



Annual Report
for the Academic Year
augustus 2005 – juni 2006

Financial Report
for the year 2005

STICHTING ROBERT A. LEVISSON

Jacob Soetendorpstraat 8, 1079 RM Amsterdam, The Netherlands – Tel: 06 546 90 919, (020) 640 24 58

E-mail: contact@levisson.nl – Website: www.levisson.nl – Bankrekening: 40.03.78.213 te Utrecht

Introduction

It is with great pleasure that we present the third annual report of the Robert A. Levisson Foundation. In the following pages you will find a report about developments of the Levisson Institute for the period starting August 2005 until the end of June 2006 and abridged annual accounts for the financial year, i.e. calendar 2005.

Our first two annual reports contained rather more information than is usual in an annual report: a picture of the background that led up to the foundation of the Levisson Institute, our aims and a presentation of the Board members, the Academic Committee, the Advisory Council, the lecturers and the students. Our website, www.levisson.nl, now provides all these details together with additional, up-to-date information about the Institute's activities. This report is therefore limited to covering the progress made during the Academic Year that has now elapsed, abridged annual accounts for the financial year 2005 and perspectives for the upcoming 2006 Academic Year.

Our Institute is beginning to gain recognition within and beyond the Dutch-Jewish community and is gaining recognition as a serious institution. This was our first year with groups from two different years and it was also the first year for us in which we opened our doors to outside audiences, with some selected and well attended public symposia. We see increasingly clearly that achieving our primary ambition - that of providing rabbinical training in the Netherlands for the Liberal Jewish community – is genuinely feasible and we hope to be able to start the first expansion of our training programmes at the beginning of September 2007. The progress we have achieved makes us confident we shall achieve the target before us.



Robert A. Levisson was the son of the founder of the Liberal Jewish movement in the Netherlands. After the end of World War II and the Shoah, he initiated and led the rebuilding of the Liberal Jewish congregation in The Hague.

He achieved great renown as one of the outstanding liberal leaders in our country. Robert A. Levisson was a gifted speaker and writer and one of the foremost spokespersons for the State of Israel. Among many other achievements, he founded the Centre for Information and Documentation on Israel (CIDI). He died in December 2001.

Jehie zichro baroach - יהי זכרו ברוך

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1. The Academic Year 2005-2006

When the Levisson Institute was set up by the Union of Liberal Jewish Congregations in the Netherlands in August 2002 we expressed the seemingly overambitious hope that it would be possible to set up a Liberal Jewish rabbinical training institute in the Netherlands. Now that four years have passed, we are pleased to be able to report that the first year group, consisting of five students, has successfully completed its third year of studies and that a second year group, consisting of three students, has also satisfactorily completed its first year. The study programme has been put together in such fashion that first year students were able to follow a number of lecture cycles together with their third year colleagues.

Lecturers:

Once again our lecturers were prepared to invest a great deal of time and attention into helping our students and into further developing our study programme. We are profoundly grateful for their efforts. This is especially true of Rabbi Prof. Jonathan Magonet, who until recently was the Principal of the Leo Baeck College in London. During the whole of the spring of 2006 he would fly every week from London to Amsterdam to teach.

A number of lecturers will continue to provide tuition in the coming academic year, but, for new programme modules, other leading specialists both in the Netherlands and abroad have expressed their willingness to pass on their specialist knowledge to our students.

Appendix 1 features a list of the lecturers who have provided tuition in the past, those doing so over a number of years and those scheduled to begin working with our students in the next academic year.

Guest lecturers:

In September 2005 Prof. Dr. Menachem Lorberbaum of Tel Aviv University and the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem visited us. He spent a day with students in the context of their year's course on Jewish Philosophy given by Prof. Dr. Reinier Munk. Prof. Lorberbaum has co-authored one of the text books used for this course.

Prof. Lorberbaum was also the keynote speaker at the opening of the Academic Year of our Institute. Our website features a slightly modified version of his challenging and enlightening lecture entitled "Religion and State in Israel."



In February 2006 Rabbi Yehoram Mazor, Principal Lecturer in Liturgy at the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, gave our students and other interested persons an intensive eight day Liturgy course.

Rabbi Mazor is the chairman of the committee responsible for editing the new siddurim for the Liberal Jewish movement in Israel. He is also member of the CCAR Prayer Book Committee that developed the new siddur for the US Reform movement which is scheduled for autumn 2006.

In the light of such involvement and his exceptional qualities it is worthy of note that his pedagogical approach did not only provide our future rabbis with a deep grounding in the structure of the siddur and machzor, but at the same time gave them tools allowing them to approach both the prayers and the general design of services in a manner at once creative and responsible. That manner remains progressive, sidestepping what might be termed the trap of a "Liberal Jewish orthodoxy".

The thorough preparation afforded to the first year students made it possible for them to follow these lectures in conjunction with their third year colleagues.



In June 2006 Rabbi Prof. Reuven Firestone spent a very full week with our students, immersing them in the origin, development and thinking of Islam. Current issues in the west and those concerning Israel were also the subject of thorough attention.

Prof. Firestone lectures in “Medieval Judaism and Islam” at the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles and is considered one of today’s foremost specialists on Islam.

While in Amsterdam he gave a public lecture which is to be found on the Institute’s web site that also features links to his personal details and publications.

