

UPJ AGM: 25 November 2021 Minutes



1. **Attendance:** Brian Samuel OAM (chair), Noa Abrahams, Ari Antonovsky, Thomas Banhazi, Cassie Barrett, Tziva Batya, Olga Bernstein, Jacqueline Birkett, Henry Birner, Dr Philip Bliss OAM, Sally Castle, Peter Cohen, Neil Cowen, Robert Cussel, Steve Denenberg, Phyllis Dorey OAM, Ellis Edwards, Noreen Elijah, Rabbi Kim Ettlinger, Jo Fletcher; Jane Figgis, Hedrick J Frans, Yoni Garbourg, Ruth Gilbert, Dorothy Graff OAM, Ruth Gross, Judi Hall, Sharene Hambur, Caroline Heard, Janet Henrie, Danny Hochberg, Johnny Jhirad, Rabbi Esther Jilovsky, Associate Professor Josh Keller, Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black, Rabbi Aviva Kipen, David Knoll AM, Alex Knopoff, Peter Kohn, Dr David Kram AM, Miriam Kramer, Cantor Michel Laloum, Yvonne Lazarow, Alex Lehrer, Tony Leverton, Peter Levi, Philip Levy, Professor Larry Lockshin, Joanne Loewy Irons, Jemma Lopis, Alvin Maradeen, Joel Mendelson, Roger Mendelson, Rabbi Fred Morgan, The Honourable Howard Nathan, David New, Femmy Nikijulum, Rabbi Nicole Roberts, David Robinson, Bruce Rosen, Mavis Rudd, Michael Sacks, Julia Selby, Jeff Schneider, Sefi Shalom, Helen Shardey OAM, Michael Shnukal, Dr Sue Silberberg, Rebecca Silk, Jeremy Silverman, Jeremy Smith, Matthew Smith, Mark Sobey, Simha Solomon, Pam Spiegel, Sara Sterling, Norma Suvarna, Michael Taft, Lynette Taylor, Rabbi Benjamin Meijer Verbrugge, Louise Ward, Paul Wilton, Peter Wise; present: Jocelyn Robuck
2. **Apologies:** Rabbi Misha Clebaner, Manny Gross, Sharene Hambur, Rabbi Jeffrey B Kamins, Adam Neile, Robin Roschke, Jenny Samuel, Dr Rob Sward, Franklin Tate, Rabbi Stanton Zamek
3. **Confirmation and adoption of Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 11 November 2020**
Helen Shardey moved/Larry Lockshin seconded; all in favour
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the previous AGM:** None
5. **Co-Presidents' Report**
David thanked the following members of the UPJ Executive Committee:

Franklin Tate and Marsha Rosenberg (who stepped down) for their work and devotion;
Professor Larry Lockshin and Judi Hall for their leadership on the Relational Judaism initiative;
Sally Castle, for sharing her wisdom and expertise;

Helen Shardey OAM for rejuvenating ARZA to ensure Progressive Judaism and Zionism are pursued throughout the region;

Dorothy Graff OAM for sharing her wisdom on human resources and many other matters;

Danny Hochberg for his work on developing two educational initiatives,

Sue Silberberg for sharing her knowledge of Australian Jewish history and many useful ideas;

Associate Professor Josh Keller for sharing his education expertise;

Susan Kadar, Biennial committee chair, for her devotion, excellent listening skills and ideas;

Immediate Past President Roger Mendelson for driving the Placements Committee;

Sefi Shalom, Michael Sacks and Lior Kalisse, who show the importance of young leadership – they are not future leaders, but rather the younger current leadership;

Rabbi Nicole Roberts and Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky for their valued rabbinic leadership;

Jocelyn Robuck, who keeps the UPJ running and is always calm above water but always paddling furiously below the surface; and

Brian Samuel OAM, as co-president – we complement each other and work for the benefit of Progressive Judaism.

