

EUROPEAN
UNION
FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



EUPJ ANNUAL REPORT 2021

ANNUAL EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY MEETING
THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2022
5 PM BST



CONTENTS

Page 3	Office Holders and Staff at 31 December 2021
Page 4	Message from WUPJ
Page 5	Chair's Report
Page 7	Finance Report
Page 11	Projects in Brussels
Page 12	European Rabbinic Assembly (ERA)
Page 13	European Beit Din (EBD)
Page 14	Central European Beit Din (CEBD)
Pages 15–18	Rabbinical Colleges <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Abraham Geiger Kolleg- Leo Baeck College- Levisson Institute
Pages 19–26	Tribute to Rabbi Tovia Ben-Chorin z"l within 2022 Tribute to Rabbi Henry Brandt z"l within 2022 Tribute to Rabbi Daniel Farhi z"l Tribute to Michael Grabiner z"l Tribute to Dr Stephen Herman z"l within 2022 Tribute to Rabbi Dick Hirsch z"l Tribute to Gilbert Lederman z"l within 2022 Tribute Rabbi Dow Marmur z"l within 2022
Page 27	New Community Profile <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jewish Community of Liberec, Czech Republic
Page 29	EUPJ Communities
Page 34	Notice and Agenda
Page 37	Minutes of the European Assembly – August 2021
Page 44	Contact information

OFFICERS & STAFF AT DECEMBER 2021

Honorary Life Presidents:

President:

Vice-President:

Chair:

Vice-Chair, Finance:

Treasurer:

Vice-Chair, Special Assignments:

Vice-Chair, Governance:

Vice-Chair, Education and Interfaith:

Vice-Chair, Organisational Development:

Convenor, European Beit Din:

Chair, European Rabbinic Assembly:

Chair, European Rabbinic Assembly:

Leslie Bergman

Ruth Cohen

Gordon Smith

Miriam Kramer

Sonja Guentner

David Pollak (retired 30 April 2021)

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 (retired October 2021)

Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild

Board Members:

Stéphane Beder

David Bernstein

Rabbi Charley Baginsky

Joyce Bigio

Arthur Buchman

John Clark

Tamás Gróf

Anton Fishman

Marek Jezowski

Peter Jossi

Michel Kahn

Irith Michelsohn

Celia Naval

Sven Parsser

Marianne de Ross-Norden

Rabbi Dr Edward van Voolen

David Weis

WUPJ President:

WUPJ Chair:

Rabbi Sergio Bergman

Carole Sterling

Support:

Administrator:

Brussels Office

Communications Consultant:

Deborah Grabiner

Jesse Goldberg

Darryl Egnal

WUPJ'S MESSAGE

WORLD
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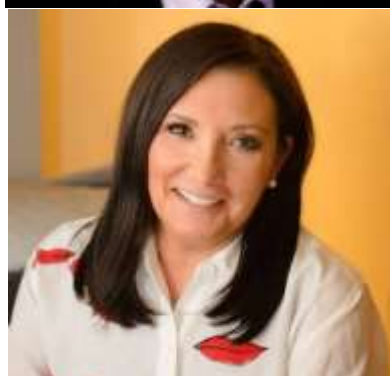


האיגוד
העולמי
ליהדות
מתקדמת



The EUPJ together with the WUPJ have recently taken on one of our greatest challenges: the creation of the Ukraine Crisis Fund. This fund allows us to provide rescue and relief and to support resettlement and rebuilding for our communities in Ukraine, which we dedicated our support to over the last three decades.

Our deep gratitude goes to the donors who concretely expressed in their contributions of funds the values of *tzedaka* and solidarity. To each of you thank you very much!



The challenges are numerous, but so are the opportunities offered to us through collaborative work between EUPJ and the WUPJ. Together we rediscover the strength of being a global family of solidarity and being able to attend to the urgent needs of our sisters and brothers in need.

We thank the EUPJ for its commitment and leadership. Thanks also to the movement's communities which have welcomed refugees. We are grateful for the joint work with other Jewish organisations and local and national governments providing a perspective for those who have escaped the tragedy of this war.

New challenges are coming now to continue building vital communities in a continent that faces uncertainty. But there are also creative and vital responses to these new scenarios. We must design our future in this present and not wait for it to arrive.

Israel with its imprint, centrality and inspiration will celebrate its first 75 years. The WUPJ celebrates 50 years of having brought its headquarters to Jerusalem under the leadership of Rabbi Dick Hirsch z"l.

We will be re-opening our WUPJ International Educational and Visitor Center at CONNECTIONS 2023, which will be held in Jerusalem May 3–6. A date of honour to which you are cordially invited to and where we hope to welcome you to meet and reconnect with the extended family that we are.

Rabbi Sergio Bergman
President

Carole Sterling
Chair

CHAIR'S REPORT

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Dear friends,

it is one thing to write an organisational report for 2021, the second full year of the pandemic, in the summer of the following year. It is another thing to do so under the impression of the enormity of the events in the first half of 2022 both in the wider world in Europe as well as in our smaller Jewish world. You will therefore find that some reports on the next pages are not strictly limited to 2021 in order to show the developments and contexts which informed EUPJ's daily work and progress.

The close partnership and alliance with the World Union for Progressive Judaism, which has flourished in recent years, is at the core of our ability to help provide relief to many of the people whose lives have been directly and most terribly affected by the war of aggression Russia has been waging on Ukraine since the end of February 2022.

Thanks to the WUPJ Ukraine Crisis Fund, which focuses on rescue, relief, resettlement and rebuilding efforts, help has been provided to a huge number of people and I cannot start this report without most warmly thanking the many members of the EUPJ family who have contributed to these efforts very generously and in many ways. All our gratitude and admiration goes to our congregations who - with the support of the Fund - are actively involved in helping refugees from Ukraine, mostly in Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Spain.

The WUPJ Ukraine Crisis Fund has launched an ongoing international fundraising campaign. It is being co-chaired by Carole Sterling, Chair of the WUPJ, and Rabbi Igor Zinkov in London and the daily operations are coordinated through a standing working group, where the EUPJ is represented by its Chair. Regular updates on the Fund's work are available through the websites and social media channels of EUPJ and WUPJ.

Throughout 2021, the regular work patterns of the EUPJ have continued to function flawlessly, even though almost all meetings had to take place on Zoom. We held regular monthly meetings of the Management Committee, two Executive Board meetings and a multitude of additional specially themed ones.

The funding of projects for so-called emerging congregations through the Roswell Fund has continued uninterrupted, reflecting the fact that these congregations managed admirably to keep the momentum going and build the infrastructure of their new organisations, which is the core mission of the Roswell Fund, throughout the pandemic.

This was particularly true for the Czech Republic where - thanks to the support of the EUPJ and the WUPJ - Progressive Judaism is experiencing an inspiring period of re-emergence. The congregation Ec chajim Prague and, in 2022, the congregation in Liberec have become members of the EUPJ.

Additionally, we see the very beneficial effects of the Central European Beit Din (CEBD) throughout this part of our region. Please make sure to read the detailed reports about Liberec and the CEBD included in these pages.

Thanks to an international cooperation over a number of years it was possible, in October 2021, to finally return the so-called Kutz Scroll to the Czech Republic. The scroll, one of the many Czech scrolls rescued by the Westminster Synagogue Memorial Scrolls Trust, was used at Kutz Camp in the USA for many decades and was returned to the Trust just before the pandemic. After a full restoration and with a beautiful new mantle, it was given to Ec chajim on perpetual loan in a very moving ceremony at Charles University Prague. This project was a labour of love and a huge thank you goes to the many individuals whose patience and tenacity made it happen. Thank you! If you missed the live stream or would like to watch it again: please go to the YouTube channels or FB pages of Ec chajim and the EUPJ, where the video is still available.

Thanks to the generous support of external donors, mostly the Rothschild Foundation and the NLPS Trust, the Baalei Tefillah Europe Programme successfully trained 26 members from congregations across Europe as lay service leaders, providing the congregations with much-needed support for their religious life. Sadly, due to pandemic-induced travel limitations, a planned final event in Brussels could not take place but all graduates have received the certificates documenting their achievement first virtually in a Zoom ceremony and then physically in the mail.

Due to the hugely beneficial effect of this programme and continued demand, it was decided to run a second course in conjunction with similar initiatives around the globe. This cooperation, as a result of the strain the current crisis is putting organisations under, has not yet started but remains an active project, with considerable parts of the required funding already secured. We very gratefully acknowledge the support of all donors, existing and prospective, to this important initiative.

This project is listed under the EUPJ report as it was attributed logistically to the Brussels office but financially ran under the auspices of the EUPJ, not the EUPJ Foundation (Stichting). A brief report on the Stichting's activities in 2021 is included in these pages as a separate item.

