

**EUPJ Shabbaton 17 -19 May 2019**



**ROME**

Annual Report

2018

for the

European Assembly

at

Grand Hotel del Gianicolo

Viale delle Mura Gianicolensi 107

Rome 00152

Italy

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019

## Contents

Page 3	List of Honorary Officers, Office Holders and Staff 2018/19
Page 4	Welcome by WUPJ Chair and President
Page 5	Welcome by EUPJ Chair
Page 6	Notice and Agenda
Page 9	Addendum to Notice and Agenda
Page 10	Minutes Prague
Page 16	Minutes Brussels
Page 18	Report – Vice Chair Finance
Page 20	Report – Vice Chair Twinning and Israel
Page 21	Report – Chair – European Rabbinic Assembly
Page 22	Report – Convenor – European Beit Din
Page 23 - 25	Report Rabbinical Colleges Abraham Geiger Kolleg Leo Baeck College Levisson Institute
Page 26	Report Biennial Conference 2020
Page 27	Bereavements
Page 28	List of EUPJ Communities (December 2018)
Page 31	Contact information

## List of Honorary Office Holders and Staff 2018/19

Honorary Life Presidents:	Leslie Bergman Ruth Cohen Jeffery Rose (deceased December 2018)
President:	Gordon Smith
Vice-Presidents:	Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein Miriam Kramer Robert Weiner
Chair:	Sonja Guentner
Vice Chair, Finance:	David Pollak
Vice Chair, Governance:	John Cohen
Vice Chair, Twinning & Israel:	Michael Reik
Vice Chair, Education and Interfaith:	Rabbi Menno ten Brink
Convenor European Beit Din:	Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick
Chair European Rabbinic Assembly:	Rabbi Dr René Pfertzel
Board Members:	Joyce Bigio Arthur Buchman David Bernstein John Clark Rabbi Alexander Grodensky Tamás Gróf Marek Jezowski Peter Jossi Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris Marc Konczaty Gilbert Lederman Celia Naval Dan Rattan Rabbi Danny Rich Hannah Verhulst Rabbi Dr Edward van Voolen Ron van der Wieken Jonathan Wootliff
WUPJ Representatives:	Rabbi Daniel Freeland Carole Sterling
Administrator:	Deborah Grabiner
European Office Director:	William Echikson
Newsletter Editor:	Darryl Egnal
Legal Adviser:	Andrew Hart

WORLD  
UNION FOR  
PROGRESSIVE  
JUDAISM



האיגוד  
העולמי  
ליהדות  
מתקדמת

Friends,

It is our pleasure to send greetings to our partners and friends in the European Union for Progressive Judaism as you reflect on the past year and continue to dream and plan for the future.

We are proud to be your partners as together we work to strengthen our communities, fight anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism, connect our youth around the globe, create opportunities to raise up Jewish communal professionals and lay leaders and to learn, study and pray together.

We were delighted to be with you in Brussels and Rome as you gathered to strategize, discuss and implement your visions and ideas. It is a privilege to work with your leadership, and we are grateful that this year we are able to acknowledge and thank Leslie, Dee, Stanley and Marion Bergman with our highest honour – the WUPJ International Humanitarian Award – in recognition of their incredible leadership, generosity and commitment.

We wish you continued success in the year ahead.

With warm regards,

Rabbi Dan Freeland, President  
Carole Sterling, Chair



Dear friends!

It is with the greatest joy and warmth that we welcome over 50 representatives from 15 EUPJ countries to Italy for our 2019 Shabbaton. This is being held in conjunction with the celebrations marking the fifth anniversary of Beth Hillel, our Progressive Jewish community in Rome.

We hope that the programme over these three days will be inspiring and invigorating, and we look forward to celebrating the successes of our movement across Europe while at the same time gathering our strength and expertise to face the challenges ahead. Thank you so very much for joining us!

The hugely successful biennial conference in Prague in the spring and an impressive gathering in Brussels in November to mark the opening of the EUPJ office there were outstanding events, both marking the starting point of new networks and initiatives.

Progressive Judaism is growing across the Continent and with that come new developments, literally in all corners. There is a renewed dynamic in Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, Scandinavia and Iberia continue to experience growth and development.

The political and demographical phenomena surrounding us and our communities are complex and some of them are outright worrying. These aspects, too, are part of our work and considerations for the future.

An organisation, and this is an experience we all share, must never stand still. Structures need revising and updating, new visions need to be agreed and implemented.

These are almost always complex tasks and they require people who take them on. In this regard, the EUPJ is extraordinarily fortunate and my heartfelt thanks go to every single individual, lay and professional, office holders and volunteers, who give so generously of their time, resources and enthusiasm to promote the cause of Progressive Judaism, in Europe and all regions of the WUPJ.

With warm regards

Sonja Guentner  
Chair

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 Meeting of the European Assembly of the European Union for Progressive Judaism** ("EUPJ") will be held at the Grand Hotel del Gianicolo, Viale delle Mura Gianicolensi 107, Rome, Italy, 00152 on Sunday 19 May 2019 at 1pm (13H00) local time.

### AGENDA

1. **Apologies** for absence.
2. **The Minutes (a copy of which accompanies this Notice) of the last annual general meeting of the European Assembly** held in **Prague** on 29 April 2018.
3. **The Minutes (a copy of which accompanies this Notice) of the special meeting of the European Assembly** held in **Brussels** on 11 November 2018.
4. **Welcome** and brief presentation on the World Union for Progressive Judaism by **Carole Sterling**, the Chair of the WUPJ.
5. Presentation and consideration of the **Chair's Report on 2018 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 2018 reports in the Annual Meeting Booklet which is to be circulated to members and made available on the EUPJ website before this meeting. Some brief supplementary comments will be presented by the Chair under this agenda item).
6. Consideration and approval of **the examined Annual Accounts of the EUPJ for 2018** (the Accounts). The Accounts will be available for inspection on the EUPJ website by no later than 13 May 2019. The Treasurer's Report to be presented by Vice-Chair Finance David Pollak, together with a brief financial summary, will be included in the Annual Meeting Booklet.
7. **Resolution to ratify the appointment of the Examiner of the 2018 Accounts and to re-appoint the Examiner of the 2019 Accounts:** "Resolved that the appointment of the accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP to perform an examination of the 2018 annual accounts of the EUPJ, be ratified and that the appointment of Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP to perform an examination of the 2019 annual accounts for the EUPJ, be approved."
8. **Resolution to ratify the admission of The Association of Progressive Jews of Krakow**, in Poland (and known as Or Hadasz) **as an Associate Member of the EUPJ** by the EUPJ Executive Board on 4 February 2019: "Resolved that the decision by the EUPJ Executive Board on 4 February 2019 to appoint the Association of Progressive Jews of Krakow, known as Or Hadasz, as an Associate Member of the EUPJ with effect from that date, in terms of Section 4 of the Constitution, be and is hereby ratified in terms of the proviso to Section 4.2 of the Constitution."
9. **Appointments to the EUPJ Executive Board –**

The ratification of appointments to the EUPJ Executive Board under Sections 6.1.5 and 6.1.6 of the Constitution read with Appendix 2 to the Constitution. These appointments are the right to be, or to appoint a nominee to be, on the Executive Board either in an ex officio capacity as a result of an office held, or granted to certain Constituent Members or the Executive Board itself and were reduced from an initial three year term to a two year term as a result of the amendments to the Constitution at the 2018 Annual European Assembly. The names of the individuals will be published on the EUPJ website and advised to the meeting before ratification is requested.

10. **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: 18 April 2019.

**Note:** A Constituent Delegate who is unable to attend the meeting of the European Assembly in person, may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his place provided that notice of intention to appoint a proxy has been received by the Chairman or Secretary or Administrator not less than 48 hours prior to the start time of the meeting and the actual proxy (in the form attached) and copy of the notice of intention to appoint a proxy which was given in time, is given to the Chairman of the meeting prior to the start of the meeting.

## Appointment as Constituent Delegate and Form of Proxy

### European Union for Progressive Judaism

We, [*insert name of Constituent Member* \_\_\_\_\_] of  
[*insert address* \_\_\_\_\_]  
being a Constituent Member of The European Union for Progressive Judaism (“EUPJ”) hereby  
appoint [*insert name of Constituent Delegate* \_\_\_\_\_]  
as a Constituent Delegate in terms of Clause 5.3 of the EUPJ Constitution to represent us at the  
Annual European Assembly Meeting of the EUPJ, to be held on 19 May 2019.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (the Constituent Member)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, [*insert name of Constituent Member* \_\_\_\_\_] of  
[*address* \_\_\_\_\_]

being a duly appointed Constituent Delegate, hereby appoint -

[the Chairman of the meeting] or [\_\_\_\_\_]

to act as my proxy and to vote on my behalf at the Annual European Assembly Meeting of the EUPJ,  
to be held on 19 May 2019 and at any adjournment of it.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (the Constituent Delegate)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) - 2019 Annual European Assembly Meeting – Amendment to Notice of Meeting**

We refer to the Notice of Meeting dated 18 April 2019 calling the 2019 meeting of the EUPJ European Assembly **on Sunday 19 May 2019 at 1pm (13H00) local time.**

The formal **Notice and Agenda for the Assembly Meeting is hereby amended by the addition of the following Item 9A -**

**“9A Election to Office of Vice Chair –** John Cohen, whose term as Vice Chair Governance comes to an end at the 2019 European Assembly, has agreed to continue in this role for another year and, accordingly, the European Assembly will be asked to approve this appointment.