The students:

Our students follow a demanding programme in addition to their daily work and other obligations. In September 2005, as the Academic Year was commencing, again one of our original seven students decided to discontinue the course. Despite the modifications put in place to suit his requirements, his personal circumstances were such that – to his own regret as well as to that of ours – he was unable to meet the demands set.

The five students who have stayed on have successfully completed their third year of study and have taken up the challenge of the 2006 – 2007 with high motives and purposeful determination. The website provides further details about these students.

Last year the third year students commenced their “shadowing sessions” – practical traineeships. These have involved following our rabbis about in their general activities, observing their various styles of operation and getting to know the various Dutch and Belgian communities. Their observations gave rise to extensive discussions with the rabbis.

Over the next year they will themselves become active in the communities, while remaining subject to the direct mentorship of a rabbi. This does not merely extend to the running of services but also covers other tasks of a rabbi, such as pastoral work, teaching about various aspects of Judaism and Jewish life, writing articles and so forth. In addition to the mentorship exercised by rabbis they will also be allocated professional supervisors for their own personal development in relation to their functioning in their new roles.

There are three students who are about to start their second year. One of these completed the last academic year at Jerusalem’s Conservative Yeshiva, with the purpose of acquiring the required experience of Israel and in order to get her Hebrew up to the required level.

She will spend next year at this institute, but has decided to return in the year thereafter to the Netherlands to follow the rabbinical training course here. At that point the study programme will be examined to see how this ought to be modified to her needs.

Where feasible and appropriate, the remaining two students will follow the same programme as the students of the previous intake, so fostering the creation of a group and a collegial approach. They will begin their “shadowing sessions” next year, i.e. following and observing rabbis.

We expect members of the congregations to get to know the students in the course of their internships, which will expose to a wider audience what the students have acquired in terms of knowledge and experience. The countrywide Oneg Shabbat the Union held on 3 June 2006 at LJG Twente was for many their first opportunity to become acquainted with the Institute's students. The students had planned a variety of services for the programme, together with workshops; and they put them into practice. We are delighted to report that reactions were extremely positive. The summer issue of *Levend Joods Geloof* covered the day in detail.



Early on, the management board took the deliberate decision only to admit new student intakes every second year. One of the reasons behind that decision was the desire to be certain that the training had a serious chance of succeeding before accepting more students; and another was governed by the dictates of financial prudence. The desired certainty has now been achieved, but the dictates of prudence in respect of available financial resources remain. This has meant that no new students are to be admitted in September 2006.

Later on this autumn we shall commence the process of recruiting candidates for the training period, scheduled to start in September 2007. A few individuals have already indicated their interest and the Academic Committee will have to decide on their admission at an appropriate moment. We are especially pleased to note that there exists a clear interest for rabbinical training in the Netherlands, as well as for Jewish educational activities at an academic level and in a liberal Jewish environment.

The 2005-2006 study programme

The 3rd year students

In terms of textual studies the third year students again followed a course of Talmud studies lasting the entire year taught by Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Marx (Folkertsmastichting) and drs. Leo Mock (University of Amsterdam/UvA). They also followed a Midrash module given by Prof. Irene Zwiep at the UvA and immersed themselves for a semester in Tanach under Rabbi Prof. Jonathan Magonet from London. They studied the machzor and liturgy for the High Holydays together with Rabbi Yehoram Mazor from Jerusalem.

In the context of Jewish Thought they followed the course in Jewish Philosophy given by Prof. Reinier Munk. Rabbi Prof. Reuven Firestone (Los Angeles) gave them the first part of their orientation in other religions and the practice of interfaith activities.

Vocational training: the students were given a series of lectures by specialists that concentrated on the age profile of the Jewish community and the specificities of the different age groups. They subsequently paid a number of visits to Jewish institutions with which they will be in contact in the course of their future professional duties. They became acquainted with those running these facilities, immersed themselves in their activities and in what is, or might be, the related task of "the Rabbi". Visits were paid to "the CIZ", that is, the special Jewish section of a hospital in a suburb of Amsterdam, the Jewish mental hospital "Sinai clinic", the old age home Beth Shalom, the Israeli Embassy and a well known Amsterdam prison.

They also had the benefit of an extended module of Mental Health Care given by drs. Corry van Straten of the Psycho-Medical Centre Parnassia in The Hague.

On the practical side the students on several occasions jointly led a practice Sabbath morning service at the LJG Rotterdam synagogue in the presence of interested members of the congregation. In another area some of the students followed a course in writing articles and other texts given by drs. Ite Rümke, a journalist and lecturer. All of them enjoyed the training in dealing with the media and how to give interviews in a course given by TV journalist/presenter Hannie Hoekstra.

Finally a great deal of hard work was put into their Personal Development Plan (PDP) and into their Practice Portfolio which this year was under the management of Janneke van der Mei of the Hogeschool Utrecht. Time was also spent on the “shadowing sessions” noted above.

The study trips that were undertaken are discussed separately below.

The 1st year students

The 1st year students followed several of the courses noted above together with their 3rd year fellow students. These were the University of Amsterdam Midrash module, Prof. Magonet’s Tanach module, the special study weeks (Rabbi Mazor and Prof. Firestone), and in the context of Vocational Training, the lecture series about age group composition and the Spiritual Care module (Parnassia). They also participated in practice services as well as working on their PDP and Portfolio.