It is a Chair's privilege to thank the many people who contribute to making the work of an organisation possible and this time I do so with particular humility and personal gratitude. It is never to be taken for granted that people give generously of their energy, expertise and empathy to a voluntary cause. Much less so in challenging times such as these. I look forward to expressing personal thanks at the European Assembly meeting but for the purposes of this report, my thanks are deliberately collective to underline the fact that we can only do this work together and that every contribution to it deserves to be respected and recognised. So a big thank you to all of you! Your effort has made a difference and has quite simply helped to make this world a better place. Thank you!

As you can see from the notice and agenda for the European Assembly 2022, the EUPJ is about to undergo a very transparent process of establishing its next leadership cohort and I invite, once more, all of you to be an active part of it. I applaud the Management Committee and the Executive Board of the EUPJ on suggesting and authorising this process for recommendation to the European Assembly and trust it will allow the EUPJ to not only retain but expand its relevance as the organisation which has been the home and heart of European Progressive Judaism since its establishment.



Sonja Guentner
EUPJ Chair

FINANCE REPORT

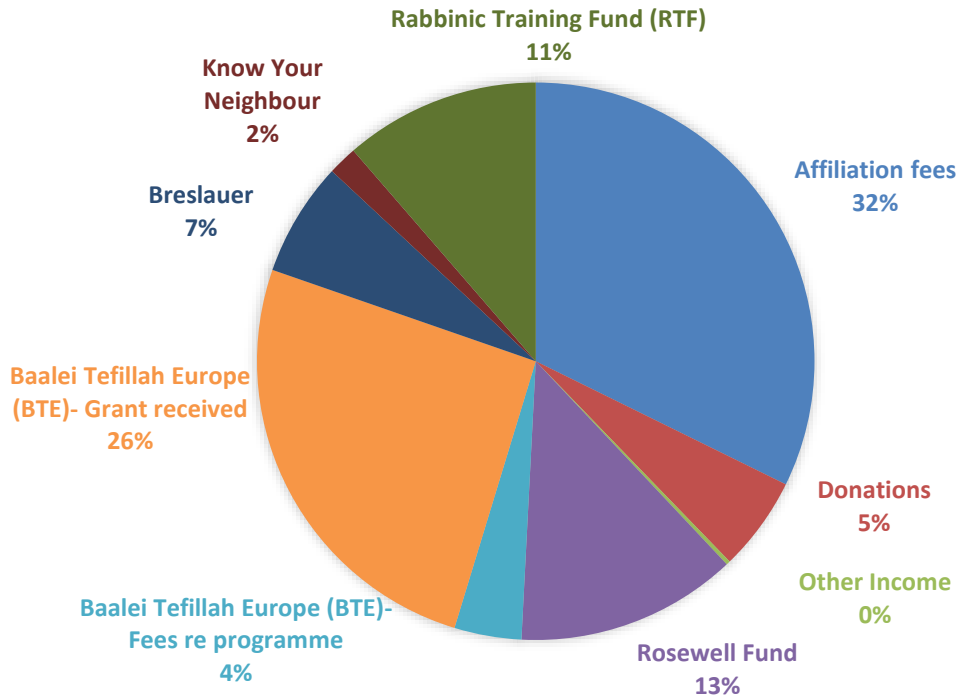
Provided below are tables and pie charts reflecting the income and expenditure of the EUPJ for 2021 and comparative figures for 2020. The final table reflects our Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021, together with a summary of the main events that contributed to the annual results.

EUPJ Income and Expenditure 2021			
		2021	2020
	% of Total	£	£
Income			
Affiliation fees	32%	65,867	62,970
Donations	5%	11,172	10,000
Other Income	0%	465	627
Roswell Fund	13%	26,187	43,807
Baalei Tefillah Europe (BTE)- Fees re programme	4%	7,939	-
Baalei Tefillah Europe (BTE)- Grant received	26%	52,243	-
Breslauer	7%	13,534	-
Know Your Neighbour	2%	3,454	-
Rabbinic Training Fund (RTF)	11%	23,176	23,217
Conference/Kallah Income	0%	-	31,756
European Beit Din (EBD)	0%	683	5,656
Total	100%	£204,720	£178,033
		2021	2020
	% of Total	£	£
Expenditure			
Administration	21%	40,569	30,366
(Gain)/Loss on Exchange	2%	3,962	2,449
Roswell Fund	12%	23,744	40,596
Baalei Tefillah Europe (BTE)	30%	58,102	-
Breslauer	12%	23,345	-
Know Your Neighbour	2%	3,260	-
Rabbinic Training Fund (RTF)	16%	31,552	23,217
Donations	2%	3,462	11,892
Conference & Shabbaton	0%	-	24,664
EUO and Other Payments	3%	6,284	11,334
European Beit Din (EBD)	0%	-	4,430
Total	100%	£194,280	£148,948

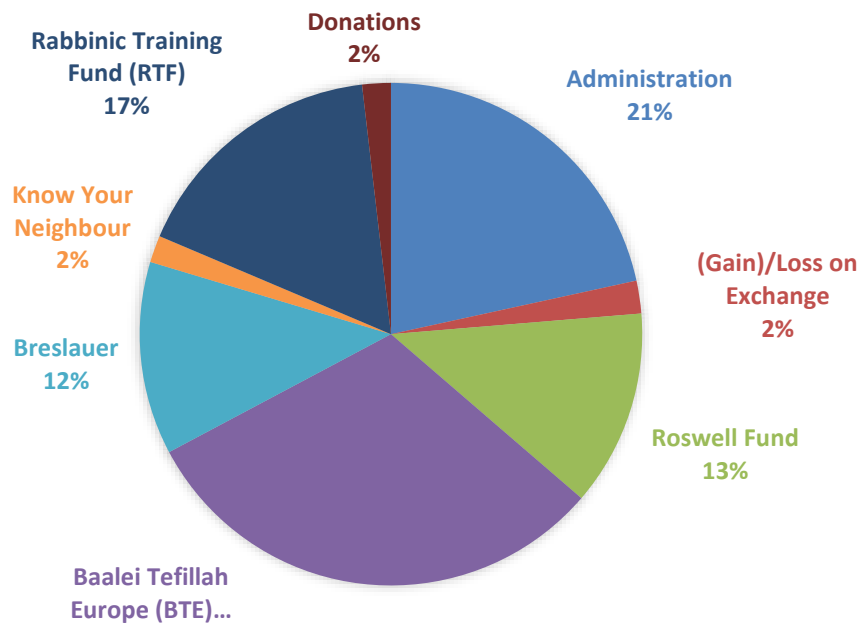
EUPJ Income and Expenditure 2021			
		2021	2020
		£	£
Income		204,720	178,033
Expenditure		194,280	148,948
Surplus		£ 10,440	£29,085

EUPJ Balance Sheet 2021			
		2021	2020
		£	£
Assets			
Debtors		17,644	32,171
Cash		427,998	385,315
		£445,642	£417,486
Liabilities			
Creditors		£197,516	£179,800
Net Assets		£248,126	£237,68
Funds			
Unrestricted		181,768	165,395
Restricted		66,358	72,291
		£248,126	£237,686

EUPJ INCOME SPLIT



EUPJ EXPENDITURE SPLIT



FINANCIAL REPORT - NARRATIVE

1. Affiliation fees for the year totalled £89,043 which was some £2,856 more than in 2020.
2. Donations received in £11,172. These are included within Other Donations and Legacies within the Statement of Financial Activities.
3. The Rabbinic Training Fund received income totalling £23,176 which was allocated from Affiliation Fees. The total expenditure amounted to £31,552.
4. The European Beit Din made a small surplus of £683 on total income of £3,281 lower than the previous year, largely due to the limitations on Batei Din caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic.
5. Administration expenses for 2021 totalled £40,569 which is an increase of £10,203 as compared to expenditure in 2020.
6. £58,102 of costs were incurred in relation to the Baalei Tefillah Europe (BTE) programme. These are included under administrations costs within the Statement of Financial Activities. A grant of £52,243 was received towards this programme.
7. The Brussels office incurred expenditure of £6,284 as compared to expenditure of £11,334 in 2020. These are included under administrations costs within the Statement of Financial Activities.
8. There was a £3962 loss on currency exchange in the year. These are included under administrations costs within the Statement of Financial Activities.

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

For more information, please contact Paul Winter

Email: Treasurer@eupj.org

EUPJ IN BRUSSELS

The continental presence of the EUPJ, through the Stichting European Union for Progressive Judaism Foundation, registered in the Netherlands, remained active throughout 2021.

Jesse Goldberg continued to look after projects in an administrative role. Bill Echikson's responsibility as director ended on 31 October 2021 and we acknowledge his contribution to the initial stages of our Brussels operations. Following his departure, the Management Committee of the EUPJ tasked the EUPJ Chair to take over in an acting role.

