

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the members of Liberal Judaism (ULPS) - known as Council, and of the quarterly Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2020 via Zoom, due to the ongoing global Covid-19 pandemic.

Subject to sections 26-32 of the Memorandum and Articles of Liberal Judaism (ULPS)

PRESENT	
PRESIDENT/ VICE PRESIDENTS	Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein , Sharon Goldstein, Simon Benscher, Jeromé Freedman, Louise Freedman, Rosita Rosenberg, Joan Shopper
OFFICERS (DIRECTORS)	Graham Carpenter, Ruth Seager, Paul Silver-Myer, Amanda McFeeters, Karen Newman, Ros Clayton, Robin Moss, Hannah Stephenson
RABBIS	Rebecca Birk, Margaret Jacobi, Igor Zinkov, Aaron Goldstein, Richard Jacobi
COUNCIL	Phyllis Alden (Manchester), Janet Berkman (Peterborough), Michael Berman (Kingston), Arthur Buchman (Shir Hatzafon), Jane Carpenter (Reading), Joyce de Ath (Crawley), Gerard Geneen (South Bucks), William Glassman (Ealing), Jane Greenfield (Southgate), Sue Head (The LJS), Tamara Joseph (FPS), Bob Kamall (ELELS), Karen Katz (BHPS), Josie Kinchin (FPS), Shannon Kirshner (York), James Krikler (SLLS), Beverley Levy (Suffolk), Philip Mackle (Manchester), David Marchant (Kent), Frank Maxwell, Leslie Moss (NPLS), Chris Nash (FPS), Clive Neuberg (Birmingham), Owen Power (Manchester), Julian Sampson (Southgate), Richard Stevens (ELELS), Alan Solomon (Mosaic), Adrian Tellwright (York)
IN ATTENDANCE	Alexandra Simonon, Rabbi Charley Baginsky, Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer, Ben Combe, Jacob Swirsky, Rafe Thurstance, Shaan Knan, Mimi Konigsberg, Simon Rothstein, Alison Turner, Carole Sterling, Miriam Kramer
1	<p>OPENING PRAYER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rabbi Charley Baginsky opens with a poem by Adam Horowitz encouraging everyone to see the world through the eyes of ‘radical amazement’, and reminding the AGM that we should be “really proud that even there is physical distance between us, we have never allowed our communities to close.”
Liberal Judaism AGM	
2	<p>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies were received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben Rich - York Liberal Jewish Community Stuart MacDonald - Board of Deputies Robin Samson - Kehillah North London Phyllis Freedman - Southgate Progressive Synagogue It was recorded that AGM was being held on-line because there was no option to hold it in the normal way and LJ Articles require the AGM to be held at this time of year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustees agreed this on 18th June 2020 Ruth Seager thanked Simon Benscher for his service, before resigning as Chair for ill health and being made a VP in the last Council meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanks were also extended to Jackie Richards, Robin Moss, Jane Drapkin who have all stepped down from the Board.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ruth Seager also thanked Rabbi Danny Rich, who was not present, for his vision and dynamism in leading Liberal Judaism before his retirement, and this, the first AGM without him at the helm. ● Robin Moss, invited to speak by the chair of the meeting, thanked the AGM for the support he has received during his six year tenure and said that he is looking forward to engaging with Liberal Judaism in a new way. ● Ruth Seager informed the AGM that the intent is to finish the meeting within an hour and a half, due to the well known phenomenon of Zoom fatigue.
3	<p>SPEAKER: Carole Sterling, WUPJ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Chair welcomed Carole Sterling to the AGM ● Carole praised the relationship between LJ and the WUPJ, and further praised the shared visionary roots and founding members of the two movements ● Thanks were offered furthermore to all the people associated with LJ that have always made her feel part of the 'family' - including, but not limited to , Rabbi Danny Rich, Rabbi Charley Baginsky, Rabbi Mark Solomon, Graham Carpenter, Rabbi Igor Zinkov, and Robin Moss. ● She informed the AGM that the new WUPJ President, Rabbi Sergio Bergman, is keen to remind people that the WUPJ is not an umbrella movement, but a server/hub. ● In response to a question, Carole informs the AGM that she thinks the main problems facing progressive Judaism are how we deal with 'post denominational' Judaism, and how we strengthen and empower our young members. ● Rabbi Charley Baginsky and Ruth Seager thanked Carole for attending, and for her warmth and friendship.
4	<p>MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 4th July 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No changes are noted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jane Greenfield, and Frank Maxwell propose and second that the minutes are agreed as an accurate representation as long as the date is changed from 2nd July 2018 and changed to 2019.
