



Annual Report  
for the Academic Year  
August 2006 – June 2007

Financial Report  
for the year 2006

STICHTING ROBERT A. LEVISSON

Postadres: In De Wolken 45, 1186 BG Amstelveen, NL – [contact@levisson.nl](mailto:contact@levisson.nl) – [www.levisson.nl](http://www.levisson.nl)

Tel.: 06-54 69 09 19, (020) 640 24 58 – Bankrekening: 40.03.78.213

## Introduction

The years fly past... what you have before you is already the fourth annual report of the Robert A. Levisson Foundation, covering progress made during the full academic year August 2006 to June 2007, with the financial accounts for the year 2006.

Some of the information in this report is already out of date as you read it. Up-to-date information can be found on the Institute website: [www.levisson.nl](http://www.levisson.nl). We also offer you a glimpse into what is coming in the following academic year and beyond.

Two future events merit mentioning immediately. In a year's time we will for the first time award the rabbinical qualification, *semicha*, to our students. In August of this year we begin with the first extension of the programme, the training of cantors – *shelichay tzibbur* – for our Dutch communities. We realise hereby the hope which we expressed in the introduction to the 2005-2006 annual report.

The Levisson Institute has become, in a relatively short time, a well-known and highly regarded organisation. The most remarkable event of this year was that the Levisson Institute was asked by the Faculty of World Religions of Leiden University whether it wished to merge with the university. More of this is recounted in the report itself.

The development of the Institute gives us confidence that our primary goal – seeing rabbis trained in the Netherlands being active – will be realised within a foreseeable time.



**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.

*Yehi zichro baruch* – יהי זכרו ברוך

## Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1 The Academic Year 2006-2007</b>	<b>4</b>
The academic study programme	4
The professional training	5
Special events	6
Guest lecturers	7
The students	8
A Change to the Academic Committee	9
The Library	9
New colleagues	9
Merger with a Dutch university?	10
International recognition	11
The training of cantors ( <i>shelichay tzibbur</i> )	11
The Friends	12
Plans for 2007-2008	12
Study visits	13
Graduation and <i>semicha</i>	14
<b>2 The Finances</b>	<b>15</b>
2006 Annual Accounts	15
Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2006	15
Notes	15
2006 Profit and Loss Account	16
Notes	
Surplus	16
Expenses	16
Receipts	16
Funds and Foundations	16
The Friends	17
The Maror funds	17
2007 budget (rabbinical training)	17
<b>3 Appendix 1: Protocol for the Rabbinic Thesis (as of July 4, 2007)</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>4 Appendix 2: The Lecturers 2006-2007</b>	<b>20</b>

## 1. The Academic Year 2006-2007

We can look back with satisfaction to the now completed academic year. Both the students in their fourth year and the second year students have followed the required modules with good results and have not encountered any significant delays.

### The academic study programme<sup>1</sup>

The emphasis for both sets of students for the academic part of the programme was on the study of our classic texts, with a particular emphasis for the second group on achieving greater fluency in both Hebrew and Aramaic.

Our regular **Talmud** teachers, Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Marx (Folkertsmaastricht) and Drs. Leo Mock (University of Amsterdam) have this year more or less completed the whole Talmud programme of training with the first group. It did not prove possible to let the second group merge into the older one so that lessons could be held jointly. Drs. Leo Mock therefore dealt with the second year students separately for this subject.



It is noteworthy that with this we introduced a novelty into the training. Because of time problems in the spring we tried to give the continuation of the autumn lessons in **Aramaic** online (via Skype). This succeeded beyond expectations and the Talmud lessons for the second year students could be linguistically well prepared by Dr. Margaretha Folmer (University of Leiden) before Drs. Leo Mock dealt with the substantive part.

The same thing happened in the autumn of 2006 with the module about the poetic parts of **Tanach**. This was given by Prof. Jan Fokkelman (formerly of the University of Leiden) and also appeared to be too difficult for the second group from the point of view of the required knowledge of the language. Drs. Leo Mock also offered a solution here, and gave a module on the Haftarat for the year. Through this introduction into the prophetic literature the second year students were enabled to follow the lectures on “The Prophets”, given by Prof. Jonathan Magonet, who over a period of time came weekly over from London to Amsterdam to teach. Dr. Hannah Neudecker (University of Leiden) worked with the second year students on their **Hebrew** grammar and vocabulary.