They also were obliged to devote considerable attention to their Hebrew language skills, in part at Leiden University under Dr. Hanna Neudecker and in part at the University of Amsterdam (UvA) under Prof. Irene Zwiep. They also followed a year long course entitled Introduction to Classical Rabbinical Literature given by drs. Leo Mock (UvA) that will serve as a foundation stone for the more advanced textual courses to be taken in the course of the following academic year.

Exceptional encounters

The countrywide Oneg Shabbat the Union held has been described earlier under the heading of “the Students”. Another special encounter was the seminar held to discuss “Patrilineal Jews” that was held in conjunction with the Menasseh Ben Israel Institute on 9 April 2006 in De Balie. A large hall filled to capacity listened intently to the discussion of this difficult issue, the seven analyses covering the admission policies different organisations within the Jewish community deploys and the highly personal tales told by three persons with a father as their only Jewish parent. All contributions can be read (in Dutch, some with Dutch audio) on www.levisson.nl.

The planned 2006-2007 study programme

The 4th year students

The 4th year students will again be devoting a substantial proportion of their time next year to the study of classical texts. Talmudic studies are continuing unabated and two lecturers will run the Tanach courses. Rabbi Prof. Magonet will return in the spring term of 2007, and during the autumn of 2006 these classes will be given by Prof. Jan Fokkelman, professor emeritus at Leiden University. Prof. Fokkelman enjoys international recognition as a specialist in the area of Biblical Poetry and will share his expertise and skills with the students.

There will be another course in Jewish Philosophy under the aegis of Prof. Munk and the Dean. This year this course will review the emergence of modern Jewish streams of thought. Texts of the key thinkers who laid the foundations in this area will be read and discussed.

Students will also discuss a series of contemporary Responsa with the Dean. Responsa are Rabbinical responses to problems of contemporary life and difficult, potentially divisive issues. Special attention will be given not only to the subjects dealt with, but also on the way the research is done, which sources are consulted, and the manner in which they are assessed and ranked, and how conclusions are reached. These are working sessions leading up to the specialist work performed by the Beth Din, and where much of what students have picked up in the course of their earlier work finds itself at odds with the reality of work as a rabbi.

In spring 2007 the second part of their introduction to other religions and interfaith work will be given. Dr. Johan Vos (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) will give an introduction to Christian theology and reflection, and into anti-Semitism in Christianity.

The year of study will begin with a three day seminar about “Congregational Dynamics”, or “the Dynamics of the Jewish community”, as part of their Vocational Training. In previous years the learning has been targeted at their pastoral work with individuals and in family situations.

This seminar will provide guidelines for dealing with group dynamics within organisations, in other words how to operate effectively with synagogue boards, committees, volunteer groups and others across a spectrum of collaborative arrangements. This will be the subject of a follow-up later on in the year when experiences gained from the practical training sessions will be analysed.

Finally, attention will be paid to the practical aspects of work in and around the synagogue and PDP and Portfolio work will be pursued. The students will also have to spend time on their training sessions and on the individual supervision that is part of their development.

The 2nd year students

Next year’s sophomore students will follow a number of lecture series together with their fourth year colleagues. This will be the case for the Tanach, Jewish Philosophy and Introduction to Christianity lectures and to the Congregational Dynamics seminar.

They will follow a course in Rabbinical Aramaic specially developed for us by Dr. Margaretha Folmer (Leiden University) and an Introduction to Talmudic Studies given by drs. Leo Mock. The purpose of both courses is to prepare them to join the spring 2007 Talmud course together with their fourth year colleagues.

In the area of Vocational Training they will receive a follow-up course to what they learned at Parnassia given by drs. Ina van Es. They will also need to spend time on their PDP, Portfolio and the training sessions starting the academic year.

An exceptional seminar

On 7 September the Van Gorcum publishing house, acting on behalf of the CRINT Foundation, will present a long awaited specialist volume about early rabbinical literature. The authors live and work in Israel. Two of them will travel to the Netherlands for the occasion, to be joined by other leading foreign scholars in this area.

For this occasion, a seminar is to be held by our Institute in conjunction with the University of Utrecht and the Catholic Theological University of Tilburg. Students from both the Leo Baeck College (London) as well as from the Abraham Geiger Kolleg (Potsdam) have been invited, together with individuals following Jewish studies in Amsterdam, Leiden and Groningen. The lectures are to be given by Prof. Joshua Schwartz and Prof. Zeev Safrai (both of Bar Ilan University) and by Prof. Peter Tomson (Faculty of Protestant Theology, Brussels and a former student of Rabbi Ashkenasy).

As part of this occasion, Prof. Joshua Schwartz will give the Levisson Institute 2006 – 2007 Academic Year Inaugural Lecture. Our website provides full details of the seminar programme and the full text of the Inaugural Lecture, which has since been published.

Guest lecturer



"The dynamism and creative curricular approach of this program will soon set the standard for new ways of thinking about the American rabbinate," says Dr. Arthur Green.

The Institute regularly organises study weeks with a leading lecturer. At the timing of writing this report one such seminar has already been planned. In the week of 22-29 April 2007 Rabbi Arthur Green will give the students a thorough Introduction to Kabbala and Jewish Spirituality. He will also hold a talk for the Friends of the Institute.

Rabbi Prof. Art Green is Principal of the transdenominational Rabbinical School of Hebrew College (Boston, MA, US) that was founded in 2003. He had previously worked as Dean and later as President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. As well his current duties he is Professor of Jewish Mysticism at the Hebrew College and Professor of Jewish Thought at Brandeis University.

