

The Union for Progressive Judaism



Annual Report

2009-2010 **5769-5770**

Mission Statement

The Union for Progressive Judaism exists to honour our tradition, inform the present and guide the future of our communities in the Australian, Asian and New Zealand region. This mission is fulfilled through:

- The establishment, strengthening and promotion of synagogues, schools and youth groups wherever there are Jews in this region searching for meaningful access to and expression of their modern Jewish values and life
- Recruitment, training and placement of Jewish professionals
- Sponsorship of programs and publications for youth, education, leadership development, and all aspect of community building
- The pursuit of social justice and equal rights for all Jews, here and in Israel
- Connecting and working with Progressive Jewish communities and organisations around the world to derive strength from one another

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- * To be presented verbally at the UPJ AGM
** indicates that report was not received prior to publication

President's Report

It is with great pleasure and honour that I present my first annual president's report to the members of the Union for Progressive Judaism.

This past year has been an amazing journey for the UPJ with some major issues and occurrences that have taken place. It has been a year of vast change in the way the UPJ operates and these changes have required adjustment regarding the way we conduct our vital business.

For the first time since the establishment of the UPJ the organisation elected a President who is not based in either Melbourne or Sydney. This year, with me in Auckland, New Zealand and other Office Bearers residing in 3 other cities within our region, has meant that we have truly demonstrated that we are a regional body. Coupled with this, our Executive Director is based in Sydney while we still maintain an office presence in Melbourne.

It has been a year where I have been subjected to a very steep learning curve and I wish to start my report by paying tribute to all those who have kindly given of their time, wisdom and expertise. I will not attempt to mention each of them by name but you know who you are. I have tried to listen carefully to all of your comments before making any decisions. You have given your advice voluntarily and willingly, knowing that I am someone who appreciates direct communication and is not averse to accepting that others have different views on any of the many matters that arise daily. Similarly, I have made my views known and done my utmost to ensure I am kept abreast of the multitude of issues that the UPJ is confronted with. While I have felt totally comfortable seeking advice from everyone on the Executive and I thank them most sincerely for their support, special mention, though, must go to Immediate Past President, Phyllis Dorey, and Vice-Presidents Neil Samuel and Sharene Hambur for their efforts in guiding, advising and supporting me. Not only are they vastly experienced and well respected members of our movement, but they are true friends, not afraid to tell me directly when they thought I could have handled things differently.

I also offer heartfelt thanks to each member of the Executive Committee, especially the other honorary officers, Secretary Alison Marcus and Treasurer Philip Levy. The ability to make constructive contribution to meetings is always made more difficult when it is based on a teleconference and I appreciate the contribution that each of the committee members has made. We are constantly seeking ways to improve our communications and to encourage Executive Committee members to liaise closely with their designated congregations.

It would be remiss of me not to also mention our Executive Director, Steve Denenberg. Steve has done an amazing job in his first full year in his role and, on behalf of all of us at the UPJ, I want to thank him for his calm demeanour, ability to get things done and to get the most out of people. He is extremely well respected amongst our member communities and his willingness to listen to their issues and take action to help resolve them is greatly appreciated. Steve and I talk daily and we discuss everything that happens in the UPJ. I would like to think that together we have formed a strong team which has benefitted the members of the UPJ.

Although I will be giving a comprehensive verbal report at our Annual General Meeting in November, I believe that it is important to list some of the many highlights from the past year:

1. Development of the new *Siddur* for our region. After many years of dedicated and time-consuming work by a number of people, this massive undertaking is nearing its

conclusion. While we had hoped to launch the book at our gathering in November, I am pleased to confidently say that, by the time we meet in May 2010 we will all be enjoying using Mishkan T'filah, an excellent example of the lay-professional partnership that is the hallmark of the UPJ. It is also a wonderful opportunity for Southern Hemisphere co-operation as we have completed this project in partnership with the South African Union for Progressive Judaism.

2. The UIA Progressive Trust campaign has been an extremely important part of the work of the UPJ for many years and this past year it has taken on an even more important role. As a result of the Global Economic Crisis, not only has it been that much more difficult to raise donations, but, at the other end of the line, the need to raise these funds has become much more urgent. How

amazing it is, therefore, to report that the UIA PT was able to send a record amount of money to the United Israel Appeal for the World Union for Progressive Judaism to support the work of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism in helping the migration and integration of refugees and migrants. The group of people who drive this campaign is small, too small in fact, but without their dedication and the leadership of Ian Samuel OAM the campaign would not have come close to achieving what it has. It is vital that **ALL** members of our movement get behind the 2010 campaign so that the load is shared. Philip Bliss, as campaign chair for 2010, will elaborate on the plans for the upcoming campaign but it needs volunteers to encourage people to donate so the burden is spread more evenly across the region.

3. During the year the UPJ Executive Committee endorsed a Code of Conduct to govern the way it does its business. The Executive Committee also continues to move toward a model whereby it acts as a Board of Governance rather than a Board of Management. This is being done with extremely close liaison with our Executive Director in order to ensure that we maximize the use of our professional staff and support them whilst ensuring that the direction and vision of the organisation is determined by its volunteers.

4. At a time when interest in religion is diminishing it is gratifying to report on the growth of the Progressive congregations in our region and in Israel, including the formal affiliation of the Brisbane Progressive Jewish Congregation at our last AGM. It is also particularly pleasing to note that interest has been expressed by communities in Bendigo, Victoria as well as in Shanghai, China and the Sunshine Coast in Queensland about joining the UPJ.

5. I was particularly pleased to make a series of congregational visits with the specific goal of presenting the Ner Tamid and Vatik awards announced at the last AGM. It was an opportunity to meet the worthy recipients and to be reminded of just how much wonderful work is done by volunteers within our congregations and within our movement. In addition, I attended the 50th jubilee celebrations of Temple Sinai in Wellington.

6. Communication with members of the UPJ, as well as the media has been a focus for us during the year. To assist in this important task a PR committee was established under the chairmanship of Phyllis Dorey, including a small "Quick Response" sub-committee which was set up to react quickly to any communications requirements - including press statements, newspaper articles and comments, as well as electronic communications with members. The need to focus on "getting our message out" will continue to be a priority during the coming year, including the production of our online magazine, *Gal Chadash*.

7. Another sub-committee has almost completed work on the establishment of a Cultural Fund that will eventually allow the UPJ to receive donations that will be tax deductible for donors. This will allow us to further expand our programs and offer more to our members.

8. With the tight economic times and uncertainty we have appointed a finance sub-committee whose task includes constant review and monitoring of our financial position. Budget re-forecasting was undertaken during the year and programs adjusted to reflect the financial situation. In light of the global financial problems we did adopt a conservative approach to expenditure. However, overall I believe that we adopted a prudent and sensible approach to our financial responsibilities.

9. We were well represented at the WUPJ convention "Connections 2009" in Israel in March where a number of our members presented workshops. The amount one learns from these conventions and the contacts one makes can never be underestimated. Let me assure you that our region is held in extremely high regard and we can be proud of the contribution we make to our parent body. Our congratulations go to Philip Bliss and Penny Jakobovits on their re-election to the Executive of the WUPJ.

10. Our Social Action program focused on the "Nothing but Nets" program and, while a lot of work was put into getting this accepted by all members, it is fair to report that the results could have been better. I certainly hope that, with the visit of Naomi Abelson to our region in November, more congregations will embrace this excellent project.

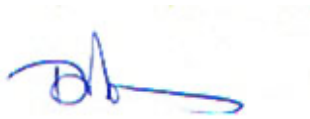
11. 2010 sees the 80th anniversary of Progressive Judaism in our region and to this end we have formed a special sub-committee to develop ideas to celebrate this occasion. Penny Jakobovits is chairing this committee and we will hear her plans during our meetings in November.

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Moetzah, Rabbi Kamins, for his advice, support and guidance during the year. The spirit of co-operation between our rabbis and the UPJ Executive is excellent and goes a long way to meeting our shared goal of ensuring that Progressive Judaism is held in such high regard throughout our region, and beyond.

On behalf of the UPJ I would also like to record a sincere Mazaltov to Ian Samuel and Jim Cyngler on being awarded an OAM in the Order of Australia medals. While many of our members do amazing work on a totally volunteer basis, it is gratifying to acknowledge the public recognition of the work of some of our members.

Friends, it has been a challenging yet immensely satisfying year and I know the UPJ Executive looks forward to a fantastic 2010 where we will celebrate our 80th anniversary with a wide variety of programs and events, culminating with our biennial conference in Canberra in November 2010. It is my hope that, even now, you have marked the dates of 25-28 November 2010 in your diary for this special event where we will be joined by the leadership of the WUPJ as well as other outstanding presenters.

I look forward to continuing to serve you in the upcoming year.



David Robinson
President

WORLD
UNION FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



האיגוד
העולמי
ליהדות
מתקדמת

19 October 2009
1 Cheshvan 5770

Mr. David Robinson
President
Union for Progressive Judaism

Dear David,

Mazal tov! I am delighted to offer you and your colleagues in the UPJ the heartfelt congratulations and good wishes of your friends and partners in the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ). As you know, the mission of the WUPJ is to strengthen and promote Progressive Judaism, to renew and sustain Jewish life and tradition in Israel and communities around the world. It is clear to us that, despite the challenges that have faced the world over the past 12 months, you have continued to go 'from strength to strength' in your work to achieve these same goals.

We continue to be impressed by the dedication of you and your team of volunteers and small team of staff and we were delighted by the contribution that your delegation made to our successful 'Connections 2009' conference in Israel earlier this year. We are also extremely grateful for the funds that your team, headed by Ian Samuel, continues to raise and send to Israel to assist with the immigration and absorption of refugees and migrants from around the world. You may know that through this campaign on a per capita basis the UPJ is the most generous of all of WUPJ's affiliates in supporting Progressive Judaism in Israel. It is a wonderful testimony to the munificence and genuine love of Israel that pervades the communities within the UPJ.

In addition to supporting and nurturing the congregations and organizations already under the banner of the UPJ, we have been delighted to work with you in reaching out to start the establishment of a congregation in Shanghai and we look forward to continuing to work with you in meeting our shared goal to renew and sustain Jewish life around the world.

As the year approaches its end we are also aware of the tremendous job that has been done to adapt Mishkan T'filah to meet the needs of the southern hemisphere. We very much look forward to its launch as part of the 80th anniversary of Progressive Judaism in your region and we look forward to joining you in celebrating this wonderful milestone for our movement.

In wishing you all Kol HaKavod and Mazal Tov on the achievements of the past year, on behalf of all involved in the work of the WUPJ, I extend hopes for an even better year to come including the development of our strong and valued partnership,

L'shalom u'vracha,

Steve Bauman
Chair, World Union for Progressive Judaism

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Executive Director's Report

For a year that was originally planned for 'consolidation' the past 12 months has been a time of excitement, celebration and innovation.

80th anniversary

NSTE; leo baeck, tbi etc. – Rabbi Jihn Levi

WZC and URJ conferences

Mishkan T'filah

Moetzah

New websites

New systems of communication

Farewell to nicky; Nicola; Karyn. Welcome to Max, ellen, and Miriam

Issues in Israel; Naomi Chazan; UIA PT

Visits to congregations

The fact that the organisation has run so effectively throughout this period is due to a number of factors, including the dedication and outstanding contribution of our volunteers, especially President, David Robinson, Immediate Past-President, Phyllis Dorey and the members of the Executive Committee. Coupled with the contribution of our small team of part-time staff, including Executive Administrator, Karyn Hall; Social Action consultant, Nicky Maor; Tamar and ARZA coordinator, Nicola Ossher, Mishkan T'filah coordinator, Jocelyn Robuck and bookkeeper, Fran Hotz, their efforts enable us to look back with pride and satisfaction at the achievements of this past year. The community is blessed to have such a dedicated group of people serving them through this organisation and I offer my sincere and heartfelt thanks to each of them.

In reviewing this period I am keen to avoid repeating items included elsewhere and so I will focus on reviewing the list of goals I set myself for 2009.

Contact with all congregations and affiliates. I have now visited all of the UPJ constituent congregations with the exception of Singapore, which I will visit at the earliest opportunity. It is my hope that having now visited the congregations and established personal relationships it will be easier for groups to seek and receive help and programming without the need for us to pay for my travelling more than is necessary. Based on the number of queries and requests for information and assistance received during the year it is my belief that the congregations are increasingly see the UPJ as a resource and information centre.

Develop the Tamar group. Having identified the need to engage the young adult age group as a priority, Nicola Ossher has been working in partnership with the Sydney congregations, Netzer and some Melbourne congregations to develop the activities of Tamar, as well as working with other congregations. While there has been some significant success in Sydney, the overall effectiveness of the position has been questioned. At the time of writing, we are consulting with rabbis and leaders to determine the best way forward.

Centralise and develop the administration of UIA Progressive Trust Appeal. Thanks to the determination and enthusiasm of Ian Samuel the 2009 campaign has been an outstanding success, despite some problems with the printed material. We have made some important improvements in the administration of the appeal and, based on some recent decisions, we can look forward to further successful campaigns, with the main administrative tasks being carried out in Sydney in support of Ian and the campaign.

Approval and implementation of generic rabbis' contract. With thanks to Sharene Hambur, Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins and Philip Levy, we succeeded in producing a generic contract for rabbis that has been approved and implemented by a number of congregations. It is also pleasing to note that word of this project spread and we have now sent a copy of the contract to London where the Progressive movement will consider using it as a model for their contracts.

Completion of and marketing for the new Siddur project. Based on the outstanding work of Philip Mayers, Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black and members of the Business and Editorial committees, we are nearing completion of the exciting and important project to introduce *Mishkan T'filah*.

Project Coordinator, Jocelyn Robuck has also done a magnificent job in taking the project forward. Together with the excellent support of the congregations, we have placed an order for approximately 7,000 siddurim which we will be 'launching' in the near future as part of the celebrations around 80 years of Progressive Judaism in the region.

Development and implementation of new Communications and PR programs. Under the chairmanship of Phyllis Dorey, the PR & Marketing Committee has initiated a number of projects, including the creation of a 'Quick response team' to help with the issuing of media releases at short notice; a review of the Vision and Mission Statement of the organisation; production of a fortnightly news letter from ARZA to all subscribers; and the development of a new online magazine, *Gal Chadash (New Wave)*. A sub-committee chaired by Penny Jakobovits has also been developing an exciting range of programmes and activities to mark the 80th anniversary of Progressive Judaism in the region, as well as special anniversaries for a number of our congregations.

During the year we have provided a regular supply of articles and promotional pieces that have been included in congregational newsletters. Another successful project was the coordinated advertising campaign in the AJN prior to the High Holydays. It is hoped to build on this success and to plan a full year's series of coordinated and cost-effective advertisements in relevant publications.

Build on existing relationship with WUPJ, IMPJ, URJ and key personnel. The visits by Rabbi Lenny Thal and Shai Pinto provided an excellent start to the development of these relationships, and the WUPJ Conference was the perfect opportunity to develop relationships with the key personnel in each of these organisations. I believe that this work will be consolidated during the forthcoming URJ convention in Toronto, Canada. There is no question that the UPJ is held in very high regard by all of these organisations and that we have strong and very productive working relationships with each of them.

The visit to Israel in March was a perfect way to build on existing relationships and develop new ones with people within the WUPJ, IMPJ, and ARZENU, and since that time I have been working with each of these organisations to work towards our shared goals, in Israel and in our region.

Restructure UPJ administration and provision of formalised policies, procedures and guidelines for congregations and affiliates. We are committed to this continuing process and have commenced a review of the Constitution, and over the coming months we plan to address a number of policies and procedures relating to the UPJ and to guidelines for our member organisations.

The administration of the organisation has changed quite significantly with the retention of Karyn Hall, complemented by the appointment of Fran Hotz as bookkeeper in Sydney. The move of administrative and financial operations to Sydney has also been accompanied by a deliberate policy of employing people who are graduates of Netzer and/or closely aligned with our movement and its goals.