In April 2007 Rabbi Dr. Yehoram Mazor, senior lecturer in **Liturgy** at the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem came once again to Amsterdam for a week to give the third and last module of his Liturgy course to our students.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix 2 for a list of lecturers.

Prof. Reinier Munk (Head of the Jewish Studies Department and professor of Jewish Philosophy at the University of Leiden and Goudekot Professor of Modern Jewish **Philosophy** at the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam) gave both groups jointly a full-year course on the origins of modern movements in Judaism. The classic anthologies of Rabbi Gunther Plaut were used for this, in which extensive quotations are collected from reports and publications of sometimes bitter discussions over all sorts of current questions. It was stimulating to see to what extent the issues which were alive in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries are still relevant.

In the spring of 2007, Prof. Johan Vos (Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam) gave a penetrating module to both groups on **Christianity**. With an eye to dialogue<sup>2</sup>, this dealt with both a good understanding of the most important doctrines and a clear insight into the often so troubled relations between the Christian and the Jewish worlds. This was done with the use of the book “Christianity: Essence, History, and Future” by Hans Küng, which also gave an excellent picture from our point of view.

As part of the academic programme the fourth year students followed a module in the spring in the Masters Programme given by Prof. Irene Zwiep of the University of Amsterdam. The subject was **Jewish Historiography**, an overview of the way in which we Jews have looked at and described our own history over the years. Texts were read and analyzed whereby a good picture was obtained of the life of communities in various periods.

Other than in previous years attendance at these academic courses was only opened for interested outside persons to a very limited degree. Experience has shown that participation of (a large number of) listeners has a negative influence on the speed and level of the lessons, and overly restricts a free discussion, especially on the topics which have a direct relationship with the training.



### **The Professional Training**

In the field of Professional Training, Rabbi Ruben Bar-Ephraim taught a number of “shul techniques” in the autumn to the **4<sup>th</sup> year students**. At the same time they started their **practical internships** in various communities, where in particular they led a number of services and largely also took responsibility for adult education.

The practical guidance by the Rabbis did not, unfortunately, get properly off the ground; it appears that this proved too heavy a load for the small number of already overloaded Rabbis. It also turned out that the opportunities for independent work in the field of pastoral care were insufficient. This was partly because of a new situation with students who were only active for a limited time in what was to them otherwise unknown communities, and partly the already heavy work load of the students. Nevertheless it went rather better in some communities, in part thanks to good guidance by the local boards.

<sup>2</sup> The module about Islam was given in the 2005-2006 academic year by Prof. Reuven Firestone of the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles.

Most students began their internships in their ‘home’ community up to the High Holydays, after which they went to another community in order to broaden their experience.

A particular situation occurred in the Liberal Community of the Hague, where a gap occurred because of the departure of Rabbi Ruben Bar-Ephraim and the limited availability of Rabbi Soetendorp. The work was partly taken over by Albert Ringer as a part of his internship and for a smaller part by Hetty Groeneveld, our Dutch student at the Leo Baeck College in London. For the time being both will continue their activities in the Hague.

In this context the 4<sup>th</sup> year students also each had a professional (Jewish) **supervisor** assigned, who worked with them individually on their personal development.

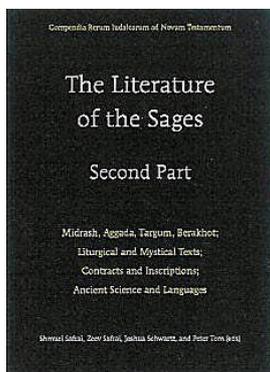
The 2<sup>nd</sup> year students wrestled with the apportionment of their time, in particular because one of them was at the same time occupied with completing (successfully) his Masters in IT at the University of Leiden. This was one of the reasons for the online Aramaic course (see above). In order to deal with this problem, the module on **Pastoral Care** was also given in the form of guided self-tuition and literature study ending in a presentation. This was possible because already in the first year they had obtained their Bachelor qualification in pastoral care, together with the first group, at the Parnassia Psycho-Medical Centre with Drs. Corrie van Straten. This type of teaching was well received and will also be partly used in the following year, in combination with the direct gaining of practical experience.