Study visits

Funds especially devoted to this purpose made it possible to offer the students a number of study trips. Such visits form an indispensable part of the rabbinical training. The work of a rabbi is in many respects internationally oriented. Being aware and staying abreast of what is happening elsewhere in the world is of importance if current developments in terms of thinking and research are to be followed; and such developments are of importance for our community in the Netherlands as well. Going beyond keeping up with the literature, it also extends to networking with colleagues. Such contacts and contributions from the outside are also indispensable for a rabbi's personal development.

- Concluding the 2004-2005 Academic Year, but too late for the deadline for the Annual Report that had already been drawn up, the then 2nd year students attended the bi-annual Conference of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and the subsequent World Rabbinic Conference held in Moscow. They experienced at first hand both what the World Union stands for and the work it does and the rebirth of Jewish life in the Former Soviet Union.
- Opening the new Academic Year, all students led by the Dean and accompanied by some board members of Amsterdam's Liberal Jewish Community and of the Institute, paid an eleven day visit to Israel in September 2005. Its purpose, that of laying an effective foundation for contacts with the local Liberal Jewish movement, was achieved to the satisfaction of all concerned. In addition to encounters with many rabbis and leaders of the movement and a series of far-reaching lectures about the movement's work, objectives and problems, students also followed a specially developed study programme interspersed between the visits.



In Appendix 2 of this report the travel and study programme may be found.

- The Academic Year was brought to a close with a visit to London's Leo Baeck College as it celebrated its first half century. Students participated in the concomitant international rabbinical conference. This also turned out to an exceptionally rich learning experience, providing students with much in terms of potentially useful contacts for the future.



The Dean was also able to make the acquaintance of the new Principal of the Leo Baeck College, Rabbi Prof. Marc Saperstein, who started work in July 2006. They agreed to meet again to further discuss the possibilities of a future closer collaboration.

The Library

Work on assembling a reference library for student use proceeded further during the year. Shortage of space in which to stock new titles is already leading to difficulties. The Board and the Academic Committee hope that the new premises Amsterdam's Liberal Jewish Congregation is scheduled to move to will, starting early 2008, provide appropriate space and superior study facilities.

Software appropriate to render the library accessible has been identified and we hope to make a start on cataloguing the books within a foreseeable period of time. If a positive response is received from the Maror Commission in response to a subsidy request lodged by the LJC, a start will be made in January 2007 to integrate the collections housed by three libraries: those of the Levisson Institute, of the Judith Druk Library and of the Mira Rafalowicz Yiddish Library into a single catalogue. The catalogue will also be available for consultation on the internet.

The Website

As the reader of this report will already have noted, the Foundation's and Institute's website has been in operation for some time, giving details of all up-to-date information about our activities. Via an e-mail address list linked to the website a Sidra of the Week commentary in Dutch is sent every week to some 400 recipients. A further 300-plus individuals then consult the text that is then put on the website every week.

Our website, www.levisson.nl gives further details. .

The Friends

The circle of Friends is a slowly but steadily growing. Numbering 30 in 2004, and 35 in 2005, the figure now stands at some 45: they make the Institute's work possible. We are profoundly grateful for their efforts.

It nevertheless remains our aim to extend the circle of Friends to at least 100 individuals. The Friends still come mainly from the Amsterdam LJC community. Now that the students have begun their training sessions, whereby the Institute is gaining visibility within the other congregations, we hope that persons from outside Amsterdam will also be prepared to support our work and so help extend the construction of the Union further, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Extending the circle of Friends becomes all the more urgent with the second group of students we have admitted. This does not only lead to higher costs, but also means that the original request to give support for a minimum five year period no longer suffices. The five years were calculated on the basis of the length of study to be pursued by what was the single group of students, but now at least two years are being added. If a third set of students is to be admitted in September 2007, we shall be obliged to ask our existing and new Friends if they are prepared to support us over a longer period. We are in effect counting on their agreement!



The support the Friends give us is not limited to one of enormous financial importance. Their support bears witness to their confidence in the Institute's work, so lending reinforcement to the confidence in the training programme accorded by the various foundations that, in their turn, support us.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the Levi Lassen and Makaria Foundations and the Maror Commission for the benevolent support and understanding they have shown for our work.

We continue to entertain the hope that other Foundations, whether family or other, can be found to follow the example set by the Friends and the foundations referred to above.

Further plans for the future

The objectives laid out in the Institute's Articles of Association are not limited to training rabbis but also extend to the training for *shelichay tsibbur*, teachers and lay leaders for the Union's congregations, foundations and associations. Now that the rabbinical training has taken shape, the Board has decided to proceed to the next step.

A grant proposal has been submitted to the Maror Commission to help finance a combined two year training course for both *shelichay tsibbur* and teachers. Our intention is for the course to begin in autumn 2007. The purpose is for four long weekends each year to be earmarked for lessons and practice. Between weekends, students will also work on exercises under the supervision of individual mentors.

Designing the content of the *shelichay tsibbur* training requires above all specialist knowledge, and the head of the cantorial school at Jerusalem's Hebrew Union College, Prof. Eliyahu Schleifer, has agreed to assist us and has furthermore agreed to come to the Netherlands to teach. We are exploring possibilities of working together with the Guild of Temple Musicians in the United States.

Finally, the InHolland Institute, associated with the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, has approached us to explore possibilities of setting up a training scheme for Jewish pastoral workers, as part of a wider scheme of partly joint training of such specialists for different faith communities. The discussions are due to begin during the autumn.