Continue developing and supporting new congregations. Following the formal admission of the Brisbane Progressive Jewish Congregation at the last AGM, it is pleasing to note that we are now working with other groups interested in joining the UPJ. It was a privilege to travel to Shanghai with Rabbi Lenny Thal to explore the possibility of establishing a congregation there, and I feel sure that this will come to be over the next year or two. Under the leadership of the Hon. Howard Nathan, the *S'dot Zahav (Gold fields)* congregation have submitted an application and Phyllis Dorey has agreed to act as mentor. In addition, we continue to be in discussion with the Kadimah Group on the Central Coast, and we are currently assisting the Sunshine Coast group as they create a constitution and seek premises as a lead-up to applying to join the UPJ.

Succession planning. The past year has included a major move with the election of a president based in New Zealand. We have also sought to recruit new people, particularly at committee level, in order to bring new leaders forward. We have continued the programme of sponsoring leadership development opportunities, particularly the Beutel program, and we plan to re-engage with program graduates during 2010. We were also delighted to send three young adults to participate in the ARZENU seminar in Israel. For the coming year we plan to involve them in the work of ARZA, as well as working ever closer with the leadership of Netzer to engage them in our work now, and in the future.

It is very important to retain and value the experience, wisdom and passion of the stalwarts in the organisation. However, it is vital for the health and future of the organisation that we recruit and nurture new leaders and we are currently looking to the congregations to nominate new people to join the Executive Committee.

Developing the use of technology. During the year we have produced new websites for the UPJ and for ARZA, including the introduction of online donations and purchases, and are keeping them updated regularly. One of the biggest challenges for a regional organisation with a tight budget is to make sure that it takes full advantage of the rapid developments in technology. Thanks to Ian Samuel, our current efforts have the potential to make use of state-of-the art technology that will provide cheap yet highly effective communication via the computer and internet. We are also making significant savings in printing and postage by maximising the use of our website and e-mail to communicate with our members, the public and the media. CongMaster, the software program developed by Danny Companez for the UPJ, continues to provide excellent service to 6 congregations and is currently being considered by Beit Shalom, Auckland.

We encourage congregations of all sizes to consider using this software. Using technology to communicate with our members and to the wider community is a vital component of our strategic communications policy and it is crucial that our congregations work with us by giving us information about their activities and then helping us to get our messages out to as many people as possible.

Promotion of ARZA and links to UPJ: As the political arm of the UPJ, ARZA is a crucially important means for us to promote Israel and to help ensure that Israel is a truly pluralistic and democratic society without engaging in any critical commentary. Ian Samuel has been the mainstay of ARZA and his decision to step down as chairman presents the Progressive Zionist movement with a huge challenge. His determination and knowledge are unique and we now need to find people who are willing and able to sustain and develop his work. We are currently responding to Ian's retirement by developing a national committee to plan for the future.

Funded by ARZA, Nicola Ossher's role as Coordinator has been challenging, and yet she has succeeded in developing a significant database of more than 2,000 households who receive and provide positive feedback to regular updates about relevant issues in Israel and around the Jewish world. In addition to sending three young adults to the ARZENU seminar in Israel, we are working closely with the ARZENU leadership to develop the role of Progressive Zionism in our region.

Sending successful delegations to WUPJ and URJ Conferences. There is little doubt that the UPJ delegation made a significant and positive impression at the WUPJ "Connections 2009" conference in Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv. Appreciation of the leadership shown and support provided was readily acknowledged. We are sending a delegation of 6 people to the URJ biennial in Toronto, Canada, in early November.

Employing a UPJ Intern, programs for scholars-in-residence; overseas visitors. This was an area where the financial uncertainty was reflected in the decision not to employ an intern and not to lay out considerable funds in bringing speakers from overseas. Rabbi Lenny Thal was an excellent keynote speaker at the last conference in Melbourne and the WUPJ Director of Operations, Shai Pinto also made an outstanding contribution to the conference.

Develop opportunities for professional development for our lay and professional leaders nationally and internationally. During this period we supported the visit of three young adults to attend an ARZENU seminar in Israel; attendance by one person on the Beutel program in Jerusalem; participation by one person in the Nahum Goldmann leadership program in Tiberius; as well as providing financial support to the young people participating in *Shnat* programs in Israel.

During this period we completed the financial support for one trained rabbi and commenced financial assistance to another, as well as providing a grant to a person undertaking post-graduate studies in Jewish education in America. The focus of workshops at the last gathering was the development of team leadership and that training has also been taken to a number of the synagogue boards. It is planned to continue and develop this theme at future UPJ gatherings.

Develop and implement needs-based programs in education, social action etc. As previously stated, concern regarding the financial situation led to a conservative approach to expenditure on programs, especially those involving significant costs of travel and accommodation. The decision was endorsed by a general lack of response to a request for congregations to identify what needs-based programs they would like. The Educators' Network has been active, including a one-day meeting, and is planning programs for the coming year. Nicky Maor has been very active in promoting educational and fundraising programs and activities relating to the successful 'Nothing but Nets' program, as well as the Djarragun College project that featured at last year's conference.

Liaison and support for the Moetzah. In addition to working together on the rabbis' contract and *Mishkan T'filah*, we have enjoyed a strong and productive relationship with the Moetzah, especially through their chairman, Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins. They are keen to develop more policy statements and publications and we are providing administration and support as required.

As I have stated on many occasions and as can be seen from the above report, almost every aspect of the work has been done in partnership with others. The active involvement of the presidents and members of the Executive Committee is an important feature of the organisation and should be a source of great pride for all involved.

This organisation and the region have been blessed with extremely dedicated leadership, and David Robinson has done a wonderful job in filling the position vacated by Phyllis Dorey. It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside him in partnership, and I look forward to this continuing over the weeks and months ahead.

The past year has been a time of uncertainty for many and we are extremely fortunate to have come through it having achieved so much. To see the growth of Progressive Judaism in Israel and to witness first-hand the vibrancy and enthusiasm of our own congregations and affiliates has provided me with great optimism and energy for the coming year. As we approach the 80th year of Progressive Judaism in our region, we can do so with a strong sense of celebrating many achievements and looking forward to a future of growth and development in our movement. I look forward to addressing the challenges ahead in a continuing partnership with the lay and professional people who lead our congregations and organisations.



Steve Denenberg
Executive Director

Moetzah Report

Over this last year, the Moetzah has been able to complete, with support of members of the UPJ, two of our major goals.

First, driven by Rabbi Jonathan Karen-Black, who has given extraordinary amount of time to the project, supported by members of the Editorial Committee and the Melbourne rabbis in particular, the Mishkan Tefillah project has been completed and in the year ahead will be printed and distributed to the congregations of the region.

Second, with the help of the Sydney rabbis, and in particular with the support of Steve Denenberg, Sharene Hambur and Philip Levy, we have completed and distributed to the constituents of the UPJ templates to draw up rabbinic contracts.

Along the lines of rabbinic employment, we are pleased to announce that Perth has hired Rabbi Sheryl Nosan-Blank, King David School has appointed Rabbi Gersh Lazarow, Emanuel School appointed Rabbi Allison Conyer and all being well, all will be in attendance at the Moetzah in Sydney this November, along with Rabbi Stanton Zamek from Hong Kong, making this the most representative meeting ever of the Moetzah. We have nearly a full panoply of rabbis across the region now, only missing Rabbi Johanna Hershenson who, sadly for our region, is leaving Wellington to return to the United States.

Rabbi Hershenson has been a driving force for the Position Papers Project; however, we recognize that each of us rabbis gives so much to our own synagogues and communities that there is not as much ability to complete projects and goals as we would like. Accordingly, at this upcoming Moetzah we intend to focus on working on certain projects, specifically the Principles of Progressive Judaism, as well as certain position papers that will best help the constituents of the UPJ. Having completed the Siddur and contract projects, we know how fulfilling it is to see these ideas come to fruition, and therefore we will be focusing in our upcoming meetings to produce similar results.

I am grateful to all my colleagues around the region for their continued commitment and support, as well as to Steve Denenberg, Executive Director of the UPJ, and all those who volunteer to give so much time in serving and leading the UPJ and its constituents.



Rabbi Jeffrey B. Kamins
Chairman

Social Action Report

The year 2008-2009 has seen the implementation of the Nothing but Nets Campaign, which was adopted unanimously at the UPJ Conference in Melbourne in October 2008. The campaign aimed to involve all levels of the congregations in active social action, in order to help eradicate malaria in Africa. The Nothing but Nets concept was founded in America, and was partnered by the United Nations Foundation. The UPJ is the first non-American organization to be involved in the project and to that end received funding from the United Nations Foundation to help achieve its goal of raising 5,000 nets or \$50,000.

The first to act were the b'nei mitzvah students – two students, in Sydney and Melbourne – asked people to donate money to the Nothing but Nets campaign in lieu of gifts, and they have since been joined by others. The b'nei mitzvah involvement is a realization of the project initiated in 2007-8, to ensure that b'nei mitzvah students include a social action element in their b'mitzvah year. The congregations then took up the mantle, with the Brisbane and Gold Coast congregations joining forces to organize a fundraising activity, the Dunedin congregation put up a Nothing but Nets stall at their local fete and one by one, most of the congregations have followed suit. From "Sukkot under the Nets" to "Challah baking for Africa", Kol Nidrei appeals, it is wonderful to see creative initiatives by the congregations, which hopefully have been meaningful for the participants in addition to providing the desperately-needed malaria-treated bed-nets. It is especially pleasing to note the response from the TaMaR members of the UPJ, who have organized numerous community events. They have already held a successful film evening, have been involved in a poker evening and are soon to be hosting a trivia night, all funds earmarked for Nothing but Nets.

The UPJ has worked hard behind the scenes to help facilitate these events, creating T-shirts, posters, cards, and providing bed-nets and general information to all who asked for them. In addition, and as one of the highlights of the campaign, we have arranged for the American URJ's social action specialist, Ms Naomi Abelson, to come out to the region and run seminars, about incorporating social action within the congregations. Hopefully her visit will help congregations that have not yet established active social action programs, to establish them, and will provide useful and new tools for those congregations whose social action programs are more developed.

Due to the global financial crisis, it was felt that 2009 would not be the best time to work on long-term Israel programs for the congregations. However, the UPJ has worked closely with Netzer, aiming to strengthen the social action element of their Israel programs, and the Israel Religious Action Center has taken up the UPJ's call for social action-based Israel programs and is offering such a program, together with the WUPJ's Saltz Center, for the first time. Finally, during the period of this report we have revamped the UPJ website to make it more user-friendly and have developed a social action site which allows direct on-line payments and has details and contact information for constituent and visitor use. Hopefully the congregations have benefited from it.

As this is my final report before returning to Israel, I would like to thank all those who have supported me and my work and I hope that social action remains high on your agendas without my nagging! Without social action, we will not be able to fulfil one of the most important commandments – צדק, צדק תרדוף, justice, justice you shall pursue.

Nicky Maor

UPJ Social Action Coordinator



BRISBANE PROGRESSIVE JEWISH CONGREGATION INCORPORATED

PO Box 841, Coorparoo, Queensland, 4151
Internet: www.bpj.org.au
Email: bpjc@bpjc.org.au
Tel: 07 3267 0223
ABN: 97 270 769 712



Congregational statistics:

Professional staff

Brisbane Progressive Jewish Congregation (BPJC) has employed Cantor David Bentley since 1 July 2008, on a part-time basis, to provide a range of religious, educational and pastoral services to members.

Services

BPJC holds Shabbat Shacharit services at 10am on the first and third Saturdays of every month, and Family Kabbalat Shabbat services at 6.30pm on the last Friday of months where there are five Saturdays (i.e. approximately 4 times a year). Services are conducted on a rostered basis, with up to 10 services a year conducted by Cantor Bentley and the remainder by lay leaders. BPJC runs a full set of High Holy Days services.

Membership

BPJC had 38 adult members at 30 June 2009, growing to 44 adult members at the end of August 2009. These figures equate to 26 and 31 UPJ billing units respectively. Between 30 June 2008 and the end of August 2009 we have grown our membership by 83%.

BPJC awarded its first Life Membership to Prof. Hyman and Ruth Tarlo, recently moved to Sydney, for their services to Progressive Judaism in Brisbane.

Congregational committees

BPJC's Board has established two committees – Membership, and Marketing and Functions – which make appropriate recommendations for Board decision.

Programs:

Cheder

BPJC established its Cheder in February 2007 and pupil numbers have grown since then, from 5 to 23, as at the end of August 2009. The Cheder meets for two hours following our Shabbat services and Kiddush. Pupils attend from all areas of Brisbane as well as some coming from as far as Toowoomba. The Cheder is run by a Cheder Director and three teaching assistants and includes children from age 7 to B'nei Mitzvah.

Adult education

We have run two series of adult education "Learning Hebrew" classes that have proved popular, led by Cantor Bentley.

Chavura

BPJC hosted family functions for: erev Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Chanukah, BPJC's second birthday party, Purim and the second night Pesach seder.

B'nei Mitzvah

BPJC has had a B'nei Mitzvah Policy since March 2008, and is in the process of reviewing it. The first BPJC Bat Mitzvah was conducted at Temple Shalom Gold Coast on 21 March 2009, with the service led by Cantor Bentley. Other pupils are currently studying towards Bar Mitzvah.

Outreach

BPJC established its website in January 2007 (to date - over 15,000 "hits"), and answered many enquiries from Jews, intending converts and students undertaking assignments.

We are proud to report that our first two participants in a UPJ conversion to Judaism program successfully completed the program and were accepted by the Moetzah. BPJC has a number of other conversion program participants.

Fundraising

We have aimed to keep membership fees as low as possible, so we are dependent on the goodwill of several very generous donors, as well as the large number of people who give small donations throughout the year.

In conjunction with our second birthday in February 2009, BPJC established and promoted a Building Fund with a goal horizon of 10 years, which has already collected a number of substantial contributions.

Together with Gold Coast Temple Shalom, BPJC succeeded in raising \$240 as a donation to the "Nothing but Nets" campaign.

Special events

Indicative of our close relationship with Gold Coast Temple Shalom, BPJC and Temple Shalom organised a "Taste of Netzer" weekend retreat in May 2009. The UPJ Shaliach and Netzer leaders attended and helped make this a highly successful Shabbaton. A second "Taste of Netzer" camp has been organized for October/November 2009.

BPJC members participated in the Brisbane Yom HaShoah commemoration and, for the second consecutive year, provided the only congregational speaker at the service.

BPJC members participated in the Remembrance Day visit to the graves of service personnel, as well as the QAJEX ANZAC Day wreath-laying in Brisbane at which Cantor Bentley led the "El male rachamim" and Mourner's Kaddish.

Successes

Moving from:

- Vision to reality;
- Kehillah to Congregation;
- Unrecognized to major local "player";
- Amateur to professional; and
- Disregarded to highly respected.

Concerns and problems

None that we haven't been able to handle through our combined efforts and the support from UPJ – and especially our excellent Advisory Rabbi, Paul Jacobson.

Interfacing with the larger Jewish community

BPJC is affiliated with the following organizations:

- Queensland Board of Jewish Deputies;
- State Zionist Council; and
- Queensland Jewish Community Services.

We have a close working relationship with Gold Coast Temple Shalom and were privileged to attend and participate in the induction of Rabbi Jacqui Wexler.

BPJC has secured agreement with the Brisbane Chevra Kadisha to have Tahara performed on all deceased Jews; for the use of the Mt Gravatt Cemetery Chapel for Progressive Jewish funeral services; and for the burial of all Jews in the same monumental section of the cemetery, so that

couples where only one person is considered halachically (Orthodox) Jewish (and the other is a Progressive Jew) can be buried side by side. BPJC's Immediate Past President is now a member of the Chevra's Management Committee.

Plans for the coming year

Planning is underway for the introduction of the new Mishkan Tefilah early in 2010, as well as activities to highlight the 80th anniversary of the UPJ. In May 2010, it will be 10 years since Cantor Bentley's graduation and investiture. In June 2009, just over two years after undertaking our first strategic planning session with Janice Alper, Executive Director UPJ, Board members met to consider the congregation's position and identify strategic priorities. We identified the many achievements made in the two years of BPJC's existence, and the desired achievements by the end of the next five years (i.e. 2014). These "stretch" goals are:

- Dedicated and spectacular building / home
- 150 members
- Paid, qualified Cheder teachers
- 10th B'nai Mitzvah
- Full-time Rabbi
- Weekly services
- Host UPJ AGM / conference
- Torah scroll – our own.