These students will begin their internships in the coming year, firstly in the form of ‘observing’ internships and later in a more active form.

All the students followed a three-day residential training by Drs. Paul Mol, on the theme of “**Congregational Dynamics**”, which covered working in a non-profit organisation, dealing with boards, committees, volunteers etc. An important part of this is group dynamics and the timely detection of potential conflict situations and handling them. This training will be continued in the coming year.

All the students also worked on their **Portfolio of Practice**, a way for them to collect all their practical experience during and outside their internships and to give them better insight. It also makes it clear where their interests primarily lie and where their strong and weak points are. This process was guided by Dr. Ite Rümke.

### Special events



There were a number of external events in the year 2006-2007. The first was an open symposium in collaboration with the University of Utrecht, The Catholic Theological University Tilburg and the CRINT Foundations (Compendia Rerum Iudaicarum ad Novum Testamentum). A large number of specialists and other interested persons attended.

The symposium took place on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2006 in the LJG Amsterdam and the University of Amsterdam, and centred on the presentation of an important scientific work on Rabbinical Judaism in the time of the Talmud. Full details can be found on the Foundation website: [www.levisson.nl](http://www.levisson.nl) (Seminar Literature of the Sages).

We organised three public lectures. The first was a part of opening of the academic year on 6 September 2006. The lecture was given by Prof. Joshua Schwartz of the (orthodox) Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan, who was here in the framework of the above-mentioned symposium. His lecture, entitled “Broken beds and the chairs in Mishna *Kelim*”, can also be found on the website

The second lecture was organised together with Crescas and took place on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2007. The speaker was Rabbi Prof. David B. Ruderman (University of Pennsylvania) and his subject was “In Search of Saviors: “The Messianic Movement of Shabbetai Zevi and its Significance for Contemporary Jews.” This most lively and highly interesting lecture is also to be found on our website (see also below.)



The third lecture, which took place on 8 July 2007 in the Jewish Historical Museum, in collaboration with the JHM, the University of Amsterdam and Crescas, was given by Prof. Moshe Idel (Hebrew University), who was visiting Amsterdam in the framework of the large international conference on Kabbalah and Modernity. The subject of the lecture was “Kabbalah and Philosophy in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Amsterdam: R. Abraham Cohen Herrera and R. Menashe Ben Israel.” This lecture too can be listened to via the website [www.levisson.nl](http://www.levisson.nl).

Students also contributed to two important activities of the Verbond. These were the celebration of the jubilee on the occasion of the 75 years of the Verbond on 29 October 2006 and the national Oneg Shabbat in Almere on 2 June 2007.

### **Guest lecturers**

The students twice had the opportunity to become acquainted with visiting lecturers. Reference is made above to the lecture by Rabbi Prof. David B. Ruderman. Prof. Ruderman also gave a lecture to the 4<sup>th</sup> year students as part of Prof. Zwiep’s module on Jewish Historiography and held an extensive discussion with all the students on the interface between “the modern rabbi and his/her community and academia.” He is both a rabbi and Professor in Modern Jewish History and Director of the Center for Advanced Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, and gave an excellent explanation of the subject.

The second guest lecturer was Rabbi Prof. Samuel K. Joseph, Professor of Jewish Education and Leadership Development at the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, U.S.

A special workshop was held with him in collaboration with Kiwoen, the organization of the Verbond which deals with leadership training for members of boards and committees. For a whole evening he worked with people invited from this target group and our students, on the theme of “Discovering Community Power Guide to Mobilizing My Congregation’s Assets and Capacities”.



He subsequently also worked for two days with the rabbinical students on the subject of optimal means for guiding the process of change in communities.

### **The students**

Much has again been demanded of the students in this reporting year. They all remain very motivated and have worked with complete dedication. They have completed the year of study with success.