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

Sonja Guentner – Chair  
Dated: 19 April 2019

## EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

**Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ)** held at the Prague Marriott Hotel, V Celnici 8, Prague 110 00, **Czech Republic** on **Sunday 29 April 2018** at 11.45 am.

**Present:** Chairman of EUPJ Miriam Kramer and the other Honorary Officers and representatives of various Constituent Members of EUPJ, as well as invitees, as follows: Isak Aasvestad (Abraham Geiger Kolleg) Germany, Paul Yuval Adam (Arzenu - Bund progressiver Zionisten in Deutschland) Germany, Jai Anguita (Bet Shalom) Spain, Lior Argaman (WUPJ) Israel, Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim (EUPJ / ERA) Switzerland, Stéphane Beder (AJL) France, Michel Benveniste (Communauté Juive Libérale de Genève) Switzerland, Leslie Bergman (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Rabbi Stephen Berkowitz (Bet Shalom/ Comunidad Reformista de Madrid) Spain, Carey Bernitz (Beth Shalom) Italy, Joyce Bigio (FIEP) Italy, Sophie Bigot-Goldblum (MJLF) France, Deborah Blausten (Alyth Synagogue/Leo Baeck College) United Kingdom, Mark Bloustien (Beit Shalom) Australia, Hartmut Bomhoff (Abraham Geiger Kolleg) Germany, Jean-Paul Borgerhoff (Beth Hillel) Belgium, Steven Brummel (IJC) Belgium, Arthur Buchman (Shir Hatzafon) Denmark, Ilana Bule (Reform Jewish Community of Madrid) Spain, Rabbi Steve Burnstein (WUPJ) Israel, Graham Carpenter (Liberal Judaism) United Kingdom, Joan Carretero Grau (Bet Shalom) Spain, Rabbi Haim Casas (Keren Or/ GIL) France/Switzerland, Mac Michael Chao (Beth Hillel Rome) Taiwan, John Clark (Or Chadasch) Austria, Yael Cobano (Reform Jewish Community of Madrid) Spain, Franca Coen (FIEP) Italy, Giorgio Coen (FIEP) Italy, Danielle Cohen (MJLF) France, John Cohen (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Noeleen Cohen (Alyth Synagogue) United Kingdom, Tamar Cohen (ULIF) France, Rabbi Tom Cohen (Kehilat Gesher) France, Rosalind Copisarow (West London Synagogue) United Kingdom, Professor Vincent Darley (Kingston Liberal Synagogue) United Kingdom, Rabbi Janet Darley (Kingston Liberal Synagogue/Liberal Judaism) United Kingdom, Elie David (Union Juive Libérale de Strasbourg) France, Karolina David (Union Juive Libérale de Strasbourg) France, Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton (Mosaic Reform Synagogue) United Kingdom, Alexander Dembitz (Communauté Juive Libérale de Genève) Switzerland, Kati Dembitz (Communauté Juive Libérale de Genève) Switzerland, Adele Donnarumma (Bet Shalom) Spain, Phyllis Dorey (WUPJ) Australia, Jane Drapkin (NPLS) United Kingdom, Helen Dubovie Brown (Gloucester Liberal Jewish Community) United Kingdom, Darryl Egnal (EUPJ) Israel, Lionel Errera (ULIF Copernic) France, Barbara Etkind (Temple Beth Ami) United States, Ladislav Faigl, Czech Republic, Rabbi Gabriel Farhi (AJTM) France, Peter Forrai (Szim Salom) Hungary, Sergio Fraile Saiz (Comunidad Judia de Valencia Bnei Sefarad) Spain, Jeromé Freedman (Liberal Judaism) United Kingdom, Louise Freedman (Liberal Judaism) United Kingdom, Rabbi François Garaï (Communauté Juive Libérale de Genève) Switzerland, Stephanie Garry (Plaza Jewish Community Chapel) United States, Boaz Gasto (AJLT) France, Amanda Gipson (Bet Januka) Spain, Margarita Gokun Silver (Reform Jewish Community of Madrid) United States, Rabbi Ira Goldberg (EUO) Netherlands, Robyn Goldhar (Holy Blossom Temple) United Kingdom, Rabbi Aaron Goldstein (LJ & NPLS) United Kingdom, Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein (Liberal Judaism & NPLS) United Kingdom, Deborah Grabiner (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Jane Grabiner (Finchley Reform Synagogue) United Kingdom, Michael Grabiner (Finchley Reform Synagogue) United Kingdom, Janee Graver (Aleph) United States, Dr Tamás Gróf (Bet Orim) Hungary, Cornelia Haberlandt-Krüger (Egalitarian Jewish Community Gescher Freiburg) Germany, Aleksandr Haydar (RUPJ) Ukraine, Yuval Hed (Abraham Geiger Kolleg) Germany, Marlon Herrmann (Gescher LaMassoret Community) Germany, David Holinstat (IRGW Stuttgart) Germany, Rabbi Dr Walter Homolka (Union progressiver Juden in Deutschland) Germany, Miguel Itoiz Echarri (Bet Shalom) Spain, Danny Jaffe (WUPJ) Israel, Monica Jankel (West London Synagogue) United Kingdom, Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner (Reform Judaism) United Kingdom, Marek Jeżowski (Beit Polska & Beit Warszawa) Poland, Lili Jendroska (Union progressiver Juden in Deutschland) Germany, Peter Jossi (PLJS) Switzerland, Dr Elliott Karstadt (Leo Baeck College) United Kingdom, Albert Kengerli (Netzer Belarus) Belarus, Maciej Kirschenbaum (Abraham Geiger Kolleg) Poland, Dr Ivan Kohout (Abraham Geiger Kolleg & Bejt Simcha) Czech Republic, Karolina Kozieł (Beit Polska & Beit Warszawa) Poland, Miriam Kramer (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Stephen Kramer (Wimbledon Synagogue) United Kingdom, Laura Lassman (Liberal Judaism) United Kingdom, Antoine Leboyer (Communauté Juive Libérale de Genève) Switzerland, Gilbert Lederman (Beth Hillel) Belgium, Veronika Lederman (Beth Hillel) Belgium, David Leibling (Mosaic Reform Synagogue) United Kingdom, Jeanette Leibling (Mosaic Reform Synagogue) United Kingdom, Jean-François Levy (MJLF) France, Dr Adam Miles Lewis (Lev Chadash) Italy, Perlette Ley (MJLF) France, Robert Ley (MJLF & Arzenou) France, Frederick Lurie (SAUPJ) South Africa, Rahle Lurie (SAUPJ) South Africa,

