

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF LIBERAL JUDAISM (ULPS) – KNOWN AS COUNCIL  
 HELD ON TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2018 AT THE MONTAGU CENTRE  
 SUBJECT TO SECTIONS 26 -32 OF THE MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF LIBERAL JUDAISM (ULPS)

<b>PRESENT</b>	
PRESIDENT / VICE PRESIDENTS	Rabbi Andrew Goldstein, Rabbi Harry Jacobi, Corinne Oppenheimer
OFFICERS (DIRECTORS)	Simon Benscher (Chair), Ruth Seager, Ros Clayton, Ed Herman, Jackie Richards
RABBIS	Aaron Goldstein, Charley Baginsky, Richard Jacobi,
COUNCIL	Cathy Burnstone (Finchley), Josie Kinchin (Finchley), Robin Samson (Kehillah), Richard Stevens (ELELS), William Glassman (Ealing), Mimi Konigsberg (NPLS), Janet Berkman (Peterborough), Geoffrey Ben-Nathan (Bedfordshire), Sue Head (LJS), Daniel Brown (Mosaic), Judith Fox (WCLS), Ben Rich (York), Frank Maxwell (Birmingham)
IN ATTENDANCE	Rebecca Fetterman, Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer, Simon Lovick, Bryan Diamond (Honorary Archivist), Tamara Joseph
	<b>OPENING PRAYER</b> Rabbi Aaron Goldstein, who asked Council for a moment's silence to remember Tony Myers z"l, Treasurer of West Central Liberal Synagogue.
	<b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b>  <b>Apologies</b> were received for Rabbi Danny Rich, Lucian Hudson, Jennifer Lennard, Ruth Selo, Nick Silk, Amanda McFeeters, Peter Gordon, Rosita Rosenberg, Jane Greenfield, Louise Freedman, Jerome Freedman, Henry Cohn, Alan Solomon, Rosie Comb, Alexandra Simonon, Clive Neuberg, Graham Carpenter, Beverley Taylor, Ellie Lawson, Charles Middleburgh, Stuart MacDonald  Simon Benscher welcomed Cathy Burnstone, Chair of Finchley and Simon Lovick, LJY-Netzer movement worker.
	<b>MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 2017 AND MATTERS ARISING</b>  The minutes were signed as an accurate record.  Re: page 2, Mimi Konigsberg asked why finance report could not be electronic in future. This will be considered.
	<b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b>

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SB reported on the work he has done on behalf of LJ in the last quarter.

With regard to Leo Baeck College, progress has been made. SB recognised Geoffrey Marks' commitment as Co-Chair. The college is very close to balancing the budget. A new set of Governance Rules mean Officers of the supporting movements will not sit on the board due to potential conflicts of interest. AaG will continue on the LBC board in his role as Chair of Rabbinic Conference. Three new LBC governors from Liberal Judaism communities have stepped up and will join LBC at its next AGM.

RM, LM and GC represented LJ at the URJ conference in America.

**REPORTS**

**Rabbinic Conference Report**

AaG – the new Siddur is being printed and will be trialled from February; the cost will be £3 per copy. Every individual will be able to feed back on it. NPLS will be using the new siddur once a month and it is recommended that other communities do similar if possible. The new siddur will be funded if communities buy into it; it will only be possible if large communities do. Rabbi Lea Muehlstein is aware of electronic version/accessibility issues that need to be considered.

Kallah: SB and RS attended. GBR asked what the function of the Kallah is? AaG explained it is one opportunity in year to have time away for the rabbis to share new liturgy, do some learning for sake of it and to have fun. Judith Rosen-Berry from Skye held a fantastic session, and Kallah is chance to bring in this calibre of speaker.

The LJ Shabbat will take place on 19/20 Jan 2019. All communities will have a rabbi on this weekend, even ones who usually do not.

There was a statement on organ donation statement this week by LJ, backed by Rabbinic Conference. It is another example of our impact on wider society, like the work done with Quakers and Unitarians re: equal marriage.

**Leo Baeck College**

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If you would like someone from LBC to come to your community, speak to AaG or LBC about a student. If you want Charles Middleburgh or Deborah Kahn-Harris to visit, ask them direct.

