



Annual Report
&
Financial Report
for the academic year
August 2013 – December 2014

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Rabbi Robert A. Levisson (1913-2001) was one of the great leaders within the Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism. He was the son of the founder of the Progressive Jewish movement in The Netherlands. After the Second World War he revived the Progressive Jewish Congregation (LJG) in The Hague and became one of the prominent Progressive Jewish leaders in our country. He was a wise man, a talented speaker and author, and a great advocate for Israel.

Yehi zichro baruch - יהי זכרו ברוך - Blessed be his memory

Introduction

In the year 2013-2014 / 5773-5774 we celebrated two milestones.

On May 18, 2014 Clary Rooda was the seventh rabbi to receive her s'micha from the Levisson Institute. Her thesis subject was eco-kashrut. She will continue to work as a pastor at the Psychiatric Hospital Parnassia in The Hague and as a free-lance rabbi for the Progressive Jewish Congregations in The Netherlands.

2014 was also the year in which our rabbis were internationally recognized by the CCAR, the Central Conference of American Rabbis (see also page 5 of the Annual Report). The CCAR President, Rabbi Rick Block informed us on April 9, 2014: *'I am pleased to inform you that based on the favorable recommendations of the examining committee, composed of the HUC-JIR professors Firestone en Meyer, the board of the CCAR has voted to admit to membership, upon application, rabbis ordained by the Levisson Institute'*. This must be seen in the specific context of the Dutch situation, in which the Levisson Institute trains rabbis, but (so far) does not grant MAs or BAs. Obviously we are very proud of this decision. Many people have worked very hard to demonstrate the quality of the program as well as that of the rabbis who were trained here.

Apart from these two milestones in 2014, the Institute continued to offer follow-up courses and refresher courses for our rabbis, shlichei tzibbur and Talmud Torah teachers who work at the Progressive Jewish Congregations in The Netherlands.

This year Hannah Neudecker was accepted as a rabbinical student. Unfortunately the admissions committee couldn't accept all applications.

I wish to express my gratitude to everyone who participated as a volunteer in the work of the Levisson Institute. The board with its president Prof. dr. Ted Young, the Academic Committee led by Prof. dr. Irene Zwiep, the Professional Training Committee and its chairwoman Carolyn Levisson, the Management Team, which includes me and my colleagues Rabbi Marianne van Praag, Prof. dr. Reinier Munk and our unsurpassed director Francine Püttmann, who coordinates and executes the everyday work of the Institute.

We obviously can't exist and do our work of ensuring continuation of leadership for the Progressive Jewish Congregations in The Netherlands without the support of our donors and subsidizers. Investing in Jewish leadership is expensive and we thank you for helping to give our Jewish community a future with your gifts.

We live in difficult times, with intensified security measures for Jewish organizations and buildings, in particular after the Gaza war in the summer of 2014. My wish is that the Levisson Institute will contribute to the dialogue between the divers religious and ideological groups in our country, so we can end the lack of knowledge of, and indifference and prejudice towards others by participating in the dialogue with other cultures.

We'ahavta lere'acha kamocha, 'love the other as yourself' is the Golden Rule on which Torah is based," said Hillel. "Now go and learn!"

Rabbi Menno ten Brink, LLM
dean of the Levisson Institute

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1. The Academic Year 2013-2014

CCAR recognition

The first highlight of the academic year was the recognition of our rabbinical training program by the CCAR, the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Contacts about the recognition of our rabbinic program between the Levisson Institute and the CCAR in New York started in 2013, after a failed attempt years earlier. The CCAR is the large and influential umbrella organization of progressive rabbis in America. Most progressive rabbis have received their s'micha from rabbinical programs, in the USA or abroad, that are associated with the CCAR. The Levisson Institute has now been added to those whose graduated rabbis are allowed to become members of the CCAR.