David highlighted the importance of creating a higher profile for Progressive Judaism in Australia and NZ (not so much in Asia, for political reasons) and addressing Antisemitism, and said: “fighting antisemitism and standing up for Israel are two sides of the same coin”. He quoted Helen Shardey OAM, who said: “Diaspora Jewry must speak up when they disagree with policies, there is a point where such criticism is blatantly anti-Semitic.” He added: “We are refraining from commenting on the bill until the explanatory memorandum, yet to be released, is released. We understand (off the record) that most of the requests made by the Jewish community are being accommodated, including the explicit recognition of the Progressive stream of Judaism.

Brian Samuel OAM said we are blessed to have a barrister as its Co-President, which has allowed the UPJ to participate in presenting tremendous policy developments; and thanked everyone for their support over the past few years.

David Knoll AM moved to adopt Co-Presidents’ Report; seconded by the Honourable Howard Nathan; all in favour

6. **Treasurer’s Report**

Sally Castle gave a summary of her submitted report

Sally Castle moved to adopt her report/David Knoll seconded; all in favour

Sally Castle moved that the audited report be adopted/Helen Shardey seconded; all in favour

7. **Motion to authorise an Honorary Officer who attended this annual general meeting to certify the audited financial statements to be given to the Registrar of Incorporated Associations in Victoria**

David Knoll moved to adopt; seconded by Larry Lockshin; all in favour

8. **Motion to continue the job-sharing for the office of President pursuant to clause 10.4(d) of the Constitution as amended at the last Annual General Meeting**

Larry Lockshin moved to adopt; seconded by Sally Castle; all in favour

9. **Re-Appointment of Honorary Solicitor of the Association, Schweizer Kobras**

David Knoll moved to adopt; seconded by Helen Shardey OAM; all in favour

10. **Re-Appointment of Auditor of the Association, Lowe Lippmann**

Sally Castle moved to adopt; seconded by Helen Shardey OAM; all in favour

11. **Re-Appointment of Public Officer, Brian Samuel**

David Knoll AM moved to adopt; seconded by David Kram AM; all in favour

12. **Elections of Officers of the UPJ Executive Committee** (David Knoll AM and Brian Samuel OAM), one Vice-President (Helen Shardey OAM) and Honorary Secretary (Professor Larry Lockshin)

13. **Election of Ordinary Committee Members** (four): Yoni Garbourg (UHC Singspore), Danny Hochberg (Emanuel Synagogue), Joel Mendelson (Temple David, Perth), Dr Sue Silberberg (Temple Beth Israel, Melbourne); Note: following the AGM, the UPJ Executive co-opted Judi Hall and Associate Professor Josh Keller

14. **To adopt the new Constitution in the form circulated on 4 November 2021**

David Knoll AM: We received a number of comments from UPJ congregations, which were incorporated into the new Constitution. Three notable updates: Individuals cannot be members, electronic meetings are provided for, and we will need to have an accurate census of Progressive Jewry to allow our voice to be heard even more effectively in the future.

David Knoll AM moved to adopt; seconded by Dorothy Graff OAM; all in favour

15. **Announcement of 2021 UPJ Awards Winners**

Ner Tamid Award winners: John Balint (North Shore Temple Emanuel), Andrew Gelbart (Kedem), Vicki Israel (North Shore Temple Emanuel), Robyn Ann Levi (Temple Beth Israel), Val Silberberg (Leo Baeck Centre), Peter Wise (ACT Progressive Congregation)

Vatik Award winners: Kelvin Ratnam (Temple Sinai) - posthumously awarded, Paul Wilton (Beth Shalom

Presidents' Award: The name of the recipient will be kept confidential and will be announced at the WUPJ Executive Board meeting on 8 December.

Matthew Smith, president of Temple Sinai, thanked the UPJ for awarding the Vatik Award to Kelvin Ratnam posthumously and for reading out the citation; Brian Samuel OAM asked Matthew to extend condolences to Kelvin's widow Carol Ratnam on behalf of the UPJ.

16. **General business**

Michael Sacks: Expressed thanks to the UPJ for the support and grants given to Netzer.

Dorothy Graff: Expressed thanks to Jocelyn for her work and especially late-night attendance from NY.

Meeting adjourned at 7.45pm