



UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Annual Report

2011-2012

5772-5773

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 programmes 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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The Year in Review



The past year has been a time of achievement and progress for the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ) and for the Progressive movement generally, interspersed with some setbacks and disappointments, but highlighted by an increasing sense of pride and confidence in what we stand for and what we can offer to the Jewish community and to broader society. We continue to be inspired by the commitment of the Presidents, Boards and volunteers of the congregations and organisations that make up the UPJ and this has ensured that we remained focussed on our goals of developing Progressive Judaism, supporting Israel and Jewish communities in our region; and encouraging acts of *Tikkun Olam*, to make the world a better place.

Our commitment to regional representation has continued with the establishment of an “Asian Forum” and we have redoubled our efforts to work as closely as possible with our partner organisations here, in Israel and around the world. We also continue to work closely in partnership with the Australian Reform Zionist Association (ARZA) and the United Israel Appeal (through the UIA Progressive Trust) in order to increase the financial, moral and political support for the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), particularly with regard to the development and support of the Progressive movement and its work in Israel.

Some highlights from the past year include:

Awards: Each year the UPJ presents awards to outstanding and long-serving volunteers in our congregations, as well as to potential future leaders. These awards reflect the wonderful spirit of enthusiasm and dedication which permeates our congregations. Award winners included: Ner Tamid: Sue Morgan (TBI); Mark Ginsburg (NSTE); & Leon and Sue Goldwater (Beth Shalom). The Vatik Award was presented to Tony Leverton (BPJC, and previously president of Temple Sinai in Wellington).

The UIA Progressive Trust: In order for Progressive Judaism to develop its role as the “Judaism for the 21st century” it is essential that there is a strong and vibrant Progressive movement in Israel, as well as in our region. For this reason the UIA Progressive Trust’s financial support for the work of the WUPJ to strengthen and develop the Progressive Jewish community in Israel, especially through its work to welcome and integrate Refugees and Migrants from around the world, is crucially important. Thanks to the tireless work of a handful of dedicated volunteers we continue to send significant amounts of money each year to Israel via the UIA Refugee Relief Fund. We know that an increased number of volunteers would also provide a tremendous boost to this campaign. As well as providing funds for absorption and integration programmes it also frees resources to support the development of Progressive congregations in Israel, as few government funds are provided to Progressive institutions, unlike the immense funding that goes to Orthodox rabbis and synagogues.

Once again, even without special events or speakers, the amount donated was in excess of \$1,000,000. This is a tremendous tribute to those in our community who understand the issues and willingly support the work to make Israel the inclusive and democratic society described in her Declaration of Independence. It is also a tribute to our volunteers and their dedication to this important cause.

World Union for Progressive Judaism: In addition to having three representatives on the WUPJ Executive Board: Philip Bliss (Vice-Chairman), Phyllis Dorey and Ian Samuel, President David Robinson has now joined the Finance Committee and our Honorary Secretary, Sharene Hambur is chairing the Programming Committee for the forthcoming “Connections” conference in Jerusalem in May 2013. We greatly value our partnership with the world body as we work toward our shared goal of developing inclusive and welcoming Judaism.

Congregations and affiliates: During this past year the range of activities and the enthusiasm of the congregations has continued to grow, with a number of smaller congregations in particular developing programmes to reach out into the community and attract new members. Similarly, there is evidence of a number of congregations that have previously relied on a handful of long-serving volunteers developing and

implementing succession plans and engaging younger people at leadership level. We have been very pleased to be involved in the development of a Progressive congregation in Shanghai, China and thank Rabbi Joel Oseran for travelling there again to run High Holy Day Services. As will be seen later in this Annual Report, the breadth and depth of services provided by our member congregations is absolutely amazing and a source of great pride for all associated with the work of the UPJ.

Communication: The introduction of Internet-based meetings and other aspects of our work has made financial savings and allowed face-to-face communication with congregational representatives much easier, even though it cannot always replace actual meetings. Our focus on educating and informing our members and the wider community has continued through our online magazine, *Gal Chadash* ("New Wave"), through regular mail-outs on matters of interest and an upgrade of our website to make it a destination for anyone interested in Judaism; and a link to our affiliates and partners.

Community representation: The UPJ is represented at every level of community leadership and involvement at State, Federal and regional levels, including the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA) and State Zionist Councils, as well as involvement in numerous interfaith and lobbying groups where members of our movement hold positions of leadership. In February of this year our President and Executive Director represented the UPJ when they participated in the South African UPJ's conference and 80th anniversary celebrations. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this time of joy; to strengthen our close partnership; and to consider additional ways in which our regions can work together, including a shared Mission to Poland and Israel in 2013. In June the Executive Director attended the installation of Rabbi Don Levy in the Temple Shalom congregation on the Gold Coast, Queensland and in August the President and Executive Director attended the 60th Anniversary celebrations of Temple David in Perth.

Gatherings: The decision taken in May 2011 to save funds by not convening another Gathering of the Presidents, Rabbis and Executive Committee until the biennial Conference to be held in Sydney in October 2012 has clearly had a negative effect on the ability to form stronger bonds between congregation Presidents and the Executive Committee. During the year the Executive Committee met for one day but there is need to review the needs of the congregations and, in particular, ways in which the Presidents of congregations can share their knowledge and experiences.

Australian Reform Zionist Association: ARZA continues its work of promoting Israel and in supporting the work of the UIA Progressive Trust to raise funds for Israel. ARZA also represents Progressive Zionists in the world body, ARZENU, and within the World Zionist Organisation. The regular distribution of email-based newsletters kept members informed about events in Israel, Australia and throughout the Jewish world. During the year there have been a number of changes in personnel and, under Chairperson Barbara Ford, the committee is developing a new programme of events to raise the profile of this important organisation. During this year, and in partnership with Barbara Ford, we have been pleased to provide support and assistance to Udi Dvorkin and Roger Reynolds in the establishment of ARZA New Zealand, as well as Steve Denenberg being the keynote speaker at the official launch of ARZA NZ in July of this year.

Social Action & Advocacy: In order to complement the many programmes of social action carried out by our constituent and affiliated organisations on a continual basis, this year saw the establishment of our own Religious Action and Advocacy Centre (JRAAC). Based on the highly successful centres in America and Israel, the Centre is producing statements on issues of importance locally and in Israel. At the launch in May we were joined, via Internet, by Rabbi David Saperstein (RAC) in Washington DC and Anat Hoffman (IRAC) in Jerusalem. Research Officers Lisa Gelbart and Madeline Davey prepare material for the Advisory Committee's consideration as well as developing a calendar of special dates and events for the coming year. Beyond that, their work has been supplemented by Steve Denenberg visiting Canberra to brief Jewish members of Parliament and the Israeli Ambassador on the establishment and working of the Centre.

Our involvement in speaking out on a number of important issues, including climate change, patrilineal descent, marriage equality, religious discrimination, the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, the plight of indigenous Australians, and attempted genocide in various parts of the world, may not all meet with the total support of all but, undoubtedly they will reflect the values of social justice and *Tikkun Olam* which are important to so many of our members.

Leadership development: The commitment to develop new leadership continued to remain a priority, with two people sent to the Beutel programme at the Saltz Centre in Jerusalem as well as assisting and encouraging others to attend the various programmes offered by the Centre.

Internship: Thanks to a most generous donation we established an Intern programme in conjunction with the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism. Our first Intern, Shmuel Slater, spent 4 months in Israel, working in the Israel Religious Action Centre and developing a congregation “Twinning” programme that he will share with the participants of the biennial conference to be held in October 2012. Interviews for the second Intern will take place towards the end of October.

Moetzah: The Council of Progressive Rabbis is a vital and integral part of the UPJ. Together with the rabbis, we constantly review religious practice and policy in order to remain relevant to our congregations and involved in interfaith activities and social advocacy issues. Chairman of the Moetzah, Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky, has maintained and developed the outstanding partnership that exists between the Moetzah and the UPJ. She has worked hard to ensure that the twice yearly meetings focus on the most important religious and spiritual issues.

Visitors: In January we were fortunate to have a visit from Gusti Yehoshua-Braverman, head of the Diaspora Department of the World Zionist Organisation. In May we were pleased to welcome Noa Sattath, Operations Director of the Israel Religious Action Centre. She provided some excellent updates on the vital work going on in Israel to ensure religious pluralism and gender equality within the public sections of society. We were also able to co-host a visit in October by Hagai Elad, the Executive Director of the Association of Civil Rights in Israel, one of the foremost human rights organisations in the country. We are particularly delighted that we will soon be welcoming Mike Grabiner (Chairman) and Shai Pinto (Chief Operations Officer) of the WUPJ and Miriam Kramer (Chairman of the European Union for Progressive Judaism) as special guests at our biennial conference.

Professional development: As part of our commitment to maintaining and developing the calibre of the professionals serving our community, we have continued to actively encourage and support those who seek formal training and qualification as rabbis, cantors or educators. The UPJ provides loans to those undertaking approved courses and these funds are converted into grants as the person returns and works in the region. We continue to assist Rachel Safman during her studies to become a Rabbi, and she has graciously followed her visits to Mumbai and Temple David, Perth, with a visit to Auckland to conduct High Holy Day services. We have also provided financial assistance to a Cantorial student and to people participating in Social Justice and Jewish education programmes at the Saltz Centre in Jerusalem.

Musicians' Network: Thanks to the energy and expertise of Judy Campbell the UPJ Musician's Network has continued to grow. More recently, CLJ Fellow, Marshall Voit has taken on the leadership role and, as well as a music workshop during the year, the Network has been planning to make a major contribution to our biennial conference. We continue to be in discussion with the Temple Musicians' Guild (USA) to find a way of providing affiliation and enabling our musicians to benefit from their expertise and resources.

Netzer: The UPJ's support for Netzer has been maintained, including financial support and ensuring involvement in many aspects of the lives of UPJ congregations. We never cease to be impressed by the

dedication and talent of the Netzer leadership, and are delighted to have them as part of the UPJ team. The Netzer programmes of outreach to smaller communities continue to be very well received and we see all support for Netzer as being a wonderful investment in the future of our Movement.

Shlichut: We have continued the tradition of having the very highest calibre of Community Shlichim, and we are deeply appreciative of the support provided by Netzer Olami and the Zionist Federation of Australia to achieve this. Dana Bar-Zuri's successor in Victoria, Lior Argaman has already made a tremendous contribution to the community and we appreciate her involvement in our work. In August of this year we had to say "Farewell" and "*Todah Rabah*" to NSW Shlichah Anat Baruch on the completion of her shlichut. It is worth noting that during the past year Anat was recognised by the Jewish Agency as one of the outstanding shlichim worldwide. We now welcome the incoming NSW Community Shaliach, Yuval Nemirovsky and his wife Inna and look forward to enjoying their time with us.

UPJ Cultural Fund: After some time in formation, and with grateful thanks to Arnold Bloch Leibler, we have successfully established a Cultural Fund for the UPJ. The Trustees have been appointed and, in addition to helping in the set-up of the Fund, Sharene Hambur has accepted the role of Public Officer, for which we are most appreciative. The UPJ Cultural Fund will be available for all constituent organisations to use to receive tax-deductible donations for programmes and activities that will promote and develop all cultural aspects of Judaism across the region. We offer thanks to the Progressive Jewish Cultural Fund for their support and assistance during the time before the UPJ Fund was established and we hope to have it operating in the near future.

The Centre for Living Judaism: Our partnership with the King David School (KDS) and Progressive Judaism Victoria (PJV) in establishing the Centre for Living Judaism (CLJ) has already proven to be a most successful and productive venture. Under the guidance of Rabbi Gersh Lazarow the initial Fellows, Marshall Voit and Stephanie Gratch have already made a tremendous impact in our region and, through visits, provided wonderful programmes and events for a number of congregations. We are certain that the vital work of the Centre will become increasingly known and used by our congregations to their benefit. Thanks to the continuing generosity of KDS it is hoped to appoint a third Fellow. With the assistance of the NSW Board of Progressive Education, the Centre has also received a generous special grant from the NSW Jewish Communal Appeal and we offer heartfelt thanks to them too.