Early January 2014 the CCAR sent a special committee to Amsterdam to examine our rabbinic program for Progressive rabbis in The Netherlands. The examination committee consisted of Prof. dr. Reuven Firestone and Prof. dr. Michael Meyer both working at the Hebrew Union College in the United States. Previous to the arrival of the committee the Levisson Institute conducted a self-study of 54 pages that describes the complete rabbinical program in detail. During their two-day visit (January 6-7, 2014) the committee spoke with rabbis who received their s'micha at the Levisson Institute, with rabbinical students, academic teachers, pastoral care teachers and coaches, the Management Team and the board of the Institute.

The committee reported back to the board of the CCAR and during a board meeting on April 3, 2014, the CCAR decided to recognize the rabbinical program of the Levisson Institute. This implies that the CCAR considers our rabbis to be on the same level as rabbis who graduated from Hebrew Union College-JIR in the USA and Israel, Leo Baeck College in London and the Geiger Institute in Berlin.

After the decision of the CCAR the visitation committee informed us it was impressed with the rabbinical program of the Levisson Institute, but also made some recommendations for improvement. You can read more about the visit of the CCAR examination committee in the Introduction by Rabbi Menno ten Brink, on page 3 of this Annual Report.

The s'michot of our graduated rabbis were already recognized by the Rabbinic Review Committee of the World Union for Progressive Judaism since the foundation of the Levisson Institute. The recognition by the influential CCAR has brought the rabbinical training program of the Levisson Institute to a new level.

Previous to the official visit of the examination committee, on January 5, 2014, Michael Meyer, Professor of Jewish History at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio, gave a lecture for a selected audience. His topic was "Progressive Judaism: Its Universal Essence, its Situation Today, and its Prospects for the Future".

S'micha Clary Rooda

The second highlight of the academic year was the s'micha which Clary Rooda received from Rabbi David Lilienthal in a festive ceremony in the Progressive synagogue in The Hague. Rabbi David Lilienthal, the founder and first dean of the Levisson Institute, made his first visit to The Netherlands since his alya especially for this occasion.



Two days earlier, Clary Rooda defended her final thesis to the exams committee. It consisted of members of the Academic Committee, supplemented by Rabbi dr. Yehoram Mazor, retired professor of Jewish Liturgy at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, and dr. Bart Wallet, historian and researcher at VU University Amsterdam. Both were Clary Rooda's thesis supervisors.

Her thesis "*Eco-kashrut and Jewish Tradition*" deals with an approach of the dietary laws in which ethical principles regarding animal welfare, fair trade and durability are included. These principles are based on texts in Torah, which are further elaborated in later rabbinic literature. In her thesis, Clary Rooda explores the principle of 'bal tashchit', the prohibition to unnecessarily destroy or waste. She hopes to be able to get the ecological interpretation of kashrut implemented at the Progressive Jewish Congregations in The Netherlands by means of education and discussion. Read her thesis at www.levisson.nl > About us > Our ordained rabbis.

For photos and videos of the s'micha service see www.levisson.nl > Photos/Videos > Ordination service 2014.

Rabbi Rooda will continue to work as a pastor at the psychiatric hospital Parnassia in The Hague and will regularly substitute in various Progressive Congregations.

Rabbinical students

There were two rabbinical students in the academic year 2013-2014. Clary Rooda graduated and received her s'micha in May 2014. In our last Annual Report we introduced Hannah Neudecker, who entered the rabbinical program on October 1, 2013. She finished her first year in the summer of 2014, after which she temporarily interrupted her training for personal reasons.

Opening of the Academic Year 2014-2015



The academic year 2014-2015 was opened on Monday night October 27, 2014 with a meeting at the Progressive Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam. After introductions by Prof. dr. Ted Young, president of the board of the Robert A. Levisson Foundation, and Rabbi Menno ten Brink, dean of the Levisson Institute, Alan Morinis gave a lecture about “Judaism as a Path of Personal Transformation”. Alan Morinis is the founder and dean of the Vancouver based Mussar Institute. During the break he signed his book, recently published in Dutch as “*Het Heilige in het Alledaagse*”. See also www.levisson.nl > Archief > De lezingen > Alan Morinis.

