

Netherlands

Anat Hoffman visits Holland

Anat Hoffman, director of the Israeli Religious Action Center (IRAC) and a founder of Women of the Wall, visited Holland, coming from London where she was part of Liberal Judaism's Day of Celebration.

In Holland she gave three talks: 14 June in Amsterdam (the first David Lilienthal Lecture), 15 June in The Hague and 16 June in Utrecht.

Anat was inspiring to hear, and very well received.



Anat Hoffman

Francine Püttmann

Director, General Affairs, Levisson Institute

Shavuot in Twente



LJG Twente children receive a blessing at the end of service. The kiddush 'Sinai Tart' baked by Gonnie Blok.

The LJG Twente held a wonderful Shavuot service in a fully packed shul that was specially decorated with spring flowers. There was much singing and with such a beautiful day, the congregation was able to enjoy kiddush outside with special dishes baked for the occasion. In addition the children received a special blessing at the end of the service.

The photos were taken by Daan Daniëls.

Wilhelmina Hein, Board Clerk, LJG Twente

Levisson Institute issues its Annual Report

In the year 2013-2014 / 5773-5774 the Levisson Institute 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 continues to work as a pastor at the Psychiatric Hospital Parnassia in The Hague and as a freelance rabbi for the Progressive Jewish Congregations in The Netherlands.

In 2014 our rabbis were recognised by the CCAR, the Central Conference of American Rabbis. CCAR President Rabbi Rick Block wrote on April 9:



'I am pleased to inform you that based on the favourable recommendations of the examining committee, composed of the HUC-JIR professors Firestone and 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 programme as well as that of the rabbis who were trained here.



Ordination: Rabbis Clary Rooda & David Lilienthal

Apart from these two milestones last year, 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.

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 k amocha, '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