

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF LIBERAL JUDAISM (ULPS) – KNOWN AS COUNCIL  
 HELD ON TUESDAY 28th April 2020 via ZOOM  
 SUBJECT TO SECTIONS 26 -32 OF THE MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF LIBERAL JUDAISM (ULPS)

<b>PRESENT</b>	
PRESIDENT / VICE PRESIDENTS	Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein (President), Sharon Goldstein, Lucian Hudson, Joan Shopper, Monique Blake, Jeromé Freedman, Louise Freedman
OFFICERS (DIRECTORS)	Amanda McFeeters, Robin Moss, Ros Clayton, Ruth Seager (Chair), Graham Carpenter, Hannah Stephenson, Jane Drapkin, Karen Newman, Paul Silver-Myer
RABBIS	Aaron Goldstein, Charley Baginsky
COUNCIL	Alan Solomon (Mosaic), Alison Turner (3 Counties), Ariel Chalkin (WCLS), Arlene de Vries (MLJC), Bob Kamall (ELELS), Bryan Diamond (Hon. Archivist), Cathy Burnstone (FPS), Charles Middleburgh (LBC), Chris Nash (FPS), Craig Simmons (KLS), Frank Maxwell (BPS), Gerrard Geneen (SBJC), Jane Carpenter (Reading), Jane Greenfield (SPS), Janet Berkman (Peterborough), Katherine Shock (Oxford), Leslie Moss (NPLS), Phyllis & Len Alden (MLJC), Richard Stevens (ELELS), Shannon Kirshner (York), Sue Head (LJS), Tamara Joseph (FPS), William Glassman (Ealing)
IN ATTENDANCE	Alexandra Simonon, Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer, Becca Fetterman, Tom Rich, Simon Rothstein, Fran Kurlansky
	<p><b>OPENING PRAYER</b></p> <p>Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein offers remembrance on the eve of Yom HaZikaron of those who fought for the State of Israel, and for those who lost and are losing their lives to Coronavirus, including members of our own Liberal Jewish communities and calls for the feeling of community and closeness that has prospered during this time to last long after it has ended.</p>
	<p><b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomes all attendees, particularly those who have not attended before: Arlene de Vries (MLJC), Kathy Shocks (Oxford), and Chris Nash (FPS).  <b>Apologies</b> Beverley Levy, Paul Kennett, Monique Blake, Philip Mackle, Susan King.</p>

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	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 2020 AND MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising, but Leslie Moss noted that his apologies were not minuted for the last meeting.</p> <p>The minutes are signed as an accurate representation of the last meeting.</p>
	<p><b>ACTING CHAIR’S REPORT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The report was circulated before the meeting.</li> <li>● It was recommended that an invitation be extended to Carol Sterling, President of the WUPJ, to speak at the AGM. <b>This was agreed by Council.</b></li> <li>● The Chair noted her pride in the movement, and the way in which people have taken to remote communication; she is particularly impressed by the Liberal Judaism Community Briefing, and recommends to Council that they continue after the pandemic. <b>This was agreed by Council.</b></li> <li>● The Chair informed Council that the President, Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein, would be writing to Vice Presidents with a view to increasing the latter’s involvement.</li> <li>● The Chair gave thanks for the ‘tower of strength’ that she has found in Rabbi Charley Baginsky.</li> <li>● Thanks were also given to Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer, and the remainder of the Montagu Centre staff for their stoicism and headstrong attitude to the changes going on.</li> <li>● Council was informed that Simon Benscher and Jackie Richards have resigned from the Board of National Officers. <b>Council recorded thanks and appreciation to both for their invaluable trusteeship of Liberal Judaism.</b></li> <li>● Council was informed that BoNO would be reviewing leadership and management structure.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS TO LIBERAL JUDAISM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Joan Shopper suggested that, given their roles in Liberal Judaism prior to retirement, Rabbi Danny Rich and Simon Benscher should be given a Vice Presidentship in a ‘tier above’ the current VPs. <b>Ruth Seager and Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein will discuss the possibility and practicalities of this with other VPS.</b></li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rabbi Danny Rich was proposed for Vice Presidency by Amanda McFeeters and seconded by Jane Greenfield.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>The proposal was passed unanimously.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Simon Benscher was proposed for Vice Presidency by Ruth Seager and seconded by Tamara Joseph.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>The proposal was passed unanimously.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● The Chair noted congratulations to both.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A report was circulated before the meeting.</li> <li>● Council was reminded that Trustees elected to BoNO act as directors of Liberal Judaism.</li> <li>● Council was informed that there are positions that will be open in July and there is an active search for new trustees.</li> <li>● Council was informed that they should contact Robin Moss if they wish a further explanation regarding the election process.</li> <li>● It was explained that BoNO is currently seeking new trustees with a particular interest in the growth of communities, and the Leo Baeck College.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Council was reminded that any member of Liberal Judaism is eligible to be elected as a trustee</li> <li>○ Council was reminded that the application and election process is outlined on page three of Robin’s report</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The Chair reminded Council that trustees need not only be from London, and that if anyone would like to talk more about the role they can call her directly.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>REPORTS - all reports circulated prior to the meeting</b></p> <p><b>Senior Management Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Council thanked the SMT for what has been an “invaluable” support</li> </ul> <p><b>Conference of Liberal Rabbis and Cantors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rabbi Aaron Goldstein thanked Alexandra Simonon and Ronnie King for their support during this trying time</li> <li>● Council was reminded that the reason that mourners were not being allowed was to continually ensure that protection of members’ health and wellbeing is at the fore.</li> </ul>