Follow-up courses for rabbis

There were three follow-up courses for rabbis in the reported period. On Sunday October 20, 2013 Admiel Kosman studied Talmudic texts about the stranger with a small group of rabbis. Admiel Kosman is professor of Jewish Studies at the Geiger Institute in Berlin. He was invited by the Progressive Jewish Congregation of The Hague for a weekend of lecturing. The Levisson Institute took the opportunity to invite him for a meeting with their rabbis.



On 16 and 17 June Rabbi dr. Margaret Wenig taught a class for the rabbis. Rabbi Margaret Wenig teaches Liturgy and Homiletics at Hebrew Union College in New York. On Monday parts of the High Holidays liturgy were discussed, and on Tuesday Rabbi Wenig taught different techniques for writing homilies (d'rashot). The techniques were practiced with several assignments.

The third follow-up course was taught on Monday October 27, 2014 by Alan Morinis (see above). He used texts to instruct the rabbis about the history and philosophy of Mussar.

Follow-up courses for cantors



In our last annual report we wrote about the follow-up courses for our shlichei tzibbur by Cantor Josée Wolff, which took place on 8 and 9 June 2013. Another follow-up course was taught in the weekend of 26-27 October by American Cantor Gershon Silins, who works at the Montagu Centre for Liberal Judaism in London.

The subject of this follow-up course was the liturgy of the Shalosh Regalim, the holidays of Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot. With examples of melodies by several composers, Cantor Gershon Silis showed the options for these holidays. The group studied texts from the Hallel and listened to different melodies for this part of the holiday services. A masterclass of one afternoon was part of the follow-up course. The shlichei tzibbur sang liturgic texts of their own choice and were offered comments and instructions by Cantor Gershon Silins.



In 2014 we offered one follow-up course for shlichei tzibbur. The course was taught by Gilad Nezer, Cantor at the Progressive Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam, and Shura Lipovski, Yiddish folk singer. On Saturday afternoon November 1, 2014 the subject of Chazzanut with Kavanah was discussed, both in theory and with musical examples. The next day was dedicated in its entirety to a masterclass in which the participants sang texts from the siddur and the machzor, and received comments from both instructors. The class turned out to be a huge success, so it will be repeated in the spring of 2015 with the same instructors.

Ba'al korei training

During the years 2014 and 2015 the Levisson Institute offers training for ba'alei korei. The training consists of four modules. In the first module Torah cantillation is taught, in the second one reciting Haftarah, in the third one the trope for the High Holidays is learned and the fourth module deals with the trope for the book of Esther. Students can take one or more modules and the training is open for both beginners and advanced ba'alei korei.



The first module (Torah cantillation) took place in November and December 2014. In ten classes on Tuesday nights and Sunday afternoons the participants were instructed by Channa van Unen-Meyer in the building of the Progressive Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam. The participants were trained in the trope which is printed in the Dutch Progressive Siddur. Channa van Unen-Meyer also instructed the students in learning a Parasha using a Tikkun and how a ba'al korei should handle a Torah scroll. The participants were members of the Progressive Jewish Congregations of Amsterdam, Utrecht, The Hague and the Northern Netherlands. After completing the training, several students have already had the opportunity to cantillate parts of the Torah service in their own shuls.

Rimon-Dutch Progressive Jewish Educational Centre



The Progressive Jewish Education Center Rimon, which is affiliated with the Robert A. Levisson Foundation since 2013, has produced a great amount of new learning materials in this year. It could do so because of donations from Progressive Jewish Congregations, Beit Ha'Chidush, the Collectieve Maror-gelden and the Machseh

Lajesoumiem Foundation, for which we are very grateful.