Accordingly, our priorities for the new Board over the next two years are:

- Recruit more volunteers
- Allocate tasks and develop timelines to achieve priorities
- Recruit more members
- Raise more money (fundraising events)
- Cheder teachers back-up plan
- Develop a curriculum and revise the policy for our B'nai Mitzvah program
- Survey of BPJC members
- Investigate feasibility of more frequent Shabbat services
- Review, develop, improve strategic alliances
- Develop a plan to move to dedicated building
- Expand adult education classes / program
- Develop an orientation program for new Board members.

Tony Leverton, president



Temple Shalom – Gold Coast

Congregational statistics

25, Via Roma- Isle of Capri - Gold Coast

Telephone/fax: 07- 5570 1716

Email: ts_gcenquiries@hotmail.com

Website: www.templeshalomgoldcoast.org.au

Professional Staff:

Full time Rabbi: Jackie Wexler

Part-time Administrative Secretary

2 Sunday school Teachers

Shabbat Services: Every Friday nights and Saturday morning

Number of billing units: Approximately 121 families.

Congregational committees

Services management

House committee

Security/Public Relations

Fundraising/Special events/Membership

Friendship Club

Caring Community

Grants, Photography, Biblical Garden

Programs

Religious School

Adult education: Talmud classes, Basic Judaism, Hebrew as a living Language

Netzer Camps

Outreach, including Mazon Bags, toiletries for women's shelter

Successes

We are slowly becoming known as the Main Gold Coast Centre for Progressive Judaism. Our many social functions, run by a very dedicated and active guild, are well attended by a cross section of the local population. We also interrelate well with the Conservative Congregation. We participate fully with the Chevra Kadisha Committee which combines representatives from the Progressive and Orthodox Movements, thus promoting constructive cooperation between the two affiliations. We have successfully started activities involving the Netzer movement, and have had two very successful camps combining our and the Brisbane congregations. This is very special because Netzer had never before been active on the Coast, and we needed this for our Progressive movement.

A generous donor has made it possible to redesign our bimah. The design is now completed and we should see the unveiling before the end of this calendar year.

Concerns

We are an ageing congregation, in an ageing community, and we need to attract younger people. We have made some progress, but need to get a lot more to join us in order to maintain our current drive.

We also need to increase our members generally so we can meet our financial commitments without constantly relying on the generosity of "the few".

Kate Lesser, president



**The Central Coast Shalom Progressive
Jewish Congregation Inc.**

P.O. Box 1688 Gosford NSW 2250
Email: ccshalom@optusnet.com.au
President: Brian Green
Hon Secretary: Sheryle Berman

Fax: 02 4321 0130

Ph: 02 4369 8935

Statistical Overview and Programs

The Central Coast Shalom Progressive Jewish Congregation comprises a membership of 17 family units including 3 single units of approximately 27 adults and 19 children. The ages of congregants range from 4 – 90 years with 16 children in Hebrew & Religion School and the majority of the adults in the congregation being in their thirties and early forties. Some congregants live in the Newcastle area one and a half hour's drive from Gosford where we meet. The Congregation has been in existence for 21 years and the Hebrew & Religion School celebrates its 13th Anniversary this year. We have no established meeting venue other than renting a community hall, which we do mainly for Hebrew & Religion School. As the Congregation has reduced in size, we have found it more beneficial to revert to a 'home service model' to capture the chaverah that exists within the congregation. We have a family service, led by our children once a month in someone's, volunteered home. We only use the community hall for formal services such as, B'Mitzvahs, Communal Seder's and the High Holy Day Services of which only Erev Rosh Hashanah is celebrated. On Yom Kippur, most congregants, by established custom, return to their home congregations, usually in Sydney. Otherwise we journey down to NSTE, our closest Progressive congregation.

Successes

Apart from our continued existence in an area, almost totally devoid of Yiddishkeit, our major accomplishments have been with our Hebrew & Religion School. During the life of the Congregation we have B'mitzvahed a total of 18 children from our Hebrew & Religion School. In

this endeavour, Rabbis Jacobson, ES and Robuck, NSTE have recently assisted us, although the preparation has been by our own H&R School teachers. In the forthcoming year, two children will be B'Mitzvahed, as well as one adult. We have established a Jewish cemetery (consecrated by the Chaverah Kadisha), in the Wyong Shire of the Central Coast and, with that council's assistance in providing donations of native trees, we are attempting to beautify it and other areas of the Central Coast. On Tu B'shevat each year, for the last 16 years, we have, as an experiential learning exercise for Hebrew & Religion School pupils and their parents, planted these donated trees in the areas designated by council as needing regeneration. In this way as well as teaching the significance of Tu B'shevat in its modern iteration as an Arbor Day in Israel, we are also fulfilling the mitzvah of Tikkun Olam, the 'repair of the world' so apt in an era of global warming and environmental degradation. As part of our relationship with other residents of the Central Coast and other faith communities we outreach, educationally to any school in the local area requiring information on Judaism, Jews and Israel. In the past year we have visited several schools in the area. Apart from this, individual Hebrew & Religion school parent/congregants have addressed the secular schools their children attend on a whole range of topics, mostly however, relating to festival celebration.

Congregational management

Our congregational Board of Management made up of myself as President and Education Director; Gary Berman as Vice-President and Honorary Treasurer; Sheryle Berman as Honorary Secretary; Shofar Editor and Publicity Officer; Jennifer Green as Welfare Officer and Caroline Leadbetter and Shelly Russell as Co-Principals of the Congregation's Hebrew & Religion School. All office holders have acquitted themselves well in their various roles and capacities, regularly attending monthly Board of Management meetings and being involved in all aspects of congregational management. The Congregation is grateful to them for their talents and dedication and particularly for the fact that they are all busy running businesses and their homes. As Education Director I am also grateful to those parents who contribute to our community by serving as teachers and Co-teachers in our Hebrew & Religion School. Their unpaid contribution and voluntarism makes it possible. We are small but are an extremely active community.

Challenges ahead

Perhaps our greatest challenge is to maintain the integrity of our Hebrew & Religion School once the majority of our Senior Class have become Bnai Mitzvah. Four left us in the last year leaving us with only two students in that class until their B'Mitzvah in 2009. Of course the Junior and Intermediate classes will be advanced but no one at this stage is coming behind so over-all numbers will be drastically reduced. This will make the paid teacher/coaching initiative, recently introduced, no longer viable and hence we are liable to also lose contact with our Post-B'Mitzvah students who have been fulfilling this role. Like all congregations post-B'mitzvah involvement by our youth has been our Achilles' heel.

Strategic directions

With static congregational numbers, the challenge will be for us to outreach to unaffiliated Jews living on the Central Coast. This will be pursued in the absence of any formal amalgamation and unification with the Kadimah Congregation. Such overtures have now ceased and we have agreed to go our own separate ways cooperating with each other should any issue arise that requires a joint approach. Relations between the two congregation's management teams are cordial and we exchange newsletters. We look forward to an exciting and eventful 2009/10.

Brian Green, president, education director, Hebrew & Religion School principal



North Shore Temple Emanuel

Congregational statistics

North Shore Temple Emanuel
28 Chatswood Avenue, Chatswood NSW 2067
Tele: 02 9419 7011
Email: nste@nste.org.au

Website: www.nste.org.au

Professional staff

Rabbi Gary Robuck
Rabbi Emeritus Richard Lampert
Cantorial Soloist Benny Kaplinski
CEO Di Engeland
Music Director Judy Campbell
Youth and Young Adult Director Janet Granek
Member Relationships manager Galy O'Connor

Shabbat services

Friday: Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:30pm
Saturday: Shacharit, 10:00am

Number of family units: 632

Congregational committees

Jews for Social Action
Community Support
Caring Committee including Bikkor Cholim
Spiritual Directions committee
Jubilee 2010 committee

Programs

Regular:

Hebrew and Religion School

Classes on Judaism, Jewish History and Israel from year 1 to year 7

Keshet Lanoar- post b'nei mitzvah program

Educational, cultural, social and sporting activities attended by post b'nei mitzvah age teens.

Adult Education:

- Parashat Hashavua Haftarah study: weekly before Saturday morning service, study session on the weekly portion or haftarah
- Conversations with the Rabbi: a weekly interactive discussion group
- Overview of Jewish Thought: weekly course covering Judaism, Jewish History, Festivals and Holy days, Jewish home life.

B'nei Mitzvah Tuition: Individual tuition together with some group workshops.

Courtyard Cafe: Sunday morning tea with the Rabbi, open to all members

Women for Women: A discussion group, facilitated by a guest speaker, to centre on topics more relevant to women (eg women in the Torah, women's health, Jewish Women in the arts etc)

Shabbat Tot: A once a term gathering of families with preschoolers to hear stories, sing songs and do art/craft activities on a theme usually associated with Shabbat or the chaggim.

Family services and birthday blessings: Held quarterly these special services are geared to families with children. Special invitations sent, and honours given, to children who have celebrated their birthday in the past three months. These services are usually followed by a Shabbat dinner.

Preschool: We conduct an extended hours preschool for ages 3 to 5 years. Children learn both secular and Jewish stories, songs and activities including Shabbat and the chaggim.

One-time and short-term:

North Shore Night School: Two sessions one in March and one in November of 4 consecutive Thursdays from 7:30 – 10:00pm offering, in partnership with the Shalom Institute, at least three concurrent streams on Jewish topics and texts. Topics may be cultural, historical, religious or Israel based. Each session commences with a stimulating keynote speaker

Weekend retreats for various age groups (Shore Thing; our young adults group, or for special interest groups – e.g. choir)

Hebrew Reading in One Day: held twice a year to teach beginners the Hebrew alphabet and have them reading in one day.

Shabbat Groove: a series of special Friday night services featuring innovative music.

I Speak My Mind Seminar: conducted by our Social Action group. They consist of series of guest speakers or panel-lead discussion on a topic relevant to the group. They are usually conducted quarterly.

Special events

Jubilee 2010 Kick Off Event; the launch of this project to raise congregational interest and call for volunteers for various committees for the year of events and refurbishment of the sanctuary.

7th Annual Golf Day: fundraising, social event for golfing members and friends.

25th Annual Senior Citizens' Concert: A variety show and afternoon tea for more than 400 seniors from the Jewish and local non-Jewish communities held by our Community Support Group.

Annual Ros Sinclair Walk for Israel: This event was initiated by NSTE in memory of its member Ros Sinclair. It is now supported by all congregations on the North Shore and by youth groups

Pesach shop: NSTE allowed members to order Pesach supplies through the Temple and collect them from the office.

Rosh Hashanah Shop: NSTE provided a range of Rosh Hashanah foods, supplies and gifts for members to order through the office and collect from there.

CarPet wash: Keshar Lanoar washed cars and pets to raise money for charity.

Broadway to Delancey Cabaret – fundraising concert that highlighted the musical talents of our congregation

Successes

- **Women for Women** – see above
- **Temple Voices program** to train more lay participants in services
- **Yad Squad** to train Torah readers
- **Caring Committee "Shiva Plate" project** to prepare and deliver a plate of food to all grieving families in the congregation
- **Youth Choir** who sang at family services and Yom Kippur afternoon service
- **Youth services** led by Benny Kaplinski and our teen agers for other children
- **Yom Tov family services** expanded beyond the High Holy Days and co-ordinated by Benny Kaplinski and Janet Granek
- **Home visits by Rabbi Robuck** to senior members of our community, especially those who have difficulty getting out
- **Simultaneous afternoon teas**
- **Guest speakers** at Friday night services
- **Increased connection with Israeli families living on the north shore**
- **Rabbi and his family entertain B'nei Mitzvah families and new member families at Shabbat dinner in his home.**
- **Choir concert series to area nursing homes**
- **Keshar Lanoar's end-of-year formal and prize-giving.**

Concerns

- **Falling membership numbers** due largely to people moving to the Eastern Suburbs or lacking the desire to remain affiliated
- **Aging community** on the North Shore
- **Aging facilities** needing an upgrade and major maintenance
- **Increase** in numbers of families seeking concessions

Interfacing with the larger Jewish community

- Walk For Israel (see above)
- Yom Hashoah – mitzvah of memory program written by Rabbi Robuck and conducted at both major community observances
- Yom Yerushalayim participation of both our choirs in a joint choirs performance
- Choir performances at old age homes
- North Shore Night School speakers and attendees from other congregations and organisations
- Having the Shalom Institute hold Melton classes at NSTE
- Having Israeli families with small children meet on our premises.
-

Outstanding plans for the coming year

- Planning for the Jubilee of 2010 and fundraising
- Renovations of the synagogue building and interior
- New *Torah* mantles and *parochet*
- Employ a Director of Education to initiate and run Adult family and school education programs including the Hebrew and Religion School
- Developing the Caring Committee
- Intensify pastoral outreach

- Once-a month extended oneg/learning following Friday night service

Stephen Freeman, president



Congregational statistics

7 Ocean Street, Woollahra, NSW, 2025

Tel: 02 9328 7833 Fax: 02 9327 8715

E-mail: info@emanuel.org.au Website: www.emanuel.org.au

Professional staff

Senior Rabbi: Jeffrey B. Kamins; Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio; Rabbi Paul Jacobson.

Executive Director: Allan H. Glazerman; Director of Education: Sandy Hollis; Director of

Membership: Belinda Levy; Director of Marketing: Katie Gluckman; Financial Controller: Sara Joffe

Shabbat services:

Every Friday night there has been a **combined Erev Shabbat Service**.

Each Shabbat morning there has been a **Masorti (Conservative) Minyan** and a **Progressive Minyan**. There has been a **Renewal minyan** about once each month.

Number of family units: 1492 as at 30 September 2009

Congregational committees: Staff Advisory, Finance, Cultural, Building/Redevelopment, Social Action & Social Justice, Masorti Emanuel

Programs

Education: This year's education programs included the following Children's and Young Adult Education Programs:

Beit Midrash Emanuel. (formerly Board of Progressive Jewish Education Hebrew & Religion School), Tuesday or Thursday 4:00PM-6:00PM- Hebrew and Jewish education programs for years K-2, Years 3-4, and Year 5 and Year 6. The move to Tuesday or Thursday school has been highly successful – numbers have increased to 101 students from 80 (excluding the 35 post Bar Mitzvah students in years 8-10 who do not pay school fees and form the group called 'Pizza with the Rabbi').

Pizza With The Rabbi. Our post B'nai Mitzvah group continues to grow. The highlight of the year was a dinner prepared and served by the students for over 80 congregants.

Mitkadem. A new Hebrew prayer and ritual program introduced in the school in which students can work through different levels at their own pace. Allows students to feel that they are able to learn and be successful, no matter what their level of ability. Assessments follow the completion of each level (ramah).

Bar and Bat Mitzvah classes. Tuesdays or Thursdays 4:00PM-5:30PM.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring

My Play Space. Fridays 10:00AM- 12:00PM, for children aged 0-3: A space for our youngest children and their carers to meet, talk and play together. A great opportunity to get to know other new parents and families.

Shabbat Tot, First Friday of the month, 5:00PM-6:00PM: A short and very noisy prayer service tailored for young children. A story, craft activity and Kiddush follow the service. Parents and grandparents welcome.

Yelladim. Saturdays 10:00AM-11:45AM, for children aged 5-9: An opportunity for children to be vocal and have fun at synagogue. Facilitated by dynamic and creative youth leaders, this is a time filled with song, prayer, stories, games, food and laughter.

An Insight into the High Holy Days: Thursdays 3, 10, & 17 September 7:30-9:00PM: An introduction into the most important themes of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, including repentance (t'shuvah, prayer (t'filah), and charity (tz'dakah). A program guaranteed to add meaning to the High Holy Day experience.

Ziknei Emanuel: Adult Education for over 65s. Mondays, 10:00AM-11:30AM: Text based study focusing on sacred writings, customs, ethics and values.

Our Jewish Story: Mondays, 6:00PM-7:15 PM: A weekly look through texts at the unfolding journey of the Jewish people.

Hebrew. Thursdays, 6:30PM-7:30 PM: A choice of classes: Beginners, Siddur and Torah Reading.
Basic Jewish Concepts: Thursdays, 7:30PM-8:00 PM: Journey through Judaism with this exploration of ethics, history, life cycle, values and other core principles in our foundational teachings.

Lunch 'n' Learn: Saturdays 12 September, 14 November & 12 December, after services until 2:00PM: Nourishment for body, soul and mind. Enjoy lunch, meet friends and delve into Torah.