Rabbi Jack Luxemburg (Arzenu) United States, Mercedes M Clemente (Reform Jewish Community of Madrid) Spain, Deborah Malamud (Bet Shalom) Spain, Joshua Martin (Reform Judaism) United Kingdom, David Maxa (Abraham Geiger Kolleg) Czech Republic, Katarzyna Mazurkiewicz (Beit Polska & Beit Trójmiasto) Poland, Mirjam Mendel (LJG Rotterdam) Netherlands, Irith Michelsohn (Union progressiver Juden in Deutschland) Germany, Rabbi David Mitchell (West London Synagogue) United Kingdom, Sophie Morgaine (AJTM) France, Dr Theodor Much (Or Chadasch) Austria, Dr Verena Muehlstein (Beth Shalom) Germany, Celia Naval (Keren Or) France, Eveline Naymark (AJTM) France, Rabbi Marc Neiger (Beth Hillel) Belgium, Rabbi Jeffrey Newman (Finchley Reform Synagogue) United Kingdom, Aviva Nijburg (LJG Rotterdam) Netherlands, Pavel Orlov (Bet Shalom) Spain, Rabbi Joel Oseran (Beth Hillel Rome) Israel, Rabbi Dr René Pfertzel (Kingston Liberal Synagogue) United Kingdom, David Pollak (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Karen Pollak (Mosaic Reform Synagogue ) United Kingdom, Rachel Polohová (Bejt Simcha) Czech Republic, Francine Püttmann (Levisson Institute) Netherlands, Dan Rattan (Union progressiver Juden in Deutschland) Germany, Suzette Reiter-Slama (Keren Or) France, Rabbi Danny Rich (Liberal Judaism) United Kingdom, Deborah Rios Rey (Bet Januka) Spain, Leonard Robbins (Shir Hadash & FIEP) Italy, Rachele Robbins (Shir Hadash) Italy, Yael Roberts (Reform Judaism) United Kingdom, Rabbi Dr Walter Rothschild (Beit Polska) Germany, Jorge Gershon S. Galindo (Beit Rambam) Spain, Ana Scherer (Ohel Jacob Synagogue) Portugal, Liora Scherpenhuyzen (Netzer) Netherlands, Boris Shchukin (WUPJ) Russia, Erika Siegfried-Tompson (Arzenu Hungary) Hungary, Gershon Silins (Leo Baeck College) United Kingdom, Natalia Slabovic (Bet Shalom) Spain, Gordon Smith (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Judy Smith (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Professor Lawrence Somer (ZLU) Czech Republic, Adriana Souza (Ohel Jacob Synagogue) (Portugal, Omri Stark (Tlamim) Israel, Carole Sterling (WUPJ) Canada, Anna Stucky (Beit Polska & Beit Warszawa) Poland, Fredy Sussman (Kehila Bnei Israel Galicia) Spain, Ellen Swanson (Shir Hadash) Italy, David Tilles (Krakow) United Kingdom, Tzvi Tosetti (Beth Shalom) Italy, Rabbi Dr Edward van Voolen (Abraham Geiger Kolleg) Germany, Vera Vancurova Czech Republic, Hannah Verhulst (Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism) Netherlands, Margrith von Felten-Schwersenz (Migwan) Switzerland, Fred Weil, United Kingdom, Dr Jesse Weil (Sim Shalom) Hungary, Robert Weiner (Reform Judaism) United Kingdom, Jonathan Wootliff (Bejt Simcha / ZLU), Czech Republic, Maksymilian Wudecki (Beit Polska & Beit Warszawa) Poland, Dominika Zakrzewska-Olędzka (Beit Polska & Beit Warszawa) Poland, Patricia Zatz (Mosaic Liberal Synagogue) United Kingdom, Paul Zatz (Mosaic Liberal Synagogue) United Kingdom.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman reported apologies received from Ruth Cohen and Jeffery Rose, Honorary Life Presidents, as well as from Michael Reik, Rabbi Alexander Grodensky and Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris.

**2. Approval of Minutes of 2017 European Assembly Meeting**

The Chairman advised that the minutes of the European Assembly Meeting held in Jerusalem on 19 May 2017 were included in the EUPJ Annual Report booklet for 2017 ("the Booklet") which had been circulated and which was also made available on the EUPJ website before the meeting. In response to her request, the Chairman received no comments or suggestions for changes to the Minutes, which were duly accepted as a correct record of the meeting and were then signed by the Chairman.

**3. Welcome by WUPJ Chair**

The Chairman introduced Carole Sterling, the chair of the WUPJ, to the meeting, who expressed her pleasure in attending the meeting and conference and in representing WUPJ at EUPJ Management Committee and Executive Board meetings. She also extended greetings on behalf of Rabbi Daniel Frelander, WUPJ President. Mrs Sterling referred to her report in the Booklet and confirmed that the WUPJ, and especially she and Rabbi Frelander, were working hard to involve European communities in the work of the WUPJ. She expressed the thanks of WUPJ to Miriam Kramer who was stepping down as EUPJ Chairman, and made a presentation to her.

**4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman referred the meeting to the Chairman's Report included in the Booklet which had been circulated, which was read and noted. The Chairman added the following items – (a) Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim was stepping down as Chair of the European Rabbinic Assembly (ERA) and the Chairman thanked him for all he had done in nurturing this

organisation and on behalf of EUPJ expressed her gratitude to him. She wished strength to Rabbi Dr René Pfertzel who was the new ERA Chair. (b) She thanked the team which had organised the conference and thanked Jonathan Wootliff for being responsible for arrangements in Prague. The Chairman thanked David Pollak for chairing the conference so professionally and for his six years' service as EUPJ Treasurer and made a presentation to him.

5. **Annual Accounts for 2017**

The Chairman introduced the Honorary Treasurer David Pollak who referred to the Accounts, Independent Examiner's Report and his own Treasurer's report included in the Booklet, which he summarised for the meeting with detailed slides. The Treasurer supplemented his report with the following – (a) In response to requests received at the previous European Assembly, affiliation fees, which had not been increased for 10 years, would be increased in 2018 by 20%, which would increase total annual subscriptions from £72K to £86K, and he thanked all communities for accepting this increase. (b) The accounts showed increased expenditure during the year, which was primarily on building the new website, expanding the activities of Community Connections, setting up the EU Office and employing Darryl Egnal as editor of the newsletter. (c) The Treasurer gave special thanks to Betty and Arthur Roswell for providing the funds to support so many activities in certain EUPJ countries and looked forward to many years of support from the Roswell Fund. The Roswell Fund had also enabled close to 100 young adults to attend a leadership seminar and the conference in Prague. The Treasurer opened the meeting to questions, but none were forthcoming.

The Treasurer thanked the outside accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP and its partner Jeremy Harrod for providing the statutory examination of the 2017 Accounts without charge and also thanked his fellow Officers and the EUPJ Administrator Deborah Grabiner for their support during the year.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his work and invited the meeting to approve the Accounts. The proposal to do so was made by Rabbi Danny Rich and seconded by Joyce Bigio and, on a show of hands, the Accounts were approved without objection.

6. **Appointment of Examiner**

The Chairman reminded the meeting that as EUPJ is a UK registered charity, the UK Charity Commission requires its annual accounts to be examined by an independent qualified accountant who issues a report. Accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP had provided a clear report, included in the Booklet. Jesse Weil seconded by Jan Muehlstein proposed the resolution to ratify the appointment of Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP as Independent Examiners of the annual accounts for 2017 and to re-appoint them as Independent Examiners for EUPJ's accounts for 2018. On a show of hands the resolution was approved without objection.

7. **Proposal to admit Comunidad Judía Progresista de Andalucía Beit Rambam to Associate Membership.**

The Chairman referred to the proposed resolution in the Booklet and advised the meeting that last year the EUPJ received an application from Comunidad Judía Progresista de Andalucía Beit RamBam, the Jewish Congregation Beit RamBam of Andalusia, Seville, Spain (and known as Beit RamBam) requesting to be admitted as a Member of the EUPJ. The EUPJ Management Committee (ManCom) sent its members responsible for Iberia to visit and assess this community, consulted with representatives of the Spanish Progressive Jewish communities and obtained rabbinic reports on this community. The EUPJ was also provided with all the documentation and information which EUPJ normally requires from prospective members.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the EUPJ Executive Board (Board) and ManCom consider and recommend that at this stage Beit RamBam should be admitted as an Associate Member of the EUPJ and not as a full Constituent Member. The Chairman invited the meeting to approve the resolution and the proposal to do so was made by Jai Anguita and seconded by Deborah Rios. On a show of hands the resolution to admit Beit RamBam as an Associate Member of the EUPJ with effect from the close of the meeting was approved

without objection and with two abstentions. The Chairman introduced Jorge Gershom and Rabbi Haim Casas to the meeting and the new community was warmly welcomed.

Two questions were put to the meeting at this stage – (a) Joyce Bigio congratulated Beit RamBam but asked why they were joining EUPJ directly and not the recently formed Spanish Federation. The Chairman replied that this federation was not an EUPJ member and had not applied for membership. In addition, it also did not yet represent all Spanish Progressive communities. (b) Rabbi Jeffrey Newman referred to the reports by each EUPJ member contained in the Booklet and asked that each report contain a name and contact information so that people reading these excellent reports can make contact with particular communities. This would be taken into consideration for future years.

#### 8. **Resolution to Amend the Constitution**

The Chairman stated that at the European Assembly Meeting in Jerusalem in 2013 a new Constitution was adopted as a result of a governance review, and some minor amendments to that constitution were adopted at the 2014 and 2017 European Assemblies. The Chairman advised the meeting that the EUPJ ManCom reviewed the Constitution in 2017 and considered that it should be comprehensively revised to take account of proposed structural changes and other related matters. An Explanatory Memorandum setting out these reasons and proposals was attached to the Notice convening the meeting, as was a draft of the proposed new Constitution and were also contained in the Booklet. In addition a copy of the proposed new Constitution marked up to show the changes from the existing constitution was made available on the EUPJ website.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Board and ManCom had unanimously accepted the proposed new Constitution and that no questions (written or verbal) had been received by EUPJ in relation thereto.

