

Search and Nominations Committee Report for the EUPJ Annual European Assembly to be held on 31st August 2023

At the Special European Assembly (SEA) held on 20th April 2023, the proposed list of the names of the nominees submitted by the Search and Nominations committee (SNC) was approved.

However, it was also reported at that meeting that at the next AEA of the EUPJ to be held on 31 August 2023 the EUPJ will have three major vacancies - being Chair, Vice Chair- Finance and President unless we find suitable candidates by then. Also, at that AEA the EUPJ will not have one UK representative on the Management Committee (MC) of the EUPJ despite the fact that the EUPJ is a UK registered charity and the UK has the largest Synagogal Movements in Europe.

At that Special Assembly, it was therefore resolved that the period during which the SNC will operate be extended so that it now ends on the date of the 2023 Annual European Assembly meeting. Immediately, following the meeting on 20th April, Miriam Kramer, on taking on the position of sole Chair kindly wrote a letter to all EUPJ members urging further nominations to the Management Committee. This letter resulted in a number of nominations being sent to me, as Chair of the SNC.

I have phoned, corresponded and met by Zoom and WhatsApp all of the excellent candidates whose names were forwarded to me and subsequently a meeting of the SNC was held on 15th June 2023, at which the final "slate" of names was agreed to be proposed to the MC and the EB and, subject to their approval, to be submitted to the Annual European Assembly of the EUPJ for its approval.

I am delighted that the SNC's proposed list of names of the nominees in the attached list (the EUPJ Slate) for the positions on both the MC and the EB indicated on that list was approved by the Executive Board at its meeting on 19th July 2023. A short profile of the nominees is also attached. I believe that those nominated reflect a strong, committed and excellent cross-section of our European countries and will complement the current members of the MC and be excellent successors for those whose terms come to an end at this AEA. I therefore urge the members of the Annual European Assembly to approve these nominations.

In particular, I would point out that the slate includes the names of the proposed nominees to fill the vital positions of Chair, VC-Finance and President as well as a Vice Chair whose main responsibility will be to liaise with the Reform and Liberal Movements in the UK during their discussions on forming a much welcomed "partnership".

I am also pleased to report that the SNC recommended the setting up of a Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) and that Jonathan Lewis (UK) has agreed to serve on it for which I am very grateful.

I wish to thank all those who have sent nominations to the SNC, all those who have agreed to be nominated, the members of the SNC and my colleagues on the Management Committee.

So, the SNC, as approved by the MC and the Executive Board, is requesting the EUPJ membership to approve the resolutions set out in Item 8 of the Notice of Meeting calling the EUPJ Annual European Assembly and to which this Report is attached. These resolutions approve the appointment of the persons in the EUPJ Slate for the positions on the EUPJ MC and/or Executive Board set out next to their names.

Gordon Smith
President
20th July 2023.

Appendix 1 - Slate

Proposed EUPJ Management Committee and Executive Board Nominations- August 2023

Position	Name	Country	Special Responsibility
Management Committee			
President	Miriam Kramer	UK	
Chair	Rabbi Lea Muehlstein	UK	
Vice Chair- Finance	Pierre Elkaim	France	France
Vice Chair	Ian Lancaster	UK	UK Reform and Liberal Movements Liaison

Appendix 2 - Search and Nominations Committee - Profiles of Nominees

Miriam Kramer: I was born in London and bred in New York; we were members of a Conservative synagogue.

In my mid-20s I moved back to London and, by marrying Stephen, joined Wimbledon Synagogue in 1978. We have two adult children. Over the next couple of decades I progressed up the ladder: co-organising the children's services, chairing the Education Committee, serving as Senior Warden and ultimately chairing the congregation.

After a stint on the RSGB (as it then was) board I became involved with Leo Baeck College. Initially I formed and chaired a committee to organise events to mark the College's 50th anniversary in 2006 and then chaired the College for four years.

After a brief respite I was approached to chair EUPJ and I did this for six years. At the end of last year I was approached to return as co-chair. I have agreed – with the stipulation that no more than six months following the meeting on April 20th, when a new chair has been found, my involvement will cease.

In my professional life I trained as an art historian and spent most of my career as a freelance journalist writing about art and antiques

Rabbi Lea Mühlstein: Born and raised in Germany, I hold a BA and MSci in Chemistry from Cambridge University as well as an MA in Jewish Studies from King's College London. I was ordained in 2012 by Leo Baeck College and I am currently Senior Rabbi at The Ark Synagogue, London.

My Current Volunteer Roles in Jewish Communal Organisations are:- 2023 to date, Acting Chair of the UK Zionist Federation; 2022 to date, Board member of the London Centre for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism; 2017 to date member of the Board of Governors and the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel; 2017 to date Member of the Expanded Executive of the WZO and member of the Vaad Ha-poel; 2017 to date International Chair of Arzenu; 2011 to date Member of the organising team of the Jewish Christian Muslim Conference.

Previously, my Volunteer Roles in Jewish Communal Organisations were:- 2010 to 2013 Board member of the European Union for Progressive Judaism; 2010 to 2012; Assistant treasurer of the European Union for Progressive Judaism; 2008 to 2012 Main Organiser of "Jewish Journeys - Seminars for Young Adults from across Europe"; 2007 to 2011 Board member of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ); 2006 - 2007 Founding Board member of Arzenu Deutschland e.V.; 2004 to 2006 Vice-president and assistant treasurer of Jung und Jüdisch Germany e.V. (now Tamar Germany- the progressive Jewish young adult movement).

Pierre Elkaim: I am French and have been a member of Kehilat Gesher in Paris since 2007. I have been a Board member and Treasurer since 2015. I am a member of Arzenou France and Treasurer since 2017.

I am now retired and formerly was the Chief Financial Officer in International Environment, with focus on performance improvement, change management and business development, improvement strategy and managing the financial functions. Previously I was active in CFO positions in International groups.

I speak fluent French, English, German, Russian and good Spanish.

Ian Lancaster- I joined North West Surry Synagogue (NWSS) in 1989. I have twice served as Chairman at NWSS, as well as a warden. I have been a member of the MRJ Board for four years. I chaired the joint MRJ/Liberal Judaism Working Group on Rabbinic Training, and am now one of two MRJ nominees to the Board of Leo Baeck College

I am also Chairman of Renaissance Publishing, the charity that publishes Jewish Renaissance magazine and organises Jewish culture tours.

For ten years I worked as an arts administrator before joining the Gulbenkian Foundation. I then set up a company making decorative and promotional holograms. I was then invited to run the Museum of Holography in New York City, which I did for two years before returning to London, where I co-founded Reconnaissance International, the company specialising in gathering and disseminating information on ways to combat counterfeits and the handling of secure items. I sold the business in 2015 and have since been working as a freelance consultant.