Rosh Chodesh: A women's group in celebration of each new moon.

Mid Week Study Group: A discussion for residents of the Montefiore Home about current issues and events.

Learn to chant Torah: Tuition was provided for individuals and groups interested in learning to chant Torah.

Health Breakfast: A series of breakfasts addressing significant health issues facing our congregants: breast, prostate, and colon cancer. Next year we will focus on mental health issues.

Family Education Days: Have been very successful – once a term parents and children have gathered together in an atmosphere of community and learning. We also hosted NSTE for the Term 2 Family Education Day that was attended by more than 200 people.

Community Education

Preschools: Last November we forged an association with Jacob's Ladder, a new preschool established in Rose Bay and run with a Jewish ethos. Rabbis Ninio and Jacobson now visit there and provide programming weekly, in addition to the regular activities and programs all of our rabbis provide for the students of Emanuel Woollahara Preschool and the Kornmehl Centre at Emanuel School.

Netzer. Whenever possible, educational support and activities were provided to the members and leaders of our Zionist Youth Group. A Netzer Representative who reports monthly to our board has been given a standard invitation to attend board meetings. We have created a Youth Lounge in our main facility for Netzer use, and we have purchased a supplemental insurance policy to help cover Netzer members or their parents in the event of accident or injury during their activities. It is pleasing to report on the continuing and productive relationship that we have with the group.

Emanuel School Teaching (Years 7 and 9): In addition to the presence and spiritual leadership provided by Rabbi Kamins, Rabbi Jacobson has been serving as weekly instructor at the Emanuel School, teaching prayer and liturgy to Year 7 students, and Bible to year 9 students, approaching the Torah with a critical eye, and asking serious questions regarding authorship, structure of text, and value for our lives as Jews.

Outside Representation: We have represented the Emanuel Synagogue at over 30 schools (both government and Catholic) in 2009 – these students and teachers previously were unaware of the presence of ES and have since gained a better understanding of Progressive and Conservative Judaism.

Arts & Culture

Sunday Cinema, first Sunday of every month: A selection of new and award winning films from Israel with stimulating post entertainment dialogue.

People of the Book: A journey through a library of books of Jewish interest, accompanied by tea and discussion.

Concerts, play readings and a photographic exhibition: proved to be welcome expansions to our cultural programs.

Fireside Learning

Chagim & Religious Services included:

Purim Carnival, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Chanukah

Birkat Chama. we gathered at the beach at sunrise, recited the blessings and the morning service for this once in 28 years event.

Renewal. Our Renewal minyan continues to grow and is contributing many different programs and activities to the synagogue, including regular services, tai chi, meditation, teaching and other endeavours.

Masorti Torah Reading. This year, for the first time, our Masorti minyan has read the entire parashah each week so at Simchat Torah we celebrated the fact that the entire Torah had been read during the year. Made possible by the assistance of some talented dedicated lay readers.

Festival Programs

Sukkot. Programs of food and music in the sukkah throughout the week included Sausage Sizzle in the Sukkah, Schnitzel and Schnapps in the Sukkah, Sweets in the Sukkah, Spaghetti in the Sukkah, Shashukah in the Sukkah.

Happenings

2009 has been a year of growth and development for Emanuel Synagogue. Faced with the challenges presented by the global economic crisis our board decided not to raise subscription fees and to offer subsidies to help retain members in need. While we did not duplicate the annual 3% growth of past years, we did hold our membership constant as we strengthened and enhanced existing programs and implemented new ones.

Some of our special events for the year included **honouring Rabbi Kamins as Chatan Torah** for his twenty years of devoted service to the congregation and the Sydney Jewish community. Over 500 members and friends came to show their support as our services were followed by a surprise 'This is your life' style event hosted by Larry Emdur. The range of guests gave an indication of the breadth of inspiring work our Rabbi does for our community. We hosted **Markus Zusak In Conversation**, in which, as part of our People of the Book Club series, award winning author Markus Zusak spoke about his book *The Book Thief* to an audience of over 100 people who came to meet the author and discuss his work. Later in the year we held a week-long series of programs and services offered by visiting musician **Martin Yafe** of Buenos Aires. The highlight of the week was a themed dinner, with over 118 attendees at our 'South American Shabbat Dinner'. We initiated our first ever **Wedding and Bar/Bat Mitzvah Expo**, a new fund-raising event held in early June which offered party planners an opportunity to investigate the various needs for their simcha. Since the last UPJ conference, subsequent to the Moetza's decision to approve same sex commitment ceremonies, we have conducted two **Commitment Ceremonies**. Both were beautiful, moving and very meaningful events.

During the year we moved forward with the implementation of recommendations from our January 2008 synagogue review, in particular with the move from a hands on board of management to a skills based board of governance. At the end of May five people stepped off our board and were replaced with five new members who brought age and gender balance to the team. We reorganised our office staff moving from a model of shared responsibilities to one of segregated duties and cross training and brought Katie Gluckman on board as our Marketing Director. Katie has moved quickly to create a host of marketing collateral and to write press releases and advertisements promoting our synagogue.

We developed a new logo and are developing a new interactive website, which we anticipate launching in the beginning of January.

Cantor Joseph Toltz did not return after taking last year off to complete his PhD studies, and we continued to use a range of talented people to provide the chazanut to each of the minyanim. During the High Holy Days Nick Glass davened for the Masorti Minyan and Simon Lobelson led prayers at the Progressive Minyan. Both services were well received, and for the first time we had a joint Neilah service, which brought the entire congregation together for a service that was welcomed and much appreciated by all.

A major focus this past year has been to advance our redevelopment plans which call for a major program of construction over the coming years — including a new synagogue building to accommodate our growing Masorti (Conservative) Minyan, a new long-day daycare/preschool to accommodate 80 children, a Community Centre with new staff offices and a mikvah. Additionally, our plan calls for the renovation and beautification of our main facility, which houses our Progressive minyan. We are pleased to report that we successfully lodged our development application (DA) with our local Council in March and expect to receive a final decision within a year of lodgement.

Rabbis Kamins, Ninio and Jacobson, as well as our rabbinic intern, Orna Triguboff, have provided a wealth of services, programs, and pastoral care to our congregants and the community at large. Our synagogue and its rabbis are very highly regarded throughout the Jewish and general communities. Our reputation for being an inclusive, pluralistic, welcoming and caring community, as expressed through involvement in all communal bodies and through social action and social justice programs, is well deserved and something we hold dear.

Without a doubt, the most outstanding achievement of this congregation is its support for pluralist and egalitarian Judaism. The overall growth of the congregation is due to the welcoming and tolerant attitude of the members, as expressed in joint services and its support for the rabbis and

their leadership of our three minyanim, as well as through the continuing financial and moral support that they provide to the synagogue.

Concerns and problems

As an organisation with almost 3,000 members and a significant campus of buildings it is a major challenge to maintain the physical facilities and to invest in the use of technology whilst not losing sight that our main resources are the people who devote themselves to the community, both as paid staff and as volunteers.

Our biggest challenge is to maintain and develop these resources; to plan for succession and to constantly seek dynamic new people to carry our vision forward for years to come. Another challenge is to fulfil our role as a leading congregation in the region and within UPJ and to identify new people who can assist us in carrying the message of Progressive Judaism to the wider community.

Additional challenges for the coming year include:

- Raising funds to ensure the quick completion of our redevelopment plans.
- Revising our strategic plan and working toward it
- Ensuring the growth of younger and newer membership, while providing an excellent level of service to all our members
- Strengthening each of our three minyanim through increasing lay involvement and responsibility as well more engaging music.
- Provide support to other groups, especially UPJ, in its work of promoting Progressive Judaism.

Laurence Adelman, president



Beit Shalom Synagogue, Adelaide

Congregational statistics

- Adelaide Progressive Jewish Congregation (Beit Shalom), 39 Hackney Road, Hackney, info@bshalomadel.com, www.bshalomadel.com
- Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky; Lesley Willis (Secretary)
- Shabbat services are held at 6pm on Friday and 10.30am Saturday morning
- 142 units total, including 55 family units
- Congregational committees: Social Interaction, Adult Education, Finance, Youth Affairs, Ritual & Services, Fundraising and Bequests, Community Affairs and Public Relations, Buildings & Ground Maintenance

Programs

- Beit Shalom runs a cheder on Sunday mornings. 16 students were enrolled in 2008-09. The cheder has three levels of both Hebrew and Jewish Studies classes.
- Rabbi Kaminsky runs a weekly survey course in Judaism for conversion students and other non-Jews interested in learning about Judaism and Jewish traditions.
- Weekly Chevre Torah sessions are held on Saturday mornings prior to Shabbat services
- Rabbi Kaminsky oversees tuition for all B'nei Mitzvot students and conversion candidates.
- A group is meeting to explore spirituality beyond Shabbat Services

Additional comments

- **Successes** – Beit Shalom is in a mild growth state in terms of memberships. This year we held a community brunch program where every member of the community was invited to a brunch held in someone's house. Each brunch group held discussions around a list of topics and most people had the opportunity to meet members whom they did not already know. Beit Shalom held its annual Purim Spiel and it was a great success.
- **Concerns and problems:** Our biggest concern is the sustainability of funding for a rabbi. If fundraising activity was to remain at current levels funding for a rabbi will run out in approximately 7-8 years.
- **Interfacing with the larger Jewish community:** The relationship between Beit Shalom and the larger Jewish community in Adelaide is improving. A joint Hannukah celebration

was held last year with the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation and it is intended to hold this event again this year. Beit Shalom has also achieved better representation on the Massada (Adelaide's only Jewish School) Board and Constitution. Our Vice President, Alison Marcus, organized a widely successful Yom Ha'Atzmut celebration this year.

- **Outstanding plans for the coming year:** To continue building on the new committee structures in place to smoothly run the synagogue. To work towards securing longer term funding for rabbinical services. To implement outcomes from Community Brunches. To develop a written policy register to assist the board in decision making. To provide leadership and support for the new Shaliach.

Larry Lockshin, president



The Hobart Hebrew Congregation Inc

The Hobart Hebrew Congregation remains an active and vibrant community. However, present leaders of the community have a responsibility not only to deal with the present, but ensure the future. And here is our dilemma. Tasmania is part of regional Australia and we suffer not only from the nationwide issue of ageing membership, but the constant drain of Jews to metropolitan Australia. While our membership numbers remain constant, there are indications of a decline in attendance at services and active participation in community life, due to the ageing of the membership. This constitutes a threat to the congregation if active numbers fall below the critical mass needed to maintain a vibrant community. Given the small numbers in Tasmania, there is a realistic possibility of this happening in the future.

Another major threat to the Tasmanian Jewish community emerged during the year in the form of a review of the law on male circumcision by the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute. The Tasmanian Commissioner for children "suggested" the matter to the Institute for review. The Commissioner wants male circumcision on babies for religious reasons, banned in Tasmania. The Institute is not a government institution, but was established "by agreement between the State Government". It is an institution within the University of Tasmania. The Institute did consult with the Jewish community in the preparation of its discussion paper, which has now been released. A submission has also been made in response to the discussion paper. The deadline for responses to the discussion paper has passed. We are now waiting on the Institute's recommendations.

A problem earlier this year was the apparent inability of a senior educationalist to understand that it is unacceptable to use hate symbols, in this instance, the swastika, as a fashion statement. It would have been expected that a principal of a senior secondary college (large schools for year 11 and 12 students) would understand that it is offensive not only to Jews, but also to others who suffered or had family or friends suffer at the hands of the Nazis, to use swastika as part of the dress for a fashion show. The Principal's justification that it was okay because the fashion show was publicising the school play 'Cabaret' and they attempted to lay the blame on a local newspaper, because they "chose to focus" on it (published a photo of the outfit with the swastika). This showed a complete lack of understanding of the revulsion of many to the use of hate symbols as fashion statements. It is all the more worrying that this comes from someone who teaches the next generation the norms and acceptability of society. The Minister of Education was approached and asked to develop a set of guidelines on the use of hate symbols in government education institutions. At the time of writing this report, we are still waiting for a response from the government.

On a more positive note, the general press and most of the Tasmanian public has failed to buy into the anti-Israel, anti-Semitic views of the United Nations and there was been virtually no press coverage or comment on the Goldstone report. In fact, at present in Tasmania, anti-Semitism appears at a low ebb.

Heritage listing of the synagogue can, when work is needed on the property, be a fearsome burden. We have been trying for over a year to get plans passed for a new toilet block with disability access. Those that have visited us know this is something that is urgently needed. In what is becoming a near farcical situation, we have had plans for the new block, blocked by the Tasmanian Heritage Council on the grounds that, although the present toilet building is not listed on the Heritage Council register, it is of historical significance and cannot be demolished. The Heritage

Council also claim historical significance for a concrete wall, which will limit access to the proposed new block for the disabled! Negotiations with the relevant parties continue and hopefully the Hobart City Council will give approval by the end of the year.

Daniel Albert, president



We are a small, participation-based synagogue community that shares Shabbat, festivals and social functions in a warm, informal atmosphere.

What is special about Kedem?

- Kedem is inclusive. All ages, stages and combinations are welcome
- A strong sense of family and community in a Progressive Jewish context
- We are lay-led, drawing on the considerable collective knowledge and experience of our members
- Our services are joyful and uplifting with particular emphasis on music and Hebrew
- Tikkun Olam is a core value of Kedem, and underpins our social action commitment.

Congregational statistics

Name:	Kedem Inc
Address:	117 Kooyong Road, Armadale Vic 3143
Telephone:	(03) 98225802
Email:	admin@kedem.com.au
Website:	www.kedem.com.au
Professional Staff:	Rosi Meltzer – Office Manager
Services:	First and third Shabbat morning of each month, second Friday evening of each month, all Chagim approximately 90
Number of Family Units:	
Congregational Committees:	Ritual Education, Functions & Chaggim Tikkun Olam Marketing, PR & Publications Membership B'nei Mitzvah Coordination Caring

Programs

Regular:

Celebrations for all Chaggim.
Ongoing B'nei Mitzvah mentoring, tutoring and learning programs.
Educational programs for adults, families and young members.
Social functions for all ages.
Tikkun Olam based activities.
Annual Weekend Retreat.
Annual community brunches
Bookclub

One-time/Short Term

Life-cycle events such as baby naming, consecration etc

Successes

During the past year Kedem has continued to have lay-led regular Shabbat services and celebrations for all Chaggim. We have mentored students and celebrated their B'nei Mitzvot. We have run study and learning sessions for different ages and Tikkun Olam activities have continued to be an important part of all we do.

The Board has also spent time looking at ways to develop so that we will be a vibrant place well into the future. At the start of 2009, the Kedem Board held two weekend Strategic Planning days

to develop the plan for our future. As part of this plan, we agreed to employ a part time professional and have now defined the role this person will take on. We are in the process of implementing this recommendation.

We have also been able to employ our part-time admin person for more hours to extend to three days. This has enabled her to take on some of the responsibilities and workload that members were finding difficult to do in a voluntary capacity. This is one of the ways we have addressed previous concerns of burnout among our leaders. As a result, our record keeping has been improved and our accounting and financial systems streamlined. As part of our on-going educational program, we have had different people deliver a variety of programs for our Kehillah. Student Rabbi Gabbi Sar-Shalom has run a number of successful adult education sessions as well as programs for our young families over High Holy days. We have further developed our links with other members within the VUPJ, including Netzer and The King David School. We have appreciated having both Emeritus Rabbi John Levi and Rabbi Gersh Lazarow run some educational programs for us, and were also privileged to have TKDS Jewish Studies Convener Ittay Fleischer speak at our AGM. Our annual retreat was again very successful and by popular demand we have arranged for the inaugural Kedem brunch held last year, to become an annual event.

Concerns

- Over the past year, Kedem has developed a strategic plan of our vision and ideas for the future. This will need regular follow up and evaluation in order to ensure its full implementation.
- Although we continue to have a large percentage of our members involved, ongoing work is required to maintain and further develop this.
- We have started to address the issue of "burn-out" amongst our leadership team, but this is also an area that needs to be monitored and addressed further.
- Once we employ a part-time professional, we will have the challenge of making the role work successfully for both the person and our community.