Rabbi Dr Walter Rothschild proposed the resolution that the Constitution of the EUPJ be amended by replacing it with the new Constitution contained in the Notice convening the meeting, and Robert Weiner seconded the proposal. The resolution was put to the meeting and, on a show of hands, was passed unanimously, there being no objections or abstentions. Jesse Weil pointed out that in Section 7.2.3.1 of the new Constitution the word “appointment” should be “appointed”. This was noted and the document to be registered with the UK Charities Commission would contain the correction.

#### 9. **EUPJ Officers and Board Members**

The Chairman advised that there were a number of appointments to approve or ratify and some departures to announce and handed over to EUPJ President, Gordon Smith, to chair the meeting from this point.

The President announced that he would deal with elections and appointments in the order set out in the Notice of Meeting, but first expressed his thanks and appreciation to Stéphane Beder, whose 2<sup>nd</sup> term as a Vice-Chairman ended at the meeting, and to Rabbi Dr Walter Homolka and Alex Dembitz, each of whose 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Vice-President ended at the meeting. Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn Harris's 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Vice-President also ended at the meeting but she would be continuing on the Board as the representative of Leo Baeck College. The President also thanked Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim for his commitment to the EUPJ, after stepping down as Chairman of ERA.

(a) **Chairman** – The President stated that he had the honour to make a presentation to Miriam Kramer, who was stepping down as Chairman after six years in the role. He thanked her for her service to the EUPJ, and to other Jewish communal organisations, and stated that she had been a caring, considerate, generous, hard-working, committed and diplomatic chairman and a great ambassador for the EUPJ. He then made a presentation to Miriam Kramer on behalf of EUPJ.

The President then welcomed Sonja Guentner, who was being proposed as Miriam Kramer's successor. He advised that nominations for this role were requested and by the date of the Notice of the meeting the only nomination received was for Sonja Guentner,

who allowed her name to go forward and whose nomination was unanimously approved by ManCom and the Board. The President stated that, as this was an unopposed election, rather than asking for a formal vote, the election be made by acclamation. On the basis of the acclamation received, the President declared Sonja Guentner duly elected as EUPJ Chairman.

- (b) **Vice-Chairmen** - The President advised that David Pollak, whose 2<sup>nd</sup> term as EUPJ Treasurer ended at the meeting, is standing for election to the newly created position of Vice-Chairman Finance, and John Cohen, who is currently the EUPJ Secretary, is standing for the newly created position of Vice-Chairman Governance, but for a period of one year only. The President stated that rather than asking for a formal vote, these appointments be dealt with by acclamation. On the basis of the acclamations received, the President declared David and John duly elected as EUPJ Vice-Chairmen.
- (c) **Ratification of Appointments to the Executive Board** - The President welcomed appointments to the Board and advised that he would deal with all these appointments together. He pointed out that some of these appointments were mentioned at the previous European Assembly Meeting but the formal nominations were received too late for inclusion in the Notice calling that meeting, and some were only received just before the Notice calling this meeting. The President suggested that he call out the name of each nominee, that the nominee then stand when called and that all those in favour say "Aye" on each occasion. The nominees to the **Executive Board were -**

- **Representing the Netherlands – Ron van der Wieken**
- **Also Representing the Netherlands – Hannah Verhulst**
- **Representing Switzerland – Peter Jossi**
- **Also Representing Switzerland – David Bernstein**
- **Representing Italy – Joyce Bigio**
- **Representing Germany – Dan Rattan**
- **Representing the Abraham Geiger College – Rabbi Dr Edward van Voolen**
- **Representing the Leo Baeck College – Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris**
- **Representing Poland – Marek Jezowski**

On the basis of the acclamations received, the President declared the appointment of nominees to the EUPJ Executive Board duly ratified.

The President congratulated all those who had been elected to serve the EUPJ for the next term in whichever capacity, and raised two matters before relinquishing the microphone.

Firstly, he stated that serving on the EUPJ ManCom as well as in other positions is a very committed, highly activist but also very rewarding role, and advised that the EUPJ is always seeking new members to serve both on the ManCom as well as the Board and also as Vice Presidents. EUPJ was currently in discussions with a number of individuals who have offered to serve the EUPJ and will continue both these discussions and its search. The President was very hopeful that one of the first tasks of the incoming ManCom will be to consider and strengthen the management capacity of the EUPJ by co-opting active individuals to the EUPJ team. He said that EUPJ intends to conclude discussions and put forward a proposed list of names for the Board meeting to be held on 12 July 2018. If these appointments are approved at the Board, then EUPJ will call a special European Assembly meeting to be held on the same date as the following Board meeting, which will be in Brussels on 11 November 2018.

Secondly, the President mentioned Gilbert Lederman who was working with EUPJ to create a memorable weekend in Brussels from Friday 9 to Sunday 11 November. He pointed out that the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month is ingrained in our hearts as the end of the First World War in Europe, and that many believe that the creation of the European Union has contributed to the ongoing peace on the continent. So Brussels was a very fitting city to host the EUPJ Executive Board meeting on that special day as well as the special European Assembly

The President then handed over to Sonja Guentner to take the chair. The new Chair thanked the European Assembly for electing her to her office and was proud to be the first person from the continent of Europe to chair the EUPJ.

10. **EUPJ Brussels Office**

The next item was the EUPJ Brussels Office and the Chair asked Leslie Bergman (LB) to address the meeting. LB stated that for some time he had felt the need to establish the presence of Progressive Judaism with the EU in Brussels, because the Brussels Jewish space is owned by Chabad. So an office is being opened in Brussels, currently based in Beth Hillel/IJC and we plan to have an opening event in November. The Office will move quickly to make our presence felt and one example is Emunah, which teaches religious leaders in an interfaith setting. This was developed in France and we are applying for funding to extend this to Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy. One of the functions of the Office will be to apply to the EU for grants and, to ensure that the centre of this activity is moved away from London, the EUPJ has established a Foundation in the Netherlands. LB stated that this move marks the future of our Movement in Europe.

11. **Any Other Business**

The Chairman advised that the Honorary Secretary had not been notified by any Member within the relevant time period of any matter or issue to put before the European Assembly but that the following items would be included.

11.1. **Next Generation Leadership Group** - Tzvi Tosetti from Milan addressed the meeting on behalf of the Next Generation Leadership group who had attended the seminar prior to the conference and many of whom who had stayed on for the Conference. He stated that - "As a result of the Next Generation Leadership Seminar, we commit to proactively work with the EUPJ to further develop and network a new generation of communal leadership. We would like this European Assembly to commit to being partners with us in this work". The Chair thanked the Group and asked the meeting to raise their hands if they supported this proposal. The meeting showed overwhelming support with no objections or abstentions.

11.2. **ERA** - Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim advised the meeting that he and 43 other rabbis attended an ERA meeting prior to the conference. The new board of ERA would consist of the following rabbis – René Pfertzel (chair), Menno ten Brink (Secretary), Marc Neiger (Treasurer), Ruven Bar Ephraim, Pauline Bebe, Colin Eimer, Jackie Tabick (EBD) and Ira Goldberg (EU Office). A number of important topics had been discussed, including the problem of the recognition of boundaries of rabbinic and bet din jurisdiction; as well as the recognition of ALEPH ordinands. These were topics which ERA would treat as a priority.

11.3. **GDPR** – John Cohen advised that all communities and people on the EUPJ mailing list would be receiving a communication from EUPJ requesting that they opt-in to continue receiving electronic communications from the EUPJ. He urged all to action this and to opt in.

The Chair then thanked David Pollak, John Cohen and Deborah Grabiner (the EUPJ Administrator) for all their work. She also urged anyone with any questions or queries to contact the EUPJ Management Committee. The Chair thanked all present for attending the 2018 European Assembly meeting and declared the meeting closed at 1:05 pm.