Detailed information on the Baalei Tefillah Europe Project, which ran and was concluded in 2021, is included in the Chair's report, with an appropriate note, as it ran under the auspices of the EUPJ but was administratively allocated to the Stichting. Unfortunately, the intention to hold the final event of the programme in the summer of 2022 had to be abandoned after two attempts due to ongoing pandemic-related travel and other difficulties.

NOA (Networks overcoming Antisemitism): This project and its many component parts were heavily affected by the pandemic and it was agreed by all partners and the European Commission to extend it. The EUPJ is indebted to CEJI, the lead partner of this project, and all other organisations involved with it, for the very positive development of our relationships, especially throughout 2022 and we look forward to intensifying our cooperation in the time ahead.

Know Your Neighbours ("Neighbours"): Modelled on a longstanding and highly successful educational interfaith project of our congregation in Amsterdam, an application was submitted to the European Commission together with HIAS Europe. After the initial approval of the application in October 2021, it became apparent in subsequent months that the initial proposal contained some insurmountable flaws and had to be totally revamped, including a change in the role of coordinator, in order to be viable. We are very grateful to the team of HIAS Europe who patiently and tenaciously worked through many levels of changes with us and eventually, at the end of March 2022, the project was signed into existence by the European Commission. Eight EUPJ congregations are taking part and, with the funding available through the project, can substantively expand their activity profiles.

A small precursor of this large programme was conducted in Brussels in the autumn of 2021, administratively allocated to the Brussels Office and financially run through the EUPJ, with the full financial support of the JDC through HIAS Europe, which we are very thankful for.

Websites for the EUPJ Foundation and for the Neighbours project as well as related social media channels are going to launch in the middle of September 2022 and you are all invited to access these channels often and learn all the details about ongoing and new projects as they become available.

For all questions, please contact
Sonja Guentner sonja.guentner@eupj.org



Despite the ongoing disruptions caused by the pandemic, the Board of ERA has met via Zoom every month, continuing our work developing and networking a pan European Progressive Rabbinic Body and supporting EUPJ Communities and rabbis where appropriate. Much of our focus has been on the situation in Ukraine, and our colleagues facing the effects with their communities in Russia, Belarus, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia as well as Odessa and Kyiv

We held our Kallah online in January. It was well attended with 40 rabbis (mainly from continental Europe) for the AGM and many more joining us to hear Rabbi Prof. Michael Meyer speak about Rabbi Dr Leo Baeck and the challenges facing Progressive Judaism in Baeck's time. Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild took over the role of Chair from Rabbi René Pfertzel.

We agreed at the AGM to rework our Constitution in order to give ERA footing as a legal entity in Europe. This work is ongoing and has led to lively debates about our purpose and role. We also agreed at the AGM to pass a resolution making clear our support for Equal Marriage

In February we put out a [statement on the situation in Ukraine](#) and called for a Peace Shabbat on Shabbat Vayakhel/Shekalim, and provided resources for communities to be able to create such a themed shabbat, which was greatly appreciated.

We also put together a video of ERA rabbis sending support to colleagues and communities affected by the situation in Ukraine, which can be viewed [here](#).

In March we held an online event "Rabbis on the Front Line" which had almost a hundred participants from rabbis across the WUPJ as well as EUPJ region. Rabbis from Moscow, Odessa, Kyiv, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Czech and Belarus explained their situation and the particular needs they were facing, and we were able to effect some helpful introductions.

In April we took part in the 7th Day Pesach event in solidarity with our Ukrainian communities.

In May we held our second very successful Pride Shabbat – led by the two Brussels communities, this was a mincha event and is now firmly in our calendar.

We also issued a [Statement about AGK](#), reaching out to students and adding our voice to request for an independent enquiry.

In June we issued a [Statement about the failure of the bill to ban Kosher and Halal slaughter](#) in Brussels.

We now hold a fortnightly Talmud class online taught for ERA rabbis by Dr Ruhama Weiss of HUC Jerusalem. Rabbis across Europe meet and enjoy studying texts together.

Other ongoing projects include an Ellul programme of readings towards Teshuvah, creating an Ethics Code, further educational opportunities for rabbis and communities, supporting the EBD and the CEBD, the clarification of rabbinic boundaries and community relationships in Europe.

For more information, please contact contact@eupj-ra.eu

Website: <http://www.eupj-ra.eu/>

EUROPEAN BEIT DIN (EBD)

During the year ending 31st December 2021, 7 courts were held, but only one court dealt specifically with European cases, in May, for Italian candidates. The other cases were heard during Beit Din meetings of the British Reform Movement. All the candidates bar one appeared before the courts via zoom, which means the same administrative difficulties of getting the certificates signed and posted to candidates still remained. One whole pack of certificates sent to Israel for signing simply disappeared without trace and had to be reprinted and sent off again for the relevant signatures.

The number of cases heard has remained low. With the advent of the new court for Central Europe, in future the European Beit Din will mainly be responsible for cases only from Italy, Spain and Portugal as well as other odd cases from places such as Finland or as requested by other European courts.

The Central European Court is now well established and my active provision of support has ceased, though of course, I am always available if new issues arise. I wish them well in their important work.

In 2021 a total of 22 applicants were accepted. The demographic breakdown is as follows:

	2021	2020
No. of Proselytes accepted (including minors):	22	28
Hungary	4	0
Italy	9	11
Portugal	3	1
Spain	6	10
The following number of minors came before the Beit Din:	7	8
Boys	1	6
Girls	6	2
Minors converted with their mother	5	2
Minors converted alone	2	6

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 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)



Since its foundation in January 2021 by Rabbis Anita Kantor, Misha Kapustin, Tom Kučera, David Maxa, Thomas Salamon and Stas Wojciechowicz, Central European Beit Din (CEBD) was actively involved in assisting Progressive Jewish communities in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland. The CEBD dealt with giyur cases from all the above-mentioned countries and thereby supported the development of Progressive Judaism in Central Europe. It also served as a useful platform for communication between Progressive Rabbis in the entire region.

Regarding the governance of the CEBD, in compliance with the principle of the rotation of the position of the Head of the Beit Din, Rabbi Thomas Salamon was elected as the Av Beit Din for the Jewish year 5782. The CEBD was ably assisted by Rabbi David Maxa as the Convenor and Daniel Rux as the Administrator, who were instrumental in establishing the CEBD as a Czech legal entity and preparing the first meeting of the CEBD, which took place at the Progressive Jewish Community Ec chajim in Prague in October 2021.

The Rabbis of the CEBD would like to thank to Sonja Guentner, the Chair of the EUPJ, for being instrumental in creating the CEBD and assisting it to gain recognition as an organisation within both Europe but particularly within the Jewish communities of the Visegrád Four countries. Her help and guidance were very much appreciated. We are also grateful to Rabbi Jackie Tabick for her support given to both our Convenor and to the CEBD from the moment of creation of the Beth Din and setting the same.



Rabbis Maxa, Kučera, Kapustin and Kantor (from the left) during a CEBD meeting in Prague, Czech Republic

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



2021 marked the move to our new premises on the Neues Palais campus of the University of Potsdam. By the beginning of the summer semester 2021, our new rooms were set up and in use. Since 2008, we had been working towards this moment.

In close cooperation with us, Rühnick Architects, the Brandenburg State Office for Real Estate and Construction and the University of Potsdam converted a listed building into a cleverly conceived, modern home for the Abraham Geiger College, together with our partners, the Zacharias Frankel College and the School of Jewish Theology.

Attended by numerous guests, the building was officially opened on 18 August 2021. In the presence of the Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the President of the Central Council of Jews, Dr. Josef Schuster, the Chair of the European Union for progressive Judaism Sonja Guentner and the Minister President of the State of Brandenburg Dietmar Woidke, the Torah scrolls were ceremoniously brought into the synagogue.



First University Synagogue Opens in European Center for Jewish learning at the University of Potsdam, Germany

Teaching in 2021 took place mainly online, apart from a few weeks from October to December 2021.

Three new rabbinical students were admitted in 2021 - the total number of students is currently 22 students, including 8 in the cantorial program and 14 in the rabbinical program. 9 students are women.

Early May **2022** media revealed a case of sexual harassment on Facebook by a staff member. Measures were taken and shortly after a second case came to light, he left the College. The media also addressed issues of abuse of power. Rabbi Homolka suspended his official duties until the allegations have been clarified. The College appointed former Berlin State Secretary Gabriele Thöne as interim Director to work on these allegations and above all to prepare new structures. An independent commission of Potsdam University and an independent law firm are currently investigating the allegations. Meanwhile good progress is made in preparing new structures.