Clary Rooda has also completed her second year of study in Jerusalem with good results and has returned to the Netherlands. After testing her we consider that she can join in the third year without difficulty, together with the two other students. She will have to follow a somewhat adapted program in order to catch up in some areas.

You can read more about our students on the website.

This year there were four more applications for rabbinical training. One of the candidates was advised to first follow a preparatory at the University of Amsterdam in order, among other things, to bring the applicant’s knowledge of Hebrew up to the required standard. The Academic Committee decided not to accept the other three candidates, primarily in view of their advanced age. In the coming year the Committee will submit a proposal to the Board to introduce an age limit. In practice this means that a following group of students cannot start before September 2008.

It is worth mentioning that in autumn 2006 we received an application from a cantor in the Jewish Community in Stockholm, who wanted to follow our training with the support of the community. As he spoke good Dutch and seemed personally suitable, we looked with him into the possibilities of studying part time in Holland while also working in Stockholm. We concluded that it would become an over-complicated construction and found an alternative solution for him. The request shows, however, that we are becoming known in the outside world and outside of Progressive Judaism, and that our training is regarded as valuable.

### **A Change to the Academic Committee**

Dr. Emile Schrijver, curator of the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana, was involved from the very beginning with the setting up of the Levisson Institute. At the end of this academic year he informed us that regrettably and due to lack of time he wanted to resign as member of the Committee. He promised, however, to remain involved with the Institute and will offer assistance as needed in his professional area.



The Board confirmed the recommendation of the Committee and appointed Prof. Reinier Munk as member of the Committee. Prof. Munk is head of the Jewish Studies Department and professor of Jewish Philosophy at the University of Leiden and one of the Institute's regular lecturers.

### **The Library**

The building up of a reference library for the student made progress this reporting year. The Netherlands Collective Maror Funds Foundation approved a subsidy request from the LJJG Amsterdam, the Yiddish Foundation and Levisson. This allowed a professional cataloguer with specialized knowledge to be appointed in the Spring of 2007. Supported by a number of volunteers she began work to integrate the three libraries, that of the Levisson Institute, the Judith Druk Library and the Yiddish Mira Rafalowicz library into one catalogue. This catalogue will be available for consultation via the internet.

After the death at the end of 2006 of the widow of Bob (Robert A.) Levisson z.l. the library received a special bequest from the heirs, consisting of a part of the library of the person after whom our Institute is named. These books will be separately identified in the collection.

The need to find a provisional home while awaiting the new premises of the LJJG Amsterdam will cause some difficulty both for the work of cataloguing and for the students. Acceptable solutions are still being sought at the moment of writing this report.

### **New Colleagues**

Because of the growing activities the pressure of work on the Board – in particular the Treasurer and the Dean – has increased. In the beginning of 2007 Ms. Yvonne van Ewijk-Cohn, member of the LJJG Amsterdam, declared that she was prepared to give administrative assistance. She has been provisionally appointed for one day per week.

In connection with the start of the Cantors' Training in August 2007 the Board engaged at the beginning of the year Mr. Bram Lagendijk – member of the LJG Rotterdam and the regular *shaliach tzibbur* there – as coordinator for the two year project (see further below).

### **Merger with a Dutch university?**

In January 2007 the Dean received an email from Prof. Willem B. Drees, Dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies of the University of Leiden, in which he wrote:



“If it should prove of any interest to you, I would like to have an exploratory discussion with you about the possibility that the Levisson Institute might merge with our Faculty and University. The resulting addition and broadening might well be of interest to us and perhaps it may also be interesting for you to associate your training in this way with a recognized, non-confessional university.”

The Board decided to take this up and the Chairman and the Dean had a meeting with Prof. Drees. Further discussions followed with Prof. Reinier Munk, who is responsible for Jewish Studies at the University of Leiden (see above).



At the same time the Dean took up contact, via Prof. Irene Zwiep, with the University of Amsterdam to see if there were also possibilities of a merger there. This was because of the greater degree of contacts and informal collaboration that already exists with this university.