The starting point was to update, revise, complement and adapt existing educational materials about Judaism and Hebrew for the Rimon website (www.rimon-ljloc.nl) and make them suitable for use on digital boards and tablets. Additionally, many new educational tools were produced. Extra materials for the teachers of Hebrew classes who use the textbook *Hoi ik lees Ivriet* and the toddler teaching method *Kadima* were placed behind the login code on the Rimon website. On the general access part of the Rimon website you can find Hebrew age specific exercises and tests, presented as games. Teachers can use them in class, but they are also suitable for homework exercises. The materials are fully adapted to the Talmud Torah curriculum. The website also contains new information for parents, including reading exercises in Hebrew, with which they can help their children with their homework.



Eleven new educational games were developed and added to the Rimon website in the year of this report. They are marked with the word 'new'. Three of the games are 'timeline games' which deal with the Jewish holidays, the names of the Jewish months and cities in Israel. There are two 'table games' about Purim and Shavuot, two 'word-picture spelling games' for the Hebrew lesson method *Hoi, ik lees Ivriet* about 'who is who in the family' and 'what's that object in shul called?'. Furthermore there are two 'naughts and crosses games' about Tu Bishvat and Shavuot and finally two 'ear games' about Shabbat and 'who and what in the classroom'. A Rimon memory game and a Tu Bishvat game were developed especially for iPad; they can be downloaded for free.

Three lessons were developed for the 'timeline games'; they are available for teachers only. Furthermore eight different manuals with instructions and work sheets were developed for teachers, regarding different subjects and ages.

Rimon also for the first time made an educational video around a theme. The first video is about the synagogue; in it, Rabbi Marianne van Praag shows children around in the synagogue in The Hague and explains which objects they see. A short complementing video was made about dressing the Torah scroll. To complement the videos ten lessons were developed for different age groups. The new word-picture game 'What's that object in shul called?' has also the same theme. Also see www.rimon-ljloc.nl > nieuwe media.

We intend to develop three more videos with accompanying educational materials in the coming year. The themes will be the Jewish home, the High Holidays and Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

The annual refresher course for teachers took place on March 2, 2014 in the building of the Progressive Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam. Teachers from almost every congregation, including Beit Ha'Chidush, attended; all in all there were 22 people. The main subject of the refresher course was the role of digital education in Jewish education. Rimon staff Matty van Eldik and Israel Golani instructed the teachers about the Rimon website, with emphasis on the new materials and tools, but also other options the website offers (Judaism and Hebrew). Anita Zonneveld discussed the subject of how to approach special needs children in class.

Rimon was in regular contact - by phone and email - with the heads of Jewish Education as well as with teachers in the Progressive Congregations. In several cases Rimon staff visited teachers in their own congregations to support them.

Rimon also worked together with the heads of Jewish Education to provide a theme and learning materials for the national education weekend.

The annual Rimon Education Day in the Progressive Jewish Congregation of Rotterdam on the last day of school before the summer break – intended for all pupils and their parents – could not take place in 2014. Because of the increased security alert, the costs of extra guards were an insurmountable obstacle.



Between September and December 2013 Rimon offered, in cooperation with the Levisson Institute, basic training for teachers of Progressive Jewish youth education. The training consisted of five afternoon classes in the synagogue of the Progressive Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam. The classes were taught by four staff members of Rimon, mostly by Lea Abram. There were thirteen participants from all over the country. Most of them are now teaching classes in their own congregations.

Matty van Eldik provided two refresher course classes for a new teacher at the toddler class in the Progressive Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam. After the summer of 2014 Lea Abram trained new teachers for the Progressive Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam, by request of Ina Vijzelman, head education there.

The staff of Rimon are coordinators Matty van Eldik and Liesbeth Aussen, assisted by Lea Abram, elementary school teacher and Talmud Torah teacher at the Progressive Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam, and Israel Golani, coordinator Hebrew for the Talmud Torah at the Progressive Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam. Levisson Institute director Francine Püttmann and board member Juliette Walma van der Molen entertain contact with Rimon for the Levisson Institute.