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Administration: The constant commitment to improving efficiency and effectiveness in administration has been manifested in a number of ways during this year. We continue to review and, where possible, improve governance and administrative processes; maintain the joint administrative position in partnership with the PJV; and seek to increase the use of technology in order to minimize costs and achieve efficiency in our administrative work.

Running a regional office with a tiny staff and limited budget presents many challenges, particularly as our previous successes make us strive to maintain the high standards now expected by our constituents and those we work with. Requests from congregations and individuals are diverse and often complex and time-consuming. We continue to try and meet each of these requests with the professionalism and positive attitude that we believe is the hallmark of the UPJ.

Mission to Poland & Israel: In April 2012, the UPJ, ARZA and Emanuel Synagogue co-hosted an outstandingly successful Mission to Poland and Israel. In Poland the focus was on the Shoah and the growth of Progressive Jewish life since that time, including spending time with the Progressive congregation in Krakow. In Israel the packed programme included the commemoration of important "*Yamim*"; meetings with the leaders of the

Progressive movement and of the Australian and Israeli Governments, as well as first-hand experience of the major social issues facing Israeli society. The trip was so successful that we are hoping to repeat it in 2013 with the trip culminating with the participants attending the WUPJ's "Connection" conference May 1-5.

Va'ad: in order to allow the Executive Committee to take on a more governance-focused role, a small committee consisting of the honorary officers was established to meet on a regular basis and address day-to-day matters and to make decisions on behalf, and subject to, the approval of the Executive committee.

Planning & Conference: As can be seen from this report, this period has been filled with a wide variety of activities and issues that have presented challenges to relationships within the organisation. In order to address this and to introduce work on strategic issues and succession planning the President convened a Planning Day for the Executive Committee in January 2012 in Sydney. Over recent months, under the chairmanship of Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio, a small committee including Janet Granek, Sandy Hollis, David Robinson, Jocelyn Robuck and Steve Denenberg has put considerable effort into the preparation of our biennial conference in Sydney, with an exciting programme of presentations and activities around the theme of "*Sh'ma Koleinu*" "Hear our voices; Share our stories."

Rabbinic search & mediation: As our congregations have developed, there have been a significant number of searches for new Rabbis, Cantors and Educators and we have been delighted to offer assistance and support in each case. At the same time, there have been a number of disputes and differences of opinion within congregations and, wherever possible, we have tried to offer positive and objective mediation and support.

Conclusion: This past year has been a time of development, achievement and considerable effort "behind the scenes" to maintain and support our congregations whilst trying to take our role as the representative body of Progressive Judaism in this region to the next level. Our position in the world movement has never been stronger, and we have continued to develop and strengthen our links with both the WUPJ and the IMPJ. As we conclude the 82nd year of the organisation, we can look back with pride on what has been achieved.

Most importantly, we are inspired and encouraged to redouble our efforts to establish innovative programmes and to identify individuals who can provide our congregations with information and support. The strength of the UPJ is its members, and we will continue to explore new ways of informing and assisting member organisations so that Progressive Judaism will continue and develop its vital role in the communities of our region, Israel and around the world.

UPJ Executive:

David Robinson, President
Stephen Freeman, Vice-President
Neil Samuel, Vice-President
Sharene Hambur, Honorary Secretary
Philip Levy, Honorary Treasurer

Committee members:

Shirley Bosman	Philip Bliss (WUPJ representative)
Tony Leverton	Anat Baruch (Netzer Shlichah)
Joel Mendelson	Lior Argaman (Netzer Shlichah)
Roger Mendelson	Alice Chipkin (Netzer Federal Merakezet)
Henry Okraglik	Shoshana Kaminsky (Moetzah Chairperson)
Ian Samuel	Gersh Lazarow (Schools Representative)

Staff:

Steve Denenberg, Executive Director
Jocelyn Robuck, Project Coordinator
Ellen Frajman, Administrative Officer
Madeline Davey, Social Action Coordinator
Lisa Gelbart, Social Action Coordinator

Greetings from the World Union for Progressive Judaism

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we send greetings and good wishes to the Union for Progressive Judaism at the conclusion of another year of partnership and progress towards our shared goal of developing and supporting Progressive Jewish life in Israel and around the world.

During the past year there have been major Gatherings in each of the regions that make up the World Union and each of them has been a testament to the vibrancy and dedication of the volunteers and professionals who make our Movement the largest stream of Judaism in today's world, with approximately 1.8 million members in 45 countries.

The year has seen some major achievements in Israel in the areas of religious pluralism and recognition of the need for gender equality. However, it has also seen manifestations of extremist behaviour that must be challenged before they threaten the democratic imperative for Israel to be a home for all Jews, and not just those of a certain religious or political affiliation.

We once again applaud our friends and colleagues involved in the work of the UPJ who, through the United Israel Appeal Progressive Trust, send vital funds for the absorption of refugees and migrants to Israel as well as the development of Progressive communities in Israel and in the former Soviet Union. Similarly, the representatives of the UPJ have continued to make a major contribution at Executive and committee levels in the WUPJ.

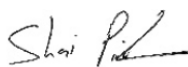
At this time we want to pay special tribute to retiring UPJ President, David Robinson. His tireless dedication and expertise has been evident in the wonderful initiatives undertaken by the UPJ and in the enthusiasm and positive attitude displayed throughout the UPJ congregations. We offer him thanks on behalf of the entire WUPJ for 4 years of outstanding leadership – *"Yasher koach."*

The WUPJ acknowledges that our Movement faces many financial, social and political challenges and yet we are also aware of the exciting and significant opportunities for the growth and strengthening of our Movement over the months and years ahead.

We are delighted to acknowledge the leading role taken by the UPJ in making the most of these opportunities. We look forward to joining you at your biennial conference in Sydney and in continuing our valued partnership going forward *"Chazak, chazak v'nitchazek"*.



Mike Grabiner
Chairman



Shai Pinto
Vice President & Chief Operating Officer



Greetings from the European Union for Progressive Judaism

To our friends at the UPJ:

We are delighted to send you greetings on the occasion of your Biennial Conference. As one of our fellow constituents of the WUPJ we are pleased that you continue to go from strength to strength.

Here in Europe we have 16 countries who together practise, promote and live Progressive Judaism. It is good to know that, like you, we are part of the largest Jewish organisation in the world with some 1.5 million Jews in more than 40 countries.

The theme of your conference is Sh'ma Koleinu, hear our voice. There is no doubt that our Progressive voice is heard and will continue to be heard for generations to come.

I'Shalom,
Leslie Bergman, President

Miriam Kramer, Chairman

Greetings from the South African Union for Progressive Judaism

Dear David,

The SAUPJ and SAAPR join in sending best wishes to our sister region the UPJ, may you have very successful, informative and productive conference.



We appreciate and acknowledge all the time, effort, hard work and dedication that you have put into UPJ and the greater Progressive Movement. I am glad to hear that you will be staying on as treasurer and will continue with valuable input not only to the UPJ but also the WUPJ.

The SAUPJ and UPJ worked exceptionally well together on Mishkan T'fillah project making it a phenomenal success. We look forward to collaborating on future projects.

It was wonderful to have you and other prominent world leaders of Progressive Judaism attend our 80th Anniversary Conference in June this year. Your active participation in sessions and discussions as well as the opening address at our gala dinner added to the meaning of that historic moment.

On behalf of all at the SAUPJ and SAAPR we wish the UPJ success in all its future endeavours.

Kind Regards,
Steve Lurie
SAUPJ Chairman

Rabbi Robert Jacobs
SAAPR Chairman

Treasurer's Report – Philip Levy, Honorary Treasurer

Financial statement for the period ended 30 June 2012 is attached to this UPJ Annual Report.

In this report I will use rounded figures for easier understanding. In a very busy year we budgeted for a deficit of \$20,000 but the actual deficit was \$54,000, an increase of \$34,000 over budget. The main contributors to the \$34,000 were:

- The grant received from the World Union, which is based on the results of the UIA Progressive Trust appeal, was \$9,000 below budget. The appeal was successful and achieved more than the previous year, but the formula on which our grant is based was changed, reducing our income as a result.
- We agreed to make a grant to the Centre for Living Judaism in Melbourne and to pay \$17,500 in the year. We budgeted to ask the trustees of the Progressive Jewish Cultural Fund to pay this from our account in the fund. However, in order to preserve the fund as much as possible, we later decided to pay the grant directly from UPJ income.
- We held a national planning meeting in Sydney in January 2012 which was not budgeted. The cost was \$3,000.
- The other major income item, affiliation fees, was \$1,000 below budget.
- There were other reduced income items but these were offset by savings in the expenses.

After achieving operating surpluses in the 3 years 2007 to 2009, particularly during the period when we did not have an Executive Director employed, we have now had 3 years of deficits in 2010 to 2012 (2010 was only a 9 month year due to the change to a June financial year). There are several reasons for the change from surplus to deficits, the main ones being, broadly:

- The cost of the 80th anniversary celebration in Canberra in 2010 (2010-11 financial year);
- Increase in the services offered by the UPJ office, which has required us to increase the staffing by one part time person. The Executive Director will discuss these increased services in his report;
- Increase in the grants and scholarships offered by the UPJ;
- A change, in 2012, in the formula by which our grant from the World Union is calculated.

Clearly we must plan how to return to a break-even or a surplus position if we are to maintain our services. Therefore the Executive Committee has adopted the concept of a 3- year rolling budget, reviewed annually. The first such budget, for the years 2013 (the year we are in now) to 2015 plans for two more deficits, in 2013 and 2014, and a surplus in 2015. The deficits will be financed from our reserves, which are more than adequate for the purpose. These budgets, however, rely on increasing our income by:

- An annual increase in affiliation fees. These will be \$130,000 in 2013 (\$119,000 in 2012) and are budgeted for a \$10,000 annual increase in the following years;
- Increasing the amount raised by the UIA Progressive Trust appeal. This will be challenging but is considered achievable, with particular potential in New South Wales and some of the smaller states.

We do not want to balance the budget by reducing the services given to affiliates, particularly the smaller congregations, or by reducing the grants and scholarships provided.

In 2013 the expenditure budget includes \$111,000 for:

- \$35,000 for the Centre for Living Judaism (CLJ);
- \$31,000 for the newly established Religious Action and Advocacy Centre (RAAC);
- \$30,000 for Netzer;
- \$12,000 for grants to rabbinic and non-rabbinic students studying overseas;
- \$3,000 to subsidise students at courses such as Beutel.

The budgets for 2014 and 2015 are drafted in the 3 year rolling budget, but will be reviewed and revised by the Executive Committee as needed each year.

Overall, the UPJ is financially sound, with adequate reserves to maintain its level of services, provided that successful efforts are made to tap the potential to increase the income from the UIA Progressive Trust appeal. If these do not reach the required level, there is time for the Committee to revise its plans to avoid an unnecessary reduction in our financial strength.

Project Coordinator's Report – Jocelyn Robuck

Much of the work that I have been involved with is already mentioned in the Year in Review, but I have a few specific items I would like to mention here.

I have been privileged to work closely with Steve Denenberg on the many initiatives that have been achieved this past year; in fact, as close as three feet away, as we began sharing an office about 12 months ago! Steve is very unpretentious about the physical office of the executive director, and I appreciate his willingness to so graciously share his space with me. A positive effect of our shared office is that we are able to bounce ideas off each other, share information and provide immediate updates, avoiding the necessity of making appointments to meet and collaborate. The end result is much greater communication and understanding of the tasks at hand, and I believe a more efficient end result.

In September 2011, I was asked by our honorary treasurer, Philip Levy, to assist by keeping a monthly ledger of the UPJ cash management account income and payments. To prepare me for this new accounting role, I was given the opportunity to attend a two-day MYOB introduction course, which helped me in stepping into this new role. Philip has been a great source of support, and I wish to thank him for the many times he has provided assistance, especially with Excel spreadsheets. At the end of each month, I provide the completed ledger to our bookkeeper and to Philip; it is hoped that these ledgers will make the annual audit preparations a more streamlined process.