5	<p>ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL OFFICERS to fill the posts of Chair, Deputy Chair, Vice Chair, and five further Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer announced the proxies that had been received and announced that the AGM is quorate. ● The Chair of the meeting hands over to Robin Moss to run the election for Chair ● The votes are held for the respective positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair, Ruth Seager, was elected unanimously ○ Deputy Chair, Karen Newman, was elected unanimously ○ Vice Chair, Graham Carpenter, was elected unanimously by exception ○ Amanda McFeeters was elected unanimously by exception ○ Ros Clayton was elected unanimously by exception ○ Janet Berkman was elected unanimously by exception ○ Owen Power was elected unanimously by exception ○ Susanne Combe was elected unanimously by exception
6	<p>REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ruth Seager presented a report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ She praised the Day of Celebration, whose theme of social justice is “surely the core of Liberal Judaism” ○ She further praised the BoNO and the staff at the Montagu Centre and offered her personal thanks for helping her “steer the ship” so well in her “tumultuous entry to the position of Acting Chair” ○ The AGM was informed that a legacy programme is being launched, and so is a fundraising strategy ○ Ruth announced that and Action Group of Black Jews and Jews of colour would be set up, and that the chair of that group will get a seat on BoNO in accordance with the Articles of Association
7	<p>PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Treasurer, Paul Silver-Myer, apologised for the lack of the lack of report that the AGM would usually receive at this point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ He explained that unfortunately because of Covid-19, the auditors are working online and to date have not completed the annual audit ○ He further explained that the auditors have identified a loss of c. £142,000 but that Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer has been working with the auditors and it is believed that the finances presented at the last Council meeting (where the accounts broke even) will be approved ● Ruth Seager thanked PSM for his work, and informed the AGM that despite PSM's apologies, it is clear to BoNO that this is an audit problem; the finance team in the Montagu Centre would have certainly noticed such a large loss.
8	<p>AGM, AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None was notified in advance ● Simon Benscher thanked the AGM attendees for their friendship, support, and messages before - but especially during - his time of ill health - he is, he said, proud to have served as Chair of Liberal Judaism, a Movement that represents everything he stands for as a Jew, and a human being.
	Meeting of COUNCIL
9	<p>MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING held on 28th April 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● James Krikler and Janet Berkman propose and second that the minutes be accepted, pending the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ James Krikler be added as in attendance
10	<p>REPORTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The contents of the report were noted ○ It was clarified that by ‘output’, RS was referring to the broadest offering of the college and not the quality of the rabbis graduating from LBC ○ It is suggested by LBC representative Mimi Konigsberg, that there be some rabbinic input to the LBC Working Group in the report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In response, Rabbi Charley Baginsky said that, the group’s current purpose is to look at the relationship between LBC and Progressive Judaism in the UK - should that change as the group develops, rabbinic input may well be consulted ● Joint Interim Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The contents of the report were noted and accepted with no questions ● Finance update

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The contents of the report were noted and accepted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Rabbi Charley Baginsky noted that we made a c. £3,500 surplus on the online Biennial. The 2020 Biennial in situ was projected to bring in a profit of c. £5,000, the previous Biennial breaking even. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This c. £3,500 is largely from donations combined with Gift Aid ■ Paul Silver-Myer noted that there is nothing to add to the report given in the AGM ● Senior Leadership Consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The contents of the report were noted and accepted with no questions ○ On behalf of the Board, Graham Carpenter thanked everyone who has responded, and noted that newly elected officers are now eligible to complete the consultation in their new roles ● Conference of Liberal Rabbis and Cantors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The contents of the report were noted and accepted with no questions ● Leo Baeck College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The contents of the report were noted and accepted with no questions
11	<p>COUNCIL, AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None was notified in advance
	<p style="text-align: center;">THE MEETING WAS CLOSED AT 20:10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next meeting: Tuesday 20th October 2020, location TBA</p>