As Rimon needed clearer branding, a new logo was designed in the reported year. To emphasize the affiliation with the Levisson Institute the red color of the logo matches that of the Levisson Institute logo.

The separate financial annual report of Rimon is sent on request via contact@levisson.nl.

Academic research

The project “From Adath Jeschurun to Adath Jesjoeroen” which deals with religious developments in Judaism in The Netherlands in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, is still running. This first academic research project intends to fill the gap with regard to this theme in the history of Dutch Jewry and will take more time than initially was assumed. The research is done and reported by Chaya Brasz (historian and publicist). The project is mainly financed by the Prins Bernard Cultuurfonds and Maror. The manuscript should be ready by the end of 2016 and will be published in English by the Hebrew Union College Press in Cincinnati.

A short preview that will appeal to our Progressive congregations:



“The establishment of Liberal congregations also led to changes within the congregations of the (orthodox) Nederlands Israelietisch Kerkgenootschap. Chief Rabbi I. Maarssen in The Hague experienced around 1930 pressure in the field of Jewish education, which prompted some modernization in an attempt to retain all members of his kehilla. After the war the community seders of the Liberal Jewish Congregations were also introduced in the orthodox (NIK) congregations, as they provided options for the many people without relatives. But these developments went only so far: Ariane Boeken celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in the Liberal Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam on November 20, 1970 in (and after) the Friday night service, as was the custom in those days.

The next morning she was called up during the Torah service in the Shabbat morning service (see photo), making her the first woman in The Netherlands to receive this mitzvah.”

Library



Anne-Maria van Hilst catalogued about 1,000 books for the library of the Levisson Institute and Progressive Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam. These books were mainly from the private collection of Rabbi David Lilienthal, who donated them on the occasion of his alya in 2013. All books in the David Lilienthal Collection can be found in the online catalogue at www.levissonbibliotheek.nl and www.ljgbibliotheek.nl.

With assistance of our youngsters Raz van Houts, Eli Menco, Ruben and Tamar van der Ven the bookshelves were reorganized, which created space on the shelves after the new books were added.

Management Team

Apart from tending to daily affairs the Management Team was occupied with the new rabbinical training program (since October 2013), the examination committee of the CCAR (January 2014), the s'micha of Rabbi Clary Rooda (May 2014), the opening of the academic year (October 2014), the follow-up courses for rabbis and shlichei tzibbur (during the whole period), the new ba'al korei training (late 2014) and the basic training for new teachers (Fall 2013), in cooperation with Rimon.

Three members of the Management Team attended the biannual congress of the European Union for Progressive Judaism, which took place in Dresden in April 2014.

The Management Team has a meeting once a month; between meetings members consult one another by email and phone. The MT is also represented in the board meetings. It also is in contact with the Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism (NVPJ) and the boards of the affiliated congregations.

The director General Affairs is present three days a week in the Levisson Room in the building of the Progressive Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam and can be reached by email on other days.

Members of the Board, Direction and Committees

Board

Prof. dr. Ted Young, chair

Dr. Thijs ten Raa, treasurer

Simone Haller, secretary (until August 21, 2014)

Harry Polak, MA, secretary (since August 21, 2014), (member on behalf of the Verbond until March 1, 2014)

David Allick, LLM, member

Prof. dr. Juliette Walma van der Molen (since January 1, 2014)

Lena Herman-ten Cate, MA, member (on behalf of the Verbond, since March 1, 2014)

Management Team

Rabbi Menno ten Brink, LLM, dean

Prof. dr. Reinier Munk, head Academic Program

Rabbi Marianne van Praag, head Vocational Program

Francine Püttmann, MA, director General Affairs

Academic Committee

Prof. dr. Irene Zwiep, chair
 Prof. dr. Reinier Munk, secretary
 Rabbi Tamarah Benima, member
 Carolyn Levisson, MA, member
 Ernst Numann, LL.M., member
 Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, member
 Rabbi Menno ten Brink, LL.M., dean
 Rabbi David Lilienthal, honorary dean
 Prof. dr. Ted Young, chairman of the board