The UPJ website underwent an update this year, and we also updated the ARZA website, with one of the significant improvements being the ability to send mass emails directly to subscribers from both websites at no additional cost, rather than relying on paid services such as YMLP. We are continuing to look at ways to improve both websites, and will soon be meeting with our web designer to include new features.

A large amount of time went into coordinating the Poland-Israel Mission in April this year, and I greatly enjoyed assisting with the detailed planning along with Sue Denenberg, who was a pleasure to work with. Following the success of this first mission, we are offering a second trip in April 2013, which will be officially introduced during the Biennial Conference.

This is the second Biennial Conference that I have been fortunate to assist with. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the committee – Janet Granek, Sandy Hollis, David Robinson and Steve Denenberg – who all contributed their unique talents – and with our Biennial chair Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio, who provided real vision to create a program that will inspire and enrich all who attend.

Finally I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to a real mensch: I cannot imagine any other person being as dedicated, conscientious or capable than David Robinson. His leadership has inspired me, and I hope that even after the conclusion of his presidency he will continue to call the UPJ office daily!

Moetzah Report – Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky, Chair

I am pleased to present my report to this 2012 AGM. We now have nineteen members in our organisation, including Cantors Michel LaLoup and David Bentley. We are delighted to welcome Rabbi Nicole Roberts into our organisation and bring our membership up to an even twenty. At our June Moetzah meeting, we also agreed to extend permanent guest status to Masorti Rabbi Adam Stein and to build more bridges with the Masorti movement in our region. As in the past, our membership is extraordinarily diverse despite our small numbers. Our members hail from seven different countries and represent a broad spectrum of Jewish practice. While this means our discussions are sometimes fiery, it also means that we really do represent the diversity of Progressive Jewish practice in our region.

I have had quite a year of learning in my first year as chair of the Moetzah. I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know my colleagues better and hear from them their hopes and dreams for the future of Progressive Judaism. I have also enjoyed the chance to learn much more about the workings of the Union for Progressive Judaism and have appreciated the opportunity to be a part of the Executive Committee.

This has been a productive year for the Moetzah. In March, a number of our members collaborated to produce a submission to the Australian Senate in support of marriage equality. At our June meeting, we endorsed the idea of drawing on the wisdom of our senior rabbis to mentor members of small congregations who wish to grow as lay leaders. Just a few weeks ago, Rabbi Fred Morgan spent a busy weekend in Hobart assisting seven members to improve their skills as service leaders. This service is available to other congregations who are interested. Please do see me if you'd like to learn more.

I was delighted to be able to pool the talents of our Moetzah members as well as the two terrific Centre for Living Judaism Fellows to offer daily meditations during the month of Elul. I was surprised to discover that several members of my congregation who are not particularly active had subscribed to the e-mails and really enjoyed a daily dose of spirituality and reflection. We will certainly endeavour to make this an annual event. Our next project has been launched at this UPJ conference, and that is our She'elot U'teshuvot project. We continue to seek out ways to be helpful to the UPJ constituent congregations and hope to hear from you as to what services we might be able to provide.

Moetzah rabbis continue to serve as consulting rabbis to congregations that do not have rabbis of their own. They are available by phone and e-mail and travel to visit these congregations at least once each year. I would especially like to acknowledge the work of the professional staff of the United Jewish Communities in Hong Kong, who are often called upon to offer supportive services to the synagogues throughout Asia.

As we move forward from here, I think it's helpful to remember that we are all part of one visionary movement. In a region dominated by Orthodox Judaism, we offer an alternative which is intellectually rigorous, egalitarian, and has the ability to adjust to the realities of our contemporary world. I am proud to call myself a Progressive Jew, and I'm looking forward to another terrific year of learning and celebration.

North Shore Temple Emanuel (NSTE) – Susan Kadar, President

Our congregation has 610 family units, a membership of well over a thousand people. In the past twelve months we sadly lost many of our members, among them founding members whose passing has affected us all. A total of 11 members or member families resigned. Three of these moved to the Eastern suburbs, three moved to the Montefiore and five resigned for various personal reasons. We also found, when we reviewed our membership database that we had previously counted as members a number of people who no longer have an association with the shule, and are not contactable at any of the addresses we had for them. In the same twelve months we gained 24 new member units, more than half of them couples with children aged from pre-school to teens.



We have conducted a long overdue review of membership fees and as a result from this year we have a new and fairer fee structure. It is one of our core commitments that no one will be turned away because of their financial circumstances. We continue to offer concessionary fees to people who are experiencing difficulties subject to an annual review.

Our synagogue's rich programming is made possible with the hard work and dedication of its volunteers. From presenting the Senior Citizens' concert to keeping the yard beautiful, from providing shiva plates to singing at services, from organising events for kids to looking after those in need, from cooking Shabbat meals to publishing Hatikvah our volunteers are there.

Much of their work is supported by our committees that have continued to work for our congregational family and for the larger Jewish and non Jewish community. The key committees are: Spiritual Directions, Caring Community, Community Support Group, Jews for Social Action, Membership, History and Heritage, Fundraising, and Building.

This year we have restarted the chavura movement. Getting together in groups to study, for social or outdoor activities has great traditions at NSTE. However, once thriving Chavura groups disintegrated over the years and it was time to breathe some life the concept. A few groups are up and running others are still struggling but the enthusiasm is there and with the investment of a bit of energy with time the movement will grow.

One of the highlights of the year was the Shabbat retreat. A record number of 80 participants spent Shabbat at a resort south of Sydney enjoying a very different Shabbat experience that included an amazing concert, a dramatised examination of the story of Rebecca, lots of fun and lots of food.

Attendance at Shabbat and Festival services reflects the inspirational leadership of our Senior Rabbi, Rabbi Robuck and the outstanding contributions made by the professional and lay members of the Bimah team and the Choir. Music has become integral to our worship and our volunteer choir, soloists, musicians and members of the junior choir have enhanced our experiences of many memorable Shabbat and Festival services. Simon Holloway's insightful and often entertaining Torah commentary adds more depth to Shabbat mornings.

Our services encourage broad participation from everyone and a lot of effort has gone into developing the talents of lay leaders and several members of the congregation made their debut on the Bimah reading Torah or leading parts of the service.

The Hebrew and Religion School is into the third year of the Meah program. The professional approach of the teachers and the support of the school families generate a palpable positive energy. A strong parent committee was formed early this year and it has already made an impact with supporting the amazing Harry Chapin fundraising concert and staging a beautiful model Seder.

In recognition of their exemplary enthusiasm and academic achievement, six students were awarded the prestigious UPJ Medal for Achievement at the end of the last school year – an initiative developed by Rabbi Robuck and shared with the BPJE schools. The David Burnett Language and Learning Laboratory established in 2011 has been providing a valuable resource for bar / bat mitzvah students and adult learners. Keshet Lanoar continues to attract post bar / bat mitzvah students who elect to work on their Jewish growth through study. In all, more than 70 kids are part of our formal education programs. Our standard adult education courses have continued, among them Conversations with the Rabbi, the Saturday morning Parshat Hashavua class, Text and Tradition, North Shore Night School. New and different approaches to adult learning started with Rabbi Gary's "Books for Blokes" and "Lunch and Learn" in the Rabbi's study. Shore Thing, providing programs for young adults continues to be popular with a core group and its organisers are working hard to attract new people.

Programming for the very young is attracting a growing number of families, many of them not members yet. The Shabbat Tot program continues to be very popular. A new monthly Shabbat morning service, Keshet, has been launched and is attracting a loyal following.

The Board's hard work to build stronger relationships with the Emma Hanes Preschool is paying off and a number of joint projects are being undertaken. The Valerie Jaye Hall or VJ's has been the venue for numerous social events, including Shabbat dinners, a series of jazz concerts, trivia nights, film shows and much more. It has also brought in a modest income as it becomes known in the community as a suitable venue for hire.

Our Senior Citizens' Concerts continue to be a highlight for many in the community, our Community Support Group, many members of the congregation play an active role at the Montefiore Home, and we have continued to host classes from non-Jewish schools "demystifying" Judaism (Close Encounters of the Jewish Kind).

We actively support Mazon, a program designed to feed the hungry in the general community, now under the umbrella of the UPJ.

Our income from membership fees covers just over half of our expenses. We need to make up the rest of the money through fundraising. In addition to the traditional appeals, including the Kol Nidre appeal and the annual Circle of Benefactors, we are focusing on means of raising funds from outside the shule. We have had moderate success with sponsorships and that effort will continue. We are also creating special opportunities for people who want to make a contribution to the work of the shule in honour of a loved one or a simcha. The Board started its year of office with four new members, Peter McKeown, Max Theeboom, Sarah File and Louise Rohloff. During the year Peter McKeown and David Bass resigned for personal reasons. Simon Gold joined the Board as its Treasurer in February 2012.

CEO Di Englander retired after nine years of dedicated service. A new manager was recruited for the job but she resigned after six months. The position is currently vacant and Vice-President Mark Ginsburg has been working as a volunteer full time in the office as Acting General Manager in addition to other volunteer roles he fills.

A key to making our community sustainable is a solid and committed membership, outstanding leadership and succession planning for both professional and lay leaders, reliable management systems and a solid funding base.

This year we have progressed in a number of areas. We worked with the UPJ to select a membership database to replace our current system. The implementation for the new system has begun. We hope it will be installed before the High Holy Days. Once in place, it will ease the administrative burden on office staff as well as enabling online payment options.

We are working on our succession planning, including strategies to complete the restructure of the office, employ a Second Rabbi and rejuvenate lay leadership. We upgraded our office infrastructure, reorganised the layout of the office that now better reflects the work being done by our dedicated and hard-working staff. We further developed the management system and we are working on a staff handbook. We spent a lot of time, effort and some money too on making our chart of accounts work and our financial transactions more transparent and therefore easier to manage.

We had no reportable Occupational Health and Safety incidents but we had a few near misses. These were investigated and appropriate control measures implemented. Rear to fence parking has helped traffic management in the yard. We have recently upgraded the signs to encourage full compliance with the measure. Despite efforts to be vigilant, there have been a few significant security breaches and we are working on ways to tighten security and at the same time give easier access to our members.

The sanctuary building is serving us well. The redecoration of the foyer is now complete. Further enhancements are planned, especially for the area leading into the Valerie Jay Hall. The major stage of rejuvenation of the yard is also complete with a new and attractive garden replacing the trees in the front. A pedestrian gate has also been installed. We are now working with volunteer teams to focus on keeping our outdoor areas maintained and looking beautiful.

The Board would like to thank members of the congregation for their trust and support and for the generous donations made by our members throughout the year. Our volunteers have demonstrated their commitment through countless hours of hard work and we all owe them a debt of gratitude. We would like to thank Rabbi Gary Robuck for his leadership, for his dedication to the congregation and his hard work as Rabbi, as the Principal of the Hebrew and Religion School and for his contribution to all aspects of synagogue and community life. Special thanks to Jocelyn Robuck and David, Sarah, Shoshi and Aaron for their cheerful support and help. We would like to thank Rabbi Lampert for his continued commitment to NSTE and ongoing service to the community. Toda raba to Simon Holloway for his teaching and his insightful Torah commentary. A very big thank you to our hard working staff in the Office who have put up with a lot of change and have never lost their focus of serving the community. Another big thank you to the teachers of the Hebrew and Religion School who do so much for our young ones. The dedication and hard work of so many enables us to continue to be an exciting centre for Jewish life and learning and a proud Progressive voice on the North Shore.

Emanuel Synagogue – Rodney Brender, President

This past year has seen many achievements with many challenges along the way. Despite another year of uncertain global economic times membership remains steady in all Minyanim at Emanuel.



Generous pledges and donations from members of our community have been the foundation of our successful Capital Campaign this year for the planned future redevelopment at the Emanuel Campus.

Following the AGM in May we have some new members the Board; some retired following our AGM . One Board member, Jessica Roth is on leave for a year studying for a Masters of Law degree in the U.S. The Board has continued to work on being a welcoming community to have a presence in all our Minyanim and in attendance at both Friday night and Shabbat services. Volunteers also join in this role to welcome community with the recently development of our Ambassadors/volunteers initiated at High Holiday services & well received by the congregation.