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- Council extended thanks to the rabbis, funeral directors, and cemetery staff.
- Council was reminded that all cemeteries are shut and nobody can visit them, whether or not there is a funeral to attend.

**Leo Baeck College**

- Council was informed that LBC is teaching and meeting online and moved to this medium as soon as was needed.
- Council was informed that three new students have been accepted to the rabbinic programme for the next academic year and names and details will be released in the near future.

**Finance**

- Paul Silver-Myer thanked the Montagu Centre SMT for their help and support with finances.
- Council was informed that the auditors were currently reviewing the 2019 financial figures.
  - The 2020 figures were to be made available after the meeting.
- Council was informed that 2020 income may drop by about 15%, but this is balanced by a 15% drop in outgoings.
  - The finance team informed that they are cautiously optimistic about breaking even at the end of the financial year.
- The treasurer thanked congregations for their support.

**Biennial**

- Council was reminded that the Biennial is certainly an LJ flagship event, and that this year it will be taking place online.
  - Biennial 2020 will be free of charge to 'attend' this year
- The Biennial programme was shared with Council
- Rabbi Charley informed Council that anyone who missed things at the Biennial will be able to access them afterwards, either through the movement wide Tikkun Leil Shavuot, or on the Liberal Judaism website at a later date.
- Council was informed that the physical Biennial has been postponed (not cancelled) and will take place 30th April 2021 to 2nd May 2021. Please save the date!
- Jane Greenfield gave her personal thanks to the Biennial committee for their commitment to making the Biennial an online event during these times.

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	<p><b>LJY-Netzer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Council was informed that there is a new LJY-Netzer programming online           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Movement Workers are aware that there is ‘tech fatigue’ and they are looking at new ways to engage LJY members that doesn’t involve being in front of a screen for long periods of time.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>RJ and LJ RELATIONSHIP -          a report from Ruth Seager was circulated in advance of the meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It was proposed to Council that BoNO continue with a close working relationship with Reform Judaism</li> <li>● It was clarified to Council that, historically there had been substantial differences between the movements. However, Liberal Judaism’s leadership felt that these were now minimal and could be worked with. Cultural and operational differences between the movements remain. .</li> <li>● Ruth Seager clarified to Council that what is being proposed <b>is definitively not a merger</b>, but a closer working relationship that would likely entail a few projects over the course of time.</li> <li>● Council was asked to endorse the consensus on a closer working relationship as described in Ruth Seager’s paper           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>It was agreed that this vote will be postponed to give people more time to consider, and to allow a broader discussion and consultation (particularly with LJY-Netzer and wider synagogue membership).</b></li> <li>○ <b>The relationship will be discussed at a future Thursday evening Chairs meeting</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Council was reminded to discuss this carefully with their communities, lest mistaken or uninformed information be ‘leaked’</li> </ul>
	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There was no other business</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting closed.</p>
	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday 7 JULY 2020</b></p>