Subcommittee Admissions

Prof. dr. Irene Zwiep, chair Academic Committee
 Rabbi Menno ten Brink, LL.M., dean
 Carolyn Levisson, MA, chair Vocational Committee

Vocational Committee (BVV)

Carolyn Levisson, MA, chair
 Ella Wijnschenk-Oesterman, member
 Chellie van den Bergh, member
 Marie-José van Hoof, MA, member
 Rabbi Marianne van Praag, head Vocational Program



Rimon – Dutch Progressive Jewish Educational Center

Matty van Eldik, coordinator
 Liesbeth Aussen, coordinator
 Lea Abram, staff member
 Israel Golani, staff member Hebrew

Friends and donors

It will be clear from the preceding that the Institute is working very hard. At the moment our worries are financial in nature, with a net loss in the reported year.

For the continuation of our work we remain dependent on the willingness of our loyal friends and donors to keep supporting us. We owe them a great debt of gratitude, as well as the Stichting Collectieve Maror-gelden, Stichting Sja'ar and the Vereniging Centraal Israëlietisch Wees- en Doorgangshuis 'Machseh Lajesoumiem'.

In Mishna, Pirkei Avot 3:21 we read: – אין קמה, אין תורה. אם אין תורה, אין קמה, *im ein kemach, ein Torah, im ein Torah, ein kemach* – (free translation): “without means of existence there is no Torah, without Torah the means of existence lose their meaning.” This makes clear that those who invest in Jewish learning with their financial means, give meaning to our whole community and many outside of it.

Board and Management Team will have to keep looking for a structural solution to the funding problem, to ensure the financial health of the Institute. We are a recognized ANBI (charity) cause and a very good solution in the long term would be if people would let us share in their inheritance by means of a bequest. In the mean time we still need your help to find more friends, donors, foundations and funds that are willing to support us financially to preserve this center of knowledge of Progressive Judaism in The Netherlands and enable it to continue its activities.

Plans for 2015 and beyond

Our plans for the year 2015 are a continuation of our current policies. The Institute will offer new courses for members of Progressive Jewish Congregations, as well as refresher courses for trained rabbis, cantors and teachers.

The American professor Arthur Green will give a lecture about Jewish mysticism for our rabbis in June 2015. In March and in the Fall our shlichei tzibbur will be offered follow-up courses, which will again be masterclasses by Cantor Gilad Nezer and singer Shura Lipovsky.

Later in 2015 the ba'al korei training will continue with a Haftarah class. Rimon will continue to stimulate and support the training of Talmud Torah teachers and the development of new (digital) teaching tools and materials.

Early in 2015 a two year project will start, recording cantillation according to our trope, for the complete Torah cycle. The results will be available in our music library and on our website.

Mid-June the first David Lilienthal lecture will be held. This lecture was dedicated by the Levisson Institute when Rabbi Lilienthal, founder of the Institute, retired as dean and made aliyah. The first lecture will be given by Anat Hoffman, Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) in Jerusalem, which is affiliated with the Israeli Movement for Progressive Judaism. Apart from the David Lilienthal lecture she will give two other lectures, in our congregations in The Hague and in Utrecht. These lectures will also be organized by the Levisson Institute.

The board held a second discussion meeting with the management and all coworkers of the Levisson Institute in January 2015. Topic was the Institute's policies. Plans for the future will be elaborated and implemented.

2. Finances

Financial Report for Augustus 2013 - December 2014

The annual account 2013-2014 was drawn up by the Board and afterwards confirmed by accountant Kuhlman. What follows is a summary. If you would like to receive the complete annual account, please address your request to contact@levisson.nl.