Sam Zwarenstein continues to work well as our General Manager and has led the harmonious relationships between all staff and the Board.

Rabbi Ninio and Martin Yafe have developed the successful “Shabbat Live” at Friday night services commencing November 2011. We have been fortunate to have received donations to be able to continue this throughout this year. It is a musical Shabbat with much singing , music accompaniment and a joyful welcoming to Shabbat in the Main Sanctuary.

Rabbi Jacobson was been on leave earlier in the year for the birth of Paul and Lisa’s second daughter Emily, and he extended his Sabbatical during the first half of this year.

A Carlbach style Friday night service is also held in the Neuweg with Rabbi Kamins and Rabbi Jacobson. Shaliach Tzibur Martin Yafe spends time on youth in the Emanuel community and the Emanuel School as well as being service leader with cantorial /music duties each Shabbat and Masorti High Holidays. The Choir led by Andrea Catzel continues to be part of the regular Shabbats and High Holidays in the Progressive Service.

The creative energies of Staff, Rabbis and the Board and volunteers has seen a full year of activities achievements & initiatives. Highlights since last UPJ conference are:

1. Our Capital Campaign to fund the Redevelopment Stages One and Two of the Development Plan by Our Fundraising committee Rodney Brender Jessica Roth & Rabbi Kamins, together with staff members assisting with the with the administration of the campaign. All the hard work and dedication has resulted in a successful campaign. As part of this campaign the planned modern comfortable fixed seating was installed in the Main Sanctuary ready for the High Holy Days this year. It has been well received by the Congregation
2. Continued development of our website to inform the community of all aspects of our Congregation and its activities including the the weekly Bulletins &TELL magazine
3. Growth of all three Minyanim
4. Continued strong relations with the Emanuel School and Emanuel Kindergarten.
5. Renewal continues its program of monthly Shabbats and High Holiday services.

Programs and events as highlighted as below:

Purim Spiel a huge capacity audience for the annual event

Lunch and Learn monthly Shabbat lunch with guest speakers

Harbourview Young Adult Shabbat services have resumed after Rabbi Jacobson's

Shabbat Tot regular creative Shabbat activity for 2-5 years

Yelladim Shabbat opportunity led by Netzer for 6-8year-olds

Preschool Jewish programs at both Emanuel Preschool and Paul Kornmehl Centre at Emanuel School.

Emanuel School teaching (year 7-9)

My PlaySpace @ Emanuel playgroup each week.

Board of Progressive Jewish Education Hebrew and Religious School

Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring

Post Bnai mitzvah student and Adults reading Megillah and Torah on High Holidays.

Basic Jewish Concepts classes

Introduction to Hebrew reading program

Our Jewish Story- weekly discussion of texts and the Jewish people.

Midweek Study Group with residents at Montefiore Home

Ziknei Emanuel: morning weekly classes for senior members of Emanuel

Rosh Chodesh womens group for celebration of the new moon run by Rabbi Ninio.

Social Justice program has been developed and expanded with new initiatives and working committee.

Brisbane Progressive Jewish Congregation (BPJC) – Tony Leverton, President



1. Key Data

BPJC President – Elizabeth Marx 2012/13 (Tony Leverton 2011/12)
Congregational Minister - Cantor David Bentley M. Sac. Mus.
UPJ Advisory Rabbi - Rabbi Paul Jacobson (Emanuel Synagogue, Sydney)
UPJ Billing Units @ 30 June – 37 (38 - 2010/11)
Adult members @ 30 June – 49 (54)
Cheder enrolments @ 30 June – 24 (18)
Financials
Receipts y/e 30 June - \$21,564 (\$31,764)
Disbursements y/e 30 June - \$18,747 (\$22,291)
Net Profit y/e 30 June - \$2,817 (\$9,473)
Reserves y/e 30 June – \$30,241 (\$25,688)
Retained surpluses y/e 30 June – \$20,650 (\$17,833)
Total Members' Funds y/e 30 June - \$50,891 (\$43,521)

2. Key Achievements

One of the year's highlights for BPJC was our revitalised Cheder. Thanks to the enthusiastic support of a core team of educationalists, we started 2012 with a new curriculum, a new day (Sunday), new teaching staff and a new venue (Gan Gani Jewish Kindergarten). These changes resulted in a strong increase in our Cheder roll and very positive feedback from parents.

BPJC's Board carefully reviewed the results of its September 2011 Membership Survey and noted the pressing need to obtain better services facilities. This led to a very successful three-month trial in Indooroopilly, in Brisbane's Western Suburbs, and an agreement to move there for all services from November 2012. With effect from 2013, our Shabbat services and our Sunday Cheder will be run fortnightly, making it easier for members and supporters to organise diaries. This will lead to an increase of four Shabbat services a year and two Cheders.

We re-engaged for 2012/13 our highly-regarded Invested Cantor, David Bentley, and were delighted to continue to receive significant financial support for this from members by way of targeted donations and payment of an opt-out Cantorial levy at the time of membership renewals.

Our membership numbers recorded a net decline over the year, due to changed personal circumstances and the departure of three families dissatisfied with the outcome of the 2011 Board elections. However, we were able to attract a number of new members. Since June 2012, we added a further member and have recently received strong expressions of interest from several others, attracted by the congregation's energy and warmth.

We celebrated one Bar Mitzvah in November 2011, and are preparing two students for their Bar Mitzvahs late in 2012, as well as working with other prospective students for B'nei Mitzvah in 2013 and beyond. Our Building Fund Management Committee considered possibilities for permanent new premises. These included: growing our Building Fund, working closely with the Union for Progressive Judaism to resolve the expropriation of the Progressive Jewish synagogue in Camp Hill, considering access to land in Fig Tree Pocket, and considering a shared facilities proposal, yet to fully emerge, in South Brisbane.

We noted strongly-attended High Holy Days services this year with beautiful choral pieces led by our congregational choir. The choir was also well-received for performances at functions for 100 Years of Zionism

in Queensland, Yom HaAtzmaut and Yom Yerushalayim.

We support a range of conversion applicants in their assessments and studies. Several are nearing completion. We continue to work with Brisbane's Chevra Kadisha with a portion of the Jewish Monumental Cemetery in Mt Gravatt set aside for Progressive Jewish burials. A formal consecration ceremony is being planned in the coming weeks.

We ran well-attended Chanukah and Purim Parties and a Pesach Second Seder for our members and visitors. BPJC representatives participated fully in a large number of Queensland Jewish community activities throughout the year. We continue to enjoy a strong relationship with our sister congregation, Temple Shalom Gold Coast, and were honoured to attend the induction of their new Rabbi Don Levy.

Two successful Netzer Shabbatons were held with Temple Shalom Gold Coast, one a sleepover at Temple Shalom and the other a camp at Natural Bridge (Gold Coast), which attracted over 60 participants. A further combined Shabbaton camp at Canungra (Gold Coast) is being held on 19 to 21 October 2012.

In October 2011 BPJC supported the creation of a Progressive Jewish kehillah in Toowoomba, in the hope that there were sufficient Jews locally to sustain it, in addition to our four Distant Members residing there. BPJC gave the kehillah significant support, asked it to conduct its affairs within Progressive Jewish halacha and BPJC's policies, and asked for a monthly activities report. The kehillah did not wish to do this, instead moving away from BPJC in July 2012 and forming the "Toowoomba Jewish Congregation". Three of our four Distant Members advised they continued to fully support BPJC. Because the new group has no formal structure, no Jewish affiliation, no Rabbi and no Jewish recognition, the Board has left open the opportunity for it to return to an association with BPJC, subject to the original conditions.

President Tony Leverton was honoured to be awarded the 2011 UPJ Vatik Award, which was presented to him at a BPJC Shabbat service in March 2012 by UPJ President David Robinson.

Temple Shalom – Andrew Abrahamson, President



It has been another very busy and successful year for Temple Shalom Gold Coast.

Arrival of Rabbi: Rabbi Donald Levy took up his duties at the end of May, 2012. It has been excellent to have Rabbi Don's wife, Clara, play a significant role in teaching in our cheder.

Religious services continue to be held on Erev Shabbat and Shabbat morning each week, and for all of the chagim. Twice a month the service continues with a Shabbat meal together as a community.

The Cheder continues to provide for the education of our young ones each Sunday morning during school terms.

Guild: The Guild supports the religious side of each chag and endeavours to promote at least one social event each month to keep our community connected.

Netzer camps have continued on two weekends each year.

Social Action: Annual Mazon Bags program continues during the High Holydays; at Shavuot we donate to a local Women's Refuge; for the past two years we have staged a Pink Ribbon Afternoon Tea during Sukkot with all profits going to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Connection with wider Jewish community: We get together for a number of events including Yom HaShoah, Chanukah and trivia nights. This year the Temple strongly supported the national Maccabiah Junior Sports carnival in Brisbane. Chevra Kadisha, National Council for Jewish Women and other Jewish organisations use our facility for meetings.

Wider community: One-off education sessions provided as requested, by a number of local educational facilities. This sometimes involves students attending an Erev Shabbat or Shabbat morning service.

Beit Shalom Synagogue – Alison Dwyer, President



The 30th September this year saw the conclusion of Alison Dwyer's presidency at Beit Shalom and the baton passing to Ron Hoenig. In her final report Alison spoke of the need to be thinking about the long term sustainability of Beit Shalom. Sustainability is about being a vibrant and welcoming place and having an active membership; paying our bills; retention of rabbinic services; maintaining and growing our membership base. It has been great this year to see some new faces become regulars in our community. The incoming executive has a good mix of both generations and gender.

Beit Shalom continues to be a hub of activity. Our doors continue to be open more than just Friday night and Saturday morning to a diversity of groups including the Abraham Institute, The SA Council of Christians and Jews, Shabbat meditators, Bagels, Introduction to Judaism classes, Sunday Walkie-Talkies group and Tai Chi classes, group. Our announcements pages are long and we have recently started email them to members weekly.

But we sometimes have difficulty finding a minyan. We are surveying the membership to determine what precludes and encourages people to come to services. We are, however, already addressing hearing related issues and we are looking at ways to improve our systems. Fortunately, we have an audiologist on our Board. We also bought in new 'Shabbat only' lighter prayer books for those members who find it difficult to hold the Mishkan T'filah. We have also sought interesting speakers and service leaders join us this year to offer some variety to our Shabbat service.

This year, Beit Shalom membership numbers are lower than the past few years. We welcomed seven new members and associate members this year. We farewelled our much loved youth leader Elinor Cozzens. We mourn the passing of seven members. We celebrated the b'nei mitzvot of three young people.

Our budget for the year delivered a small planned deficit. Thus is a sign that we are spending more than we receive and therefore rely on our savings to pay operational costs. The Rabbinic Fund is critical to maintaining long term sustainable rabbinic services and if we cannot continue to meet our annual targets, then a time will come when Beit Shalom will simply be unable to afford a rabbi. We too live in the two-speed economy. A number of members have either not given or reduced their level of donations to the fund, yet with a large constituency of young children as well as an ageing community, our need for rabbinical services at both ends of life continues to grow.

We have been very lucky to have Rabbi Kaminsky in her role for seven years. Beit Shalom – Adelaide's interfaith community; and now the Moetzah have benefited greatly from her endless dedication and commitment. Rabbi Kaminsky has attended our Board meetings and been an integral and valued voice around the Board table.

We tried some new food on Shabbat events this year including a month of Saturday Kiddush sponsored by generous members. We also had a very successful Pizza and Beer Oneg which will be repeated with the good weather. Many of us enjoyed a Shabbaton at Aldinga Beach this year in a weekend filled with laughter, good discussions, good food and drink and lots of fun family time.

We hosted a visit by Marshall Voit from the Centre for Living Judaism who provided a range of events with a musical flavor in a great weekend of singing, learning and finding new ways to be spiritual. The Abraham Institute program promotes interfaith dialogue and understanding. It is a great opportunity for Beit Shalom and Adelaide Jews to be acknowledged by our interfaith colleagues.

The Purim Spiel this year was based on Pride and Prejudice, but Jane Austen would not recognize it. Thanks is owed to Ruth Gilbert for her fabulous writing, directing and commitment throughout.