The provisional conclusion from these discussions is that the Levisson Institute can function better independently as long as this remains financially possible. This conclusion is shared by both Prof. Zwiep and Prof. Munk, who are both in charge of Jewish Studies at their respective universities and at the same time Chairman and member of our Academic Committee.

Merger with one of the universities has advantages as regards support, financing and ensuring the continuity of in particular the academic part of the training. There are also, however, disadvantages, in particular as regards the freedom to choose our lecturers, the content of the study program and the required flexibility for fixing class times. Moreover, the length of the study threatens to be extended by at least one year.

The discussions are not yet completed, and the possibility of a looser form of association is being sought, which would offer the advantages of a formal cooperation and at the same time guarantee the individuality and quality of our training.

## International recognition

The Dean has had contact with the Board of the CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis) about possible recognition of our



*semicha* by this large –actually world-wide – professional organization. Such recognition would give access to the membership of the CCAR. Professionally, this offers a number of advantages, but is not in itself a condition for the general acceptance of the *semicha*. The CCAR has let us know that it wishes to carry out the necessary scrutiny for recognition in the course of 2008. We have submitted a formal request and look to the further developments with confidence.

## The Training of Cantors (*shelichay tzibbur*)

Once it became clear that the rabbinical training had achieved a more or less solid shape and was functioning as hoped for, the Board and the Dean considered that the time was ripe to take the next step towards full realization of the Foundation's goals. It was decided to try to attempt to begin a combined course for *shelichay tzibbur* and teachers. This would take place over eight residential weekends spread over two years, with individual tutoring during the intervals. The combination appeared to be possible as much of the required Jewish knowledge is common to both functions. Moreover the combination of cantor-teacher is very usual in a community (as is shown by the abbreviation *shatz-matz: sheliach tzibbur-more tzedek*).

The application for Maror funding was approved and preparations started in January 2007. With time it became evident that the interest in the *shelichay tzibbur* training was unexpectedly high, while the interest in teacher training seemed almost non-existent. This latter might be because the previous teacher training took place only a few years ago. It was then decided to continue with the *shelichay tzibbur* training alone.

We counted on 15 students but there were 26 applications. After auditions conducted by Gilad Nezer, the Amsterdam chazzan, Chaim van Unen, senior shaliach tsibbur and teacher in Amsterdam, Ella Wijnschenk-Oesterman of the Professional Preparation working group of the Institute and the Dean, 19 students, the absolute maximum, were admitted.



The programme will be given on two levels: a level for advanced students for *shelichay tzibbur* who already have experience and another level for beginners. Existing knowledge and ability but also the need for a good national spread of the knowledge over our communities played a role in admission.

Prof. Eli (Eliyahu) Schleifer of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem will lead the training and be present at all weekends. The content of the program is prepared by Prof. Schleifer on the basis of a plan constructed by the Dean, Chaim van Unen and the coordinator Bram Lagendijk.

For the full program and a list of students, consult the Institute's website.

## The Friends

The work of the Foundation and of the Institute would not be possible without the Friends. We are eternally grateful to them.

The circle of Friends is growing steadily, but slower than we had hoped for. We aim to reach a total of 50 Friends (half of the 100 that we aim to achieve finally) in the course of 2007. In order to achieve this we call upon the active help of the existing Friends. In particular we would like to reach potential Friends from outside of Amsterdam who are prepared to support our work for the future of Liberal Judaism in the Netherlands.

The support of the Friends is not only financially important. The confidence in our Institute that their support shows, demonstrates to the bodies on which we rely that the Institute has a broad basis within our community.

We must also give much thanks to the Levi Lassen Foundations and the Makaria Foundation and the Foundation for the Netherlands Collective Maror Funds, for their benevolent and continuing support and the understanding of the importance of our work that this shows.

We also wish to thank the Edith and Harry Philips Fund that in 2006 decided to donate an annual grant for at least five years, starting in 2007.

We are still looking for other (family) foundations that are prepared to follow the good example provided by the Friends and the foundations mentioned above!