.....  
Chairman of meeting

## EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

**Minutes of a Meeting of the European Assembly of the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) held at the Beth Hillel Synagogue/International Jewish Center, 80 Rue des Primeurs, B-1190 Brussels, Belgium at 13H00 on Sunday 11 November 2018.**

**Present:** Chair of EUPJ Sonja Guentner and the other Honorary Officers and representatives of various Constituent Members of EUPJ, as well as invitees, as follows: Jai Anguita (Bet Shalom) Spain, Rabbi Pauline Bebe (CJL Paris) France, Stéphane Beder (AJL) France, Leslie Bergman (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Joyce Bigio (FIEP) Italy, Ralph Bogo (Progressive Jewish Community) Norway, Steve Brummel (IJC) Belgium, Arthur Buchman (Shir Hatzafon) Denmark, John Clark (Or Chadasch) Austria, Yael Cobano (Reform Jewish Community of Madrid) Spain, John Cohen (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Noeleen Cohen (Alyth Synagogue) United Kingdom, Bill Echikson (EU Office/IJC) Belgium, Darryl Egnal (EUPJ) Israel, Ben Fantini (FIEP) Italy, Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein (Liberal Judaism & NPLS) United Kingdom, Rabbi Alexander Grodensky (Liberal Jewish Community Esch-sur-Alzette) Luxembourg, Tamás Gróf (Bet Orim) Hungary, Miriam Kramer (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Gilbert Lederman (Beth Hillel) Belgium, Deborah Malamud (Bet Shalom) Spain, David Miller (Or Hadasz Krakow) Poland, Nathan Muntz (Beth Hillel) Belgium, Celia Naval (Keren Or) France, Frank Neiber (Beth Hillel) Belgium, Rabbi Marc Neiger (Beth Hillel) Belgium, Felipe Ojeda (Bet Shalom) Spain, Rabbi Dr René Pfertzel (ERA/Kingston Liberal Synagogue) United Kingdom, Maria Prieto (Bet Shalom) Spain, Gordon Smith (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Judy Smith (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Carole Sterling (WUPJ) Canada, Rabbi Jackie Tabick (EUPJ/EBD) United Kingdom, Adrian Tellwright (York Liberal Jewish Community) United Kingdom, Rabbi Menno ten Brink (EUPJ/Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism) Netherlands, Rabbi Dr Edward van Voolen (Abraham Geiger Kolleg) Germany, Hannah Verhulst (Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism) Netherlands, Jesse Weil (Sim Shalom) Hungary, Robert Weiner (Reform Judaism) United Kingdom, Ruth Weiner (Alyth Synagogue) United Kingdom, Jonathan Wootliff (Bejt Simcha / ZLU), Czech Republic.

### 12. **Apologies for Absence**

The Chair reported apologies received from Ruth Cohen and Jeffery Rose, Honorary Life Presidents, as well as from David Bernstein, Rabbi Danny Freeland, Deborah Grabiner, David Pollak, Michael Reik, Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, Rabbi Danny Rich, Debbie Tal-Ruettger and Mark Konczaty.

### 13. **Welcome by EUPJ Chair**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, and thanked members of Beth Hillel and IJC for their hospitality. She also thanked Gilbert Lederman for all the work he and his team had put into planning and organising the weekend in Brussels. The Chair advised that the meeting was a special European Assembly meeting called for the specific purpose of electing and appointing people to certain offices. The Notice calling this meeting (the Notice) was sent to all EUPJ Members on 6 September 2018, as required by the EUPJ Constitution in these circumstances. She stated that as there was limited time for the meeting any other matters would be held over to the 2019 Annual European Assembly.

### 14. **Elections and Appointments to Office**

The Chair referred to the Notice and confirmed that the meeting had been called for the specific purpose of electing a Vice-Chairman and two Vice-Presidents.

- (d) **Vice-Chairman** – The Chair advised that Rabbi Menno ten Brink was co-opted onto the EUPJ Management Committee (ManCom) in terms of Section 7.3 of the Constitution by ManCom at its meeting held on 9 May 2018, with the responsibility for Education & Interfaith. The EUPJ Executive Board (Board), at its meeting held on 12 July 2018, unanimously ratified that co-option and recommended that Rabbi ten Brink become a Vice-Chairman.

The Chair therefore proposed to the meeting that Rabbi Menno ten Brink be elected as Vice-Chairman – Education & Interfaith in terms of Section 7.2.3.3 of the Constitution. Miriam Kramer proposed the resolution and it was seconded by Robert Weiner. The Chair stated that, as this was an unopposed election, rather than asking for a formal vote

the election be made by acclamation together. On the basis of the acclamation received, the Chair declared Rabbi Menno ten Brink duly elected to that position.

- (e) **Vice-Presidents** - The Chair reminded the meeting that Miriam Kramer was currently a member of the Board in term of Section 6.1.2 of the Constitution and that Robert Weiner was currently a member of the Board in terms of Section 6.1.5 of the Constitution.

She advised the meeting that the Board has nominated both Miriam Kramer and Robert Weiner to the position of Vice-President in terms of Section 10 of the Constitution. She then pointed out that Section 10.2 of the Constitution (read with Section 9.1 of the Constitution) provides that when a nomination for a Vice-President is made, notice of this nomination must be sent out 2 months before the meeting and alternate nominations may be submitted not less than 1 month prior to the date of the meeting. She reported that the Notice was sent out at least 2 months before the meeting date and that no alternate nominations were received.

She therefore proposed that Miriam Kramer and Robert Weiner be elected as Vice-Presidents of the EUPJ. Jesse Weil proposed the resolution and it was seconded by John Clark. Again, the Chair suggested that rather than asking for a formal vote, the elections be made by acclamation. On the basis of the acclamations received, the Chair declared Miriam Kramer and Robert Weiner duly elected as EUPJ Vice-Presidents.

- (f) **Periods of Office** - The Chair advised the meeting that, in order that the periods of office of Menno, Miriam and Robert end at an EUPJ Annual European Assembly and so that they coincide with the terms of office of people appointed to positions on the Board and ManCom at the European Assembly held on 29 April 2018, she proposed that the terms of office of Rabbi Menno ten Brink, Miriam Kramer and Robert Weiner shall commence on 11 November 2018 and end on the date of the EUPJ Annual European Assembly to be held in 2020. Gordon Smith proposed the resolution and it was seconded by John Cohen and all present approved the resolution.

15. **Any Other Business**

The Chairman advised that the Honorary Secretary had not been notified by any Member within the relevant time period of any matter or issue to put before the European Assembly and that the time allocated to the meeting had expired.

The Chair then thanked John Cohen, Deborah Grabiner (the EUPJ Administrator) and the team at Beth Hillel/IJC for all their work. She also urged anyone with any questions or queries to contact the EUPJ Management Committee. The Chair declared the meeting closed at 13H20.

.....  
Chairman of meeting

## Report Vice Chair – Finance

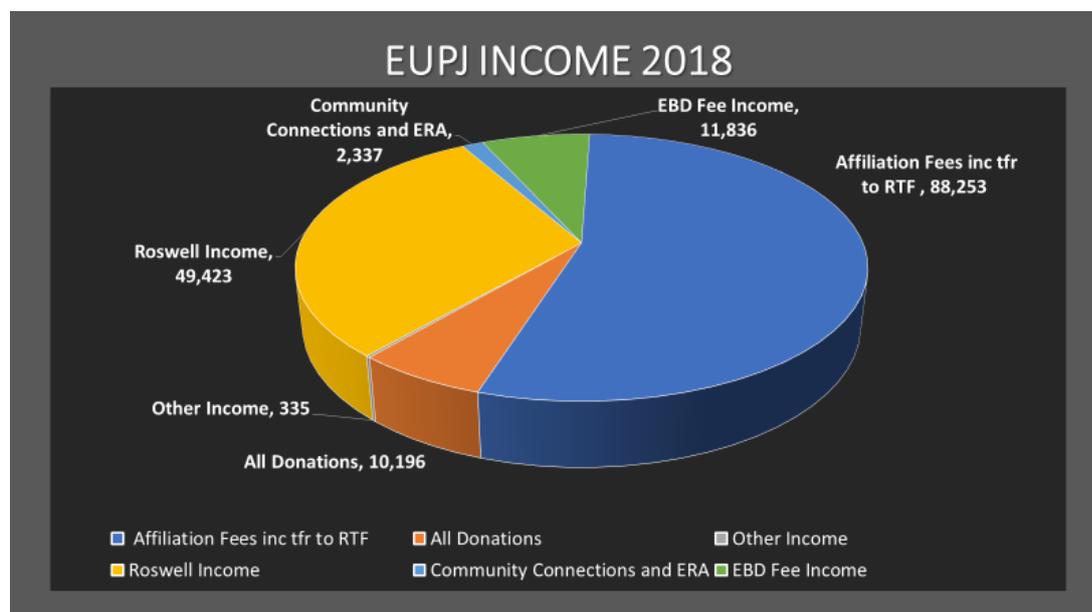
The highlights for 2018 included a biennial conference in Prague, continuing support for our communities in, Spain, Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic and assisting members of communities to attend educational seminars conducted at the Saltz Institute in Jerusalem. The Roswell Fund was fully utilised during the year. Grants totalling c.£19K were given to assist 126 delegates, including 85 young adults, to participate at our biennial conference in Prague. The deficit for the year was £5,439 compared with a surplus of £396 in 2017. Despite an increase of c.£16K in affiliation fees and a reduction of c.£11K in spending on website development, the opening of an EU Office in Brussels and the production our Newsletter added c.£17K to expenses. An overspend on conference of c.£5K and c.£6K assistance to overseas projects, principally in Spain, also added to total expenditure plus a turnaround of c.£2.5K on currency which went from an appreciation in 2017 to depreciation in 2018.