2. The Finances

2005 Annual Accounts

The annual accounts for 2005 have been drawn up by JAN Accountants, this being the new name taken by Perdaan Den Houting Hendriksen (Landsmeer) accountancy partnership subsequent to a merger. Below is a summary of the 2005 annual accounts. If you wish to receive the full accounts, these are available (in Dutch) on request from the Foundation.

Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2005

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Assets: | | Liabilities: | |
| Accounts receivable / carried over | € 1.137 | Founding capital | € 47,387 |
| Cash and short-term deposits | € 191.331 | Appropriations Reserves | € 48,350 |
| | | Advance receipts | € 82,025 |
| | | Debts / carried over | € 14,706 |
| <i>Total</i> | € 192.468 | <i>Total</i> | € 192,468 |

Notes

The sums collected from Amsterdam LJG members on the occasion of Rabbi Lilienthal's retirement have been posted as the Appropriations Reserve. In consultation with Rabbi Lilienthal the Board decided to set up a student fund to provide students with the necessary financial support if their financial situation should so merit. As a number of donations were made from this fund in 2005, the sum of € 5,000 was now again added to it.

In 2005 we were able to organise an Israel seminar for the first time. The purpose was to set up as full a programme as possible to familiarize the students with all facets of Liberal Judaism in Israel. This was a programme that not only students followed, but also a few leading members of Liberal Congregations. The latter paid their own expenses so that these would not fall on the Foundation. Students are required to follow a seminar of this type at least once in the course of their studies: hence it is not organised each year. These costs have therefore not been budgeted for in the 2006 and 2007 estimates. Given the students' need for the Israel seminar, and so as to be able to bear these in the future, we have earmarked a reserve to that effect and in 2005 we set aside the sum of € 15,000 for Israel seminars. This is included within the Appropriations Reserves on the balance sheet.

We have also set up a "social science survey" fund and paid in the sum of € 10,000 to that effect. This sum is also included within the Appropriations Reserve on the balance sheet. The students admitted during the first intake will soon begin their closing study project which will include a serious dissertation. It is not unlikely that some of them will need to undertake research abroad for this purpose. We expected that they will not be in a position to bear the entire costs of this study and therefore we wish to have the possibility to contribute to these costs.

The (modest) surplus for 2005 has been added in to the Foundation's capital that amounted to € 47.387 as of 31 December 2005. This looks better than it is. A sum of this nature is the minimum if we are to provide our students and our Dean with an adequate level of security. They require the assurance that the Foundation will be able to meet its financial obligations over a longer time frame. The Foundation needs to be in a position to absorb unexpected costs and expenses. For the years subsequent to 2006 we shall be dependent upon further subsidies. We do indeed expect a Maror contribution once again to be forthcoming, but a rigorous financial policy to keep control of costs is

and remains indispensable. This is all the more pertinent given that we admitted new students in September 2005 to the course and that we are offering students from various intakes an extended study programme.

That the amount recorded under Advance Receipts is relatively high is a function of the fact that the financial and academic years do not start and end at the same time, and the (fortunate) circumstance that those granting subsidies and Friends have made some advance payments.

2005 Profit and Loss Account

| Income: | | Expenses: | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Subsidies | € 92.900 | Dean | € 31.378 |
| Friends/donations | € 38.894 | Lecturers/courses | € 34.631 |
| Collegegelden | € 12.091 | Library | € 7.571 |
| Rentebaten | € 5.308 | Class premises | € 2.400 |
| | | Communication | € 6.663 |
| | | Seminars* | € 41.860 |
| | | Students' Fund | € 5.000 |
| | | Social science survey | € 10.000 |
| | | Operating costs | € 9.220 |
| <i>Total</i> | € 149.193 | <i>Total</i> | € 148.723 |
| <i>Surplus</i> | | | € 470 |

* Including € 15,000 payment into Appropriations Reserves.

Notes

Expenses

As of 1 January 2004 Rabbi David Lilienthal began serving as Dean of the Institute, with remuneration being based on one day per week. The study programme has meant that organising the lectures, contacts with lecturers and students, working with the Board, the Committees and keeping the administration up to date call for much time and attention. It was therefore decided in 2005 that the Dean's duties would be extended. One reason was that a number of new students were to start the course in September 2005. From this time forward the Dean has been working on a part-time basis of 2 days per week. We are very grateful to him for the substantial and valuable work that he does.

We are still in a situation that may be considered one of extremely limited administrative support. This is insufficient. We are therefore looking for a volunteer who would, however, receive (tax-free) reimbursement of expenses.

The expenses for lecturers and courses rose from € 21,768 (2004) to € 34,631. This followed on our more extended programme of studies that, as from September 2005, embraced two student groups and the fact that more courses for the more senior students had to be offered by the Institute itself.

These circumstances mean that expenses for lecturers and courses will increase once again in 2006. Based upon the concrete programme of studies the Dean and the Academic Committee have drawn up for 2006 these have been budgeted at € 60,000. This points to the importance of further sound financing for the Institute.