## Plans for 2007-2008

The first group of students is entering its final year. In the period from September to mid-March 2008 they will have to research and write their Rabbinic thesis. A protocol for this work has been set up by the Academic Committee (see Appendix 1).

In order to make the time available for this thesis the 5<sup>th</sup> year students will have less direct contact with teachers than in the previous years. They will continue with the classes in Rabbinic Practice in which remaining details of the practical work will be explained and a number of modern Reform Responsa on problematic halachic questions will be studied.

The course in Jewish Philosophy dealing with Modern Jewish Thinkers and formative influences in contemporary trends will take place normally. The Talmud classes will resume from mid-March 2008 in order to complete the planned course. Time permitting the students will also have to study a number of aspects of Modern Israeli Literature and follow a course in Kabbalah and Spirituality.



Time-planning for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year students will entail that in the coming year they will have lessons on Sunday afternoon and evening and at least one evening a week. The subjects are: Jewish Philosophy (the most important thinkers of the Middle Ages, using the book *The Jewish Political Tradition* vol. I & 2) given by Prof. Reinier Munk, Talmud given by Drs. Leo Mock and Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Marx, and Rabbinical Practice given by the Dean.

Further they will receive instruction in Hebrew (biblical and siddur) from Dr. Hannah Neudecker through the Skype method as was the case for Aramaic in the previous half year from Dr. Margaretha Folmer (see above).

Drs. Bart Wallet of the University of Amsterdam has made a study guide to David Biale's book *Culture of the Jews*, for a part of the course on Jewish History, which will be done in the form of a literature study. In January 2008 the students will be examined on the book..

Within the framework of Professional Preparation a module is being prepared for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year students in which they will follow a combination of theory and practice as part of their first internship.

### Study visits

In December 2007 the 5<sup>th</sup> year students will take the last of a series of five study visits, which enabled them to get to know more about the progressive Jewish world outside the Netherlands. They attended the biennial conference of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, visited Israel to study and experience the movement there, and went to the European meetings of Rabbis in Berlin and at the Leo Baeck College in London.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year students this will be their third study visit, after Israel and London.

The visit in December will be to the Biennial Conference of the American Union for Reform Judaism (URJ, <http://biennial.urj.org>)



Here the leadership of the 1000 American Reform communities comes together for study and discussion about the policy of the movement. As with the visit to Israel, the leaders of the Verbond and of our communities and other interested members are also invited to accompany us and to participate in our daily sessions. These will be led by Prof. Sam Joseph, who visited us in Spring 2007.

## **Graduation and semicha**

The Academic Committee has begun setting up an and to formulate the Regulation of Graduation. The Examination Committee will be responsible for any examinations, evaluating the total study results and also assess the Rabbinic theses.

The Academic Committee will also decide in what way the Rabbinical qualification, the *semicha*, will be granted, and together with the Board choose a date –probably early September 2008) and a place. The latter may present a problem, since the Amsterdam congregation will at that time be in a temporary building since the new synagogue and centre will not yet be finished. We will keep you informed about all these matters through our website and by direct communications and invitations.

## 2. De Finances

### 2006 Annual Accounts

The annual accounts for 2006 have been drawn up by JAN Accountants, Landsmeer. Below is a summary hereof. If you wish to receive the full accounts, these are available on request from the Foundation.

### Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2006

<u>Assets:</u>		<u>Liabilities:</u>	
Accounts receivable / carried over	€ 1.262	Founding capital	€ 73.600
Cash and short term deposits	€ 219.169	Appropriations Reserves	€ 56.307
		Advance receipts	€ 79.500
		Debts / carried over	€ 10.944
<i>Total</i>	<i>€ 220.431</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>€ 220.431</i>

### Notes

The sums collected from Amsterdam LYG members on the occasion of Rabbi Lilienthal's retirement have been posted as the Appropriations Reserve. In consultation with Rabbi David Lilienthal the Board has decided to set up a student fund to provide students with the necessary financial support if their financial situation should so merit. Financial support of a total of € 7,043 has been given. In order to maintain the fund, which fills a clear need, an amount of € 10,000 has been added.