For those who prefer their report in numbers and in diagrams, here are the important bits from our Annual Accounts:

### EUPJ Income and Expenditure 2018

All £

Income	2018	2017
Affiliation Fees	88,253	72,468
All Donations	10,196	42,784
Other Income	335	2,571
Roswell Income	49,243	53,856
Community Connections and ERA	2,337	3,676
EBD Fee Income	<u>11,836</u>	<u>15,280</u>
<b>TOTAL Income</b>	<b>162,380</b>	<b>190,635</b>

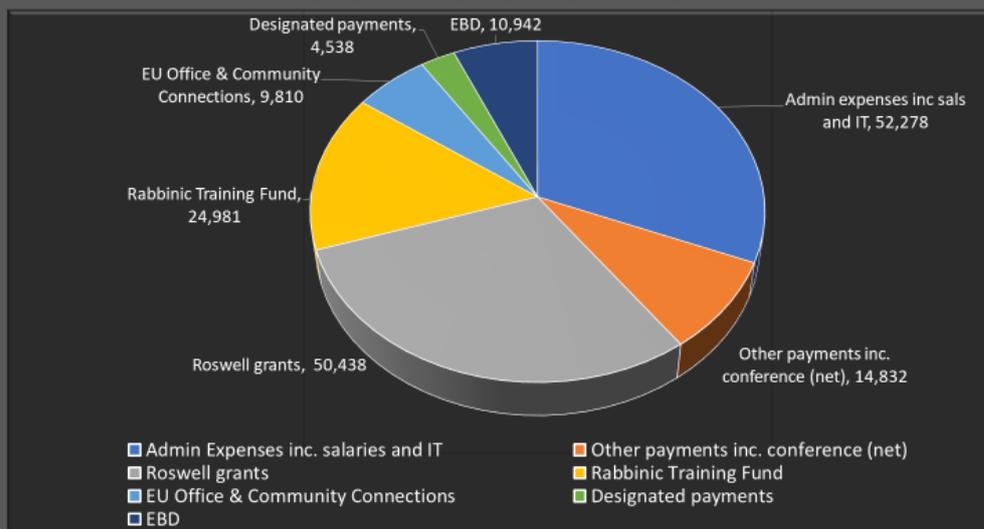


# EUPJ Income and Expenditure 2018

All £

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Admin expenses inc. salaries and IT	52,278	53,723
Other payments inc. conference (net)	14,832	2,410
Roswell grants	50,438	48,776
Rabbinic Training Fund	24,981	26,805
EU Office & Community Connections	9,810	2,486
Designated Payments	4,538	41,265
EBD	<u>10,942</u>	<u>14,773</u>
<b>TOTAL Expenditure</b>	<b>167,818</b>	<b>190,239</b>

## EUPJ EXPENDITURE 2018



And for those who appreciate a Balance Sheet:

## EUPJ Balance Sheet 2018

All £

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Movement</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	8,980	8,980	-
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	815	48,948	-48,133
Cash	<u>223,772</u>	<u>237,035</u>	<u>-13,263</u>
	224,587	285,533	-61,396
<b>Creditors</b>	28,080	83,587	-55,507
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<u>196,507</u>	<u>201,946</u>	<u>-5,439</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>205,487</b>	<b>210,926</b>	<b>- 5,439</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
Unrestricted Funds	129,855	134,279	-4,424
Restricted Funds	<u>75,632</u>	<u>76,647</u>	<u>-1,015</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>205,487</b>	<b>210,926</b>	<b>-5,439</b>

## **Report Vice Chair Twinning and Israel**

### **DOMIM**

Following the many twinings under Domim between EUPJ Communities and Progressive Communities of the IMPJ in 2017, 2018 was a relatively lax period.

The only confirmed new twinning was between Keren Or in Lyons and Or Chadash in Haifa.

This was mainly because of the new direction that Domim has taken in the promotion of Diaspora Relationships. The Ministry of Diaspora Affairs is now funding the trips of Israeli Progressive Rabbis with United States Congregations as well as helping to fund the activities of Arzenu also in the United States. This is probably because of a sense of crisis between the Israeli Government and US Jewry. There is little money available for Progressive Congregations in Israel to fund trips to Europe.

However there have been a few bright situations. The Tlamim young adult community visited Progressive Communities in Paris as part of the Klal Israel Project. The Holon Congregation have started a pen-pal project with Alyth congregation in North West London. The Rabbi from the Ramat Gan Community has arranged a trip to some German Congregations (the only non-USA trip approved by the ministry for the Diaspora). There is also a potential new twinning of LJJ Rotterdam with an IMPJ Community during this year.

### **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

#### **Europe**

The relationship between Gil Geneva and Beth Hillel in Rome is thriving following an initial visit of Executive Members of the Gil Community to Rome in February.

There are many other prospective twinning opportunities in formation, mainly through the Italian Federation with the four Italian Communities wishing to prosper and grow through Association with members of the EUPJ in other countries. These include Lev Chadash in Milan with LJJ in Amsterdam. Shir Hadash in Florence with the Progressive Community of Madrid, and Beth Shalom in Milan (who are already twinned with the Central Synagogue in New York) also looking for a suitable EUPJ partner.

Or Hadash in Zurich are also looking forward to assisting another community to provide their experience to help them grow.

West London Synagogue have been involved in assisting the communities in Budapest with visits this past year.

#### **Ukraine**

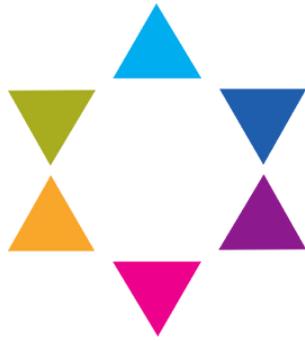
UK Synagogues have ongoing twinning relationships with a number of Communities in the Ukraine, in particular with Kiev, Lviv and Khmeinitzky.

During the past year new arrangements have been set up with Cherkassy and Odessa. We are also in process of setting up potential twinning with the community in Lutsk.

A further advance of Community Connections this past year was the enabling of the Youth from the Lviv Community in the Ukraine to visit with the Progressive Communities in the Netherlands with the help of LJJ in Amsterdam.

Any Community that wishes to set up a Community Connection with another in one of our EUPJ Countries is welcome to do so in particular through our offices.

Michael Reik



# איגוד רבני אירופה

## EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly

### Report European Rabbinic Assembly Chair

The EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly held its Annual General Meeting in Prague in April 2018. Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim stepped down as chair but stayed on the board and was replaced by Rabbi Dr René Pfertzel. The other Board members are: Rabbi Menno Ten Brink, Secretary, Rabbi Marc Neiger, Treasurer, Rabbis Pauline Bebe, and Dr Jackie Tabick, convenor of the European Beit-Din, member *ex-officio* of the board.

Following a resolution passed in Prague, we issued a statement clarifying which rabbinic courts (Batei Din) in Europe can issue valid rabbinic certificates for conversion and other matters. This letter was widely circulated among EUPJ constituents, and will help to tackle the issue of conversion programmes that lead to certificates not accepted by EUPJ congregations and Rabbis.

We cannot stress enough the importance to people seeking a Progressive conversion to approach an accepted Beit-Din to avoid being refused community membership.

Following the EUPJ *Shabbaton* in Brussels in November 2018, the heads of all European Batei Din met to discuss the variety of practices among European colleagues. We reaffirmed that any certificate issued by an accepted European Beit-Din is accepted by the others.

We have started two programmes to strengthen European cohesion. There is now a support network for Rabbis operating in countries where there is no national rabbinic body to help our colleagues with any questions they may have. We have also started a shiduch programme bringing together rabbis and cantors looking for a pulpit for the High Holy Days and communities looking for a service leader for these dates.

We communicate with our constituents and the larger EUPJ family via the EUPJ newsletter, a ERA Facebook page for rabbis and a website: <https://www.eupj-ra.eu>.

ERA, by its European nature, is different from any other rabbinic body. Our members are either members of a national body as well, or rabbis in countries without such body. In addition, each national rabbinic assembly is sovereign, and ERA has no jurisdiction over these local associations. However, ERA represents Progressive rabbinate in Europe. In that respect, we are closely associated with the CCAR in North America and MARAM in Israel.

Created in London in 2016, ERA is still in its early stages, and is a work in progress. Each rabbinic gathering (Kallah) is an occasion for rabbis to get together and to move our association to the following steps. Our next Kallah will be held in Rome in May 2019.

Rabbi Dr René Pfertzel

# בית דין צדק

לקהילות היהודיות באירופה

Rabbinic Court for the Jewish Communities of Europe

Date	Court Location	Community of candidates	Adult or minors	Comments
27.4.18	Prague	Hungary	2 adults	
21-23.5.18	Milan	3 Rome, 24 Milan	14 adults 10 minors	4 put on hold
26.6.18	London	Milan	1 adult	
12.7.18	London	Poland	1 adult	
5.7.18	Barcelona	8 Beit Shalom 2 Valencia 1 Madrid	11 adults 3 minors	
2.9.18	Bratislava	4 Prague 1 Poland 1 Slovakia	6 adults 1 minor	
25.10.18	London	1 Portugal 1 Valencia 1 Poland	2 adults	
Total Candidates Seen			37 adults, 14 minors	
Total Candidates Accepted			34 adults, 13 minors	

The meeting of leaders of Batei Din in Brussels was extremely informative. We all shared our slightly different approaches to conversion and looked at ways we can work even more closely together.