For further information, please contact: office@geiger-edu.de

Website: www.abraham-geiger-kolleg.de

Some of the year's highlights include:

In July, Rabbi Dr Tali Artman, Rabbi Iris Ferreira, Rabbi Etienne Kerber, and Rabbi Peter Luijendijk were ordained across four European congregations, one in Cambridge, two in Paris and one in Amsterdam. The service was led from Cambridge by Rabbi Dr Charles Middleburgh, Dean of LBC.

Due to the nature and multiple locations of the 2021 Ordination meant that there were no group photos of the class of 2021.

Preparations continued for the revalidation of our academic awards by Middlesex University scheduled for spring 2022.

The Eizeh Kef Hebrew programme continues to be used in our chadarim, with new communities taking it on each year. Dr Jo-Ann Myers continues to provide initial and on-going teacher training.

A face to face Graduation ceremony was held for the 4 MA students in Jewish Educational Leadership last October. The graduates are: Avi Marco (UK), Frankie Gruzdz (UK), Adela Kobic (UK) and Oren Giorno (JEM, Paris). The event included a tree planting ceremony in the Biblical Garden on the grounds of the Sternberg Centre for Judaism.



Tree planting ceremony in the Biblical Garden, Sternberg Centre for Judaism

Lehrhaus, the College's Adult Learning Programme, continues to grow and attract new participants each semester. For the coming academic year, Targumic Aramaic and Yiddish have been added to the languages courses on offer, which already include Biblical and Modern Hebrew and Classical Greek. We have attracted a good number of regular students from Australia thanks to the teaching and networking of Rabbi Fred Morgan. We are also forging a way into the South African Progressive Jewish market, with the teaching and help of Rabbi Greg Alexander. Both alumni of LBC.

Another new initiative is the creation of a library of free podcasts and written material by our Lehrhaus teachers. Soon to be launched.

Our beit midrash continued our extremely well-received seminar series this past year by inviting world-class speakers to run workshops online with alumni, faculty and students. The themes of these seminars build upon our studies in the beit midrash, and this year we welcomed LBC Alumni who are serving in congregational roles across Europe and the UK and beyond to join us in our studies related to Pardes. 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 continues to grow and develop. This year, we were honoured to have the opportunity to study with a range of esteemed and innovative scholars including, Prof. Amy-Jill Levine, Prof. Daniel Boyarin, Emeritus Prof. Philp Alexander, Dr. Alon Goshen-Gottstein, and Dr. Ruth Kara Ivanov-Kaniel. LBC faculty also lead a select group of rabbis in chevruta study, allowing congregational rabbis to benefit from in-depth study guided by experts.



***Dr Ruth Kara Ivanov-Kaniel
lecturing to students and alumni***



***Professor Daniel Boyarin lecturing
to students and alumni***

We admitted two rabbinic students who started in September 2021.

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

Website: www.lbc.ac.uk

Just like 2020, the year 2021 was unusual because of the Covid-pandemic. Work, all meetings and classes were done at home via Zoom. Only a few meetings were held in person, whenever the relaxation of Covid measures allowed for it.

Two rabbinical students graduated in 2021. At the end of 2021 one of the students stopped (paused) her studies.

Because of the pandemic, our sister organisation, Leo Baeck College in London, asked the Levisson Institute to facilitate the semicha of their Dutch rabbinical student in Amsterdam. Peter Luijendijk received his semicha in the Liberal Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam on July 4th, from the Dean of the Levisson Institute, Rabbi Menno ten Brink, on behalf of his colleague at the Leo Baeck College. Via live-stream connections with Oxford and Paris, a total of four international students of Leo Baeck College received their semicha.

A new Shaliach Tzibbur course began late 2020. Its regular teachers are Josée Wolff and Avery Tracht, both former chazanims at the Liberal Jewish Congregations in the Netherlands and currently living in New York City.

Because of the Covid-pandemic it was impossible to get together in person during the weekends, all four weekends in 2021 were conducted via Zoom. The first weekend in 2022 was hybrid, digital, and in-person. The developments in the Covid-pandemic made it possible to hold the weekends in person in 2022.

The annual David Lilienthal Lecture and opening of the new academic year was held on Sunday 31 October. Again because of the Covid-pandemic the meeting was digital. The guest speaker was Irene Zwiep, professor in Jewish Studies at University of Amsterdam and chair of the Academisch Committee of the Levisson Institute. She spoke about *Jewish Studies in the Anthropocene and the relevance of Jewish education in a time when the world is busy with other things*.

Together with the Management Team, Board of the Levisson Institute, the Academic Committee and the Vocational Committee, we work to train rabbis, chazanims (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 RABBI TOVIA BEN-CHORIN



The World Union for Progressive Judaism and the European Union for Progressive Judaism mourn with deep sorrow the passing of Rabbi Tovia Ben-Chorin (1936 – 2022).

Born on September 15, 1936 in Jerusalem, as the son of the religious scholar Shalom Ben-Chorin, Tovia Ben-Chorin studied Bible studies and Jewish history at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. After further education at the Hebrew Union College-JIR, Cincinnati, he was ordained as a rabbi in 1964. He then completed an additional study of halacha and then worked as a rabbi in Ramat-Gan (Israel), Manchester, (England), in the Har El congregation in Jerusalem and the Jewish Liberal Congregation Or Chadash in Zurich. From 2009 to 2015 he was community rabbi in the Jewish community in Berlin. After his retirement, he remained active as a rabbi in the Jewish communities in St. Gallen and the liberal Jewish community in Constance.

As an Israeli, Rabbi Tovia Ben-Chorin fought in three wars in the tank force. For four years he was the first leader of the Israeli liberal youth movement and is one of the founders of Kibbutz Lotan in the Negev. He gave lectures and seminars worldwide and was highly involved in the Jewish-Christian-Muslim dialogue. In 1989, the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion awarded him a Ph.D. honoris causa. Since the founding of the Abraham Geiger College in 1999, he has been a member of the board of directors and has worked as a mentor and lecturer in the training of rabbis and, since 2009, in the training of cantors.

Only very recently his cherished wife, Adina, passed away in Switzerland. He is survived by his two sons and grandchildren.

May his memory be a blessing to all of us.

TRIBUTE RABBI HENRY BRANDT



The WUPJ and EUPJ mourn the passing of Rabbi Dr Henry Brandt (1927–2022). His contributions to the resurgence of liberal Judaism in Germany are invaluable. Since its inception in 2005, he has been Chairman of the General Rabbinical Conference and its Av Bet Din for 14 years. When he no longer ran for election to the board in February 2019, he was elected honorary chairman for life. Conference. He was community rabbi of the Jewish community in Schwaben-Augsburg, until his death official rabbi of the Jewish community in Bielefeld.

Henry Brandt was born Heinz Brandt on September 25, 1927 in Munich. The Brandt family managed to emigrate to Palestine via England. Henry - now Chanan - served in the Palmach from 1947 and then as a naval officer in the nascent Israeli Navy. After the end of the war he studied economics at Queen's University of Belfast, earning a BSc. After a brief stint in the automotive industry, he turned to rabbinical studies at Leo Baeck College. Rabbinical posts in Leeds, Geneva, Zurich (founding rabbi of the Or Chadasch congregation) and then city rabbi of Gothenburg (Sweden) follow. In 1983 Henry Brandt returned to Germany as state rabbi of Lower Saxony. Twelve years later he moved to the larger state association of Westphalia-Lippe as its state rabbi. In 2005, at the age of 78, the time came to reduce his position and he was dismissed as Rabbi Emeritus of Westphalia.

From his time in England his attention was directed towards the Jewish-Christian dialogue. Henry Brandt devoted more time and commitment to this field of action after his arrival in Germany, as he recognized it as the most effective weapon against anti-Judaism. For three decades he was the Jewish President of the German Coordinating Council of Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation and a member of the “Jews and Christians” discussion group at the Central Council of German Catholics.

He was awarded many awards including an honorary doctorate from the University of Marburg, the Bavarian Order of Merit, honorary citizenship from the city of Augsburg, the great city seal from the city of Oldenburg, the Hedwig Burgheim Medal from the city of Giessen and the Mohammed Nafi Tschelebi Prize from the Islam Archive. The books Joy in Torah, Joy in Dialogue and Sweeter Than Honey contain several of his essays and talks.

He was married to Sheila Phillips for more than 60 years and they have four children. May his memory be a blessing to all of us.

TRIBUTE RABBI DANIEL FARHI



A builder, a creator. A man who had a sense of the duties that the past imposes but who also lived for the future. Daniel Farhi has left us.

Rabbi of the ULIF-Copernicus, then founder of the MJLF, he developed Liberal Judaism which he renewed and made known to many.

Creator of the day of reading of the Names of the Jewish Deportees of France during Yom Hashoah, he made the French and the public authorities aware of the magnitude of the Shoah in France. His commitment was at the origin of a new look at this period and the recognition of France's debt towards the disappeared.