Balance at 31 December 2014

<i>Assets</i>		<i>Liabilities</i>	
Receivables	€ 9,527	Foundation capital	€ 145,206
Liquid assets	€ 236,662	Earmarked reserves	€ 67,854
		Taxes	€ 590
		Debts/deferrals	€ 32,539
Total	€ 246,189		€ 246,189

The earmarked reserves comprise five funds:

Student Fund	€ 25,981
Israel Seminar Fund	€ 15,000
Academic Research Fund	€ 9,000
Training Fund	€ 14,969
Rimon	€ 2,904

The Student Fund is intended for allowances for students who need them on ground of personal circumstances to be used for expenses directly linked to their studies. The first finances were collected for the Student Fund as a farewell present for Dean Rabbi Lilienthal on the occasion of his retirement as rabbi of the Progressive Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam. So far, one modest allowance has been awarded.

The Israel Seminar Fund was founded in 2005 with the goal of regularly organizing seminars for students in Israel.

In 2005 € 10,000 was reserved for academic research, mainly abroad; in 2008 a € 1,000 payment was made.

A gift from the Kiwi-Tielens Foundation in 2007 was partly used to finance the training of shlichei tzibbur in the period 2007-2009. The remaining money, € 11,895 was donated to the appropriated reserves for the teacher training. In 2011 the Kiwi-Tielens Foundation donated an amount to cover the cost of a study trip for the teachers training to Londen in 2011. The remaining money, € 3,074 was added to the reserves. The board has allotted the reserves for all courses and training programs.

In the summer of 2013 the Robert A. Levisson Foundation took over the activities of Rimon-the Dutch Progressive Jewish Educational Centre from the Sja'ar Foundation by request of the Verbond (Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism). Rimon's core business is to develop educational

materials and tools for all congregations that are affiliated with the Verbond. The gross result for the first year was reported separately, without detracting management cost.

The deferrals in the balance include € 5,119 as a gift to the David Lilienthal Fund in honor of his retirement as dean. It will be used to finance the David Lilienthal lectures, which will begin in 2015.

Profit and loss account Augustus 2013 - December 2014

<i>Receipts</i>		<i>Expenditures</i>	
Friends and other gifts	€ 44,721	Salaries staff	€ 36,253
Subsidies	€ 22,419	Instructors and courses	€ 34,754
Tuition fees	€ 3,803	Accreditation cost	€ 5,029
Other gifts	€ 674	Board/dean/committees	€ 1,104
Interest	€ 6,389	Library and teaching materials	€ 3,677
Rimon	€ 24,410	Rimon	€ 21,506
		External communication	€ 5,709
		Accountant/bookkeeping	€ 4,991
Net loss	€ 13,151	Miscellaneous	€ 2,544
Total	€ 115,567		€ 115,567

The board decided in April 2013, despite the minimal admission by the Academic Committee, to start another rabbinical training course, knowing it would lead to financial losses (because of the cost of instructors and failure to meet the volume requirements of Maror). This was decided in consideration of the soundness of the foundation's capital (foundation capital plus appropriated reserves), which was € 211,120 on August 1, 2013 (the start of the financial year). Currently, 31 December 2014, the foundation's capital is € 213,060 (€ 145,206 + € 67,854 as in afore mentioned balance). In other words, the net loss over the current reported year annihilates the positive result of the year before.

The miscellaneous costs include bank and bookkeeping software and notary costs. The board has decided to use the calendar year from now on for all administration purposes. This simplification required a change in by-laws. The fiscal year of this report is a transitory year with extra months. A positive incidental circumstance is the receipt of double subsidies from the Progressive Jewish Congregation of Rotterdam. The congregations of Flevoland and Brabant, the Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism and Maror have also supported us. But the amount of the subsidies has decreased. Our friends and donors remain the foundation of the Levisson Institute. We are grateful to all for their support.

The accreditation by the CCAR brought also financial cost with it. The successful outcome proves the quality of the Levisson Institute. But the financial loss that I report, makes our situation for the first time alarming. ***We need more fmanagemenriends, donors, foundations, funds and Progressive Jewish Congregations to support our work with annual grants.***

Thijs ten Raa
treasurer