Interacting with the larger Jewish community – Kedem:

- is part of the VUPJ and UPJ
- has representatives from NETZER on the Board
- has direct liaison with The King David School
- is part of the VUPJ delegation to the JCCV
- works closely with JECO

Outstanding plans for the coming year

- to employ a part time professional to facilitate our community's development.
- to further implement the strategic plan developed by the Board at the start of this year
- to continue to develop our education programs for all age groups
- to reassess and improve our current B'nei Mitzvah program
- to nurture our young families and provide relevant programs to them
- to continue to create a community where all members feel valued and can participate at a level that meets their needs

Bev Gelbart, immediate past president
Marg Visbord, president



Bentleigh Progressive Synagogue Inc

549 Centre Road, Bentleigh, VIC 3204, Australia
PO Box 69, Bentleigh, VIC 3204, Australia
Phone: 9563 9208
Facsimile: 9557 9880
E-mail: info@bps.org.au
Website: www.bps.org.au



Congregation	Bentleigh Progressive Synagogue (BPS)
Address	549 Centre Rd Bentleigh Victoria Australia 3204

Phone	+61 (0)3 9563 9208
Email	info@bps.org.au
Web Site	http://bps.org.au
Professional Staff	
Rabbi	Vacant
Office Administrator	Inna Lysy (≈ 50%)
Educator	Tal Spinrad (≈ 15%)
Shabbat Services	
2nd Friday of Each Month	6:30 PM
4th Friday of Each Month	Family Service with shared Dinner – 6:30 pm
Saturday Morning (weekly)	10:00AM
Number of Membership Units	153 Units (as at 15 th October 2009)
Congregation Committees (active)	Liturgy / Ritual House Bikkur Cholim Shalom Group L'Chayim Group Beit Sefer Shalom (Youth and Adult) Multiple Social Committees for different Age Groups and Activities (includes Network, Classic Series, Large and Small Social and Fundraising Activities. Finance Membership Publications / PR Rabbinical Search

BPS has had a very challenging year. Late last year the community parted ways with Rabbi Kipen. The loss of Rabbi Kipen was unexpected and further exacerbated a perceived downward spiral for the community. Combined with the loss of the rabbi, we experienced a negative membership growth that left the community with membership in the mid 140's. Given that internal research had been performed, showing that we were in the middle of a growth belt for the Jewish population, this negative membership was unacceptable to the community. We should have been growing instead of decreasing our membership.

Late 2008 and early in 2009, some major changes were implemented and a new plan of action was put into place. This report outlines a few of the initiatives that have been implemented or are actively being pursued.

- Creation of Rabbinical Search Committee, that has been tasked with not only putting in place the process and ultimate delivery of a new Rabbi but also investigating other similar activities which will support the employment and ongoing support of Rabbinical leadership
- The Rabbinical Search Committee sent out a questionnaire to our membership asking for their feedback into what we were looking for in a Rabbi as well as what they wanted from their own community.
- During the early stages of the Rabbinical Search Committee, community workshops were held, covering as many demographic variations as possible.
- Taking a very pro-active approach to upgrading the physical structure of the Community Building. During 2009, plans for refurbishment of the existing building were delivered to the community.
- Major maintenance work is being performed on the building to better present the building to the local community. The work so far has already changed the main community hall to a bright, warm and inviting room.

- Basic changes were made, concerning how we welcome and include the local community. The Board passed policy removing many hurdles that previously made the community a less inviting entity.
- Put in place a new format for the delivery of education to both our youth and adult membership. This has included (but not limited to):
 - Employment of a special educational resource on a part time basis.
 - Renaming of our education arm to Beit Sefer Shalom.
 - Introduction of a new Religion School format including inclusion of new text books.
 - Inclusion of a playgroup called "Yad B'Yad".
 - Making available a Long Distance Learning agenda for youth education.
 - Commencing special Family Educational activities; at this time based around a Saturday night Havdallah Dinner programme.
- Creation and implementation of new social (/ fundraising) activities based on the responses received from the community questionnaire.
- Under the leadership of our Musical Director, Judy Firestone, we moved up a gear with the involvement of a congregational choir at services other than High Holy Days. Judy has also been able to increase the size of our cantorial soloist team.
- Putting in place a major change to our publicity drives. This includes (but is not limited to):
 - Placing advertisements in the local newspapers.
 - Placing major advertising into the Australian Jewish news
 - Upgrading the current brochure to advertise in our local community more effectively.
- Attempting to create links with community groups within our local community. The aim is to work in partnership on activities that meet the needs of the local Jewish Community. The basic driver here is to open our doors to the local Jewish Progressive Community without the expectation that they must first join BPS.
- Placing a new focus on our fundraising processes. This activity is in its infancy and at this stage we have changed our basic focus into two streams:
 - Small Fundraising/Social activities
 - Major Fundraising programmes.
- During this period of expansion, the BPS Board has been working on our relationships with our sister organisations. These include our relationships with other Victorian Synagogues, UPJ, VUPJ, Netzer, KDS and other organisations. This work is like a number of our initiatives as it is only in its infancy. In some cases we have yet to commence any communication or relationship building. In other cases, we have attempted to re-adjust our mindset to work on new ways of approaching these other communities. At this time we have had mixed results as some relationships have improved and some still require further work.

These points list only a small number of the initiatives that the BPS community is implementing. I find even this small list to be an amazing achievement, considering the size of our community and the volunteer base that has been performing this vital work.

The current leadership is well aware that what has been implemented so far is only the beginning of what is needed/is only scratching the surface. We are also well aware that we need to be very careful that whilst driving such aggressive plans, we do not burn out very small volunteer base. Unfortunately BPS has found itself in a situation where we have no other option but to run with this very full-on agenda. We know that signs of burn out are already occurring, therefore we need to prioritise our activities and increase our volunteer team in order to minimise the fall-out.

Over the next 12 months, our future plans include:

- Continuation of Rabbi Search and to put in place a 3 year strategy that will see a full time Rabbinical service within the BPS Community.
- Further develop the educational offerings to the BPS community.
- Restructure B'nei Mitzvah programme.
- Upgrade to Administration process; including increasing work hours of current Office Administrator.
- Inclusion of a new generation of leadership and volunteers. This was an item that had been identified in our initial planning but is the activity we have had the least success with. This is our major drive for the next 12 months. Actualizing this need is a key to our plans as the current leadership group can only be a short term solution, as explained to the community when requested to take on their current roles.

BPS is looking forward to the next few years as our community grows and represents the Progressive Jewish ideals within our local community with pride. BPS is, and will continue to be, the flagship of Progressive Judaism within the South Eastern suburbs of Victoria.

Frank Moore, president

The Leo Baeck Centre for Progressive Judaism

31-37 Harp Road, East Kew 3102. Tel: 03 9819 7160. www.lbc.org.au

Congregational statistics

Professional Staff:

Full-time Rabbi, half-time administrative secretary, part-time resource manager, and sessional teachers for Sunday school and B'nei Mitzvah programs, part-time caretaker.

Services: Every Shabbat morning and monthly youth-led Erev Shabbat services.

Number of billing units: Approximately 312 families.

Congregational committees: Arts centre, Care, Catering, Fundraising, House of Study, House, Israel Awareness, Library, Membership, Ritual, Security, Social Justice, Youth education, Young Adults social group, Web& IT.

Programs (selection)

Ongoing: Sunday school Club and B'nei Mitzvah, Mentoring for B'nei Mitzvah families; House of Study; the House of Study provides a series of events throughout the year, both within and without the Jewish Community; a monthly series of Saturday night at the Jewish Movies, (now in 6th year.); book study sessions, Iftar functions, the Leo Baeck Annual lecture, and various panel discussions; Israeli dancing; Walking Group; Havurah Lunches, with congregational and external speakers; and a program of Art Exhibitions.

Occasional or one-off during the year:

Trivia night, restaurant nights, Book sales, Gala Concerts (usually in connection with Art Exhibitions.) Craft Afternoons, Lecture programs, substantial participation in the Kew festival, Fine Wine and Music afternoons, Outreach programs for unaffiliated Jews.

Successes:

Our E-profile service is now well established and is an eagerly anticipated addition to the regular printed Profile. We have had several successful concerts, which have helped in fundraising. A wonderful "Evening with Miriam Margolis" event was very successful. Publicity of our events is now often seen in the press, both local and in the AJN.

Work on cataloguing our extensive library collection is well under way. The library catalogue will be available on our website upon completion. The Ritual committee takes an active role in reviewing our practices to reflect Progressive Judaism. We have recently introduced a monthly-extended silent meditation to the Shabbat morning service, coinciding with Rosh Hodesh. While our regular Shabbat service includes shorter personal meditation it is accompanied by quiet organ music. The role of music is being expanded, it will include a role for those who can play an instrument and those who want who just want to sing for the sheer joy of life, Judaism and Shabbat.

We have purchased several new instruments including an electronic piano. With our new water tanks providing us with enough water to flush the lavatories and water the garden we have recently dug a "biblical" garden. It will take a couple of years to establish but it boasts an Etrog tree, Olives and Grapes as well as many other plants.

Our fairly newly formed Israel Awareness group is proving to be very successful, giving a forum for people to meet and discuss all aspects of Israel, its politics, life and difficulties in an open and constructive manner.

We have no concerns at this stage, aside from a general concern for the financial and environmental future of our congregants and the world at large.

Plans

We are continuing to reach out to the unaffiliated via the festival programs. Our rabbi has completed three months of his sabbatical and has a further three months coming up in December.

The lay leadership has done a wonderful job of managing the services in his absence. We have a six star program for our post B'nei Mitzvah graduates and they are truly wonderful at leading the services. Our 60th Anniversary is coming up in November and we are busy organising an extensive program to celebrate this. We will have a service as close to the date of the first one 60 years ago in March 2010. The Rabbi is planning a trip to Israel in May 2010 as part of these celebrations. We are continuing with discussions with the other congregations in our area, which are both Orthodox, in relation to surveying community needs in care. We are particularly looking at the possibilities of providing some supported retirement and aged care accommodation in our area. This has already been very worthwhile both in clarifying the scope of the needs study and opening up our communities one to the other. We have already started a program with Jewish Care providing an exercise class for the over 50's at LBC and Kew Hebrew Congregation and a counselling service located at KHC. This is proving to be very popular and hopefully Jewish Care will commit to a long-term project to continue with this.

Patricia Keith, president



Temple Beth Israel

It gives me great pleasure to present my Annual report as President of TBI. The year has gone so quickly that it seems only yesterday since I was elected. This year has been filled with fun and I will attempt in this article to outline some of the highlights.

UPJ: Immediately following my election I was privileged to attend the biennial conference of the UPJ, the roof body of Progressive Judaism in Australia which was hosted by TBI. This was held just one week after the AGM. Not having attended any previous conferences, it was pleasing to see that TBI was at the forefront of program development and most initiatives. Due to the current financial crisis the May President's conference was also hosted in Melbourne and both of these have provided great opportunity to network and learn how our affiliated congregations throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific are performing.

Hosted breakfasts and luncheon: During the year we hosted a breakfast in December with current ACCC Chairman Graeme Samuel as guest speaker and in June we were privileged to host current Melbourne Lord Mayor Robert Doyle. Both functions exceeded our expectations. At the time of writing we are planning another breakfast later this year with guest Jeff Kennett who will be talking on the Beyond Blue Foundation. We also hosted a very successful film night with the pre release of the WW2 movie *Defiance*.

Synagogue activity: We continue to hold regular B'nei Mitzvah throughout the year. The standard seems to get better each year. This is no small part due to the combination of a number of our youth attending Jewish day schools but more importantly the high standards set by our tutors. Visitors to our synagogue are amazed that our B'nei Mitzvah students can manage to take the main part of the service in addition to the traditional leyning. Synagogue attendances have been static in numbers this year after growth in previous years. One of our priorities in the New Year is to analyse and develop new initiatives particularly on Shabbat where there are no B'nei Mitzvahs.

We hosted a number of featured Shabbat services throughout the year including the retirement of Executive Director Alan Samuel, the 25th anniversary celebration of Rabbi Morgan's ordination, the ordination of Rabbi Gersh Lazarow as well as a number of major birthdays and anniversaries.

Just prior to the High Holidays we also experimented with changes to the layout of the main synagogue. After early concerns were overcome, we have now settled on a plan that will be implemented at the conclusion of the High Holydays with more permanent fixtures to the Bima to ensure safety.

Board of Governance: During the early part of the year we held a strategic planning night which resulted in changes to our structure. The most visible is the name change from Board of Management to Board of Governance to better reflect current trends in management. We have created opportunities during the year to devote Board time to debate major issues. The day to day management issues are handled on a twice monthly early morning meeting by our Va'ad.

Administration: At our last AGM we advised that Alan Samuel would retire in June 2009. At the beginning of the year we asked Board members Robert Hershan and Dorothy Graff to undertake a complete review of our administration and to come back to the Va'ad with recommendations for change. This task was completed early in the year and gave us a clear picture of the characteristics required for our new management style. We were fortunate to secure the services of Art Feinman who commenced in May 2009 enabling us to have a smooth transition. Art brings a new set of skills to our organisations which are being progressively implemented. We are confident that this will modernize and streamline our operations over the next decade. Art is supported by wonderful, hard-working staff, including Monica Hyams, Zoi Juvris, Jana Urbach, Rhonda Nirens, Sue Silver, Oonagh Thomas, Claire Neville, Claire Cyngler, and our dedicated caretakers, Rob Coutts, Rick McLenna, David Brown and Yash Tibrewal, who ensure our synagogue and surrounds are always at their best.

Bequests: We have recently received a major bequest from the estate of the late Robert Raynor. This bequest, in addition to a previous gift of half-a-million dollars secures him in our history as the largest single donor to TBI. We are deeply indebted to his family for this magnificent gesture. This has resulted in us now being debt free for the first time since the foundation of TBI some eighty years ago. There have also been a number of additional bequests from deceased estates, many of which are anonymous.

Fundraising: For the second year in a row, we published a magnificent TBI Art Calendar *Twelve*. Robert Hershan and his marketing team put in many hours to secure artists, which culminated in another successful auction of the donated works, resulting in a fifty per cent increase on last year. We were also fortunate to again highlight the art works of students at The King David School. This function exceeded our wildest expectations. It is hoped this will become a permanent fixture in our fundraising calendar.

An executive fundraising group was established during the year under the Chair of Vice President Sam Sharman. In spite of the major bequest mentioned above, the need for fundraising is greater than ever. This year alone we are budgeting for an operating deficit of close to a quarter of a million dollars. It would be ill advised for our Board to use bequests to fund operating deficits. We also need to plan for the next generation and our Board is undertaking this in various steps. Our most urgent need is to facilitate the hiring of a full-time cantor to assist our rabbis and bring us new dimensions to the harmony of our services. We need to spend a considerable sum over the next few years in upgrading the air-conditioning system, the administrative offices, the provision of a gift shop and coffee shop in addition to a major upgrade of our dining facilities. Our last major capital works program was completed almost twenty years ago. Current Boards have been reluctant to enter into capital works until debt has been repaid and funding is hand to finance both current deficits and new capital works.

Rabbinic: TBI is blessed in having three great rabbis, each with different skills and appeal. I have met with our Senior Rabbi Fred Morgan each Friday morning where we have tried to solve the world's problems. It has given me a full understanding of how hard our Rabbis work. They amaze me with their ability to be flexible, particularly with the large number of funerals they are tasked each year. We have a moral obligation to perform funerals for both our members and the vast number of Jews who are not affiliated to any synagogue. Our Senior Rabbi has assumed the overall lead role in our restructure. This will enable us to integrate the Rabbinic and administration functions into a more fluid organisation.

Board: In conclusion I want to thank my colleagues on the Board who have made my role an absolute breeze this year. Having served under three presidents, I can confidently say that your current Board is the most enthusiastic, keen bunch of volunteers that I have ever worked with. My Vice Presidents Sam Sharman and Robert Hershan, Treasurer David Arkles and Secretary Karen Wayne have all been a wonderful support throughout the year. To my Immediate Past President Roger Mendelson I could not have achieved any of the above without the ground breaking work achieved under your presidency. As I enter the second year of my term, I am confident we will achieve even greater things in 2010/5770 and succession plans ensure that your TBI is good hands for years to come.