All our affection goes to his loved ones, his wife Paule, his 3 children including one of our rabbis Gabriel Farhi, his grandchildren and their whole family.

May his memory be a blessing.

The EUPJ gratefully acknowledges Rabbi Farhi's contribution to the development of Progressive Judaism in Europe and in France in particular.

Adapted from a message from [Judaïsme en Mouvement](#).

The Presidents: Jean-François Bensahel and Gad Weil, the entire Board of Directors of Judaism in Motion Rabbis Yann Boissière, Floriane Chinsky, Philippe Haddad, Delphine Horvilleur and Jonas Jacquelin

TRIBUTE MICHAEL GRABINER



The World Union for Progressive Judaism and the European Union for Progressive Judaism mourn with deep sorrow the passing of Michael Grabiner z”l, Chairman of WUPJ from 2011–2015, chair of the UK Movement for Reform Judaism from 2005–2008, member of the Boards of UK Jewish Day Schools and UK Jewish Leadership Council as well as Chair of the Board at JCoSS, the first Jewish pluralist Day School in the UK.

Mike was an inspirational and extraordinary leader, advocating and pursuing Reform and Progressive values around the globe while building long-lasting and meaningful relationships. His sage advice, generosity and thoughtfulness will always be cherished and remembered.

“Mike was an extraordinary human being and a role model for all who sought to advance the cause of liberal democratic egalitarian Judaism in the UK and around the world. He possessed keen intellect and wisdom and Mike taught me so much as we worked together at the World Union. I lost a brother, and we all lost a creative force.” – Steven M. Bauman, WUPJ Past Chairman 2005–2011

“Mike was a very special man. Despite an extraordinarily successful business career, Mike retained his modest, approachable and sensitive nature. He was one of those rare individuals whom everyone respected and about whom, never was a bad word spoken. During Mike’s tenure, the World Union grew from strength to strength with improved and even stronger relations with all our regions, and a more stable financial platform.” – Gordon Smith, Past President, EUPJ; Executive Board Member, WUPJ

We extend deepest condolences to his wife, Jane, their children David, James, Ben and Sophie and their grandchildren.

May Mike’s memory continue to bring blessings to his family and to the Jewish world he cherished.

TRIBUTE DR STEPHEN HERMAN



[Leo Baeck College](#) mourns the passing of their peerless Chair of Governors, Dr Stephen Herman z”l.

Steve cared passionately about Leo Baeck College, he understood it and valued it and did everything he could to support it, and he instigated several essential initiatives concerning its governance.

We mourn his incalculable loss, but acknowledge that our grief is only a tiny reflection of that felt by his wife Judi, his children Jess and Ed, and his grandchildren Alys, Dylan, and Myla. Steve had a gentle voice and manner, but he showed real determination and steel when it was needed; and he cared for the College so deeply that even when he was in hospital having chemo he was reading papers and sending emails.

All members of the Management Committee of the European Union for Progressive Judaism were greatly saddened to learn of Stephen’s sudden death. We are indebted to him for the unfailingly warm, constructive and forward looking partnership we were privileged to enjoy and which he inspired with his admirable dynamism. May his memory be a blessing.

TRIBUTE RABBI RICHARD HIRSCH



With heavy hearts, we share the loss of our honorary life president, mentor, leader, friend, and visionary builder of the world Reform movement, Rabbi Richard (Dick) G. Hirsch Z”L. We embrace his family, his four children, 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, and join millions of Reform and Progressive Jews around the world in mourning.

As the executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, Rabbi Hirsch made what was then a bold decision to establish the headquarters of the organization in Jerusalem, giving rise to Progressive Judaism in Israel and around the world. Along with his beloved Bella, Rabbi Hirsch planted the seeds and helped to nurture the presence of Progressive Judaism in over 50 countries.

His leadership in the American Reform Jewish Movement began as a congregational rabbi and civil rights leader. Rabbi Hirsch was the founding director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington, which continues to help shape policies that reflect the values of Reform and Progressive Judaism. His friendship and partnership with Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the fight for justice, freedom and human dignity, represent the foundation on which Rabbi Hirsch continued his career with the World Union and upon which we will continue his legacy and maintain the fire of his vision.

Rabbi Hirsch’s commitment to Zionism helped to integrate the World Union into international Zionist institutions, including the creation of Arzenu, the political voice representing Reform and Progressive Judaism. He directly impacted modern life in Israel through the creation of the two kibbutzim of the movement in the Arava. And Rabbi Hirsch lovingly built and established the international headquarters of the World Union – Beit Shmuel/Mercaz Shimshon – a great source of pride to him and to our movement and home to the Bella and Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch Theater.

Rabbi Hirsch’s work sowed the fruit of a humanistic, progressive Judaism committed to the values of the Jewish people and the centrality of the State of Israel for our future.

We will continue listening in the silence of Rabbi Hirsch’s absence, his powerful voice, wise advice and guidance always present. We will continue to nurture and further his legacy through our love for the World Union, Medinat Israel and the Jews of the world. We are grateful to have had Rabbi Hirsch among us and are honoured to be the shepherds of his eternal legacy.

We will continue with his good work in his name and in his honour.

TRIBUTE GILBERT LEDERMAN



The World Union for Progressive Union and the European Union for Progressive Judaism mourn the passing of Gilbert Lederman Z”L, former president of the [Beth Hillel Synagogue](#) in Brussels, Belgium, on July 1st.

A prominent leader in Belgian Progressive Judaism that oversaw the cooperation and coming together of our two communities in Brussels, Lederman was also a significant figure in the [EUPJ](#) and the World Union, including as a member of their Executive Boards. The Gilbert Lederman Award for Outstanding Achievement awards EUPJ Baalei Tefillah Europe students. The pioneering program trains lay leaders to lead prayers for progressive congregations around the Continent.

We remember with deep gratitude his generous and thoughtful support for the EUPJ Brussels Shabbaton in 2018, initiating a new format of meetings for our European movement. Gilbert was a wonderful colleague to so many of us and a creative and dynamic force for all the Progressive movement. His advice, his humanity and his sense of humour will be missed by all of us. We have, far too soon, lost an exemplary leader.

“Gilbert was the embodiment of Jewish leadership at his best: deep but fun, original thinker and team player, gentle while holding high standards. He has been and will continue to be such an inspiration for all those who have been lucky to cross his path.”
— Stéphane Beder, WUPJ Senior Vice Chair in France

The WUPJ and the EUPJ extend condolences to his wife Veronika, their children Sarah and Nathan, as well as to all his family.

May his memory continue to bless us all.

TRIBUTE RABBI DOW MARMUR



The World Union for Progressive Judaism and the European Union for Progressive Judaism mourn with deep sorrow the passing of Rabbi Dow Marmur z”l, former President of the World Union (1999–2001).

Rabbi Emeritus at Holy Blossom Temple, in Toronto, Canada, he was born in Poland in 1935 and spent the years of World War II in the Soviet Union before returning to Poland in 1946. Two years later, he emigrated to Sweden, where he went to school. In 1957, he moved to London, England to study for the rabbinate at the Leo Baeck College, from which he graduated in 1962.

Before becoming Senior Rabbi of Holy Blossom in 1983, Rabbi Marmur served two congregations in Britain. He retired from his position of Senior Rabbi at Holy Blossom Temple in 2000.

Rabbi Marmur wrote six books and edited two. His articles on Jewish theology, Zionism, Israel, marriage and related problems, and Jewish/Christian relations have appeared in Jewish and non-Jewish publications in Britain, Canada and elsewhere.

The World Union of Progressive Judaism extends condolences to his wife Fredzia, his children Viveca, Elizabeth and Rabbi Michael Marmur, and to all the family.

May his memory continue to bless us all.

NEW COMMUNITY PROFILE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF LIBEREC



The Jewish Community of Liberec, which was founded in 1877 as a Reform Jewish community, is one of the ten communities constituting the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, an umbrella organisation for Jewish communities and other institutions in the country. In 2006, under the leadership of our chairman Dr Michal Hron, we reclaimed our Reform past and officially owned up to the Progressive stream of Judaism. Therefore, we consider our membership in the EUPJ and the WUPJ to be the completion of the circle.

Liberec, which is a beautiful historic town, only one hour away from Prague, has a rich Jewish past, which dates back to the 15th century. Before the World War Two, more than 1800 Jews lived in the Liberec and visited a beautiful neo-renaissance synagogue. Its destruction by the Nazis during Kristallnacht in 1938 was a presage of the destruction of our community; only 37 Jews from Liberec survived the Shoah. And yet, they did not give up. Joined by Jewish refugees from Carpathian Ukraine, Hungary and Slovakia, Jews rekindled and nurtured the light of Jewish tradition during the difficult years of the Communist dictatorship. After the Velvet Revolution in 1989, our community, in close cooperation with municipal and state authorities, got back the land on which the synagogue stood. There, as a part of the construction of a new library on the land of the former synagogue, a new synagogue was also built, which the library provided for the exclusive use of the Jewish community.

