

# Rabbi Menno ten Brink honoured

The City of Amsterdam has awarded Rabbi Menno ten Brink the Frans Banninck Cocq Medal for his work in the Jewish Community of Amsterdam over the past 25 years.

**R**abbi ten Brink received the prestigious award from the Mayor of Amsterdam, Femke Halsema, and was also addressed by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Hugo de Jonge.

Rabbinic leader of the Liberal Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam, Rabbi ten Brink was ordained at Leo Baeck College in July 1993. He has also been awarded a Fellowship of Leo Baeck College.

Leslie Bergman, EUPJ Honorary Life President, and Miriam Kramer, EUPJ Vice President and also representing Leo Baeck College, made presentations during the Chanukah service at which he was honoured.

The Frans Banninck Cocq Medal was established by the city in 1996 and is awarded for particular services to Amsterdam over a minimum of 12 years.

During his studies, Rabbi ten Brink served as student rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Congregation of Utrecht. After he qualified, he became part-time

rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam and the Liberal Jewish Congregation of Rotterdam, and was also the *chazzan* (cantor) of various congregations.



Between 1991 and 2004, he was the Jewish Chaplain of the Dutch Armed Forces. When he became Senior Rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam in 2004, he gave up many of his other roles and responsibilities.

Since 1998, Rabbi ten Brink has been a member of the Advisory Board and an executive of the Anne Frank

Foundation. He is currently EUPJ Vice Chairman with responsibility for Education and Interfaith matters, and a member of the European Rabbinic Assembly (ERA) board.

On behalf of the EUPJ and the ERA, we'd like to wish Rabbi ten Brink *Mazal tov* on his achievements and thank him for his dedication and his commitment to his community, the ERA, the EUPJ and the Progressive Movement as a whole. Long may he continue!

## The Netherlands

### Training Dutch lay leaders

Fourteen participants from several *kehillot* (congregations) in Holland received certificates for the *Ba'al Tefillah* ("Master of Prayer" or lay leadership) training. The full course took place over five weekends last year starting in January and ending in December.

During their training, participants learned how to lead services (*Shabbat* and *Shiva*) and also gained background and experience in lay leadership. The programme included how to give a *Dvar Torah*; their attitude

while leading the service; background to the *Amidah*, *Shema*, *Kaddish*, and other prayers; how to lead *Kiddush*, *Havdalah* and *Birkat Hamazon*, and more.



Front L-R: Leaders of the training: Annette Boeckler, Francine Püttmann, Rabbi Menno ten Brink and Rabbi Marianne van Praag. Back: Course participants

During the periods between the course sessions, they practised by leading Friday evening or Saturday morning services in their own Progressive synagogues. The rabbis of the various congregations helped them with their studies and gave feedback on their development.

The training was organised by the [Levisson Institute in Amsterdam](#). – Francine Püttmann