Brian Samuel, president

Temple David Congregation Inc



34 Clifton Crescent, Mount Lawley, Western Australia 6050

Telephone: 61 8 9271 1485

Email: admin@templedavid.org.au ABN: 85 062 978 252 Web: www.templedavid.org.au

Celebrating 56 Years of Progressive Judaism in Western Australia

Staff

Rabbi: Rabbi Sheryl Nosan-Blank

Office Coordinator: Leona Shearman

Caretaker: Geoff White

Shabbat services

Erev Shabbat services are held each week commencing at 6:30 pm

Shabbat morning services are held each week commencing at 10:30 am

Both services are followed by Kiddush

Membership

Total Members (adult) 25 plus: 235

Family Units: 185 (including singles)

Congregational committees

Administration (including Security, Building Maintenance and Giftshop)

Finance

Marketing and Membership

Netzer Fundraising

Ritual / Adult Education

Temple David Religion School

Social and Fundraising

Programs

TEMPLE DAVID RELIGION SCHOOL [INCLUDING B'NEI MITZVAH]

TDRS meets each week on Shabbat morning during school term, commencing with a mini Shabbat morning service. Children are welcome from the year they start Kindergarten. The year the children turn 12, they move to the B'nei Mitzvah class and attend class for the first half of the morning, prior to regularly joining the congregation for the Shabbat morning service.

CAFÉ KAVANAH

New initiative being introduced by Rabbi Nosan-Blank to encourage parents to get together for some learning while their children attend TDRS.

POST B'NEI MITZVAH

A growing number of youth, following their Bar/Bat Mitzvah, return on Shabbat mornings to further their Jewish knowledge, assist the teachers in TDRS, take part in services and enjoy some social camaraderie.

NETZER

Netzer continues to grow with two madrachim (Dan and Jeremy) who have completed the Shnat program and lead 20 Netzeriks who participate in Netzer activities. Many of the Netzeriks attend summer and winter camps in the east, made possible by a number of dedicated fundraising events.

ADULT EDUCATION

Discovering Judaism and Prayer Book Hebrew classes are held weekly, primarily aimed at those wishing to convert, but also attended by interested members to brush up on Hebrew or Jewish knowledge. The arrival of Rabbi Nosan-Blank has seen new learning initiatives and educational min-series being introduced.

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING

We have experienced a positive year of fundraising with a variety of events including Entertainment Books, Chocolate Drive, Gargantuan Games Night, Orange and Black River Cruise and the extremely popular Rosh Hashanah gift boxes, the concept of which could be easily adopted by other congregations.

ISRAELI DANCING

A small group continues to meet each Wednesday evening during school term. The dancers "perform" at Onegim or whenever the opportunity presents.

ONEGIM

Both the very successful monthly family and the mid-month oneg continue to be well attended.

SHABBAT TOT

Following its inception last year, this monthly Shabbat morning event aimed at pre-school children and their parents/grandparents remains popular.

Successes

- * The engagement of Rabbi Sheryl Nosan-Blank and the arrival of the Rabbi, her husband Ari and children Micah and Aliyah.
- * Temple David's profile in the wider Jewish community continues to improve. We are now well represented in many branches of Jewish life in Perth.
- * An ongoing commitment by Temple David members to be involved in social action.
- * Our continued dialogue with the Muslim Intercultural Harmony Society resulted in a visit to a local Mosque for an open day. Several members of Temple David enjoyed their hospitality and experience and we look forward to reciprocating by inviting them to a Havdalah service.

Concerns and problems

- * Succession planning for future leadership roles
- * Membership has plateaued for the past few years

Interacting with the larger Jewish community

- * We are actively involved with JNF, UIA, NCJW, WIZO, MDA, Maurice Zeffert Home, Jewish Community Council, Jewish Care and the Council of Christians and Jews
- * We take every opportunity to participate and be seen at many Jewish community events
- * Regular weekly articles are submitted for publishing in the *Maccabean* (Perth's Jewish newspaper)
- * Temple David plays a proactive role alongside the Community Security Group and we are well respected by them

Outstanding plans for the coming year

- * Implement a three-year leadership succession plan
- * Finalise and begin a renovation programme for our synagogue
- * Building on interfaith/multicultural interaction
- * Focus on a social action initiative that will assist the disadvantaged in Perth

Ray Findley, president



Beth Shalom Congregation for Progressive Judaism Auckland, New Zealand

***A strong, vibrant Community with a spiritual heart embracing
Jewish life and its diversity***

180 Manukau Rd, Epsom, Auckland, New Zealand

Tel: +64 9 524 4139

Email: Office @bethshalom.org.nz, www.bethshalom.org.nz

President: Dr Roger Reynolds

Staff: Rabbi Dean Shapiro

Office administrator: Christine O'Brien

Services: Regular weekly Shabbat services, Friday evening 7pm, Shabbat morning 10am

Pot-luck Oneg Shabbat: First Friday night of each calendar month

Monthly Oneg Shabbat for community elders

Membership: 217 membership units

Organisation: Board of Management; Board Subcommittees: Ritual; Hebrew School; Adult Education and Cultural; Community Care; Social Justice; House; Fundraising; Conversion; Library; Archives; Publications; Membership; Budget

Programs:

Hebrew School

The Hebrew School remains a particular strength of the congregation. Sunday morning classes are held 0930-1200 during school semesters, catering for students aged 6 to 13 years, with a Senior Class for post-B'nei Mitzvah students. Currently there are over 60 students enrolled. There is a paid Hebrew School coordinator and volunteer teachers.

Ritual Events

Ritual Committee maintains the minhag of the congregation, consults with the Rabbi on ritual matters, organises events around the major festivals, and ensures a full roster of lay leaders and shammashim. Strong Lay leadership remains a vital component of the congregation's life. The Communal Seder was particularly successful this year, 100 attendees enjoying the Passover story being retold around a beautiful series of tableaux prepared by children of the Hebrew School. Ritual has also supervised the congregation's search for a new siddur, and with the assistance of the Rabbi has introduced the congregation to Mishkan T'filah with such success that personal orders and donations for the new siddur have vastly exceeded our expectations.

Adult Education

A very active adult Education and Cultural Committee organises a programme of lectures and events. In addition Adult education classes run alongside the Hebrew School. The Committee organised a wonderful evening in March of documentary film, live music and 'Kaffeehaus' style supper celebrating the life and music of German-Jewish composer Richard Fuchs, who fled Berlin to come to New Zealand in 1938 and whose music is only now being revived. Held in conjunction with B'nai B'rith Auckland this attracted almost 200 people and raised funds for the Fuchs Archive Trust and the two sponsoring organisations. A further concert with locally based composer Jonathan Besser is in planning.

Shabbaton

A weekend retreat was held near Auckland in June, attended by over 120 adults and children including members of the Hamilton community and Temple Sinai, Wellington. In sparkling winter sunshine, the theme "Promised Land" provided opportunities for a varied programme exploring relationships of Jewish people to Eretz Yisrael and to their adopted lands, of indigenous peoples to their lands (with a short workshop on Treaty of Waitangi issues), and of environmental kashrut. Shabbat services, art and creativity, bush walks and wonderful meals made for a spectacularly successful weekend. We thank UPJ for their support, and Habonim for assisting with the clean-up!

Chavura

A chavura programme was launched at Rosh Hashanah 5769, with several groups forming in different locales around Auckland city. The programme is beginning to take root but more members of the chavura groups would be welcome.

Community Care

A new innovation this year has been the institution of monthly Shabbat Ma'ariv dinners for older members of the wider Jewish community, especially those living alone or housebound, with transport being provided as required. Those attending celebrate Oneg Shabbat with the Rabbi and have a Shabbat experience and meal.

Social Action

A newly revived committee has surveyed the congregation's priorities in the field of Social Action and is planning support for Habitat for Humanity to help address major housing needs among the city's underprivileged. In addition the Garden Project launched one year ago engages Hebrew School children in growing vegetables on the synagogue site for the Auckland City Mission, thereby providing both Torah-based values education and practical experience for the children. The Nothing-but-Nets programme has also been successfully supported, beginning at the Communal Seder.

House activities

An active House Committee has supervised the refurbishment of the synagogue's grounds, with freshly repainted exterior and a new garden and path adding warmth and beauty to the

Synagogue's entrance, while at the rear of the property a new Biblical Garden and Sukkah are taking shape. The Synagogue is grateful to the Stern family whose generous gift in honour of their 50th wedding anniversary (the first wedding in the Beth Shalom congregation) allowed this project to be initiated.

Communications

The monthly community magazine *Teruah*, a key element of communication in the congregation, depends greatly on support of regular contributors, we are hoping to appoint a new editor shortly. It is available both on-line or in hard copy for those less comfortable with digital copy. A weekly email bulletin provides up-to-the-minute news, event programmes and reminders. A community-wide web-page www.1.org.nz also carries Beth Shalom's news and calendar and we are most grateful for the support of the web site.

Current Issues

As the above highlights will have demonstrated, Beth Shalom is a small community with a very big heart and a remarkable range of regular and occasional activities. All this is accomplished by a dedicated core group of volunteers, who give extraordinary amounts of creativity, time and energy to the congregation. At times the sustainability of this effort is challenged by the demands of their personal lives, and – like other congregations – we are always trying to increase the size of this core volunteer group. We feel very fortunate that our volunteers span the age range of our membership – the Board for example has roughly half its members as parents of children in cheder – but it remains a challenge to keep finding new faces to fill all the roles on the Board and its subcommittees.

We have also been fortunate to maintain our current financial well-being during the economic crisis, but resources for long-term development and for permanent rabbinic leadership remain limited. A new Bequest Programme is being launched that should eventually address this shortfall.

Relationships with the wider Jewish community have been strengthened since we let our adjoining property to the Trust that provides a home for Habonim in Auckland, with other community organisations also using this as a base. Several of the activities mentioned above – including the Fuchs concert, the Shabbat Ma'ariv dinners, the Shabbaton and the Mishkan T'filah project – have benefitted from association with other community groups, especially B'nai B'rith and Habonim, and we are delighted with the increasing mutual benefit derived from these activities.

The Board held its annual strategic planning retreat prior to the High Holy Days. Initiatives for the coming year include promoting the Bequest Programme, completion of the Biblical Garden project, welcoming the new siddur Mishkan T'filah, and raising funds for refurbishment of the synagogue interior. We have also begun planning an exciting event to celebrate the UPJ's 80th anniversary.

Roger Reynolds, president



Dunedin Jewish Congregation

Mailing address: 4 Wyclolla Avenue, St. Clair, Dunedin 9012 New Zealand

Phone: 03 455 1777

Email: dunedinjewish@gmail.com

Website: www.dunedinjewish.org.nz

Shabbat services:

Every Friday at 6pm (Winter); 7pm (Summer)

Number of family units: approximately 25

Programs

Visit in August by the Wellington Rabbi Johanna Hershenson (Temple Sinai) to deliver the Peace Lecture at the St. David Lecture Theatre at Otago University. Meetings regarding conversion were also organised at this time.

A new Sunday school was started in May and is attended by about eight children. It is run by the Chabad Rabbi and his wife. This was started in June.

For Chanukah in 2008 we held a Latke BBQ with congregants bringing their own ingredients. It was attended by about 25 men, women and children. On the 6th day of Chanukah we also conducted a challah making session followed by a potluck featuring feta cheese. Both events were enjoyed by all who attended.

For Tu B'Shevat, we visited a member's farm in Oamaru (one and a half hours drive north of Dunedin) where we planted cherry trees. Here we had a farm tour and ate our packed lunches. In the afternoon we were drove to an orchard where we were invited to denude a plum tree. After filling our bags with plums we drove to another member's farm for a BBQ and Shabbat dinner.

Purim was organized by parents. The shule was decorated, the children dressed in fancy dress and made the hamantaschen. Everyone had a great time.

Pesach Seder was much more manageable this year with an attendance of 45. This included visitors from Canada, Israel, Australia and other cities of New Zealand. The social interaction was excellent and many new friendships were formed.

Yom Hatzmaut was well attended by Israelis. The shule was decorated with Israeli flags and blue and white balloons and streamers. An Israeli was the MC for the event. There was a short service, poetry readings in English and Hebrew, a potluck dinner following by an Israeli film showing.

A Succah was built and members were given the opportunity to do the lulav and the etrog followed by a potluck dinner.

Shemini Atzeret was an opportunity to have a student run Shabbat service followed by a sit-down Shabbat dinner. Ten students attended and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Successes and concerns

Our main concern is the low attendance at our Friday night services. As a result we are looking at having monthly services in 2010. We have a good relationship with the Chabad Rabbi who came to live in Dunedin although we have made it very clear that he does not interfere with our Progressive Services. He and his wife are successfully running the Sunday School (Cheder).

This year we successfully established our website: www.dunedinjewish.org.nz which seems to have eliminated the number of phone calls for the whereabouts of our shule.

Interfacing with the larger Jewish community

We are the only Jewish synagogue in Dunedin, as well as being the most southern synagogue in the world. There are many Jewish students who study at Otago University for various lengths of time who sometimes attend Friday night services. We also get Jewish visitors from cruise ships visiting our shule – mostly from Canada and the USA.

Outstanding plans for the coming year

- To conduct fortnightly/monthly Friday night services
- To increase our use of Australasian people resources, such as more visits by progressive rabbis and experienced lay readers.
- To formally support outstanding conversions.
- To increase the involvement of students;
- To increase membership by finalising conversions and attracting new members.
- To increase the number of members and members attending activities;
- To increase the involvement of members by giving them responsibility for events.

Ruth Groffman, president



Temple Sinai Wellington, New Zealand

Congregational statistics

Temple Sinai, 147 Ghuznee St, Wellington 385 0720 ph, office@sinai.org.nz, www.sinai.org.nz

Rabbi Johanna Hershenson

Shabbat services weekly at 10.30 am, Erev Shabbat last Friday of each month

Approximately 270 adult members

Congregational committees: Education and Beit Midrash, Communications, Social action, Rituals, Membership, Conversion, Building and maintenance, Keshet (Community support), Jubilee

Programs

Ongoing: Religion School, Adult Education, B'nei Mitzvah, Seniors, Teens programme with Habonim. Post-Bnei Mitzvah group and a young professional group 21-35ish.

Short-term: Study travel project

Highlights of the year

- Temple Sinai members (past, present and future) and friends celebrated the congregation's 50th Jubilee, being just the eighth congregation in our region to do so. The major celebration weekend, in July, started with an enjoyable Erev Shabbat service and pot luck dinner, followed a very special Shabbat morning service attended by UPJ President David Robinson and Executive Director Steve Denenberg, Members of Parliament, Rabbi Dean Shapiro from Beth Shalom in Auckland, friends from the local Orthodox congregation, the Mayor of Wellington and leaders of other faiths.

Steve Denenberg reported the service as 'one of the most inclusive Shabbat Services ever, with virtually every member of the congregation called to the Torah in honour of the Torah and in acknowledgement of their contribution to the congregation'.

This was followed by an 'Open Day' on the Sunday with music, food (of course!) and opportunities for members and friends to schmooze and reminisce.

- Rabbi Johanna Hershenson and five members of the congregation travelled to Europe with the Temple's Czech Torah scroll, to celebrate Simchat Torah in October 2008 in the scroll's beautiful 'home' synagogue in Hermanuv-Mestec in the Czech Republic. The group began in their journey in Warsaw, where they shared Shabbat services and meals with members of local Progressive congregation Beit Warszawa and visited important Jewish heritage sites.

In Prague, the group shared an Erev Shabbat service and dinner with congregation Bejt Simcha, several of whose members joined in the Simchat Torah celebrations with local residents of Hermanuv-Mestec in a packed synagogue.

- A new strategic 'way forward' is currently being developed by the Board, in conjunction with a number of congregants who raised their hands to be involved in some focused future planning. A new mission statement 'Celebrating Judaism in a vibrant, inclusive community' will be our guiding light for the resulting action plans. We are most grateful for the guidance and support of Steve Denenberg and David Robinson in this work.
- Temple Sinai has become the first non-Christian congregation to be invited to join the Downtown Community Ministry (DCM). DCM has worked Wellington for 40 years, providing wide-ranging and innovative support and assistance to marginalised people living in the central city area. It offers a wonderful opportunity for the members of participating congregations to participate in well-respected and much needed social action volunteer activities.
- Six b'nei mitzvah were celebrated during the 2009 year.
- The Board provided some funding to both the Habonim summer camp and the activities of the community shlichim (based in the Wellington Hebrew Congregation) as a sign of its commitment to encouraging youth participation in Jewish community activities. A proposal for a post-bnei mitzvah achievement programme for ages 13-18 is also about to go to the Board.
- The Board agreed to fund paid part-time positions for both a Principal for the Beit Midrash and a Youth Advisor, to further grow learning and involvement for young people
- Several policies have been completed and signed off for the Policy Manual, which every Board member has a copy of. Developing policies has allowed us to formalise what is sometimes kept in 'institutional memory' and not written down clearly and transparently. Policies completed so far cover membership, conversion, Board member role descriptions and burials.