As soon as the synagogue was built, we started to shape our future. In 2006, we started to cooperate with Rabbi Tom Kučera, who is based in Munich and whose occasional visits of our community brought us much inspiration and guidance and helped us to re-establish Progressive tradition. We are proud that in 2020, Rabbi David Maxa became the first Rabbi to serve our community on regular bases since the World Word Two and we are happy to share him with Ec chajim – Progressive Jewish Community of Prague.

The backbone of our activities are regular Shabbat and holiday services conducted by our Rabbi David Maxa and various lay leaders. Rabbi Maxa also provides Jewish education for conversion candidates and accompanies our community members in life cycle events and provides them with pastoral care. We are also very grateful for the involvement of Professor Dr. Ralph Selig, a Jewish organist and expert on Jewish music, who visits our community and helps us to restore our musical tradition. Moreover, under the tireless leadership of our social worker Lea Květ, we provide social care support to elderly members of our community including Shoah survivors.

We offer public lectures about Judaism primarily to prevent xenophobia and antisemitism in the region, organise Shoah commemoration events and are involved in the Stolpersteine project. We maintain our Jewish cemetery, which is currently the only Jewish cemetery under the jurisdiction of the Progressive Rabbinate in the country.

Although our community currently has less than a hundred members, we are making successful efforts to do outreach among Jewish inhabitants of our region. We are happy about young people's involvement; a young member of our community just started her rabbinical training program at the Abraham Geiger College in Potsdam, Germany.

Our community hopes to make a valuable addition to the family of Progressive Jewish communities in Europe and beyond.



The exterior of the Liberec Synagogue



The interior of the Liberec Synagogue

Sonja Guentner, the Chair of the EUPJ, and David Maxa, the Rabbi of the Jewish Community of Liberec (from the right), during Sonja Guentner's visit to Liberec in September 2021



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

Jewish Community of Liberec

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 HaKochav - 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 Chaijm
 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



For EUPJ Communities, please click [here](#)

For WUPJ Communities, please click [here](#)

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 Thursday 8 September 2022 at 5pm BST/6pm CEST. 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 31 August 2021.
3. **Welcome** and brief presentation on the World Union for Progressive Judaism and an update on the activities of the Ukraine Crisis Fund by **Carole Sterling**, the Chair of the WUPJ and **Rabbi Sergio Bergman**, the President of the WUPJ.
4. Presentation and consideration of the **Chair's Report for 2021 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 2021 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 2021** (the Accounts). The Accounts will be available for inspection on the EUPJ website by no later than 16 August 2022. The Treasurer's Report to be presented at the Meeting, together with a brief financial summary, will be included in the 2021 Annual Report.
6. **Resolution to ratify the appointment of the Examiner of the 2021 Accounts and to appoint the Examiner of the 2022 Accounts:** "Resolved that the appointment of the accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP to perform an examination of the 2021 annual accounts of the EUPJ, be ratified and that the appointment of Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP to perform an examination of the 2022 annual accounts for the EUPJ, be approved."
7. **Resolution to ratify the admission of The Jewish Community of Liberec**, based in Liberec, Czech Republic, **as a Constituent Member of the EUPJ** by the EUPJ Executive Board on 22 March 2022: **"Resolved that** the decision by the EUPJ Executive Board on 22 March 2022 to

appoint The Jewish Community of Liberec in the Czech Republic 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. **EUPJ Succession Planning:** A presentation of the **Succession Planning Document** and **Proposed Amendment to the Constitution** (attached to this Notice) and, if considered appropriate, to pass the following resolution – “**Resolved that**, having approved the Succession Planning Document (SPD) attached to the Notice calling the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the EUPJ European Assembly, (a) this meeting approve the appointment of the Search and Nominations Committee on the terms and conditions set out in the SPD and under the Terms of Reference set out in Schedule 1 thereof; and (b) the Constitution of the EUPJ be and is hereby amended as provided for in Schedule 2 of the SPD.
9. **Appointments to the EUPJ Executive Board** – To appoint or to ratify the appointment of Ex Officio and Representative Appointees to the Board, as well as those appointed by the Executive Board, the names of which will be provided at the Meeting.
10. **Rabbinic Matters** – brief presentations from the EUPJ European Rabbinic Assembly, the European Beit Din and the 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.**

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: 10 August 2022.

Note:

- (1) **Online Meeting Only** - This meeting will not be in person for the 3rd year in a row, but will be held electronically via Zoom, as it was in 2020 and 2021.
- (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 5 September 2022. Each Constituent Delegate will then receive an email link to the Zoom meeting by no later than close of business on 7 September 2022, 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 5 September 2022. Each Associate Delegate will then receive an email link to the Zoom meeting by no later than close of business on 7 September 2022, 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 2021 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

A thumbnail image of the 'Schedule 1: Constituent Delegate appointment form'. It features the EUPJ logo at the top and contains various fields for personal and contact information, along with checkboxes for consent and a signature line at the bottom.

Schedule 1

Constituent Delegate appointment form. A Constituent Delegate appointment form must be completed and returned to administrator@eupj.org by no later than 5 September 2022. Each Constituent Delegate will receive an email link to the Zoom meeting by no later than close of business on 7 September 2022, and this link should not be shared

A thumbnail image of the 'Schedule 2: Associate Members appointment form'. It includes the EUPJ logo and fields for appointing a delegate, with checkboxes for consent and a signature line at the bottom.

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 5 September 2022. Each Associate Delegate will receive an email link to the Zoom meeting by no later than close of business on 7 September 2022, and this link should not be shared.

A thumbnail image of the 'Form of Proxy'. It features the EUPJ logo and fields for a delegate to appoint a proxy, with checkboxes for consent and a signature line at the bottom.

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 31 AUGUST 2021

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 **Tuesday 31 August 2021** 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 Judía Progresista Bet Shalom de Barcelona) Spain, Stéphane Bédér (Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral) France, Rabbi Sergio Bergman (WUPJ) Argentina, David Bernstein (Platform of Liberal Jews Switzerland) Switzerland, Joyce Bigio (Federazione Italiana Ebraismo Progressivo) Italy, John Clark (Or Chadasch, Vienna) Austria, Yael Cobano (Comunidad Judía Reformista de Madrid) Spain, Franca Coen (Federazione Italiana Ebraismo Progressivo) Italy, John Cohen (EUPJ) UK, Bill Echikson (International Jewish Centre) Belgium, Ben Fantini (Federazione Italiana Ebraismo Progressivo) Italy, František Fendrych (Židovská liberální unie, ZLU) Czech Republic, Rabbi Andrew Goldstein (EUPJ) UK, Deborah Grabiner (EUPJ Office) UK, Tamás Gróf (Sim Shalom Congregation) Hungary, Marek Jezowski (Beit Polska) Poland, Peter Jossi (Platform of Liberal Jews Switzerland) Switzerland, Michel Kahn (Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral) France, Miriam Kramer (EUPJ) UK, Sara Losch (Union Progressiver Juden in Deutschland) Germany, Rabbi David Maxa (Ec chajim, Praha) Czech Republic, Celia Naval (Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral) France, Anna Nosková (Ec chajim, Praha) Czech Republic, Eliza Panek (Ec Chaim Synagogue, Warsaw) Poland, David Pollak (EUPJ) UK, Marianne de Ross-Norden (Nederlands Verbond voor Progressief Jodendom) Netherlands, Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild (EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly) UK, Daniel Rux (Ec chajim, Praha) Czech Republic, Gordon Smith (EUPJ) UK, Carole Sterling (WUPJ) Canada, Fredy Sussman (Comunidad Judía Bnei Israel de Galicia) Spain, Rabbi Edward van Voolen (Abraham Geiger Kolleg) Germany, Robert Weiner (EUPJ) UK, David Weis (Liberal Jewish Community Luxembourg Esch/Alzette) Luxembourg, Paul Winter (EUPJ) UK, Rabbi Stas Wojciechowicz (Ec Chaim Synagogue Warsaw) Poland and Maksymillian Wudecki (Beit Polska) Poland.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair advised that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the 2021 European Assembly Meeting, saying it was the second and hopefully last Assembly meeting to be held entirely online. She thanked everyone for being so patient while a technical difficulty was resolved at the start of the meeting. 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, Leslie Bergman (Honorary Life President), Arthur Buchman, Rabbi Menno ten Brink, Amanda Gipson, Marc Konczaty, Gilbert Lederman, Sven Parsser, Rabbi René Pfertzel, Rabbi Danny Rich, Rabbi Jackie Tabick, Jesse Weil and Jonathan Wootliff.