Since our last report, there has only been one special day court held in Milan for a family which had been put on hold until further investigations and extra mentoring and teaching had been put in place. Individuals from Spain and Portugal have appeared before courts in London, supported by Rabbi Alona Lisitsa and leaders of their own communities. The group were then given aliyot at West Central Liberal Synagogue where they told the London community about their own synagogues. A big court is due to take place in Rome but no other courts are yet in place for the summer. These tend to be organised by European communities with only a few months' notice.

There are still difficulties arising in communities because of invalid certification for conversion being presented to our synagogues. A family of two adults and four children had worked over five years, with many trips to Israel, to convert through their nearest community, the Orthodox synagogue in Venice. They went before a Beit Din and went through mikveh in Israel, but were then told that the Israeli rabbanut do not recognise the conversions carried out by that court. The family will now come to the Rome court where hopefully they will be granted recognition certificates for themselves, and conversion certificates that will be useful for bureaucratic purposes.

However, the bigger problem is arising from conversions being organised on the internet by American groups. These have to be countered by our community leaders informing their communities that such conversion certificates are considered invalid by the EUPJ. We also have to be sure that in all our regions we can offer a welcoming approach so that people, turned away from our communities, do not seek out these American routes and then hope that somehow, all will be well for them in Europe or Israel.

I cannot thank the rabbis enough who put themselves out to make these courts happen. I also thank Lynsey Goodmaker in the office for making sure I had all the right documents with me and supported the work of the court. I give Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein a special vote of thanks for all the negotiations he has taken part in to make the courts run more smoothly as well as his advice and support over difficult cases. And, of course, my thanks to David Pollak for looking after our finances in a kind and generous manner.

Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick



ABRAHAM  
GEIGER  
KOLLEG

בית-המדרש  
אברהם גייגר

20...  
1999–2019

In 2018, sixteen students – five women and eleven men – were training with us to become rabbis. Eight cantorial candidates studied at Abraham Geiger College – three women and five men. They come from Germany, Belarus, Belgium, Norway, Russia and Ukraine, from Israel, Brazil, and the United States.

Distinctive moments:

On April 23, 2018 a dedication ceremony was held for the ensemble of buildings where Abraham Geiger College will be situated amidst the UNESCO world heritage site of Sanssouci Park. Abraham Geiger College and School of Jewish Theology will move there in spring 2020. Among those in attendance were the minister of culture and education as well as WUPJ chairman Carole Sterling with her delegation.

On June 14, 2018 was the day of investiture of Svetlana Kundish as cantor. The *Pestalozzistraße Synagogue* in Berlin saw a splendid celebration of sacred music. On this occasion, the leadership of cantorial training was officially handed over from Cantor Prof. Eli Schleifer to Cantor Isidoro Abramowicz, a Geiger alumnus. The Chairman of the EUPJ, Sonja Guentner, was in attendance.

On November 11, 2018 the cantorial school of Abraham Geiger College celebrated the tenth anniversary of its establishment as part of the first Jewish Future Congress in the German capital. Organised by the Leo Baeck Foundation it attracted more than 1,000 participants. The WRJ were represented by First Vice President Sara Charney.

College faculty organised conferences and published on a variety of topics within Jewish theology. A milestone is the publication of Ketuvim of the revised T'nach translation by Rabbi Ludwig Philippson (1811–1889). The Tora volume had come out 2015 (2016), Nevi'im was published in 2016. A separate Tehilim edition was released in 2017.

In 2018, Rabbi Dr Walter Homolka started a major research project with the "Encyclopedia of Jewish-Christian Relations" in five volumes which will be due to be released by De Gruyter publishers Berlin/Boston in 2022.



Investiture of Cantor Svetlana Kundish,  
June 14, 2018

On the left: Cantor Isidoro Abramowicz,  
Director of the Cantorial School at the  
Abraham Geiger College  
Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue, Berlin



- We were commended by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), following the submission of our annual monitoring report in September 2018. They stated that the College demonstrates that it is continuing to maintain academic standards and enhance the quality of student learning opportunities and information about learning opportunities. This maintains the College's 100% record of such commendations over the last six years.
- We concluded a Quinquennial review of our vocational programme
- In May the annual dinner was held at Middlesex University. Our guest speaker was Professor Philippe Sands, Professor of Law at UCL and author of East-West Street.
- Two new students joined the rabbinic programme for the 2018-19 academic year: Mati Kirshenbaum and Dr Tali Artman
- Two students were offered places on the Rabbinic Programme. One British born, Daisy Bogod, the other Italian, Martina Loreggian. Both deferred for a year to work on their Hebrew and will commence their studies in September 2019.
- We have had five applications for the rabbinic programme; these candidates have been interviewed.
- We have six French students on our rabbinic programme, one of whom, Daniela Touati, will graduate in the summer of 2019.



Leo Baeck College Ordination 2018



Leo Baeck College day for Children in Need

Our rabbinical student Joram Rookmaaker finished his studies in December 2018. He received his semicha in January 2019 and was also inducted as second rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam, alongside Rabbi Menno ten Brink, who is also dean of the Levisson Institute. In addition Joram works as an army chaplain.

During five weekends in 2018 the Institute trained ba'alei tefillah in order to lead services for shabbat and shiva. Fourteen participants received their certificate and they are already working in several Dutch congregations.

The second David Lilienthal lecture took place in October 2018. The subject was "Jewish education in the past and present". The main speaker was Henny van het Hoofd, who lectured about her future PhD on "Jewish education in the Netherlands between 1860-1940".

Rimon-coordinators Lea Abram en Anne-Maria van Hilst, told the listeners what Rimon does and what the main purposes of Jewish education are at this moment. The Dutch Progressive-Jewish Educational Centre 'Rimon', is part of the Levisson Institute. Rimon is innovative in educational tools, organises the national Talmud Torah Curriculum and yearly Talmud Torah weekend for all children in the Netherlands. Rimon organised two seminars for all Talmud Torah teachers who are members of the Dutch Union. In 2018 Rimon continued to develop the new website with educational material: [www.rimononderwijs.nl](http://www.rimononderwijs.nl)

Our digital Ba'al koreh project finished mid-2018. The whole Torah is chanted according to the Dutch Progressive tradition/trope, as a help for all ba'alei koreh, bar/bat mitzwah children, teachers etc. All sidrot and parashiot are accessible in the Music library of the Levisson website: [www.levisson.nl](http://www.levisson.nl)

Together with the Board of the Levisson Institute, the Academic Committee and the Vocational Committee, we work to train rabbis, chazzanim, teachers, gabbaim, ba'alei koreh, ba'alei tefilla etc. for the continuation of our Progressive Jewish Movement in The Netherlands. Please visit the Levisson Institute on: [www.levisson.nl](http://www.levisson.nl).



Levisson Group Baal Tefillah

## Report Biennial Conference 2020

As I write this report, it is now almost exactly a year since our last Biennial Conference “Regeneration – Building the Future” in Prague. Our conference was memorable for numerous reasons and none less that the contribution made to our plenaries, workshops, services and social events than from the “Next Generation” of young adults.

Their contribution was instrumental in inspiring the committee of the next Biennial, to be held from 30<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020 in Geneva to focus on youth and young adults. Our co-chairman, Alex Dembitz, has made a commitment to raise donations sufficient to fund the attendance of up to 150 youth and young adults at our 2020 conference. Our committee, which is made up of representatives from the 3 Swiss communities, the EUPJ management board and most recently, Lior Argaman, youth coordinator for the WUPJ, has now met 3 times since February. Considerable progress has been made in identifying our venues and conference hotel, service structures, an exciting selection of Shabbat tours and more.

Most exciting has been the invitations to 3 charismatic and influential speakers, all of whom have confirmed their availability to address conference. Hillel Neuer, Executive Director of UN Watch, Jonathan Boyd, Executive Director of the Institute of Jewish Policy Research, and our own Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur from Paris, who wowed her audience at the London conference in 2016, will add valuable contributions to a conference which will address the challenges we all face in our Jewish world and the secular world.

Based in the European home of the United Nations, it seems wholly appropriate that we shall be examining questions of sustainability and the protection of the planet, countering racism and anti-semitism, conflict resolution, defending the underprivileged and victims of war and poverty as well as the more home-grown topics such as funding our communities, education and spiritual matters such as the consideration of religion in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our head of programming, Sonja Guentner, will be happy to hear from all comers with ideas and requests for workshop topics. In response to requests from delegates at recent conferences, these workshops may well take on a different format to that which we have been used to. Cooperation and compromise will be at the heart of our discussions and we hope that everyone, and especially our future leadership, will take back to their communities, practical ideas that will promote Progressive Judaism to a wider audience and strengthen their communities.

