provided with all the documentation and information which EUPJ normally requires from prospective members. The Chair then advised the European Assembly Meeting that the EUPJ ManCom unanimously endorsed this application and that the Executive Board,

at its meeting on 3 December 2019, unanimously voted to admit Bnei Sefarad as an Associate member.

The Chair invited the European Assembly Meeting to ratify the decision of the Executive Board to admit Bnei Sefarad and the following resolution was posted on the Zoom Polling System - "Resolved that the decision by the EUPJ Executive Board on 3 December 2019 to appoint Comunidad Judía De Valencia Bnei Sefarad – Bnei Sefarad Jewish Community Valencia, known as Bnei Sefarad, as an Associate Member of the EUPJ with effect from that date, in terms of Section 4 of the Constitution, be and is hereby ratified in terms of the proviso to Section 4.2 of the Constitution.

The resolution was proposed by John Cohen and seconded by Jesse Weil. All delegates were given the opportunity to vote using the Zoom Polling System, which showed that the resolution was unanimously approved. The Chair introduced Sergio Fraile, the President of Bnei Sefarad, and welcomed him and his community into the worldwide Progressive Jewish family.

8. Resolution to ratify the decision to admit Ec Chaim Synagogue of Warsaw to Associate Membership.

The Chair then introduced the second membership ratification – that of Ec Chaim Synagogue of Warsaw (Ec Chaim) and explained that the matter had been complex because Ec Chaim (which was formed in 2010) was not a stand-alone entity but is part of the GWZwW (The Jewish Religious Community of Warsaw), which has a membership made up of Orthodox, Progressive and Secular Jews.

The Chair reminded members that EUPJ had two existing members in Poland – Beit Polska (a full Member) and Or Hadasz (an Associate Member) and that the relationship between Beit Polska and Ec Chaim had not been good in the past. She then advised that that discussions between EUPJ and Ec Chaim commenced in early 2019 and that as a result of these discussions, Ec Chaim adopted a set of Statutes and Regulations which will govern how it will operate going forward. These statutes were prepared in discussions with EUPJ and have been approved by EUPJ. Some of the material provisions of the statutes are as follows –

- Ec Chaim will operate in accordance with the principles of worship and religious practices of Progressive Judaism;
- Ec Chaim will not join or be affiliated with any other stream of Judaism;
- Ec Chaim is a place where the principles of equality apply to men and women, irrespective of sexual orientation, ethnicity or social background;
- An Ec Chaim rabbi must be endorsed by ERA and become a member of ERA;
- Ec Chaim will use the services of and abide by the rulings of the European Bet Din.

The Chair also advised that the EUPJ ManCom did a full due diligence and review in respect of Ec Chaim, and also received a detailed and favourable rabbinic report from Rabbis Goldstein, Tabick and Pfertzel. The EUPJ was also provided with all the documentation and information which EUPJ normally requires from prospective members. In addition, using the kind services of David Tilles, EUPJ arranged for initial discussions between representatives of Ec Chaim and Beit Polska, and these were ongoing.

The Chair advised that in July 2020 Ec Chaim formally applied to become a Member of the EUPJ, and that the EUPJ ManCom unanimously endorsed this application. This was then put to the Executive Board, at its meeting on 28 July 2020, which unanimously voted to admit Ec Chaim as an Associate member. The Board admitted Ec Chaim as an Associate Member at this stage on the basis that discussions with Beit Polska were still

ongoing and wanted to encourage the parties to continue good faith discussions. It was agreed that Ec Chaim should become a full member once discussions had been completed.

The Chair invited the European Assembly Meeting to ratify the decision of the Executive Board to admit Ec Chaim and the following resolution was posted on the Zoom Polling System - "That the decision by the EUPJ Executive Board on 28 July 2020 to appoint Ec Chaim Synagogue (EC), being part of the Jewish Religious Community in Warsaw (GWZwW), known as Ec Chaim, as an Associate Member of the EUPJ with effect from that date, in terms of Section 4 of the Constitution, be and is hereby ratified in terms of the proviso to Section 4.2 of the Constitution. The following decision by the EUPJ Executive Board is also ratified - that Ec Chaim meet and hold good faith discussions with Beit Polska and Beit Warszawa to reach an understanding on certain specific issues, and that once such understanding is reached to the satisfaction of the EUPJ ManCom or should an understanding not be reached by 31 December 2020 but the EUPJ ManCom be satisfied with the way discussions have been conducted by Ec Chaim, then Ec Chaim will become a full Constituent Member of EUPJ.