The Chair then introduced EUPJ Vice President, Rabbi Andrew Goldstein, who made the opening prayer. The Chair thanked AG for his long service to the Movement as Chairman and Vice President, together with his rabbinic roles. The Chair then 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 Deborah Grabiner.

2. Approval of Minutes of the 2021 European Assembly Meeting held via Zoom

The Chair advised that the minutes of the European Assembly Meeting held online via Zoom on 6 September 2020 were included in the EUPJ Annual Report for 2020 ("the 2020 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 Robert Weiner and seconded by Tamás Gróf.

3. Welcome by WUPJ President and Chair

The Chair introduced Carole Sterling (CS), the Chair of the WUPJ, and welcomed her to her fifth 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 then introduced Rabbi Sergio Bergman (RSB) the President of the WUPJ, who thanked EUPJ leadership, lay leaders and rabbis. He felt honoured to be WUPJ President, even though he was unable to meet in person and travel to the regions due to Covid. WUPJ is here to empower, collaborate and to have a round table to discuss and learn from the movement's needs. During the past year WUPJ held a unique virtual Connections 2021 conference which had been postponed from 2020. RSB was proud of the content and opportunities, despite the extra pressure and the next hurdle is to reopen Beit Shmuel and the WUPJ offices. RSB would like to honour Rabbi Dick Hirsch by preserving his legacy by creating the Rabbi Dick and Bella Hirsch Fund and to dedicate the re-opening of Beit Shmuel to them, which will be close to fifty years since Rabbi Hirsch's ambition to move the WUPJ's headquarters to Jerusalem. RSB said that there is a big challenge in Europe, being the past and future of the Movement with its different countries, languages, traditions and diversity of Jewish life. Europe is an "incubator of Social Impact" of new ideas like the Jewish Effective Giving Initiative by the founder Adam Azari from Poland, who followed the Effective Altruism Movement for many years, and to now try and develop it across the world. It is an exciting project and the WUPJ is now open to develop it across the Progressive world. The opening of the Abraham Geiger facility in Potsdam is an amazing achievement. WUPJ is working with all the European seminaries, in Germany, in London, in Paris and the Netherlands to headhunt future candidates and the other challenge is to connect Russian speakers in Europe and to move away from the FSU division of countries and give them their own identity. RSB thanked EUPJ Chair, Sonja Guentner, and the lay leaders in Europe and wished everyone Shana Tova. The Chair thanked Rabbi Bergman for his encouraging words and future plans

4. Chair's Report

The Chair referred the meeting to the detailed Chair's Report included in the 2020 Report and it was noted that all activities had been reported to the Executive Board in 2020/21. The Chair added the following items – (a) she would like to reiterate her thanks to all attendees and other volunteers, without whose help EUPJ would not have achieved all its activities. (b) She shared her gratitude for the help and support of the EUPJ Management Committee, EUPJ's administrator, Deborah Grabiner and WUPJ's leadership, Carole Sterling and Rabbi Sergio Bergman. (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 2020

The Chair thanked David Pollak (DP), who had retired as Vice-Chair Finance at last year's European Assembly and had taken on the portfolio of Vice-Chair Special Assignments. However, DP graciously stayed on as acting Treasurer until a new appointment could be made and was responsible for finalising the 2020 Accounts and Finance Report, for which the Chair thanked him. DP then retired from the EUPJ Board and ManCom at the end of April and Paul Winter was co-opted onto ManCom and the Board as acting Vice-Chair Finance. Paul is

eminently qualified for this role, having previously served as the Treasurer of the Movement for Reform Judaism in the UK.

The Chair advised that the Finance Report and 2020 Accounts were quite detailed but invited questions before putting them to the meeting for approval. Peter Jossi of PLJS Switzerland queried whether all the funding for the EUPJ Biennial Conference 2020 had been finalised and repaid, if required. David Pollak, who had been co-chair of the conference with Alex Dembitz (AD) confirmed that donations to support the Next Generation delegates were held in an account by GIL Geneva. When it had been concluded that the conference would not take place in its original format it was agreed that AD would confirm with the donors to the conference whether the funds could be reserved for further use or should be refunded. EUPJ then invited delegates to donate some or part of their conference registrations into a newly created Next Generation Leadership Development Fund (NGLDF), and many did so. The details of this fund are documented in the accounts and the funds are available to support youth activities, now or in the future. It was confirmed that there are no financial liabilities between either EUPJ or GIL and vice versa. The President, Gordon Smith, thanked the conference committee for their extremely hard work and was deeply saddened that the conference could not take place. He confirmed that no monies were held over by the EUPJ and that EUPJ was waiting to hear from AD following his discussions with the donors. The President suggested that a separate meeting should be convened to discuss this issue.

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 David Weis and seconded by David Bernstein. 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 on page 4 of the 2020 Examined Accounts. The report shows no criticism of the accounts and that they comply with the UK's Charity Commission rules.

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 2020 and to re-appoint them as Independent Examiners for EUPJ's accounts for 2021 – the wording of the resolution was posted on the Zoom Polling System and the resolution was proposed by John Clark and seconded by David Bernstein. All delegates were given the opportunity to vote using the Zoom Polling System, which showed that the resolution was approved.

7. Resolution to ratify the decision to admit Ec chajim Praha as Constituent Member.

The Chair reminded the meeting that it is the Executive Board which decides upon applications for membership, which it does upon the recommendation of the Management Committee (ManCom) after a full due diligence, but that this is then subject to ratification by the European Assembly.

The Chair advised that in late 2020 the EUPJ received an application from **Ec chajim Prague** requesting to be admitted as a Constituent Member of the EUPJ and that the EUPJ ManCom did a full due diligence and review in respect of Ec chajim, but was already fully aware and knowledgeable of this community as EUPJ had been involved with and supportive of this community since its inception. Rabbi David Maxa, was the rabbi of this community and provided a detailed rabbinic report, but a favourable report was also obtained from Rabbis Pfertzel and Tabick. The EUPJ was also provided with all the documentation and information which EUPJ normally requires from prospective members. The Chair then advised that the EUPJ ManCom unanimously endorsed this application and that the Executive Board, at its meeting on 21 March

2020, unanimously voted to admit **Ec chajim Praha, of the Czech Republic** as a Constituent member. A report from Ec chajim, Praha was included in the Annual Report.

The Chair invited the European Assembly to ratify the decision of the Executive Board to admit Ec chajim, Praha and the following resolution was posted on the Zoom Polling System - "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."

The resolution was proposed by Celia Naval and seconded by Rabbi Edward van Voolen. All delegates were given the opportunity to vote using the Zoom Polling System, which showed that the resolution was unanimously approved. The Chair welcomed Rabbi Maxa and Anna Nosková who were attending the meeting and thanked them for their inspirational work. The meeting wished the community Mazel tov.

8. Ec Chaim Synagogue of Warsaw - Status Update

The Chair confirmed that Ec Chaim Warsaw had been upgraded from Associate Member to Constituent Member, and reminded all present that the admission of this community was dealt with in detail at the 2020 European Assembly meeting. At that meeting Ec Chaim Warsaw was admitted as an Associate Member, but with a route to full membership to be determined by the EUPJ ManCom – and the Chair referred to paragraph 9 of the minutes of the 2020 meeting on pages 36 and 37 of the Annual Report.

The Chair went on to advise that, although the status of Ec Chaim was left to ManCom to determine, she have already fully updated the Executive Board and thought it useful to update the membership as well. The reason for the decision to initially make this community an Associate Member was to give time for Ec Chaim to meet with delegates from Beit Polska (then the only full member in Poland) and Beit Warszawa (a member of Beit Polska) to attempt to resolve a number of issues between them, and this process was agreed to by Marek Jezowski (the board member representing Beit Polska). EUPJ then appointed David Tilles (who was integral to facilitating the entire process and who is on the board of Or Hadasz, our Associate Member in Krakow) to oversee these discussions, which commenced before 31 December 2020 but, due to COVID restrictions, were not completed by the end of 2020 and ManCom agreed to extend the time period so that the communities could continue with their discussions.

Discussions continued during 2021 and the EUPJ ManCom were finally advised by David Tilles, Marek Jezowski and Rabbi Stas Wojciechowicz of Ec Chaim that *"the two communities' managements have remained in positive collaborative mode, made progress on the issues both parties had raised and are hopeful for more positive achievements in the near term."* Marek Jezowski has stated that *"Rabbi Stas Wojciechowicz notified me a week ago that he has applied to EUPJ for review of his community's status and asked whether I would support his motion, which I gladly do"*. Marek Jezowski also provided ManCom with a summary of the discussions and agreements between Beit Polska, Beit Warszawa and Ec Chaim.