Receipts

Funds and Foundations

Funds and foundations devoted to supporting educational establishments do not exist in the Netherlands. Even a professional fundraiser was unable to identify any such sources for funds. Education is seen as a responsibility of government. Its restricted scale and target group disqualify an Institute such as ours from government support. We nevertheless consider ourselves most fortunate to have found two foundations that provide us with financial support. In 2003 and 2004 respectively the Levi Lassen and the Makaria Foundations undertook an annual endowment in the value of € 25,000 per year over a five year period. Preconditions have been attached to the subsidies. We are grateful to the Foundations for their support.

The Friends

The Friends of the Institute provide us with the financial backbone for our existence. We are especially pleased that since the Institute's commencement some 40 individuals have committed themselves to supporting the Levisson Institute with a contribution of € 1,000 per year for at least five years. This shows the level of interest attached within the Liberal Jewish movement to our Institute. Some Friends have paid their entire five year contribution in advance. Others make their contribution each year, whether or not pursuant to a notarised deed that provides the donor with tax relief.

We consider it very important to keep the Friends informed of our activities. At least once a year a meeting is arranged where Friends are informed about the course of events, and where they can exchange views with students, lecturers and those running the Institute. To the extent this is possible, these meetings have a content-related component with a speaker from the Netherlands or from abroad. For details, please turn to the relevant item in this report.

The Maror funds

At the end of October 2003 we submitted a grant proposal applying for support from the collective Maror funds that had become available. We budgeted in great detail the costs an Institute such as ours might be expected to incur.

Under the award decision dated 29 June 2004 we were granted a sum not to exceed € 75,000 for the years 2004 and 2005. The Maror Commission took the view that "this important initiative merits support". It added that we "must make every effort in the year of the granting of the subsidy to ensure that the project has a good chance of success both as to its aims and financially, among other things by striving for international recognition." In the meantime this goal has been achieved to some extent, as has been shown in the cooperation realized with the rabbinic training institutes in England, Israel, the United States and Germany and the place our Institute has been accorded in the official reports of our activities carried by the organs of the World Union.

We are pleased that the Maror Commission has furthermore recognised that the establishment of the Levisson Institute is of great importance for the continuity of Jewish life in the Netherlands.

The award decision made by the Maror Commission has made it possible for us to put in place significant additional facilities, such as starting our own library, organising our own seminars and permitting our students to participate in international seminars and meetings. All these elements are of real significance for the future effective functioning of our Institute's students to the benefit of the Dutch Jewish community.

Of the sum of € 75,000 noted above an advance payment of € 60,000 has already been paid out. We are also awaiting approval for the account we have rendered for the use we made of the Maror funds in 2004 and 2005. The account was made by commissioning an accountant's declaration to which written notes were appended.

The formulation of the decision to agree to the grant proposal leaves open the possibility of further support in the following years. We have lodged another application for a Maror subsidy for 2006. This application has been granted, with an award not exceeding € 30,000. On that basis we have drawn up the following budget for 2006.

The 2006 budget

Expenses:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Salaries (Dean and administrative support) | € 35,000 |
| Communication | € 5,000 |
| Accommodation Dean/secretariat/library | € 600 |
| Expenses Dean/Board/Councils | € 8,000 |
| Accountants' fees | € 6,000 |
| Courses and lecturers' fees | € 60,000 |
| Lecture room | € 4,500 |
| Depreciation, movables | € 1,000 |
| Library | € 7,500 |
| Seminars and meetings abroad | € 15,000 |
| Various and unforeseen | € 4,300 |

Total € 146,900

Receipts:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Subsidy, Levi Lassen | € 25,000 |
| Subsidy, Makaria | € 25,000 |
| Subsidy, Maror | € 30,000 |
| Private donations | € 40,000 |
| Other contributions | € 7,900 |
| Student and participants' fees | € 15,000 |
| Interest | € 4,000 |

Total € 146,900

APPENDIX 1

The quality of any training stands and falls with the lecturers. We consider ourselves fortunate to have been able to attract so many leading lecturers from academia and from outside. They are all leading specialists in their field. Most lecturers are Jewish. Where they are not, almost all have a strong affinity to Judaism and to the Jewish community.

For details of the lecturers during the first three years, please consult the website www.levisson.nl.

Academic Year 2006-2007

- *Aramaic (2nd year students):*

Dr. Margaretha Folmer,
University Lecturer in Aramaic, Leiden University (LU)
Department of Languages and Cultures of the Near East.

- *Tanach (4th year students):*

Dr. Jan Fokkelman,
Emeritus Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature (LU)
a leading international specialist in Semitic languages and Biblical Poetry

Rabbi Prof. Dr. Jonathan Magonet

Until July 2005 Principal of the Leo Baeck College, London, and Tanach Professor.

Tanach (2nd year students):

Drs. Leo Mock, *also of* the University of Amsterdam and Crescas

- *Introduction to the Talmud (2nd year students):*

Drs. Leo Mock, *also of* the University of Amsterdam and Crescas.

- *Talmud:*

Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Marx, Folkertsma-tichting
Drs. Leo Mock, *also of* the University of Amsterdam and Crescas.

- *Jewish Philosophy:*

Dr. Reinier Munk,
Professor Leiden University(LU) and Dr. M. Goudekot of the Chair of Modern Jewish
Philosophy at the Free University of Amsterdam (VU)

- *Kabbala and Spirituality:*

Rabbi Prof. Dr. Arthur Green,
President, Hebrew College Rabbinical School, Boston, U.S.

- *Christianity:*

Dr. Johan Vos,
University lecturer (retired) New Testament and Judaica at the
Theological Faculty of the Free University of Amsterdam (VU).