Over the year, many of our members have given back to the community through their volunteer contributions through a service provided by Beit Shalom or through committee work. Our library has continued to grow and yet remains organised under the management of our experienced and committed librarian Liz Bor. Our volunteer led maintenance man at Beit Shalom has kept the place going with the support of a volunteer committee. A long list of people help out around the place, with service ranging from pulling a weed, watering the plants and sweeping the the car park to make Beit Shalom a nicer place to visit. Our group of Shamuses ensure Shabbat services run smoothly and the ritual committee continued to serve Beit Shalom and support Rabbi Kaminsky. Beit Shalom's Finance Committee of experienced and prudent economic managers provides oversight and advice for Beit Shalom investments and the gallant leadership of the Treasurer. The Beit Shalom choir continues to bring the beauty into our High Holy Days and Shabbat services. Our Rabbi and Chevra Kadisha gave service to many funerals this year.

The Sisterhood continued to be very active with its regular book club and social events over the year. The Sisterhood Catering Committee, as always, provided a great service to the community for many simchas and events.

Beit Shalom has had an incredibly full Cheder this year with a diverse range of age groups to challenge Rabbi Kaminsky and our teachers, with valuable support from members who graciously dedicate their time to teach in the Cheder.

Hobart Hebrew Congregation – Daniel Albert, President

Our numbers continue to decline due to the ageing congregation. The numbers actively and regularly involved with the congregation is nearing critically low levels.



Being small we are entirely voluntary-based and finding sufficient volunteers has become a problem. Many of those who, in the past, volunteered a considerable amount of their time, are now, due to their age, not able to undertake as much work as in the past. Despite this, we continue to hold regular shabbat services, high holiday services, a communal Seder and other functions. We are supported by the UPJ who assist with rabbinical and other support including visiting rabbis.

This is welcome support for us as a small group who lacks the presence of Jewish educators. Therefore this rabbinical and Jewish educator support is important to us in keeping Judaism active in the state.

In particular we thank Rabbi Fred Morgan for coming to Hobart to deliver his Shaliach T'zibbur course. This course, in particular, aims to teach lay members how to conduct services. Six of our members participated.

Overall it was a quiet year for the Jewish community in Tasmania. I was not informed of any anti-Semitic incidents. There was none of the anti-Semitic or anti-Israel rallies and other activities we hear about taking place in other states. The main issue was the release by the Tasmania Law Reform Institute of its final report on male circumcision. The report included the recommendation that "A general prohibition on the circumcision of incapable minors with an exception for well-established religious or ethnicity-motivated circumcisions". The report was issued in late August. To date, there's been no response from the Tasmanian government.

Despite the low level of anti-Semitism in Tasmania over the past year, a security review of the Synagogue and its environment was undertaken, on our behalf, by the CSG New South Wales. Based on the recommendations of the review, a number of security improvements are being implemented.

Kehillat David HaMelech (Kedem) – Caryn Granek, President



It gives me great pleasure to present my first report to the UPJ as President of Kedem. I have just completed my first term of office with a small and very energetic Executive which remains unchanged for the coming year.

The indicators we use to measure the success of an organisation vary but in most cases it is numbers, financial security and levels of satisfaction of members.

Kedem has grown slowly and naturally to reach 99 family units this year. We have had many expressions of interest after accessing our website or attending our services, but word of mouth is still our most successful marketing tool.

In terms of financial security we continue to remain debt free and this year we recorded a small surplus in our accounts. This has been achieved as a result of the reduction in our expenses due to the cessation of our Mashpiah's employment. For the past two years we have been privileged to enjoy the services of Gabbi Sar-Shalom who enriched our community with her spirituality and professional support.

We remain committed to employing professional support in the future but are also mindful of the need to become more financially secure before doing so. This will be one of the greatest challenges facing Kedem in the future.

Our membership continues to support our activities across the board with a great level of enthusiasm. We remain almost totally lay led which means that all of our members contribute in some way – large and small – and all are appreciated for their efforts. Services are held every Shabbat – the first and third being a regular Shabbat service, the second being a Kabbalat Shabbat and the fourth being the Service for the Soul. This gives members a lot of variety as well as opportunities to explore various ways of approaching prayer and spirituality. As well as the usual mixture of birthday celebrations and yahrzeits we were blessed with two baby namings this year as well.

Kedem's B'nei Mitzvah program has supported seven students this past year with great success. Our tutors continue to distinguish themselves with the serious and professional attitude they bring to their work. They consist almost solely of young Kedem members who celebrated their B'nei Mitzvah with us some years ago. Our students also participate in the "Stand Up" program run by Jewish Aid Australia as well as a group enrichment program conducted by various members.

We held a successful weekend retreat during August as well as several activities centred around Tikkun Olam, including a clean-up day, Mishloach Manot at Purim and Nothing but Nets during Pesach as well as Mazon bags over the High Holyday period.

This year we introduced a new concept for Shavuot which was the highly successful Shavuot Torah-thon. This consisted of a weekend of study and learning sessions as well as a great deal of food, which seems to have become the hallmark of life at Kedem.

Our education committee worked hard throughout the year to provide several learning sessions with members and guest scholars who led sessions very ably. We enjoyed a visit to the Jewish Museum's exhibition "Calling Australia Home" which was explained to us by Kedem member Dr Deborah Rechter who was the curator of this most interesting exhibition.

Finally we held a major fundraising event recently at which we were fortunate to enjoy a fascinating talk given by another of our talented members, Walter Granek, who is a recognized expert in the art of Charles Blackman. As well as a successful raffle of three beautiful works of art, members were treated to an Alice in Wonderland afternoon tea. The catering was provided by a team of our own members and the afternoon was enhanced by the beautiful home and garden in which it was held.

So life at Kedem continues to offer successes and challenges. I would like to thank all of our members, our Executive and our office administrator – Rosi Meltzer – who make all of the above possible.

I would like to acknowledge the King David School for their continued support and encouragement of all our activities. Kedem is an active member of the PJV and the UPJ and I would like to record my deep gratitude to Ellen Frajman and the executive of the PJV for their assistance at all times. I also acknowledge with gratitude Steve Denenberg and Jocelyn Robuck for their tireless efforts to support us and all of the Progressive movements in our region.

We value the relationship we share with Netzer and would like to thank Jordane Hyams and PJV Shlichah Lior Argaman for their invaluable contributions to the life of Kedem over the past year. We are also fortunate to have had the benefit of the talented Fellows of the Centre for Living Judaism – Marshall Voit and Stephanie Gratch. They have enhanced our services on many occasions and given our members inspiration and joy as we have learned new melodies and new ways of praying. Kedem thanks you for your contributions.

Finally I would like to express my deep gratitude to the rabbis of the UPJ. We are truly blessed with a variety of their talents and skills and Kedem has always benefited from their wise counsel, their teaching and their support.

Etz Chayim Progressive Synagogue – Frank Moore, President

Membership stats:

Family units: 177
Adults: 268
Children: 125
Total: 393



In 2012 Etz Chayim is celebrating 60 years of being the Progressive Jewish Community for Southern Suburbs of Melbourne.

Over the years we have developed and run many initiatives, and on the weekend of the 17th and 18th of November we will be celebrating big in the quiet suburb of Bentleigh. I invite all inside and out of the UPJ to join us on the 17th November for a special 60th Anniversary Service at Etz Chayim and then on the 18th of November join us at Caulfield Race Course for 60th Anniversary Gala Dinner.

We have not just been focused on our 60th anniversary, but have continued the work we started three years. Three years ago we had just over 140 family units and we have now grown to 177. We still have a long way to go but we are well on the way to our ultimate goal of employing a full time Rabbi.

In 2011 I reported that we had been able to offer Cantor Laloum a one day a week position within our community. This brought us to 2 days of clergy support. Unfortunately this arrangement came to an end at the beginning of August, when Cantor Laloum moved to TBI in a full time role as the new TBI Cantor.

Over the next few months we will also be losing Rabbi Lazarow, whose workload at KDS has reached a point where he cannot work within our community for 1 day a week. The community will miss Rabbi Lazarow, as it was under his inspiring leadership that we have been able to experience growth at a rapid pace. Although he is moving on, I know we will continue to benefit from his guidance and his inspirational leadership.

This move of Rabbi Lazarow has been known for some time and Etz Chayim has been very active on looking for a person who can take on the Rabbinical Leadership role. I am very confident that we will be able to make an offer very soon, to someone we really believe has the ability to continue to lead and inspire the Etz Chayim Community as Rabbi Lazarow has done.

I want to publicly thank the leaders of KDS and PJV for their great support and guidance for Etz Chayim. Our search has been well supported by these two organisations and I do not believe a community like ours could reach the heights we have without the Victorian attitude of working together to ensure the whole community moves forward.

Our growth can be measured by many things that have occurred within our community, but the one that stands out to me is the growth in our youth and their contribution to our community. Last year I mentioned that due to a growth in our Bnei Mitzvah programme we were also starting a junior religion school. As of today, we have 20 young people in our weekly Religion School plus 10 youth members in our Bnei Mitzvah programme. Added to this we have had 15 Bnei Mitzvahs since our last report, which is slightly up from the last few years we one to two Bnei Mitzvahs a year. Not only have we seen growth in these areas, but the Bnei Mitzvah students enjoyed their time together that they have created a monthly meeting of graduates at the community centre. The youth are looking forward to being part of this group. This group has become involved in many facets of the community, including reading of torah at different services. It was brilliant to see so many of them involve themselves in the High Holy Days Services lead by Rabbi Lazarow and Rabbi Conyer and then on Simchat Torah, with our Torah unrolled throughout the sanctuary each of them coming forward and reading the first part of their portions. It is brilliant we have may have found someone who has worked out how to stop our youngsters going through the revolving door.

So in our 60th year, we can report that Etz Chayim is getting stronger and continues to be a worthy representative of the Progressive Jewish Community in the southern suburbs of Melbourne.

Leo Baeck Centre for Progressive Judaism – Julie Contole and Tom Beer, Co-Presidents

We have changed the date of our AGM from November to March, so our full annual report has not yet been prepared. Therefore this report will give only a brief overview of some congregational activities; however, we will also give a more substantial account of the work of the LBC Israel Awareness Group, as this has been one of our success stories this past year.



We continue to employ a full-time rabbi, two part-time staff in our office, and a part-time caretaker. Employment is on a sessional basis for our music director, cantors, Sunday School Club teachers and B'nei Mitzvah program tutors. We have enjoyed this year the excellent services of several Netzer leaders in our Sunday School Club program, and we contribute funds to subsidise Shnat and camp participation in gratitude for this contribution.

We continue to offer weekly Shabbat morning services, and we have recently introduced a very successful monthly home-based Erev service. We are also trialling some Erev Services for younger children, as well as offering a special Shabbat experience for young children about once a month.

Our High Holyday services are now all held on-site, and we also have special activity-based events for children around Purim, Shavuot, Sukkot and Chanukah. This year we will be conducting an outdoor outreach event for Chanukah, in order to connect with unaffiliated Jewish families in Melbourne's inner northern suburbs.

Board members are responsible for running many congregational activities through our various committees, for example, Care, Fundraising, House, House of Study, Arts Centre, Membership, Ritual, Security, IT, Youth Education. Some highlights of the last year include:

- Our Israeli Dancing Group and 'Beyachad' singing group both obtaining grants from the City of Boroondara
- A very successful Arts Centre exhibition by our own member, Janet Bau
- Development of a relationship with University of the Third Age (U3A) so that their classes are held at our site and are available to our members
- Another successful Trivia Night
- Our continuing 'Fine Wine/Fine Music' series
- Participation in the annual Kew Festival
- Monthly Havurah lunches
- Annual LBC lecture by Josh Frydenberg, Federal Member for Kooyong, speaking about Sir Zelman Cowen
- Coordination with other (non-Progressive) congregations in northern and eastern suburbs to provide Jewish Care services to our area, in particular a weekly exercise class for older people.