Successes and concerns

- Rabbi Hershenson and her family made a decision during the year to return to the US, and will leave in late December following her elder daughter Zoe's bat mitzvah. We will miss her tremendously at many levels, and are currently putting in place interim and long-term plans to follow her departure.
- A Rabbi search committee has begun work looking at options, which include employing a full-time rabbi as soon as possible, contracting visiting rabbis for shorter periods, appointing a mashpiah (spiritual mentor) until a new rabbi is appointed and training for lay leaders.
- JoEllen Duckor who is a trained spiritual advisor and has been on the ritual committee, the Board and has worked with the Beit Midrash for several years has offered her services as mashpiah, and her proposal is currently before the Board. JoEllen recently attended the URJ Biennial in Toronto and specifically attended workshops on Tot Shabbat, Interim Rabbis, Creating and Sustaining a Caring Congregation that will benefit Temple Sinai.
- A congregational meeting in August, held after the announcement of the Rabbi's departure, discussed the topic 'Where to from here?'. Major concerns that arose were: youth involvement, caring for our members, burnout among volunteers, the type of rabbinical leadership we need, how to engage more members in religious and other events, support for new members and communication between the Board and the congregation.

The notes from this meeting are being used to inform both the strategic planning and rabbi search activities.

- We need to ensure there is a sound continued process for those people with an interest in Judaism, who may or may not become candidates for conversion, when we have no rabbi in the congregation. Rabbi Dean Shapiro from Beth Shalom in Auckland will be the sponsoring rabbi for conversion candidates, and he will be supported day-to-day by members of Temple Sinai's conversion team.
- Succession for key positions on the Board continues to be an issue. This too will be addressed as part of the strategic planning. In addition, a possible change to our constitution will allow the Board, rather than the congregation, to appoint a President. This means the Board will be able to elect a leader from among themselves and possibly share the position between two people, effectively spreading the workload.

Interfacing with the larger Jewish community

We continue to try to model consultation and collaboration as values that could be shared by both congregations. Considerable progress was made at the mediation discussions between the Wellington Hebrew Congregation (Orthodox) and Temple Sinai, particularly around defining shared and separate interests and practices.

A shared calendar of events of community events has been developed to ensure (a) each congregation and organisation is aware of events coming up well in advance, to prevent calendar clashes; (b) wherever possible celebrations/commemorations can be shared in a mutually respectful way.

Outstanding plans for the coming year

- Develop our strategic plan and focus on a few selected, high-level activities for the short, medium and long term
- From the Rabbi search committee decide on what leadership we want and when, and action a plan to achieve this
- Appoint a Beit Midrash Principal and a Youth Advisor
- Put an interim short-term plan in place to fill the gaps left by Rabbi Hershenson's departure
- Increase members' awareness of place in the UPJ by adding a 'UPJ corner' to the monthly Bulletin

- Ensure the President or a delegated Board member attends the next UPJ presidents' meeting
- Encourage more members to take advantage of the funding available to support group study tours
- Encourage Temple members to volunteer with the Downtown Community Ministry
- Work with conversion candidates to ensure a smooth continuation of their studies
- Continue to develop our policy manual
- Progress the kitchen refurbishment
- Continue to work with the Wellington Hebrew Congregation on joint activities
- Increase involvement of members in services and learning opportunities

Myra Mortlock, communications portfolio
For **Susan Gordon**, president



The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong

One Robinson Place, 70 Robinson Road, Hong Kong
Tel : 852-2523 2985; Fax : 852-2523 3961; e-mail : ujc@ujc.org.hk; www.ujc.org.hk

The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong (UJC) has had another active and productive 12 months. Shorashim, the congregation's religious school, completed its tenth year. The UJC Sanctuary and other parts of the Jewish Community Centre (JCC) were the main venue for the Shabbat services, many festival celebrations, educational programs, including Shorashim, and administrative functions, while outside venues were used to accommodate major holiday events. Numerous life cycle and other celebrations were held, including B'nai Mitzvah, Brit Milah, conversions and naming ceremonies.

Leadership: Rabbi Stanton Zamek (from September 2008); Education Director Riki Shemesh (until June 2009) and Rabbi Martha Bergadine (from June 2009); and Cantorial Soloist and Programming Assistant, Shani Ben Or provided spiritual leadership and developed or expanded programs for the congregation, JCC and the Hong Kong community. An AGM on June 15, 2009 elected the following UJC members to the Executive Committee: Cheryl Blanco, Brian Brenner, Bob Cooper, Joshua Goldman-Brown, Andrew Gordon, Daniel Kirwin, Jonathan Kriegel, Samantha Kriegel, Ria Nova, Jordan Potash, Sharon Ser, Stuart Spencer, Barbara Thomas, Kenny Weinstein and David Weisner. Robert Green, as Founding Chairman, Robert Meyer, Mark Michelson and Charles Monat are Honorary Members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee chose the following officers: Jonathan Kriegel (president), Daniel Kirwin (vice president), Andrew Gordon (treasurer) and Joshua Goldman-Brown (secretary). Nancy Lui, Executive Administrator and Charlene Hsia, Assistant Administrator, continued to make outstanding contributions to the operations and spirit of the UJC.

Membership

Membership figures (in units) as of September 30, 2009, were as follows:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Annual Dues</u>
Family	93	HK\$8,125
Individual	20	\$5,250
Individual "Under 30"	3	\$3,800
Non-Resident	16	\$2,000
Associate	0	\$8,125
Life	<u>3</u>	-
Total Members	135	244 adults; 229 children

The majority of members have come from Reform or Liberal congregations in North America and Commonwealth countries, although many have also been affiliated with Conservative synagogues. The UJC is thoroughly international, including members from Israel, Britain, France, Spain, Switzerland, the United States, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and China. A growing number of UJC members are originally from Hong Kong or other parts of Asia. Although some congregants have lived in Hong Kong for decades, the majority are in Hong Kong for specified periods of between two and five years. The membership is comprised mostly of executives, professionals or entrepreneurs, journalists and academics, and includes many families with school-age children, as well as many young professionals.

A special Shabbat service to welcome new members were held on December 12. It was followed by dinner at the JCC.

Shabbat services: The UJC holds a weekly Friday night Shabbat service in its permanent Sanctuary in the auditorium of the Jewish Community Centre. Family Shabbat services are conducted approximately once per month, including songs, stories and prayers designed to appeal to the entire family as well as honouring celebrants of birthdays. Family Shabbat services are preceded by an Shabbat dinner geared to the needs of families with young children. On Saturday mornings, Torah Study sessions are held in the Rabbi's apartment in Robinson Place. Shabbat Morning services are conducted when there is a B'nai Mitzvah

The following is a summary of the Shabbat programs offered during the year:

Shabbat Evening Service: Every Friday, 7:00pm in the UJC Sanctuary followed by Shabbat dinner at the JCC.

Family Shabbat Service

A special way for the whole family to welcome Shabbat, songs, stories and prayer designed to appeal to the entire family. Includes a special blessing for everyone who celebrated a birthday during the month.

Torah Study: Parashat HaShavua, Rabbi's Residence, One Robinson Place, Every Saturday, 9:30-11:00am. Bagels, coffee, tea, and study of the Torah portion of the week, drawing on both traditional and contemporary sources.

New Members' Shabbat Service: December 12, 2008

ExCo Installation Ceremony: January 16, 2009

Dedication of Mishkan T'filah: April 3, 2009 in the UJC Sanctuary

When the rabbi and song leaders were away, lay leaders/visiting clergy conducted services.

Visiting Rabbis, Scholars: Rabbi Dr. Avram Davis (August 5-7, 2008); Professor Ron Wolfson (August 5-8, 2008); Robyn Helzner – A weekend of World Jewish Music (November 7-9, 2008); Dr. Aren Meir, Bar Ilan University (March 3, 2009).

Holidays and Festivals: The UJC again organized an active and diversified schedule of holiday and festival events during the past year. Rabbi Stanton Zamek, Rabbi Martha Bergadine, Riki Shemesh, Shani Ben Or and numerous UJC volunteers took the lead in planning, coordinating and conducting these celebrations.

Holiday celebrations during the year included: Chanukah – cocktails, children's party, Shabbanukkah; Tu B'Shvat Seder; Purim Carnival; Megillah Reading and Purim Schpiel; The UJC Gala; Birkat Hachamah; Passover Seder; Passover Day 1, Day 2 & Day 7 Morning Services; Passover Day 8 Morning Service & Yizkor; Community Yom HaShoah Service; Community Yom HaZikaron Celebration; Tikkun Leil Shavuot and Cheesecake Bake-off; Shavuot Day 2 Morning Service & Yizkor; High Holy Days: Led by Rabbi Stanton Zamek and Cantorial Soloist Shani Ben Or; Following services on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, the congregation visited Stanley Military Cemetery to say Kaddish at the graves of Jewish soldiers and sailors, followed by Tashlich Service at Stanley Beach; Sukkot Day 1 & Day 2 Morning Services; Shemini Atzeret Service & Yizkor; Simchat Torah, including first Consecration of beginning Shorashim students and presentation of siddurim to B'nai Mitzvah class. Services were followed by a pot-luck dinner; Atzeret/Simchat Torah Morning Service.

Social activities

Jewish Beer Drinking Association: Meets once a month at various watering holes to sample an assortment of amber delights offering fellowship and good cheer.

Recital of Jewish Music by Shani Ben Or: June 10, 2009 in the UJC Sanctuary

Education

Rabbi Stanton Zamek and Rabbi Martha Bergadine taught a variety of classes and courses. They included the following:

Adult Education: The UJC Academy of Adult Jewish Studies offered weekly classes in the evening (in the UJC Sanctuary and the JCC Library) and at lunch time (in a congregant's business conference room). Classes included Introduction to Prayerbook Hebrew, Introduction to Judaism, Jewish Meditation, The Thoughts of Abraham Joshua Heschel, and Entering Jewish Prayer: An Introduction to Liturgy.

Bagels & Binah: Discussion with the Rabbi, every Shorashim Sunday.

Shorashim under the leadership of Education and Programming Director Riki Shemesh (until June 2009) and Rabbi Martha Bergadine (from June 2009) continues to provide quality liberal religious and Hebrew language education to primary and middle school age children and their families. The school is inclusive and egalitarian, reflecting the values of Progressive Judaism and the diversity of the Jewish Community in Hong Kong. Shorashim is for children pre-kindergarten to grade 8 and covers history and social studies, holidays and ceremonies, Hebrew and prayer, ethics and values and Torah. High school students continue to be involved with learning and also serve as madrikhim ("guides" or teachers' aides) for the lower grades. Education is really the cornerstone of the UJC, and the quality of Shorashim emphasizes that commitment. On average, 40 students were enrolled during the year.

Community Service: Shorashim students and congregants raised funds to pay for the shipment of a container of donated household goods to Israel. The goods were provided to families who had recently made aliyah who were in need. The shipment was coordinated by the Crossroads Foundation, a Hong Kong Charity.

Life cycle events: During the past year, UJC members celebrated: 6 B'nai Mitzvahs, 5 Brit Milahs, 9 Baby Namings, 6 Conversions. In addition, one child (resident in Shanghai) was born to UJC members during the year and more are imminently due.

Publications: The UJC continued to publish a bimonthly newsletter, *The Shofar*. Created by Bob Green, *The Shofar* is a vital source of information for past and present members as well as other Jewish organizations and communities around the world. The Shofar was supplemented by mailings, faxes and flyers prepared by Charlene Hsia – in conjunction with Rabbi Stanton Zamek. Rabbi Stanton Zamek produces the "Shabbat Shalom" commentary every week.

Funding: UJC members and other friends of the congregation make donations to the congregation during High Holidays, in connection with the annual Gala and Tribute Book and in honor of special occasions. The UJC is grateful to the Incorporated Trustees of The Jewish Community of Hong Kong for their generous subvention to our Congregation, including the UJC office premises, the UJC Sanctuary and the apartment for the UJC Rabbi.

The President would like to thank Rabbi Stanton Zamek, Rabbi Martha Bergadine, Riki Shemesh, Shani Ben Or, Nancy Lui, Charlene Hsia, the Executive Committee, event organizing committee members and UJC members who contributed so much time and energy to the Congregation during the past year.

Jonathan Kriegel, president



Jewish Religious Union Rodef Shalom

23, Dadaoji Konddev Marg, Mumbai 400 027, India
Mt. Everest "A" 1703, Bhakti Park, Anik-Wadala Link Road, Wadala
East Mumbai 400 037. India
Tel: 65000680 , 24036752
Email: normanelijah@hotmail.com

Professional staff – nil

No of family units:

Mumbai

India
77

Abroad
33

Pune	6
Ahmedabad	4

Congregational committees: Managing Committee, Trustees, Services Committees

Programs: All festivals are celebrated

High Holy Days: The World Union for Progressive Judaism, Jerusalem sponsors Rabbis every year. This year we had Rabbi Stanley Davids and his wife Resa for the 3rd time over the last 5 years. They are respected and esteemed by the Congregation.

One event is held every month, which includes the festivals, picnics, visits to old synagogues in outlying districts.

Meeting with visitors:

Rabbi David and professor Ruth Soetendorp from U.K. in January 2009 at a Sabbath morning service. Mr. Steve Denenberg, Executive Director U.P.J. at dinner on 12th March 2009 when a donation of A\$500 was handed over for the "Bushfire" havoc in Victoria.

Successes: Having members of the congregation that are supportive of the efforts and programmes of the Managing Committee & Services' Committee and their attendance at all the events.

Concerns and problems: Presence of youth: New jobs, studies, and examinations.

Interfacing with the larger Jewish community

The Jewish community is appreciative of the J.R.U.'s efforts. Members of the Orthodox synagogues are invited, and do intend our functions. The J.R.U. contributes towards the Jewish Cemetery, Jewish Education Fund and The Jewish Fund for the poor.

Outstanding plans for the coming year

To have successful monthly events;
To rebuild and rededicate our Synagogue "Rodef Shalom".

Norman Elijah, president



ACT Jewish Community Progressive Congregation

Congregational statistics

ACT Jewish Community
Cnr Canberra Ave & National Circuit, Forrest ACT
PO Box 3105
Manuka ACT 2603
Ph: (02) 6295-1052
Fax: (02) 6295-8608
E-mail: actadmin@actjewish.org.au
Website: www.actjewish.org.au

Professional staff: Miri Barhen (Executive Secretary)

Shabbat services:

Friday nights – weekly, Saturday mornings – 1st Sat of the month (except January)

Number of family units: 120

Subcommittees: Security, Orthodox, Progressive, Jewish Care, Education

Programs:

Regular: Cheder, Adult Education, B'nei Mitzvah, Seniors groups (Grumps R Us, Yiddishe Mamas), Network, AUJS, Lunch 'n' Lecture
One-time: Shabbatonim, lectures/talks, visiting rabbis

This has been another year of steady progress. Attendance at services has been steady, although we struggle to get a *minyan*. We have farewelled some congregants, and welcomed others.

Rabbi Dr John Levi, our consultant Rabbi visited us just before Chanukah. His visit provided us with a chance for conversation and learning. He addressed a large community gathering after leading us for Havdalah to talk to us about the "Real, Adult Story of Chanukah". It was a fascinating account.

Recently, we had the pleasure of a visit from Rabbi Gary and Jocelyn Robuck, who presented an introduction to the new Prayer Book we will soon start using. Gary then had time to talk to the conversion candidates who have been studying, with a modicum of rabbinical support, all this year.