- *Rabbinic Practice:*
Rabbi Ruben Bar-Ephraim M.A.
Rabbi David Lilienthal, Dean, Levisson Institute

- *Modern Responsa Literature*
Rabbi David Lilienthal, Dean, Levisson Institute

- *Vocational Training*
 - a) *Pastoral and Spiritual Care:*
Ms Ina van Es M.A. *the 2nd year students*)
 - b) *Portfolio Practice – Supervision*
Mr. Ite Rümke
 - c) *Congregational Dynamics*
Drs. Paul Mol
Post-HBO Ipabo assistant

APPENDIX 2

PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Levisson Institute Israel Study Trip

September 11 – 21. 2005

| DAY | DATE | TIME | PROGRAM |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Sunday | Sept. 11 | 18:55 | Arrival Ben Gurion Airport Transfer to Jerusalem |
| | | 21:00 | Check in Mercaz Shimshon |
| | | 21:30 | Welcome and introduction to program – Nir Barkin, Paul Liptz and Steve Israel |
| | | | |
| Monday | Sept. 12 | | ISRAEL: BUILDING A CREATIVE PROGRESSIVE JEWISH SOCIETY |
| | | 7:00 – 8:00 | Breakfast – Dining Room |
| | | 8:00 – 9:00 | Shacharit and Torah reading |
| | | 9:00 – 10:00 | Paula Edelstein – “Welcome to the Israel Movement for Progr. Judaism” |
| | | 10:15 – 11:15 | Maoz Haviv – Netzer Olami |
| | | 11:15 – 12:15 | Study session: “Am, Eretz V/Torah in contemporary clothing” – Paul Liptz |
| | | 12:30 – 13:15 | Tour of Beit Shmuel – Mercaz Shimshon – Lesley Sachs |
| | | 13:15 – 14:00 | Lunch |
| | | 15:00 – 16:00 | Rabbi R. Hirsch: “Visions and Buildings: Moving From Concepts to Realities” |
| | | 16:00 – 17:30 | R. Michael Marmur, “The Learning Jewish Community: The Hebrew Union College ” |
| | | 17:30 – 18:30 Tefillat Ma’ariv | Combined study session with HUC rabbinic students, “New Challenges in an Old Land” |
| | | 18:45 – 19:30 | Dinner Beit Shmuel Dining Room |

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|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Tuesday | Sept. 13 | | EDUCATION AND GROWTH: THE IMPJ |
| | | 7:00 – 7:45 | Breakfast |
| | | 7:45 – 8:45 | Shacharit/Text Study, "What Do We Mean By a Jewish Text" – Steve Israel |
| | | 9:00 – 10:00 | IMPJ – Maki Gerson "Educating and Dreaming" |
| | | 10:30 – 12:00 | Visit Tali Beit Ve'Gan School: "Searching for a Progressive Voice in Israeli Education: The TALI School System and Syllabus" |
| | | 12:00 – 12:30 | Picnic Lunch – Judean Mountains |
| | | 12:30 – 14:00 | Study session: "Education and Ideology in Israeli Society" – Steve Israel |
| | | 14:00 – 14:45 | Nature Walk to Sataf |
| | | 14:45 | Transfer to Kehillat Mevaseret Zion |
| | | 15:00 – 16:30 | Rabbi Alona Lisitza visit K. Mevaseret Zion; Maram (Israeli Association or Reform Rabbis) – "Progr. Judaism in the Jewish State" |
| | | 16:30 – 18:00 | Kibuts Tzova – Visit Eisendrath international Exchange students |
| | | 19:00 – 20:00 | Dinner with Anat Hoffman & R. Gilad Kariv of Israel Reigious Action Centre |
| | | 20:15 | IRAC Session – Anat Hoffman & R. Gilad Kariv, "Religious, Legal and Humanistic Challenges in the Nation State and <i>Giyur</i> (Conversion): IRAC" |
| | | | |
| Wednesd. | Sept. 14 | | PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM: LOOKING OUTWARD AND INWARD |
| | | 7:00 – 8:15 | Breakfast & Shacharit |
| | | 8:15 – 9:00 | "The 'New Jew' and Its Implications for the 'Other'" – Steve Israel |
| | | 9:15 – 11:00 | Seminar – Rabbi Ron Kronish with Moslim and Christian clergymen: "Jews, Christians and Muslims: When Can Faith be Interfaith?"- |
| | | 11:00 – 12.15 | Meeting with Reda Mansour (Druze) Minister with responsibility for dialogue with Moslims inside and outside Israel |
| | | 12:15 –13:00 | Lunch – Beit Shmuel |