The Chair then advised that ManCom was of the opinion that a huge step forward in the relationship between these communities had been achieved and that negotiations and discussions were carried out in good faith, and look likely to continue on this basis. At its meeting on 13 July 2021, ManCom reviewed the status of Ec Chaim Warsaw, looked at all the facts and reports and took account of the feedback from David Tilles and Marek Jezowski, especially the fact that discussions had taken place cordially and in good faith. Accordingly ManCom, as it was empowered to do by the Executive Board and the European Assembly, was satisfied with the outcome of these discussions and passed a formal resolution determining that Ec Chaim Warsaw should become a Constituent Member with effect from the close of business on 20 July 2021, the date of the following meeting of the Executive Board.

The Chair then said it was her great pleasure to formally welcome Ec Chaim as our second full member in Poland and looked forward to a growing and co-operative relationship between it and our other Polish communities. The chair welcomed Rabbi Stas Wojciechowicz and Eliza Panek from Ec Chaim who were attending the meeting, and pointed out that a brief report about this community can be found on page 22 of the Annual Report.

9. EUPJ Officers and Board Members

The Chair advised that the terms of office of certain of the Officers of the EUPJ would end at the meeting and some were entitled to be re-appointed for additional terms. She 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.

The Chair then mentioned those whose terms end at this meeting or who were standing down. They were the following:

- Rabbi Andrew Goldstein – one of EUPJ's Vice-Presidents. The Chair had already thanked Andrew and hoped that he would still be available to provide his wisdom and sound judgement her and ManCom;
- Rabbi Danny Rich – the representative of Liberal Judaism in the UK – The Chair thanked Rabbi Rich for all his hard work and tireless support of the EUPJ and hoped that he would still be available to provide his commitment to the movement in the future.
- Gilbert Ledermann – the representative of both Beth Hillel and IJC in Belgium.
- Marc Konczaty – one of the representatives of AJL, the French Assembly.

The Chair pointed out that both Gilbert and Marc had been instrumental in a number of projects and mentioned specifically the excellent Shabbaton in Brussels and the support given to her and Carole Sterling to meet French representatives when it was still possible to travel.

The Chair then advised that, as stated in Item 9 of the Notice of meeting, EUPJ needed to elect a new Vice-Chair Finance and the nominated candidate is Paul Winter. Paul is a senior partner at SPW Chartered Accountants in London, and specialises in providing assistance to high technology based companies, assisting them in developing their accounting and reporting requirements, and also specialises in tax affairs of family companies and their directors. Paul was introduced to the meeting. He explained that he had been involved with the EUPJ for the past two months getting to grips with its finances. He shared that he had served as treasurer at both the Movement for Reform Judaism in the UK as well as at Alyth Synagogue. The Chair confirmed that Paul was unanimously recommended by the ManCom and Executive Board.

The Chair then invited the European Assembly Meeting, unless there were any questions, to vote for this nomination using the Zoom polling system to approve the appointment and the following resolution was posted on the Zoom Polling System - "That the appointment of Paul Winter to the Executive Board in the position of Vice-Chair Finance is hereby approved".

The resolution was proposed by Robert Weiner and seconded by David Bernstein. All delegates were given the opportunity to vote using the Zoom Polling System, which showed that the resolution was unanimously approved.

The chair then dealt with representative appoints to the Executive Board by Constituent Members, both new representatives and those being appointed for a 2nd or 3rd term. The Chair explained that these appointments are rights granted under the constitution and so no vote is required, but she would announce these to the meeting –

- By the Netherlands Verbond – Sven Parsser for a 2nd term and Marianne de Roos-Norden for her first term;
- By Liberal Judaism in the UK – Rabbi Charley Baginsky for her first term;
- By Or Chadash Synagogue in Vienna – John Clark for his 3rd term;

- By AJL, the French Assembly, Celia Naval for her 3rd term, Stéphane Bédèr for his 2nd term and Michel Kahn for his 1st term;
- By Shir Hatzafon in Copenhagen – Arthur Buchman for his 3rd term;
- By the Liberal Jewish Community of Luxembourg – David Weis for his 2nd term;
- By PJLS, the Platform for Liberal Judaism in Switzerland, David Bernstein and Peter Jossi, both for their 3rd terms.
- By the Executive Board in respect of Hungary, Tamás Gróf for his 3rd term.

The Chair pointed out that board representation for countries with more than one member and no national union, are made by the Executive Board and that the appointments in respect of the Czech Republic and Belgium, as well as Spain will be dealt at future board meetings.

10 Rabbinic Matters

The Chair referred to the detailed reports for the European Rabbinic Assembly (ERA), the European Beit Din (EBD) and the Central European Beit Din (CEBD) that were included in the Annual Report on pages 13, 14 and 15 respectively. She said that, as the CEBD is the newest institution, she would hand over to Rabbi David Maxa to give a brief report. Rabbi Maxa thanked the EUPJ on behalf of his rabbinic colleagues in Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic and said how privileged they felt to be admitted into the EUPJ family of rabbinic institutions and thanked the Chair who helped set up this Beit Din. It was his privilege to work besides Rabbis Misha Kapustin, Thomas Salamon, Anita Kantor, Tom Kučera and Stas Wojciechowicz in these countries in the operations of the CEBD. The first sitting of the CEBD will be at the beginning of October in Prague.

11. Brussels Office Report

The Chair advised that a full report on the activities of the Brussels Office was included in the Annual Report on page 11 with many links to the full spectrum of projects and activities taking place. The Chair encouraged the delegates to look at the new pages of the website and the corresponding PR on these projects. The Executive Board has been kept up to date on the activities of the Brussels Office.

12. Any Other Reports

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.

13. Any Other Business

(a) The Proposal to encourage communities to ensure full marriage equality

The Chair advised that on 3 July 2021 EUPJ held its first ever Pride Shabbat, which was extremely successful and hoped that this will become a regular feature on our annual programme. David Weis was the main mover behind the Pride Shabbat and has proposed that the EUPJ adopt a resolution encouraging our communities to ensure full marriage equality. The detailed wording of this proposal had been on the EUPJ website since 2 August and was endorsed by the ManCom and Executive Board. The Chair thanked John Clark and Rabbi Grodensky for their work on this project too.

The Chair handed over to David Weis who shared the proposal on the screen and described the thinking behind the proposal. The details were self-explanatory based on a proposal at the 2013 WUPJ International Assembly and followed up by the EUPJ Pride Shabbat. The floor was opened to questions. Peter Jossi informed the meeting that a public vote will be held in Switzerland at the end of September on the same issue. The Chair proposed that, as there were no further questions, that the meeting vote on this proposal nomination using the Zoom Polling system, “that the following resolution be and is hereby approved (as shared on the screen) and would be included in the minutes”. The resolution was proposed by Miriam Kramer and seconded by Rabbi Edward van Voolen. The resolution was adopted by the meeting. The full wording of the resolution is as follows:

“EUPJ Proposal to encourage its communities to ensure, wherever possible, full marriage equality before the next EUPJ biennial meeting.

- *Whereas the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) condemns all forms of bigotry and discrimination in our society as being incompatible with the preservation of human dignity which is destructive of tzelem elohim, and;*
- *Whereas the EUPJ upholds the principle of treating all people equally whether by gender, age, colour or sexual preference, and;*
- *Whereas the EUPJ has long championed full equality of women in our movement and in society generally and strived to eliminate gender-based stereotypes, and;*
- *Whereas the 2011 International Assembly of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) called on all institutions, colleges, congregations and youth groups to give equal opportunity to gay and lesbian bisexual transgender and inter-sex members (GLBTI), especially in terms of leadership and learning and to be aware of gender issues when developing study curriculum, and;*
- *Whereas the 2011 International Assembly of the WUPJ called on all institutions associated with the WUPJ to treat GLBTI couples in the same manner as married heterosexual couples and families, and;*
- *Whereas the 2013 International Assembly of the WUPJ called upon all institutions associated with the WUPJ to promote marriage equality within our movement, and to join with others to support legislation to help guarantee the legal rights of GLBTI couples to marry civilly and religiously, and to secure their marital legal rights in full equality to heterosexual couples;*
- *Following the EUPJ's first Pride Shabbat on 3 July 2021, the first regional event of its kind within the WUPJ, and in view of a worrying backsliding of human rights, in particular for GLBTI people, in many parts of the EUPJ region, EUPJ HEREBY reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the equal rights of all its members, whatever their gender orientation or identification, and encourages its communities to ensure, wherever possible, full marriage equality.”*

The President, Gordon Smith, then thanked Sonja Guentner for all her work in a very difficult year, particularly, as we have not been able to meet in person but said that she had risen to the occasion at ManCom, the Executive Board and at the European Assembly as well.

The Chair then thanked John Cohen and Deborah Grabiner for all their work in organising this 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 2021 European Assembly Meeting, apologising for the delayed start and, wished everyone L'shana Tova and declared the meeting closed at 18:26 pm (BST).

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Chair of the European Assembly Meeting



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