We have plans for the future, of course. For example, we are planning some long-needed renovations to our administrative area, using funds especially donated for this purpose. However, our most ambitious project is what we call our 'Chai Challenge' – a drive to attract at least 18 new, and preferably younger, members to leadership positions within the congregation. We intend to provide anyone who expresses an interest with a Board 'mentor' who can work with them to identify their interests and hopefully a strong role within our community.

This has been a busy and sometimes heated year for our Israel Awareness Group – heat which has, in some cases, been turned directly upon us as a Board and community from various directions. For the benefit of our

sister congregations, we thought it might be of interest to include more detail about this program. We feel that, with three successful years behind it, our IAG is providing a regular and reliable way for our community (and others from across Melbourne) to understand the opportunities and challenges that Israel faces in a more sophisticated and nuanced manner. We want to help people develop a deeper relationship and appreciation for that small land on the other side of the world which, we regularly emphasise, we want to see survive in safety and security. The very fact that we get 40 – 80 people to each event suggests that the model is working and fulfilling a need.

LBC's Israel Awareness program has been running for a little more than three years now, growing in diversity and attendance numbers since the initial discussion with 14 people. At that first meeting many people expressed frustration and disappointment at being blind-sided by anti-Israel arguments that they were not well informed enough about to discuss effectively. There was a very strong desire for people to learn and become better educated about Israel in a non-judgmental and open-minded environment and a very clear request that the program should provide a complex, in-depth and nuanced understanding of the wide range of issues affecting Israel today. The overriding feeling of the meeting was that the better informed we become about Israel the better we can be its advocates.

From that small beginning, attendance quickly grew, and now we are attracting large audiences for internationally recognised speakers and more controversial topics. The organising committee attempts to balance the program over time – with topics drawn generally from the arenas of politics, economics, society, history, Israeli/Palestinian relationships, Progressive Judaism in Israel, criticism of Israel from abroad, and Israel-diaspora relationships. Formats have varied from play-reading and film discussions, to panels, single speakers, and workshops, with speakers from the LBC community, Australia and Israel.

In 2011 our roof body Progressive Judaism Victoria (PJV) initiated its own Israel Awareness program, based on similar lines to LBC's program, and since then some of our events have been held jointly, with Israeli speakers brought to Australia mainly through the Union for Progressive Judaism. Our audiences tend to be adults, drawn mainly from LBC, but also, and increasingly, from other Jewish communities (Progressive, mainly, and some Orthodox). Some people from country Victoria come to the city just for our events. We have also run a few programs specifically for younger members. We are especially proud of the harmonious and respectful manner in which our guest speakers are received, even when people do not agree with their points of view, and the thoughtful and insightful quality of questions that are asked by members of the audience.

We attempt to vary the topics and speakers over the course of a year or so, juggling as best we can to accommodate the schedules of guest speakers, particularly those from overseas. There was some recent criticism of bias in our scheduling two young Israeli activists to speak not long after Akiva Eldar, Chief Political columnist of *Ha'aretz*. This conjunction was entirely in response to the speakers' schedules in visiting Australia.

Overall, we believe we have developed a varied, interesting and educational program that LBC can be proud of. Below is the complete list of sessions conducted since the program's inception, which we believe shows a great range and also a balance of approaches over time. We also have many tentative topics and potential speakers identified for the coming years and welcome further suggestions for topics or speakers.

Temple Beth Israel (TBI) – Sam Sharman, President



It is said that leaders are judged by their legacy, and I am proud to recap on what has been achieved over this period. The face of administration has changed expediently, and we now have a full complement of staff which includes a General Manager, Assistant to the GM, Receptionist, Community Projects Officer and Bookkeeper, and we recently welcomed a new PA to the Rabbis. In addition, Rabbi Ettlinger has signed a new contract to be with us for a further two years and hopefully many more “. Without her, our religious and social endeavours would not have been accomplished. Her new educational programme TBI Tamid will be joined by two new members of staff, a youth advisor and a co-ordinator.

I was proud to initiate the Rabbi Fred & Sue Morgan Music Foundation, which was set up to honour their dedicated service to our congregation, and I am pleased to report that to date we have raised over \$200k, which has enabled us to enhance our Clergy team by the employment of our new Cantor, Cantor Michel Laloum, a huge step forward in our ability to raise our music profile.

Our building, whilst still in need of a major upgrade has had the Administration painted, the internal ceilings replaced and a new secure office refurbished for the Bookkeeper. The boiler which services the administration had to be replaced. The Magid centre has also had the internal ceilings replaced and new office space refurbished to accommodate TBI Tamid.

The Board of Governance continues to work tirelessly, and the Steering groups which were set up in February 2011 continue to address the issues raised by members.

The range of religious, cultural, social, and educational activities are as diverse as our community, and on any given day the buzz around TBI is palpable.

The hard work, commitment and dedication of our volunteers always continues to amaze me, as they go about their selfless tasks.

Our High Holydays were an unbelievable delight, with attendances up on last year. Our music was certainly enhanced by our new Cantor, Michel Laloum. Sukkot was a huge success with a big Mazal Tov to Rabbi Kim Ettlinger for all her incredible work to ensure all our children [and adults] had a day to remember.

I am well aware that no one person can complete every task set before them during their term of service, but I trust that I have continued to build on the foundation laid by the past presidents of Temple Beth Israel. My work has been added on to theirs.

“The satisfaction of effort” is tangible and I must acknowledge the support I have enjoyed from the Board and the Executive, the Rabbis and staff of TBI without whom I could not have fulfilled my duties, obligations and demands of the Presidency.

As I write this article I am very aware that we are all embarking on a very special voyage and mission, that is the sacred task of searching for a new Senior Rabbi who will take over when Rabbi Morgan retires in 2013. I would urge each and every one of us to use this time to “celebrate the past and embrace the future”, because we have a wonderful future ahead of us filled with a large and diverse community of warm, intelligent and talented people.

I wish Robert Hershan, the incoming President and his new Board a hearty Mazal Tov, and I know that under his leadership TBI will go from strength to strength.

Kehillat S'dot Zahav – Howard Nathan, President

The first and almost miraculous report to be made is “We are still alive”.

The second and not quite so miraculous is that “We are still solvent”.

The third and definitely not miraculous report is that we are expecting a change of guard in the forthcoming year.

Younger and more energetic people are stepping forward to foster the community.

There is an almost insuperable problem for small regional congregations and that is at the Yamin Nora'im and Pesach, the Jews who are most strongly affiliated go to the capital cities for the services. It means we can only conduct services for special occasions or events. Many of our members are in intermarried relationships, which means that care must be taken to respect all parties. I am happy to say, our small community has been able to do this and so our core remains solid. Nevertheless we have expanded merely to a very small degree beyond our original membership. We can count on a minyan for when we do meet, but could not do so if we had monthly meetings.

We have been able to engage in interfaith meetings and are members of the Loddon/Campaspe interfaith organization. Two of our members have been requested to give talks to local worthy clubs, so to that extent we have a regional profile.

What we have done is to conduct a series of Oneg Shabbat services with the invaluable assistance of Linda Stern who has commuted from Melbourne to do so. These are most convivial and her learning she willingly imparts to the attendees.

I do expect that next year's report will be more positive and not in my name.

Temple David – Joel Mendelson, President (2012-13) Jeremy Culshaw, President (2011-12)



In 2012 Temple David Congregation celebrates, and continues to celebrate our 60th Anniversary and this report focuses upon the many events and festivities of this milestone year.

The year commenced with a Cocktail Party in February. This saw a nice touch of symmetry with 60 people attending the first of our anniversary events, including Founder Members Ken and Judith Arkwright and John Tate, members of longstanding, as well as several younger and newer members, two of whom brought along their parents. There was chatter, laughter and fabulous entertainment.

An evening of comedy followed in March where we were entertained by Austen Tayshus. It was great to see this event supported by Temple David members as well as the wider community.

We took a trip down memory lane in July, when we celebrated the actual 60th Anniversary, where we replicated the first service held in 1952. This was conducted by Rabbi Emeritus John Levi, a long-term supporter of Temple David. A sell-out catered dinner followed with 120 guests, the highlight of the evening being an emotional and humorous address by Founder, Ken Arkwright.

A commemorative Shabbat morning service in August, conducted by Rabbi Fred Morgan, in the presence of His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia, saw a packed shul of members, past members, leaders from the Perth Jewish organisations, the UPJ, and dignitaries from the legal, political and religious arenas. A short walk or drive to Perth College followed where all enjoyed a Kiddush lunch.

As approved by the Board of Management on the committee's recommendation, fundraising contributed towards the new pew cushions in the sanctuary.

But there is still more to come:

- A Wine Auction fundraiser will take place on Sunday 18 November
- First night Chanukah (Saturday 8 December) when we will invite the wider Jewish community to join us for an event centred around our children, that will culminate in Havdalah and the lighting of the first Chanukah candle.
- Last night Chanukah (Friday 14 December) will see our last event of the 60th Anniversary, when we will hold a Family Oneg in the refurbished Social Hall.

In addition to the various revelries Temple David continues to be a vibrant centre for Progressive Judaism. This year has seen 6 conversions, 5 B'Nei Mitzvah and 2 Marriages. Our adult education classes are full to the brim, Temple David Religion School is a buzzing hive of children preparing for B'Nei Mitzvah, our social hall is home to a thriving Israeli Dance class, services are being led with enthusiasm and integrity by our lay leaders and the various committees (ritual, adult education, administration, bikur holim, building maintenance and finance) see many members working hard to ensure the effervescence and relevance of our community.

We continue our search for a full-time Rabbi with the assistance of the UPJ, and hope to secure an appointment within the next 12 months. However, in the interim we have had the privilege to be assisted by many eminent Rabbis in the last year in Rabbi John Levi, our consulting rabbi – Rabbi Fred Morgan and our high-holiday visitor and ex-Melbournian – Rabbi Danny Schiff. On behalf of Temple David we thank these Rabbis for their guidance and assistance during this past year. Additionally, we thank Rabbi Shoshanna Kaminski for making the recent Beit Din a truly memorable time for our new "Jews by choice".

Thanks go to all who have served the community in the past 12 months, committee members, board members, choristers, teachers and volunteers. Without these people our synagogue could not function and we are ever indebted to those who give so much.

Finally, we offer our sincere thanks to all of our members, for supporting what has been a fabulous year and a launching pad for our seventh decade. Temple David has been, is today and will be into the future, the home of Progressive Judaism in Western Australia.

Beth Shalom – Mrs Judith Hunt, President

Beth Shalom is a thriving, busy congregation situated at 180 Manuku Road, Auckland. We have 214 member units and a thriving Hebrew School, a well funded Chevera Kadisha and a lively Habonim programme. We have recently rebuilt our sanctuary which has been the major change in our 60 year existence. This was done mostly by donation with a contribution from our accumulated funds.

Presently we are actively seeking a permanent Rabbi and this will be a “topic of interest” at the conference. We employ an office administrator for 28 hours per week. Our professional educator for the Cheder and Adult Education is Udi Dvorkin, our shaliach. The present Board of Management is pro-active in building closer ties with all streams of the Jewish community in Auckland and New Zealand.

Mid-year we hosted a visit from UPJ’s Steve Denenberg and the successful launch of ARZA was held during this same weekend. This was well attended and very informative for our congregation. Dr Rachel Safman, a UPJ-sponsored Rabbi, was appointed over the Chagim and she delivered thought-provoking drashot, assisted at a wedding and visited our elderly congregants. Our magazine Teruah has been revitalized by this Board of Mamngaemnt and is now a 20-page newspaper, and although more costly, we believe is a vital link to Beth Shalom for our congregation and in time, for Progressive Judaism in New Zealand.

We have an annual Shabbaton which is an opportunity for the community to meet and stay together for a weekend. We use a lovely bush venue and all the Progressive communities throughout NZ are invited to this. We now have beautiful grounds due to many generous donations and much hard work. What was once a wasteland now grows vegetables for the City Mission.

We have a contemplative biblical garden with contemporary gardens at the front of the building. The Board of management is working towards promoting a more active use of our space and we are doing this by combining prayer with a social element.

The continued upgrade of our building will benefit our planned increase of diverse activities.