The resolution was proposed by Marek Jezowski and seconded by Robert Weiner. All delegates were given the opportunity to vote using the Zoom Polling System, which showed that the resolution was unanimously approved. The Chair introduced Rabbi Stas Wojciechowicz, the rabbi of Ec Chaim, and welcomed him and his community into the worldwide Progressive Jewish family.

In response to a query from Joyce Bigio regarding whether the EUPJ members in Poland would all join one national union, David Tilles advised that the current aim was for all the communities to work towards a congress of communities, which is similar to what existed in Poland before World War 2. This would result in communities which operated independently but co-operated at congress meetings.

Rabbi Alexander Grodensky queried the requirement for the rabbi of Ec Chaim to become a member of ERA and asked if this would be the case for all new member communities. John Cohen advised that it was for this specific case only because of the fact that Ec Chaim is not a separate legal entity but is an integral part of the Warsaw Gmina, which has member synagogues from different streams of Judaism. Rabbi René Pfertzel confirmed this and pointed out that there was no national union of Progressive Rabbis in Poland.

9. EUPJ Officers and Board Members

The Chair mentioned that Michael Reik was standing down from both the EUPJ ManCom and Executive Board and thanked him for his many years of dedicated service to the EUPJ in many capacities and for his commitment to the growth of Progressive Judaism.

The Chair then handed over to Leslie Bergman (LB) to deal with this item. LB advised that the terms of office of certain of the Officers of the EUPJ would end at the meeting but that they were entitled to be re-appointed for additional terms. He also advised that, in terms of the EUPJ Constitution, certain appointments to the Executive Board were ex officio as a result of holding a particular position, whilst certain members were entitled to appoint representatives to the Executive Board. He pointed out that the names and positions of the individuals concerned were contained in the Notice of Meeting and in the 2019 Report and that no other nominations had been received.

LB then invited the European Assembly Meeting to approve and/or ratify these appointments and the following resolution was posted on the Zoom Polling System - "That

the appointment of the following Officers, office holders and nominated representatives to the Executive Board be approved and/or ratified –

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

The resolution was proposed by John Clark and seconded by Jesse Weil. All delegates were given the opportunity to vote using the Zoom Polling System, which showed that the resolution was unanimously approved. LB then handed back to the Chair, who thanked board members for their participation and support.

10. Rabbinic Report

The Chair handed over to Rabbi René Pfertzel who referred to the reports by both ERA and the European Bet Din (EBD) in the 2019 Report, but added the following – (a) Rabbi Tabick had left the meeting but had confirmed that she and her colleagues would not be travelling for the foreseeable future due to the pandemic and therefore all sittings of the EBD would take place online, with the exception of one taking place in Prague in October 2020. (b) The Central European countries were setting up their own Bet Din and Rabbi Tabick would be available to support this arrangement. (c) In addition to the meetings and activities in the report, an ERA group had met online with Rabbi Sergio Bergman and representatives of the CCAR. A senior group of ERA members would be meeting to discuss the future development of ERA.

In response to a query from Joyce Bigio regarding the number of conversions by the EBD in 2019 as well as how many members of ERA there were, Rabbi Pfertzel said he would did not have this information to hand but would provide it to Joyce after the meeting.

11. Brussels Office Report

The Chair handed over to Bill Echikson and Jesse Goldberg who referred to their report in the 2019 Report, but added the following – (a) the Brussels Office is working with CEJI, A Jewish Contribution to Europe, B'nai Brith, European Jewish Students, and the European Jewish Heritage Association on the Networks Overcoming Anti-Semitism project (NOA) and this is progressing well. (b) the Brussels Office is also putting together a lay service leader training project with the backing of the Rothschild Foundation and there is good interest from our communities, with 15 candidates having applied so far. (c) The Office was also involved in expanding the Know Your Neighbour project so successfully developed by our communities in the Netherlands and would be introducing online interviews and presentations and webinars.

12. Any Other Business

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

The Chair then thanked John Cohen, Deborah Grabiner (the EUPJ Administrator) and Adam Martin for all their work in organising this first online meeting of the European Assembly. She also urged anyone with any questions or queries to contact the EUPJ Management Committee. The Chair thanked all present for attending the 2020 European Assembly Meeting, wished everyone L'shana Tova and declared the meeting closed at 18:06 pm (BST).

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Chair of the European Assembly Meeting

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