In 2005 we were able to organise an Israel seminar for the first time. The purpose was to set up a rich programme familiarising students with all the facets of Liberal Judaism in Israel. This was a programme that not only students followed, but also a number of members of Board and of the leadership of the Dutch Union. The latter paid their own expenses so that these would not fall on the Foundation. Students follow a seminar of this type only once in their course of their studies: hence it is not organised each year. These costs have therefore not been budgeted for in these 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 surplus for 2006 has been added in to the Foundation's capital that amounted to € 73,600 as of 31 December 2006. A sum of this nature is necessary if we are to provide our students and our Dean with an adequate level of security. They require the assurance that the Foundation can meet its financial obligations over a longer time frame. The Foundation needs to be in a position to absorb unexpected costs and expenses. We remain dependent on subsidies. While we do expect that the subsidies will continue to be forthcoming, a strict financial management is and will be needed to keep the costs under control. This is all the more so now that we are expanding the Institute's activities.

The figure for advance receipts appears rather high; this is because the academic year and the accounting year do not run concurrently, and because of the (happy) circumstance that the Foundations supporting us and the Friends have in part paid in advance.

## 2006 Profit and Loss Account

<u>Income:</u>		<u>Expenses:</u>	
Subsidies	€ 89.754	Dean	€ 32.131
Friends/donations	€ 44.250	Lecturers/courses	€ 53.246
Tuition fees	€ 12.865	Library	€ 4.368
Interest received	€ 4.744	Class premises	€ 4.328
		Communications	€ 4.372
		Seminars	€ 7.601
		Students' fund	€ 10.000
		Operating costs	€ 9.354
<i>Total</i>	<i>€ 151.613</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>€ 125.400</i>
<i>Surplus</i>			<i>€ 26.213</i>

## Notes

### *Surplus*

The surplus is a result of a number of circumstances, including a payment by Maror of funds still owed to us. It is not to be expected that a surplus can be realised in the future, in part because in 2007 new paid staff were appointed and the teaching programme extended.

### *Expenses*

The expenses for lecturers and courses rose from € 21,768 in 2004 to € 34,631 in 2005 and € 53,246 in 2006. This is the result of the growth of our program of studies that, as from September 2005, embraced two groups of students and the fact that more courses for the 4<sup>th</sup> year students had to be run by the institute itself. The other expenses have remained within the estimates. Costs for seminars and the library have remained well within budget.

### *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 sources for funds. Education is seen as a responsibility of government. Its restricted scale and target group disqualify an institute such as ours from direct government support. Even if we were to choose to become part of a university (see page 10), independent financial support would still be required for the Professional Preparation which the institute would still have to provide.

We nevertheless consider ourselves extremely fortunate to have found two foundations, the Levi Lassen and the Makaria Foundations that have provided us with financial support from the beginning. We are most 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 until the end of 2006 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 believe it to be a matter of great importance 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 that 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

The collective Maror funds have also supported us from the outset. 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".

For the years 2006 and 2007 Maror has again granted us a subsidy for the rabbinical training. Moreover, Maror has allocated a subsidy for the new training for *shelichay tsibbur* (cantors) and the digital cataloguing of the library (together with the LJG Amsterdam and the Yiddish Foundation.)

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

## 2007 budget (rabbinical training)

### *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
<i>Total</i>	<i>€ 146.900</i>

*Receipts:*

Subsidy, Levi Lassen	€ 25.000
Subsidy, Makaria	€ 25.000
Subsidy, Maror	€ 30.000
Private donations, Friends	€ 45.000
Other contributions	€ 7.900
Student and participants' fees	€ 15.000
Interest	€ 4.000
<i>Total</i>	<i>€ 146.900</i>

The 2007/2008 budget for the training of *shelichay tsibbur* (cantors) amounts to € 54.000. For financing this we are basing ourselves on the Maror grant and on subsidies form a number of (private and Liberal Jewish) funds.

For the year 2008 we will provide an integrated budget in which all training courses are incorporated.