Rabbi Robuck was also able to be conductor for the ACT Jewish Community Choir, which presented several items at a "Prayers for Peace in the Middle East" function the same day. His musical talents were greatly appreciated by the audience. Peter Wise took over the role of Progressive Convenor earlier this year. A key goal of this coming year is to increase the number of service leaders, particularly for Shabbat morning services, and their level of skill in conducting services. We hope to achieve this by producing a set of guidelines for service leaders and conducting a liturgical music workshop. By this means, we hope to increase the level of participation and *Yiddishkeit* in the congregation.

Peter Wise, Progressive convenor



ARZA Australia

In December, 2008, ARZA sent three young delegates, Claire Cyngler, Ya'akov Legarda and Nicola Ossher, to represent Australia in the ARZENU Zionist Leadership seminar in Israel. The seminar was a great success and all three participants came back committed to promoting ARZA in Australia.

The main ARZA activities over the past year have focussed on raising ARZA's profile in the community as well as increasing membership. The creation and regular maintenance of the ARZA website was the first step in this process. Following that, regular fortnightly ARZA e-newsletters are sent to ARZA members updating them on relevant issues and news from Israel. A sample of these articles is sent to all UPJ synagogues on a monthly basis for inclusion in their newsletters.

ARZA continues to be actively represented at Federal and State level through the SZCs and the Zionist Federation of Australia. In Victoria we are represented at the highest echelons with Sharene Hambur being honorary secretary, Sam Salcman is a vice president and I am chairman of Hasbarah. We are also very well represented at the federal level. ARZA representatives have participated in numerous communal functions including Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebrations, the Yom HaShoah commemoration, Limmud Oz and the ZFA conference. We have also updated some of the informative promotional material with the intention of creating a positive marketing campaign to increase ARZA membership for 2010.

ARZA is a major supporter of Netzer and its *Shnat* (year-long) program in Israel and we have been working in conjunction with the *Shnat* director in Israel to ensure that both the *Shnat* participants and their parents receive adequate information on ARZA. The information highlights the need for reciprocal support from both the participants and their families. In addition, we are working with Melbourne Shlichah, Dana Bar Zuri, and the executive director of ARZENU in Israel, Dalya Levy, to find ways to increase the ARZA/Israel presence in our communities, including the development of an education package on Israel-related programming that will be available for use by all UPJ

congregations. This work has been continued through Steve Denenberg's collaboration with other ARZA representatives at the WUPJ conference in March and at the recent URJ biennial.

As I will be stepping down as Chairman of ARZA at this AGM I take the opportunity to thank Barry Rockman for his wonderful support as treasurer and to express my appreciation to Nicola Ossher, Karyn Hall and Steve Denenberg for their assistance. I offer my support to the incoming committee and wish the organisation continued success in its vital work of providing support to Israel and accurate information about the issues of relevance to Progressive Zionists.

Ian Samuel, chairman



TaMaR – Young adult branch of the UPJ

In 2009 we have had two very successful TaMaR retreats. Both have been held in NSW with between 20-25 young adults attending the weekend trips. The first was a summer retreat on the Central Coast. Highlights included spending a Shabbat together, highly engaging speakers on ethics in a variety of contexts, a surfing lesson and fun socializing.

The second was in lieu of the TaMaR ski trip which was planned as a UPJ-wide event for participants from Australia, NZ and Hong Kong. Due to the economic crisis it was decided to cancel the ski trip and replace it with the winter retreat, which was held in the south coast of NSW and had attendees from NSW and ACT. It was a truly fantastic weekend where participants got to explore their connection to Progressive Judaism and Israel through a variety of engaging, educational sessions as well as sharing a relaxing and fun-filled communal Shabbat.

TaMaR has also been involved in planning and participating in communal young adult events in NSW such as Yom Ha'atzmaut functions and Va'ad GenY (young adults working as professionals in the Jewish community).

Other TaMaR activities have been focused around the social action campaign "Nothing But Nets". A group of TaMaR volunteers have been organizing a series of fundraiser events aimed at young adults of the Jewish and wider-community to raise funds for this UPJ social action project. The first event was a highly successful movie night where over \$850 was raised. The second event is a trivia night taking place in November. We are hoping to have a few similar activities organized in Melbourne by volunteers.

The majority of TaMaR work over the last year has been in Sydney and Melbourne. Subsequently we will be looking into some TaMaR outreach work to some of the smaller communities such as Brisbane, NZ, Perth and Adelaide for the coming year.

A young adult minyan called Keshet has also started in Sydney. They hold a regular fortnightly Friday night Shabbat service followed by pot-luck dinner in people's homes. The numbers of attendees has been steadily growing to over 20 people. Tamar is involved in the organization and running of these services and has found them to be a great way of engaging young adults with the Progressive service and strengthening their bond to the community.

Lastly, we have redesigned the TaMaR logo to incorporate the UPJ menorah as a way of showing the direct link between the two organizations.

Emanuel School

The year 2008 was a memorable year indeed. The financial results are outstanding and will be highlighted in the Treasurer's report. In May 2008 we celebrated the School's 25th Anniversary. It was an event to remember.

Emanuel School recently received a \$2.5m grant from the Federal Government. This, together with the generous donation from longstanding benefactors, Aron and Helen Kleinlehrer, means that the planned construction of a new \$5m building is now fully funded. Construction is expected to commence in October.

At last year's AGM I shared with you that our Principal, Dr Carter had signalled his plans for retiring at the end of 2009 and that the Board was commencing a search for the next Principal.

The School Board's established a Principal Search Committee chaired by Board Vice-President David Nathan and engaged Sean Davies of the International search firm Cordiner King. The Committee includes Jenny Allum, the highly regarded Principal of SCEGGS Darlinghurst, and Board members, Shira Seban and myself. Due to the School's pre-eminent reputation, the search attracted a very strong field of applicants. We remain on target to appoint our new Principal around the middle of the year, with the appointee to commence in January 2010.

While we are confident of appointing an outstanding and inspirational educational leader, it is important to remember that the fabric of our School endures due to the wonderful contribution of the many staff, volunteers and donors. Today, Emanuel is recognised as a pre-eminent school in Sydney that is highly valued and supported by the Jewish community and very much loved by our graduates.

Board member Michael Morton is retiring at this AGM. We express our appreciation to Michael and his family. Michael has been appointed a Life Member in recognition of his enormous contribution to the School over a number of years as a Board Member, Company Secretary and Chairman of the Security Committee, in particular, in leading the successful implementation of a wide range of security initiatives at a vital time when security has been of critical importance to our community.

During the year Antoinette Doctor retired from the Board and Irit Ben Nissan is retiring at this AGM and we thank them both. Anita Kornmehl is joining the Board today as there is an uncontested election and we warmly welcome her. We also have a number of new Board Committee members. David Schneider and Jeff Silberbach are joining the IT Committee led by Board member Shimon Parker. Dr Kirsten Shteinman and Bettina Waller recently joined the Marketing Committee led by Shira Seban.

Each year, Emanuel School receives a generous allocation from the JCA, and I encourage everyone to support the JCA's 2009 fundraising campaign. Our thanks go to Alexis Aruch, president of the P&F, and her team for their valuable contribution. Of particular note recently, is the \$17,000 P&F contribution matched by the Board for refurbishing the staff room.

I wish to pay tribute to the wonderful efforts of our Principal, Dr Carter, Our Deputy Principal, Ms Lowe, Deputy Principal Head of Jewish Life, Bryan Conyer, Principal of the Primary School, Gabriel Pallo, our outstanding Business Manager, David Nathan, and our Executive and Staff.

I commend each person who has volunteered their time and expertise to the school from Committee work to security to the classroom. Our thanks go to Chairman of the Security Committee, Mike Shapiro, and all the volunteers in the Parent Security Group. The 2008 yearbook is absolutely magnificent and our thanks go to the editor Melanie America, Desi Segal and the team. Our many volunteers set a fine example for the students and are an invaluable part of the fabric of Emanuel School.

Finally, I thank our Board Executives Vice President, David Nathan, our Treasurer Anthony Holman and each Board member for their outstanding contribution. It is a privilege to work with such a talented and dedicated group.

Update on Principal Transition

In September we were delighted to announce the appointment of Anne Hasting, current Deputy Principal Kambala, as Principal of Emanuel School with effect from January 2010.

Emanuel School is looking to the future with great optimism and believe that Mrs Hastings will raise the bar of excellence still higher across the entire School. She has a reputation of expecting high standards for, and from, students and her brief will include sustaining the school's wonderful ethos and taking Emanuel to new academic heights.

Jonathan Sesel, president



NETZER Australia Inc.



NETZER Australia has had a very successful year since the last UPJ conference. We have had very strong attendance at all camps, unprecedented enrolments for our SHNAT NETZER programme for 2010 and grown our leadership and participant bodies considerably. We have continued to offer our excellent standard of programming, community events, NETZER minyanim and offered support to the wider Progressive and Zionist community. We hope to extend on our relationships within the Progressive community in the future and look forward to exploring new avenues for cooperation. We also hope to extend the ambit of our outreach programme to include a formalised relationship with New Zealand and Hong Kong. The Union for Progressive Judaism and the Australian Reform Zionist Association have been staunch supporters of NETZER Australia, as mentors, guides and financially. We thank the UPJ and ARZA for this support and recognise that we could not operate without this crucial and much appreciated support. It is our sincere hope that the wider community views the outcomes of this support of NETZER Australia as truly worthwhile.

NETZER IN 2010

We are excited to announce the Mazkiriyot (Boards) of NETZER 2010. The NETZER Mazkiriyot for 2010 become effective after NETZER AUSTRALIA FEDERAL CAMP in January – they are as follows:

NETZER Australia Federal Mazkirut

NETZER Australia Federal Merakezet (Head) – **Lisa Gelbart**

NETZER Australia Federal Rosh Chinuch (Head of Education) – **Yael Appelboom**

NETZER Australia Federal Gizbarit (Treasurer) – **Sara Lefkovic**

NETZER Australia Federal Shnat Rakezet (Shnat Co-ordinator) – **Kerryn Cohen**

NETZER Sydney Shlichah – **Anat Baruch**

NETZER Melbourne Shlichah – **Dana Bar-Zuri**

NETZER Adelaide Shaliach Melaveh/Adelaide Community Shaliach – **Nadav Lavie**

NETZER Sydney Mazkirut

NETZER Sydney Mazkira (Head) – **Maddie Davey**

NETZER Sydney Rosh Chinuch (Head of Education) – **Rachel Ginges**

NETZER Sydney Gizbar (Treasurer) – **Aviva Israel**

NETZER Sydney Metaem (HR) – **Josh Van Biene**

NETZER Sydney Shlichah – **Anat Baruch**

NETZER Melbourne Mazkirut

NETZER Melbourne Mazkira (Head) – **Beck Fiala**

NETZER Melbourne Rosh Chinuch (Head of Education) – **Simone Sandler**

NETZER Melbourne Gizbar (Treasurer) – **Louise Solomon**

NETZER Melbourne Metaemet (HR) – **Daniella Segal**

NETZER Melbourne Shlichah – **Dana Bar-Zuri**

NETZER Perth Mazkir (Head) – Jeremy Wilson

Jewish Adelaide Zionist Youth (JAZY) Adelaide

NETZER contact – **Elinor Cozens**

NETZER Adelaide Shaliach Melaveh – **Nadav Lavie**

MACHANOT - CAMPS

- Summer camps advertising has now begun and the website will be launched in the next two weeks – the website address is www.netzer.org.au/summer.

Sydney Junior Camp

Years 3 - 8 from SYDNEY (NOTE: YEAR 9s will be on MELBOURNE JUNIOR CAMP): Tuesday 22nd December 2009 - Sunday 27th December 2009

Federal Senior Camp

Years 10 - 12 + SHNAT ZAHAV (2010): MEL: evening of Monday 4th January 2010 SYD: Tuesday 5th January 2010 - SYD: evening of Thursday 14th January 2010 / MEL: morning of Friday 15th January 2010

Melbourne Junior Camp

Years 3 - 8 from MELBOURNE + YEAR 9 from ALL AUSTRALIA AND NZ: Wednesday 20th January 2010 - Monday 25th January 2010

Outreach

- NETZER has had a very successful outreach programme this year
- We have been on outreach
 - Adelaide on three occasions
 - Perth on two occasions
 - Brisbane on two occasions
 - Central Coast on three occasions
 - Canberra on two occasions
- Our outreach programme also includes supporting chanichim and madrichim from our outreach destinations to come to NETZER events in Sydney and Melbourne. To this end we have
 - Brought leaders from Perth and Adelaide to Melbourne and Sydney on five occasions to Sydney and Melbourne this year to attend Summer and Winter Camps, Chinuch and Zionism seminars and the Australian Zionist Youth Council's BogSem
 - Brought our madrichia, Lila Reibel from New Zealand to Melbourne and Sydney on three occasions to attend our Summer and Winter Camps and April Chinuch Seminar
 - Supported the attendance of chanichim on our camps from Perth, Adelaide, Central Coast, Canberra, Gold Coast and Brisbane
 - We hope to be bringing new chanichim from Ballarat to our next Summer Camp
- We have also sent our NETZER Melbourne and VUPJ Shlichah to various states to work with the communities and NETZER snifim where no shaliach was present.
- We will be embarking upon our new Outreach programme with Hong Kong after we finish discussions with the community later this year.

Chinuch and Zionism seminars

- NETZER Australia has run three Federal seminars for our leaders
- In January we ran our Federal Integration Seminar in rural Victoria
- In April we ran our Chinuch Seminar in Melbourne; and
- In October we ran our Chinuch and Zionism Seminar in Sydney
 - Our most recent seminar was a great success despite a minor mishap with an ill-booked campsite
 - The seminar was reconfigured to be based in Sydney and was a huge success
 - We would like to thank North Shore Temple Emanuel, Emanuel Synagogue and Habonim Dror Sydney for their support in kind by allowing us to use their facilities

- We would also like to thank Rabbi Gary Robuck, Rabbi Paul Jacobson and Nikki Maor for helping us facilitate programming on the seminar. Their input was invaluable and very well received.
- A Netzer Garin Aliyah was also started on the seminar – the first in many years. This group is focused on helping its members to make a decision on aliyah and to help facilitate the aliyah process.
- **SHNAT NETZER 2009**
 - SHNAT NETZER 2009 is coming to an end shortly and has been a very successful year. One participant from Sydney return recently due to illness and is back in Australia to help with her recovery. The rest of the group remain happy and are working hard on Kibbutz.
 - We recently ran the NETZER-P2K Shabbaton and it was a great success. This will now become a regular activity for SHNAT NETZER.
 - Thanks to the Pratt Foundation and the Zionist Federation of Australia the AZYC will be running the AZYC Closing Seminar for all participants of SHNAT 2009 at the end of October.
- **SHNAT NETZER 2010**
 - SHNAT 2010 departs for Israel on Monday 25th January.
 - SHNAT NETZER numbers have remained strong.
 - We currently have 32 chanichim (participants) registered for SHNAT NETZER
 - Melbourne – 18
 - Sydney - 12
 - Adelaide – 2
 - We have received most of our MASA scholarship responses now – the allocations have been quite generous on the whole.
 - We created a NETZER Scholarship form; it has been distributed and will help us in our scholarship allocations funded by the local Progressive community.

Sydney shlich

- Anat Baruch, the NETZER and Sydney Progressive Community Shlich, has received her visa and will arrive in Australia around the 10th November 2009
- She will be coming with her boyfriend Ofer. We are very excited to welcome them and wish Anat b'hatzlacha in her new role.
- Anat's email is shlichansw@netzer.org.au and she is now contactable

Adelaide shaliach

- The Memorandum of Understanding concerning the situation of the shaliach in Adelaide has been signed .
- Nadav Lavie the Adelaide Community Shaliach, who is also now part of the Habonim Dror Australia and NETZER Australia Mishlachot Shlichut, will arrive in the first two weeks of November, 2009
- He will be in attendance the NETZER Australia Federal Camp in January.
- Nadav's email address is shaliachsa@netzer.org.au and he is now contactable.

Melbourne shlich

- Dana Bar-Zuri has now been in Australia for over a year and has requested that the community decide if we will engage her for a third year.
- The NETZER Melbourne and the VUPJ have begun the process of determining this decision in conjunction with Shibolet Shofet-Edelman, the Rosh Mishlachot for the ZFA.

N'ilmad v'Na'aseh – We will learn and we will do

Jeremy Bliss, Federal Merakez Netzer Australia Inc.