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|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| | | 13:30 – 14:30 | Kehillat Mevakshei Derech – Cantor Iris Weiner & Rabbi Jack Cohen "Progressive Judaism: Its Reconstructionist Essence" |
| | | 14:30 – 15:45 | R. Rich Kirschen, "When Being Jewish Is No Longer a Condition, But Rather an Option" at Keh. Mev. Derech |
| | | 16:15 – 17:15 | "The Israeli Progressive Rabbi: Spiritual, Community and Educational Leader"- Rabbi Levi Kelman, Kehillat Kol Haneshama |
| | | 17:15 – 18:15 | Mincha at KKH |
| | | 18:15 | Return to Mercaz Shimshon |
| | | 18:30 – 19:15 | Dinner with Rabbi Joel Oseran, Associate Director, WUPJ |
| | | 19:30 – 20:30 | "Challenges and Opportunities for Progressive Judaism Worldwide" – Rabbi Joel Oseran |
| | | 20:30 – 21:45 | "From Melting Pot to Multi-culturalism: The Changing Status of the 'Other'" – Steve Israel |
| | | 22:00 – 23:30 | Video: "Turn Left at the End of the World" Prize winning Israeli film by Avi Nesher |
| | | | |
| Thursday | Sept. 15 | | CONTEMPORARY VISIONARIES |
| | | 6:45 – 7:20 | Breakfast, Shacharit on the bus. |
| | | 9:00 – 13:00 | "Reaching Out in Tel Aviv"- Rabbi Meir Azari at Kehillat Beit Daniel followed by visit to the Jaffa Project |
| | | 14:30 – 16:30 | Haifa: "Synagogue, School and Kehilla – Leo Baeck Educational Center" – Shelley Kedar" |
| | | 16:30 – 18:45 | Visit to Kehillat Or Chadash, Rabbi Edgar Nof. Program and Minchah |
| | | 18:45 – 21:00 | Ra'anana: Visit to Kehillat Ra'anana and Rabbi Tammy Kolberg |
| | | 21:15 – 22:30 | Transfer to Jerusalem |

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|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| Friday | Sept 16 | | YERUSHALYIM: DREAMS OF PEACE |
| | | 6:30 – 7:38:150 | Breakfast, Shacharit |
| | | 8:15 – 9:15 | Critical Analysis – Steve Israel |
| | | 9:30 | Haas Promenade for orientation to Jerusalem and the Old City |
| | | 10:15 – 13:00 | “The Jewish Quarter in the Old City” – Steve Israel |
| | | 13:15 – 13:45 | Lunch – Beit Shmuel with Paula Edelstein, Executive Director, ARZENU |
| | | 13:45 – 14:30 | Paula Edelstein–“MiZion Tetzeh Torah: The Organizational Realities” WZO & JAFI |
| | | 14:30 – 17:00 | Prepare for Shabbat |
| | | 17:15 | Rabbi Ada Zavidov & Cantor Evan Cohen: “Kehillat Har-El, its history and special place in Jerusalem and the IMPJ” |
| | | 18:00 | Services at Har El & Home Hospitality |
| | | | |
| Shabbat | Sept. 17 | 7:00 – 10:00 | Breakfast |
| | | 9:00 – 12:00 | Shabbat Services in groups at different synagogues: Yedidiya: Kol Haneshema, Shira Hachadasha, Mevakshei Derech |
| | | 12:00 – 13:30 | Lunch and reports on the experiences during the morning: discussion on prayer and practice in Jerusalem |
| | | 15:30 – 19:00 | “The Rehavia Story: Prism of Contemporary Israel” – Walking Tour – Steve Israel |
| | | 19:00 – 19:45 | Dinner & Havdalah |
| | | 20:00 24:00 | Transfer to Kibbutz Yahel in de Arava |
| | | | |
| Sunday | Sept. 18 | | PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM AND ZIONISM |
| | | 8:00 | Joint program with Yahel and Lotan “Land and Belief: The Role of a Progr. Kibbutz in Contemporary Israel” |
| | | 12:30 – 13:15 | Lunch in Kibbutz Lotan |
| | | 13:30 – 16:00 | Continuation of program with representatives of Yahel and Lotan. Meet with Netzer Shnaties |
| | | 21:00 – 23:00 | Transfer to Jerusalem |

| Monday | Sept. 19 | | TIKKUN OLAM |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| | | 7:00 – 8:00 | Breakfast |
| | | 8:00 – 9:15 | Shacharit and Torah reading |
| | | 9:30 – 13:00 | Tour with Rabbis for Human Rights – “Walls and Barriers” – Nava Chefetz & Rabbi Shlomo Fuchs |
| | | 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch – Beit Shmuel |
| | | 14:00 – 15:15 | Gusti Braverman–Yehoshua, IMPJ Communities Dept., "The Community Creates Realities" |
| | | 15:15 – 16:00 | Iri Kassel, Executive Director IMPJ |
| | | 16:30 – 18:00 | Meet the Press – Netty Gross of “The Jerusalem Report,” Yossi Klein-HaLevi of the Shalom Institute & Dutch journalist, Conny Mus |
| | | 18:30 – 19:30 | Dinner with Conny Mus |
| | | 20:00 – 21:15 | Critical Analysis – Steve Israel |
| | | | |
| Tuesday | Sept. 20 | | ADULT EDUCATION IN JERUSALEM |
| | | 7:00 – 9:00 | Breakfast & Shacharit |
| | | 9:30 – 12:30 | Meet Rabbi David Hartman at the Shalom Hartman Institute |
| | | 12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch in German Colony with Rabbi Kinneret Shiryon |
| | | 14:15 | "Monuments and Cemeteries: Har Herzl and New Yad VaShem: Study tour" |
| | | 14:45 – 16:30 | Yad VaShem – Nanny Beekman |
| | | 16:30 – 18:30 | Har Herzl – Steve Israel |
| | | 19:00 – 20:00 | Beit Shmuel: Dinner & Closure |
| | | 21:00 | Farewell Party, Persian Garden, "B'shana haba'ah birushalyim" : Songs of the city led by Avraham and Tal |
| | | | |
| Wednesd. | Sept 21 | 01:00 | Flight to Amsterdam |