## Appendix 1

### Protocol for the Rabbinic Thesis (as of July 4, 2007)

1. The student will select a topic and – in consultation with the Dean and the agreement of the Academic Committee – a first supervisor and a second supervisor according to the subject.  
The first supervisor must be academically recognized, for example by a fixed appointment at a recognized university or by having emeritus status. The second supervisor must be an expert in the subject, but need not necessarily have a doctorate.
2. In consultation with the second supervisor and approval of the first supervisor the subject is defined.
3. The student sets up a study plan, in which he/she explains his/her approach and attaches a bibliography of primary sources as well as a basic list of secondary literature.  
At the same time a schedule for submission of the various chapters is established.
4. The thesis should have a length of 10,000-20,000 words (20 ECTS) and should demonstrate the student's ability to handle primary texts in Hebrew.  
After approval of the plan and the schedule by the first supervisor the student can begin work.
5. The first supervisor reads each submitted chapter and comments on it.  
(The chapters must therefore be submitted separately one by one.)
6. When writing is completed the student submits the whole thesis for approval.
7. Once the thesis has been approved by the first supervisor, it is passed to the second supervisor, who has 4 weeks to render judgment.
8. The second supervisor can request improvements between weeks 4 and 6 to be incorporated in the final and completed version of the thesis.
9. The integrated thesis must be re-submitted in its definitive version in triplicate at the latest in week 8 after submission of the first complete version.
10. The thesis will then, some time later, be defended before a commission of 3-4 members.  
The defense will take place in public unless the Academic Committee decides otherwise on request by the student.  
The members of the commission and the date of the defense will be decided by the Academic Committee and notified in a timely manner to the student.
11. The final marking will be delivered the day following the defense.
12. The thesis may be illustrated if this serves a real function but not merely as decoration, even on the title page.
13. The title page of the thesis must include the name of the student, the title and the date, as well as the names of the first and the second supervisor.
14. Each thesis must contain a list of contents and a bibliography at the end in a form approved by the supervisor.
15. Footnotes must be in accordance with an academically approved method which has been accepted by the first supervisor.

## Appendix 2

### Lecturers in the Academic Year 2006-2007

Aramaic (2<sup>nd</sup> year students): **Dr. Margaretha Folmer**

University Lecturer in Aramaic, Leiden University (UL)

Lecturer in Hebrew, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU)

Biblical Hebrew: **Dr. Hannah Neudecker**

University Lecturer Hebrew and Aramaic, Leiden University (UL)

Jewish Historiography (4<sup>th</sup> year students): **Prof. Irene Zwiep**

University of Amsterdam (UvA)

**Rabbi Prof. David B. Ruderman** (University of Pennsylvania)

Tanach: (4<sup>th</sup> year students) **Dr. Jan Fokkelman**

Emeritus Professor in Classical Hebrew Literature (UL)

**Rabbi Prof. Dr. Jonathan Magonet** Professor in Tanach (Leo Baeck College, London)

Tanach (2<sup>nd</sup> year students): **Drs. Leo Mock** (UvA)

Introduction to the Talmud (2<sup>nd</sup> year students): **Drs. Leo Mock** (UvA)

Talmud (4<sup>th</sup> year students): **Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Marx** (Folkertsmaatschting)

**Drs. Leo Mock** (UvA)

Jewish Philosophy: **Dr. Reinier Munk**

Professor in Jewish Philosophy, University of Leiden (UL)

Dr.M.Goudekot Professor of Modern Jewish Philosophy (VU)

Liturgy: **Rabbi Yehoram Mazor**

Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem.

Christianity: **Prof. Dr. Johan Vos**

University Lecturer (retired) in New Testament and Judaica, Faculty of Theology (VU)

Rabbinic Practice: **Rabbi Ruben Bar-Ephraim** MA and **Rabbi David Lilienthal**

Vocational Training:

a) Pastoral and Spiritual Care (2<sup>nd</sup> year students)

**Dr. Fanny Heymann** and **Drs. Carolyn Levisson**

b) Portfolio Practice - Supervision

**Mr. Ite Rümke**

c) Congregational Dynamics: **Drs. Paul Mol**

Post-HBO Ipabo assistant

d) Congregational Development: **Prof. Samuel Joseph**

(Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, U.S.).