Friday:	Shabbat evening Kabbalat Shabbat Seniors Shabbat Dinner	Wine, cheese and schmooze prior to service Once a month Third Friday of the month
Saturday:	Shabbat morning Shabbat morning	Service at 10am Fortnightly 9am Talmud study with bagels
Sunday:		Hebrew School Conversion Classes
Tuesday:		Silver Club for Seniors monthly
Tuesday evening:		Adult Education
Wednesday evening:		Israeli dancing
Thursday:		B’nei Mitzvah Tutoring



BETH SHALOM
בית שלום
Living Judaism
The Progressive Jewish
Congregation of Auckland
Member of UPJ

Dunedin Jewish Congregation – Katherine Greenberg, President

It's been an exciting year for the Dunedin Jewish Congregation.

Highlights include:

- Doubling the role of our flourishing Cheder. In addition to improving their Hebrew, the kids have created some impressive Judaica for their homes including mezuzah covers and porcelain honey dishes. They have also led Kabbalat Shabbat services on their own and presented a Rosh Hashanah children's service. Three will prepare for bat mitzvahs this year.
- Visit by the Centre for Living Judaism Fellow. Marshall Voit's weekend visit was well-attended, bringing us a new member family and getting us all singing at home and in the car. His visit was great publicity for the CLJ and really inspired our members to check it out and take advantage of the resources. We really do hope he'll be able to visit us again before the end of his tenure.
- With support from the ZFNZ and the UPJ, in concert with the Canterbury Hebrew Congregation, we have benefitted from the services of community shlichim Udi and Osnat Dvorkin. Our Sukkot celebration couldn't have happened without them and the Sukkot Holiday Mini-Camp received rave reviews.
- Purim was a multi-media, multi-sensory spectacle with the Megillah by JP Waldman.
- Sydney Manowitz, one of our members, and concertmaster of the Southern Sinfonia will present "Shalom", a concert of Jewish-inspired music at Olveston House in November. This is exciting not only for those listening but because Olveston was gifted to the Dunedin City Council by the Theomin Family (a Jewish family). It has been a long time since the Jewish Congregation and Olveston House worked together on a project.
- Working with Progressive Judaism Victoria, our Introduction to Judaism class has just started. This represents an exciting opportunity for us, and several students have been waiting years (one for a decade) for such a class.

Temple Sinai – Kelvin Ratnam, Vice-President for Jeremy Smith, President

I am pleased to submit this report which highlights some of the activities undertaken in our congregation.

Members: Approximately 270 adult members



היכל סיני
TEMPLE SINAI

Rabbi	Adi Cohen*
Mashpiah	JoEllen Duckor *
President (Governance & Strategy)	Jeremy Smith *
Vice-President (Temple/Community Security)	Kelvin Ratnam *
Finance	Sam Segal *
Education	JoEllen Duckor *
Beit Midrash	Paul Blaschke
Temple Secretary (Office, Database, Minutes, Administration)	Kathy Kerry *
Judaica Shop, Library and Keshar	Kathy Kerry *
Building, Maintenance, Interfaith	Wayne Phillips *
Ritual Committee (Board Liaison)	JoEllen Duckor (Mashpiah)
Ritual Committee (Convenor)	Fred Albert
Youth Group (Coordinator)	Kfir Koral
Keshar	Eva Woodbury
Funerals	Sue Esterman
Bulletin Editor	Louis Altman
Jewish Care of the Aged Community Workers (includes Sinai Seniors Group programme)	Judy Myers, Betty Mortimer, Liora Ben Dror
Habonim Dror	Sapeer Myron
Temple Web Site	Anna Hollander

* Member of Board of Management

Committees of the Board of Management

Education and Beit Midrash
Communications
Social Action
Rituals
Membership
Conversion
Building and Maintenance
Keshar (community support)

Programmes

Beit Midrash
Adult Education
B'nei Mitzvah
Sinai Seniors
Teens Programme (with Habonim)
Post-Bnei Mitzvah group
Young Professional Group (21-35ish)

Rabbi Adi Cohen was inducted into our congregation on 8 May 2011. He has been involved in a number of areas of Temple life since his induction as detailed below: The Board agreed that Rabbi Cohen could spend a limited amount of time at Moriah School as part of the Temple's approach of developing good rapport with the orthodox Jewish community at the Wellington Jewish Community Centre (Webb St). Rabbi Cohen has been teaching Hebrew at Moriah School for the advanced class for the last two terms. Sadly Moriah College, the only Jewish day in Wellington, will close at the end of this year due to a falling roll.

Rabbi Cohen has developed guidelines for the Committee on shlichei tzibur and chazanim. He is currently developing booklets and manuals for the High Holydays and life cycle events. He has also introduced new and old methods to engage with the Torah with the introduction of Parashat HaShavua and has been involved in advising the Committee on different aspects of Judaism.

At the invitation of the Professor Paul Morris, Programme Director, School of Religious Studies, Victoria University, Rabbi Cohen has lectured twice to religious studies students on Liberal Judaism. The rabbi and his wife, Gila visited the Habonim Summer Camp for the weekend and worked with the Madrichim.

Rabbi Cohen initiated and coordinated Chanukah, Yom Haatzmaut and Lag b'Omer for the wider Jewish community with the Embassy of Israel and the Wellington Jewish Community Centre. He also organised the Yom Hazikaron service at the Temple and has arranged monthly Israeli film evenings at the Temple. The film evenings are well attended. Two Israeli Karaoke events were also held at the Temple.

As part of its policy of supporting other Progressive Jewish congregations where feasible, the Board approved Rabbi Cohen's visits to Temple Beth Shalom, Auckland which currently does not have a rabbi. The rabbi visited the Temple's country members in Napier and is planning further visits to members in Palmerston North and Wanganui.

Rabbi Cohen took part in two UPJ rabbinic (Moetzah) conferences in Australia and one UPJ biennial meeting. He will be addressing Limmud Oz next month. As part of a joint effort of the U.P.J and the Union for Reform Judaism, Temple Sinai members are taking part in the evaluation of the new Machzor for the High Holydays under the guidance of Rabbi Cohen. The rabbi has officiated at two funerals (Lindsay Haas and Prof Jacob Bercovitch) and a service for the unveiling of a head stone headstone service. He also led a shiv'a service in Christchurch, performed two baby naming ceremonies (one in Auckland and one in Wellington) and a Brit Milah in Wellington. A part of his educational role the rabbi assisted with the preparation of two Bnei Mitzvah.

A Beit Midrash working group was established after several changes in method and structure of Beit Midrash is now stable. There is a rotation between three classes (Hebrew/Parashat HaShavua/Jewish culture). The Beit Midrash curriculum has been established for the next two years. Lesson plans will be added as needed. Hebrew teaching is now based on computer software. The full curriculum is available, from the rabbi, to all families with children at the Beit Midrash and any other member who is interested in the Temple's education activities.

The Mashpiah, JoEllen Duckor, and Rabbi Cohen meet regularly and have established a good working relationship. Their roles complement each other. The role of the Mashpiah is to work with the Rabbi to meet the spiritual, religious, educational, and pastoral needs of the congregation.

When a congregational member is in some kind of need, a group of people from the Temple or within the wider Wellington Jewish community are mobilized to visit the person, bring meals and help out in any way possible. A goal for next year is to expand and empower this group. The Mashpiah meets regularly with the

Wellington Jewish Care of the Aged community workers to keep abreast of what's happening with our seniors. The Mashpiah also:

- shares Kabbalah Shabbat with our elders at Rita Angus retirement village, Fridays at 4:30.
- leads the high holiday services for the Dunedin congregation as part of the Temple's policy of supporting other progressive Jewish communities in New Zealand, where feasible
- provides support for the Christchurch Jewish community
- participates in LimmudNZ, Kia Torah and in "Coming to the Heart " - an inter-spirituality retreat on compassion.

The Mashpiah and Rabbi work closely to coordinate and support the Beit Midrash programme. The Mashpiah has signed a two year contract with the Temple's Board of Management to continue, on a part-time basis, in the role of Mashpiah from May 2012-May 2014.

The Board has refined the strategic plan developed during 2010 and updated in 2011 this plan includes immediate 'action plans' plus medium-term and long-term goals will be handed over to the incoming Board as a working guide for priority areas. These focus on the key areas of religious leadership, youth, education and engaged membership. Policy development is on-going. The Temple's emergency management procedures were approved by the Board. A draft revised Constitution has been prepared. Further discussion on this draft Constitution needs to take place at a Special General Meeting.

Our membership continues to grow slowly but steadily. Ten new members joined the Temple during the year, including several with young families who they want to grow up within a Jewish community. As at 31 March 2012 the Temple had 150 member groupings, comprising 278 individuals (ie members and their partners/children).

Adult Education classes are held weekly. A selection of classes is offered. Wednesday night has become the 'regular' night for study and it is hoped that more people will join the classes currently available (Parashat HaShavua, Biblical Hebrew at various levels and Introduction to Jewish Practice. There are also many other opportunities to learn, at Talmud and parashat ha shavua on Shabbat and through the many community offering, such as the very successful Kia Ora Torah series that has been running over recent months. In addition, a number of people study in their own groups through Skype - a great opportunity for country members and others who cannot easily get to the Temple.

The Ritual Committee is a committee of the Board and meets on a monthly basis to discuss aspects of ritual life in Temple Sinai and to plan services. The Committee maintains oversight for Bnei Mitzvah students. It has two sub-committees: the Chevra Kaddisha and the CyberShul Project. The Committee held 11 regular meetings during the year, and one special meeting in February 2012. The Committee can only operate effectively with the help of members performing a wide range of tasks needed in our community. Many people have been generous in their time and have added to making our community what it is.

CyberShul, our project to help members use the possibilities of Internet to further their Jewish growth, has settled into two regular activities. One is a Parashat HaShavua (Torah portion of the week) discussion group comprising country members and the other is a morning Minyan group with members from all over the North Island. Both groups use Skype (audio only) as their software platform. Members of the Ritual Committee tried other possible platforms during the year as Skype was seen as not being ideal for talking or singing together. The Ritual Committee now believes a web conferencing solution such as Go To Meeting would be a better way to connect members via the Internet.

The Chevra has consolidated its development this year. The main focus has been on learning to perform Tahara (the ritual preparation of the deceased for burial) with respect and competence. Rabbi Adi helped the Chevra review the prayers to be said, the process to be followed and the shrouds to be used, from a Progressive Jewish perspective. Lychgate Funeral Home provided training in health and safety as well as in some basic skills for doing this work.

The ritual Committee continued their review of Kashrut at Temple Sinai and completed a new policy, which was approved by the Board during the year. The new policy takes into account sustainability and fair trade issues and essentially means that catering at the Temple will typically be a dairy meal.

One of Rabbi Adi's ideas was to give service leaders a document that would allow them to easily see what should be required in any particular service and what could be optional. It was felt that this would be useful for those leading and planning services. This project is nearly completed for Erev Shabbat and morning Shabbat services.

Old Torah scrolls need constant care and attention. The Ritual Committee held a special meeting in February to discuss the need for restoration of the script which is faded and flaked in places and will need repair by a Sofer Stam. A new committee has been formed to research the Temple's Torah scroll needs including the possibilities of purchasing a replacement scroll and arranging comprehensive repairs to one of the existing scrolls by a Sofer Stam.

In July, members of the congregation were given an opportunity to give us feedback on services as they were currently conducted. After much discussion, the Committee thought some standardisation of content for services would help (Service Backbone Project), but that service leaders should retain the ability to plan services as they saw fit. More attention has been given to starting times for evening services to help families.

The Pesach Community Seder is planned over a number of months and is a big undertaking by Temple volunteers. The 2010-11 Pesach was a very successful and enjoyed by those who attended. One of the main functions of the Ritual Committee is to help plan services for Shabbat and the various holidays. The Ritual Committee is dependent on volunteers to coordinate people to act in all the roles needed to run services.

Judy Campbell, music director of North Shore Temple Emanuel, spent several days in Wellington giving music workshops. Also Rabbi Peter Knobel, Chair of the Editorial Committee that produced Mishkan T'filah, was here for several days and gave several interesting lectures and met with Ritual Committee members.