BR asked if LBC is sustainable if there are more students?

AaG - the budget is balanced for first time in 20 years. Looking for other sources of funding. LBC chooses bursaries, but it is possible to choose to be a private student. LBC sold last asset which buys a few years, but reserves will now be set up properly.

FM asked if the finances are balanced because the house owned by LBC has been sold?

SB No; the proceeds have been invested. There is a positive balance because MRJ have paid what they owed.

BR Asked if there is not a vested interest on the part of MRJ as they share the site.

SB The MRJ position re LBC is similar to ours - they insist on a balanced budget.

CB With regard to sustainability, this is a high priority for the Board of LBC.

**Rabbi Charley Baginsky – Liberal Judaism SMT report**

CB and SSD are covering during Danny's sabbatical, together operating projects, teams and BoNO liaison.

In January, Rabbi Sandra Kviat co-led joint teacher training with MRJ; there were 150 people in attendance of which a third from were from LJ and two independent Communities. The Israel Desk was represented there. The next conference is scheduled for 6 Jan 2019.

The Israel Desk, co-ordinated by Carrie Shaw, continues to do excellent job. There is a series of 70<sup>th</sup> Israel anniversary events with a range of speakers; it will be possible to dial in.

Biennial - the theme is 'Liberal Judaism - the Formula for a Truly Progressive

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Judaism'. There will be tracks on the new Siddur, inclusivity and mission with speakers including Rabbis and lay leaders. Funding has been received from the NLPS Trust for Progressive Judaism which will enable us to offer one place at a discounted cost of £50 for a new member from each community.

Rainbow Pilgrims will launch in February 2018 as part of LGBT history month.

CB, SSD and Stuart MacDonald met Gillian Merron, Chief Executive of the BoD. They are keen to build a relationship with us and there is an opportunity to have more Deputies. On several issues, for example in the case of the Camden coroner, Gillian has spoken to LJ before speaking on behalf of the Jewish Community; she has a good understanding of progressive issues and perspectives. LJ representation on BoD is strong but there is work to do; BoD will be represented at the Biennial.

**Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer – Liberal Judaism SMT report**

SSD confirmed that the Chairs and Treasurers meeting will take place on Sunday 15 April. A new trustees' day is also planned for 27<sup>th</sup> May, offering practical sessions and a focus on governance issues. Booking forms for both are available via the website and ebulletin.

GDPR will come into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May. SSD is working with Ed Herman of BoNO on it. Our understanding is that by the very least on 25<sup>th</sup> May, we must have good complaints procedure and data policy, as well as a road map. LJ will send templates and information about where to get support. This is being developed and should be sent by mid-February.

BG Confirmed that there is a working party drafting privacy and consent and asked about training. SSD replied that she will look at training but this is an expensive option.

JK asked about the resource bank, which SSD confirmed is still live and can be used for this information.

**Safeguarding**

26 LJ communities out of 41 have replied to the safeguarding survey. More are needed.

There was a discussion of whether a standardized policy could be produced

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<p>across all communities.</p> <p>JF – reflected that the make-up of WCLS means that they have no children but huge number of elderly people.</p> <p>RS - reflected the experience of a very small community, where they updated their child policy and creating adult policy. Their experience was that the process leads to more people understanding and having ownership.</p> <p>JR – suggested that communities share policies that can be put on the website. It would be useful to have a framework to avoid the danger of asking everyone to design their own wheels.</p> <p>RJ – suggested that LJ create a list of obligations. For example, converts may be vulnerable adults because of power imbalances.</p> <p>CB replied that different communities have different needs and the solutions that will be proposed after the survey has closed will reflect this.</p>
<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>HJ reported that there was a good LJ presence at Limmud, however there were 74 sessions on Israel but not one from LJ – it is important that the LJ point of view is heard. HJ continues to be involved in work to keep the government to its commitment to bring refugees to the UK.</p> <p>AG Highlighted the EUPJ conference, due to take place from 26 – 29 April in Prague.</p>
<p><b>DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday 1 May 2018</b></p>