We are especially fortunate in holding our conference in Geneva and to Rabbi François Garai and the GIL community, who have opened their doors to the EUPJ, and we are excited at the prospect of holding not only our Shabbat services but also our opening ceremony and Friday night dinner in the splendid surrounds of the GIL. It could have been tailor-made for our purpose.

Finally, we have identified the Intercontinental Hotel as home to our Friday conference sessions as well as Saturday night Havdalah and now traditional, late-night cabaret where delegates will entertain delegates, no holds barred. Sunday morning plenaries and the Annual Assembly will take place at the Ivan Pictet Conference Centre in the Graduate Institute of Geneva where the facilities are as good as any we have experienced at previous conferences. Our conference will close with lunch at the Institute which, weather permitting, we can enjoy on their expansive terrace as well as in their restaurant. While the Intercontinental will be our conference hotel, we have reached agreement whereby their sister hotel, the Crowne Plaza, will offer alternative accommodation at a heavily discounted rate.

Plans to hold a Rabbinic Kallah immediately following the conference, are taking shape and accommodation for the rabbis, close to the GIL, has been reserved.

All in all, Geneva 2020 is on track to deliver a memorable conference and we expect that when registration opens in September, there will be heavy demand for places so, as always, early registration is strongly recommended.

L'Shanah Habah b'Geneva!

David Pollak

## **Bereavements 2018**

### **Harvey Cohen z'l**

The World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) is deeply saddened by the death of Harvey Cohen, z'l, husband of WUPJ's former chair, Ruth Cohen, who leaves behind a legacy of incomparable commitment to the Reform Movement in Israel and around the world.

Harvey was a true and dear friend and a generous partner whose sage counsel and philanthropic support were essential to the financial success of WUPJ over many decades. He was a wise, kind and thoughtful man who will be sorely missed by his friends, family and the World Union international community.

As Rabbi Richard and Bella Hirsch reflected, "May we all take comfort in the knowledge that Harvey's life of 'maasim tovim' will continue to impact on the character and values of all who knew and loved him. Yehi Zichro Baruch - May Harvey's memory be an enduring blessing."

We offer our deep condolences to Ruth, and to Jonathan, David and the entire Cohen family.

### **Jeffery Rose z'l**

Reform Judaism mourns Jeffery Rose z'l, who has died. He was 93. Jeffery's contribution to Reform Judaism, together with his late wife, Joyce z'l, was remarkable. He chaired RSGB (now Reform Judaism), Alyth, the European Region of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (now EUPJ), Leo Baeck College and the Reform Foundation Trust.

He served as Treasurer of the College and of the Centre for Jewish Education. He held many of the other major lay posts in each of these organisations. He was a regular leader of services and Torah reader at Alyth and conducted Pesach sedarim at Jewish Care homes. He organised RSGB's jubilee celebrations and was instrumental in creating the first RSGB Education Department.

Our condolences go to his children, Simon and Sunday, and all in our community who mourn his death. May his memory be a blessing.

## List of EUPJ Communities (December 2018)

### **Austria**

Jewish Liberal Congregation - Or Chadasch Vienna and Austria

### **Belgium**

Communauté Israélite Libérale de Belgique (Beth Hillel) IJC Brussels

### **Czech Republic**

Bejt Simcha

ZLU – Hatikva

### **Denmark**

Shir Hatzafon, Denmark

### **France**

Alliance pour un Judaïsme Traditionnel et Moderne (AJTM)

Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral (AJL)

Communauté Juive Libérale Dauphine à Grenoble

Communauté Juive Libérale de Montpellier

Communauté Juive Libérale Toulouse

Kehilat Gesher - Communauté Juive Franco-Anglophone de Paris

Kehilat Kedem - Synagogue Libérale de Montpellier

Keren Or, la Synagogue Libérale de Lyon

Union Libérale Israélite de France (ULIF)

La Communauté Juive Libérale - Ile de France

La Fédération du Judaïsme Libéral

Le Mouvement Juif Libéral de France (MJLF)

Union Juive Libérale de Strasbourg

### **Germany**

Egalitäre Jüdische Chawurah Gescher Freiburg

Jüdische Gemeinde HaKochaw.

Jüdische Gemeinde zu Magdeburg

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

Jüdische Gemeinde Neuweid – Mittelrhein

Jüdische Gemeinde – Ahrensburg - Stormarn

Jüdische Gemeinde - Bad Pyrmont

Jüdische Gemeinde - Bad Segeberg

Jüdische Gemeinde – Celle

Jüdische Gemeinde – Elmshorn

Jüdische Gemeinde – Göttingen

Jüdische Gemeinde – Hameln

Jüdische Gemeinde – Pinneburg

Jüdische Gemeinde – Seesen

Jüdische Gemeinde –Kiel

Jüdische Kultusgemeinde Bielefeld Beit Tikwa

Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Emet weSchalom Kassel

Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Köln Gescher La Massoret

Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Mischkan ha-Tifla

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

Reformsynagoge der Jüdischen Gemeinde Hamburg

Synagogengemeinde Sukkat Berlin Schalom Huettenweg

Unabhängige Synagogengemeinde Berlin Bet Haskala

### **Hungary**

Bet Orim Reform Jewish Congregation

Szim Salom Congregation

### **Italy**

Federazione Italiana Ebraismo Progressivo (FIEP)

Beth Hillel Roma

Beth Shalom Congregazione Ebraica Riformata

Lev Chadash - Associazione per l'Ebraismo Progressivo

Shir Hadash

### **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**

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

Or Hadasz – Progressive Jewish Community of Krakow

### **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 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 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  
 Finchley Progressive Synagogue  
 Gloucestershire Liberal Jewish Community  
 Herefordshire Jewish Community  
 Kehillah North London  
 Kent Liberal Jewish Community  
 Kingston Liberal Synagogue  
 Lancashire and Cumbria Liberal Jewish Community  
 Leicester Progressive Jewish Congregation  
 Lincolnshire Jewish Community  
 Manchester Liberal Jewish Community  
 Mosaic Liberal Synagogue (Harrow)  
 Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue  
 Norwich Liberal Jewish Community  
 Nottingham Progressive Jewish Congregation  
 Oxford Jewish Congregation  
 Peterborough Liberal Jewish Community  
 Reading Liberal Jewish Community  
 Shenfield & Brentwood Synagogue (Rosh Tikvah)  
 South Bucks Liberal Jewish Community  
 Southgate Progressive Synagogue  
 South London Liberal Synagogue (Streatham)  
 Stevenage Liberal Synagogue

**United Kingdom Liberal Judaism (Continued)**

Suffolk Liberal Jewish Community  
 Sukkat Shalom - Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community  
 The Liberal Jewish Synagogue (St John's Wood)  
 The Liberal Synagogue Elstree  
 Wessex Liberal Jewish Community  
 West Central Liberal Synagogue  
 York Liberal Jewish Community

**United Kingdom Reform Judaism**

Alyth - North Western Reform Synagogue  
 Bet Tikvah Synagogue  
 Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue  
 Blackpool Reform Jewish Congregation  
 Bournemouth Reform Synagogue  
 Bradford Reform Synagogue  
 Brighton & Hove Reform Synagogue  
 Bromley Reform Synagogue  
 Cardiff Reform Synagogue  
 Coventry Reform Jewish Community  
 Darlington Hebrew Congregation  
 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  
 Manchester Reform Synagogue  
 Menorah Synagogue - Cheshire Reform Congregation  
 Milton Keynes & District Reform Synagogue  
 Mosaic Reform Synagogue  
 Newcastle Reform Synagogue  
 North West Surrey Synagogue  
 Radlett Reform Synagogue  
 Reform Judaism in Welwyn & South Herts  
 Sha'arei Shalom North Manchester Reform Congregation  
 Sha'arei Tsedek - North London Reform Synagogue  
 Sheffield & District Reform Jewish Congregation Kehillat Shevah Harim  
 Shir Hayim - Hampstead Reform Jewish Community  
 Sinai Synagogue  
 South Hampshire Reform Jewish Community  
 South West Essex & Settlement Reform Synagogue  
 Southend and District Reform Synagogue  
 Southport Reform Synagogue

**United Kingdom Reform Judaism continued**

- Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue
- Swindon Jewish Community
- Thanet & District Reform Synagogue - Etz Chaim
- Totnes Reform Jewish Group
- West London Synagogue
- Wimbledon & District Synagogue

**United Kingdom Independent Synagogues**

- Belsize Square Synagogue
- Westminster Synagogue

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