A small group of adults has been studying towards their conversion to Judaism and are regular stalwarts at Temple services, celebrations and study groups. Rabbi Adi works with all these students on a group and individual basis under the guidance of the Moetzah requirements for conversion in our region.

The Bulletin continues to be our most regular and visible communications tool for members and friends. The Bulletin is always there, on time, full of news, photos and forthcoming events. Several comments have been received from other congregations over the year about the quality of our Bulletin. The Temple's website is currently being reviewed. The new concept for the web site will allow selected office holders, such as the Rabbi, Beit Midrash Principal and Mashpiah, to update their own sections of the site, allowing new items to be added more easily and quickly. Security of access is also being reviewed.

The Temple continued its involvement in social action through its association with the Downtown Community Ministry (DCM). Our participation opens up all sorts of community service volunteer opportunities for Temple members in the Downtown Community Ministry. On 13 November 2011 a food bank appeal was successfully held outside Wellington supermarkets. The book fair on the 23 and 24th July 2011 also went very well. The

Temple has a bin in its foyer which is specifically designated for food donations to DCM. Food donations from the Temple's collection bin are very much appreciated at DCM. The Temple's Social Action Committee recognises that many Temple Sinai members are engaged in social action, in Tzedaka, in Tikkun Olam. We are proud of the spirit of concern and compassion evident in our membership in which so many strive to give effect to the principles of Progressive Judaism.

During the year members of other faiths were invited to attend our Festival services. In December a season of light concert was held at St Peter's with a wide selection of music. The 9th National Interfaith Forum 2012 ("Spiritual Identity in a Secular Society") was held in Hamilton at Church College.

The monthly Wednesday lunch meetings have continued to be popular with about 25 people attending throughout the year. During 2011 some functions have been combined with the Jewish Care of the Aged functions at the Myers Hall.

The youth group has continued to meet on a regular basis and has been involved in a number of Temple based activities. The Temple's links with Habonim have been strengthened through a closer association with our youth group and it is hoped that these links will foster a stronger relationship in the coming year. The Board agreed that Habonim could occupy a class room at the Temple following the sale of the Moadon building. Habonim now meets at the Temple on a regular basis and we welcome their presence.

The Sinai Security Group (SSG) has continued to provide security coverage for the Temple's Shabbat services, High Holy Days and some joint activities with the Wellington Jewish Community Centre. The SSG teamed up with the WJCC security team to put in place security measures for the United Nations International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom Ha Shoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haatzmaut. More recently, the SSG and the WJCC security team have merged to form a Community Security Group (CSG) for the Wellington Jewish Community.

The Board supports and acknowledges the different roles some of our members undertake in other Wellington Jewish organisations and the time they contribute not only to the valuable work these organisations do but also to ensuring that the Temple is well represented in the wider Jewish community. Our members are active either as Temple representatives or as individuals in the following Jewish organisations: Wellington Jewish Community Centre, Wellington Regional Jewish Council, Council of Jewish Women Wellington and the Joe and Eve Major Trust.

The United Jewish Community of Hong Kong – Bob Cooper, President



The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong (UJC) has continued to operate productively and successfully. Shorashim, the congregation's religious school, began its 12th 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. Many life cycle and other celebrations were held, including B'nai Mitzvah, Brit Milah, conversions and naming ceremonies.

Rabbi Stanton Zamek; Education Director Rabbi Martha Bergadine; and Cantorial Soloist and Programming Assistant, Diego Edelberg provided spiritual leadership and developed or expanded programs for the congregation, JCC and the Hong Kong community.

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 13th June, 2011, elected the following UJC members to the Executive Committee: Cheryl Blanco, Bob Cooper, Andrew Gordon, Daniel Kirwin, Jonathan Kriegel, Ria Nova, Sharon Ser, Stuart Spencer, Barbara Thomas, Andrea Vidars, Kenny Weinstein, David Weisner and David Zeiden. (Resignations : Samantha Kriegel & Jordan Potash, New appointments : Clayton Carol & Adam Nelson). Robert Green, as Founding Chairman, Robert Meyer, Mark Michelson, Charles Monat are Honorary Members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee chose the following officers: Bob Cooper (president), David Zeiden (vice president), Andrew Gordon (treasurer) and Daniel Kirwin (secretary). Nancy Lui, Executive Administrator, Charlene Hsia, Assistant Administrator continued to make outstanding contributions to the operations and spirit of the UJC.

Membership figures (in units) as of December 31st, 2011, were as follows:

Type	Number	Annual Dues
Family	109	HK\$10,750
Individual	26	\$6,600
Individual "Under 30"	3	\$4,400
Non-Resident	19	\$2,400
Associate	1	\$6,600
Life	3	-
Total Members	161	265 adults; 208 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 the Israel, Britain, France, Spain, Switzerland, the United States, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile 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 about 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.

Shabbat services. The UJC holds a weekly Friday night Shabbat services in its permanent Sanctuary in the auditorium of the Jewish Community Centre. Family Shabbat services are conducted approximately once per quarter, including songs, stories and prayers designed to appeal to the entire family as well as honoring 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. Family Shabbat services are conducted approximately once per month, including songs, stories

and prayers designed to appeal to the entire family as well as honoring celebrants of birthdays. Family Shabbat services are preceded by an Shabbat dinner geared to the needs of families with young children.

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. When the rabbi and cantorial soloist or song leaders were away, lay leaders or visitors conducted services.

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

Havdalah Pajama Party: A monthly program for our 3-year-old members and their parents to come in their PJ's to sing and dance, make a craft, and say good-bye to Shabbat and hello to the new week.

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

Visiting Rabbis, Scholars:

Professor Reuven Firestone March 2-6, 2011

Judy Amit April 13, 2011

Brian Barbour April 15, 2011

Rabbi David Serkin May 8, 2011

Rabbi Marcelo Polakoff May 20, 2011

Marlene Myerson September 5-11, 2011

Consul General Ambassador Amikam Levy June 3, 2011

Rabbi Joel and Rachelle Oseran October 12-16, 2011

Steve Denenberg November 4, 2011

Gabrielle Kirstein November 25, 2011

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, Diego Edelberg, Nancy Lui, Charlene Hsia and numerous UJC volunteers took the lead in planning, coordinating and conducting these celebrations.

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, in the best tradition of such groups.

Breakfast Havurah: A gathering that features lively discussion over breakfast at Starbucks Coffee.

Rosh Chodesh: UJC women's discussion group meeting on a monthly basis and such meetings were interesting and thought provoking.

The Bookers: The UJC's Book Group meeting on a monthly basis for anyone who likes to read and discuss Jewish books – fiction, memoir, biography – it will be up to the group to select.

Adult Education

- Introduction to Judaism
- Treasures of the Bible

- Duties of the Heart
- Hebrew Reading for Beginners
- “One Congregation, One Book” Project – “These Are The Words” & “The Essential Kabbalah”

Bagels & Binah: Discussion with the Rabbi and guest speakers, every Shorashim Sunday

Shorashim, under the leadership of Education and Programming Director 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. Family education is an important component of Shorashim. Education is really the cornerstone of the UJC, and the quality of Shorashim emphasizes that commitment. On average, 52 students were enrolled during the year.

Life Cycle Events. During 2011, UJC members celebrated:

7 B'nai Mitzvahs

11 Brit Milah

5 Naming Ceremonies

1 Conversions

In addition, 2 children were 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 and flyers prepared by Charlene Hsia – in conjunction the Rabbi Stanton Zamek and Rabbi Martha Bergadine.

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.

I would like to conclude by thanking all the professional staff, and the office staff, my colleagues on Exco and the many volunteers who have contributed so much time and energy to the Congregation during the past year.

United Hebrew Congregation, Singapore – Naomi Herman, President

UHC Singapore celebrated our 20th Anniversary this year and we were honored that alumni traveled from Japan, Hong Kong, Israel, Australia and the United States to join us.

Our membership continues to be strong and our members come from many countries and include young professionals, families with young children, kids preparing for Bar & Bat Mitzvah and empty nesters. Throughout the year, a large team of volunteers put together programs for the whole community as well as targeted programs aimed at different sub groups within the community.

Our High Holiday Season was packed with services, holiday meals, children's programs, adult education programs and more. The room was packed as well with between 200 and 250 people joining us for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Rabbi Lenny Thal came from New York for his 20th year and Cantor Susan Caro came from California for her 9th year to lead our services and facilitate our other programs. We are truly blessed to have the support of these two wonderful people for so many years.

As Rabbi Thal will be retiring after next year, UHC's Community Development Committee has been working tirelessly to build a strong foundation for the congregation moving forward. Our goal is to have a resident Rabbi in Singapore starting in 2014. We have received pledges for 70% of the expected costs so far and we will continue to fundraise over the next year to raise the additional funds.

UHC Singapore would also like to thank Harvey and Rosita Goldstein and their family for the generous donation of two Torahs for our community.

ACT Jewish Community – Peter Wise, on behalf of the Progressive Subcommittee

The Progressive Congregation of the ACT Jewish Community is an integral part of the ACT Jewish Community, which has a diverse membership incorporating Orthodox, Progressive and secular Jews. As such, it contributes to ACTJC events and activities as well as conducting the activities outlined below.

The Congregation has continued to hold services on Friday nights and the first Saturday of each month, although the latter are currently under review due to poor attendances. These have been led by a number of congregants – Peter Wise, Gerry Jacobson, Solomon Elijah, Raffi Lehrer and Rebecca Lehrer. Rebecca Lehrer was also responsible for organising the Service Leaders roster, and coordinating and running warm and participative High Holydays services. The Congregation is indebted to her for her hard work and enthusiasm. Saturday morning services have been coordinated by Jerzy Jagiello, who completed his conversion during the year. Special thanks go to Jerzy for assiduously learning the Torah portion – a formidable task for a new convert!



Peter Wise and Gerry Jacobson attended the UPJ Regional Music Network session in Sydney in November. In May, Marshall Voit and Stephanie Gratch from the Centre for Living Judaism visited the Progressive Congregation to lead services and run workshops. They also conducted a session of the ACT Jewish Community Cheder. They provided a wealth of information and resources which will enhance the conduct of services. All of the participants were greatly impressed by their knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment.

It was decided to disband the existing Progressive Committee in favour of a more *ad hoc* committee, in order to foster greater participation in services and the running of the Congregation by newer members. This will be our major challenge in the coming year. Thanks go to Robert Cussell and Gracie Stifelberg, as Co-Chairs of the Committee, for their work in directing the activities of the Congregation throughout the year.

ARZA – Barbara Ford, President



ARZA Australia represents Progressive Zionists in Australia.

The organisation is affiliated to ARZENU, the International association of Progressive Zionist organisations, the Union for Progressive Judaism and the Zionist Federation of Australia. ARZA represents the Progressive community at Federal and State level, as well as sending delegates to the World Zionist Congress. ARZA is actively involved in the work of the UIA Progressive Trust, which has an annual fundraising appeal to send funds to the World Union for Progressive Judaism in Israel to help with the provision of Refugee Relief to olim from around the world.

Netzer: We provide funds towards the Shnat Beit Midrash programme in Israel for all participants of the Shnat programme, as well as offering support to Netzer Australia on a continuing basis.

Young Adults Weekend NSTE: ARZA provided sponsorship for 23 young adults aged 23 to 37 for a Shabbat and weekend in NSW's Hunter Valley and a second weekend in the NSW Blue Mountains.

ARZENU Young Adult Shadowing Program, Jerusalem: ARZA sponsored a young adult to attend the ARZENU/WZO seminars in Jerusalem last year.

King David School: ARZA sponsored the Hebrew Camp for Years 7 and 8 students at the King David School, Melbourne and the production of YESH material and in the renamed seminar and camp now known as the "ARZA Israel Seminar" and "ARZA Hebrew Camp."

Speakers: A DVD of recent visitors, including Rabbi Gilad Kariv and Anat Hoffman, was produced and distributed to congregations that were not able to attend a function. ARZA hosted Anat Hoffman on her last visit to Sydney and Melbourne particularly to meet with our young adults.

Mission to Poland: Together with the UPJ and Emanuel Synagogue we ran a 2 week Mission to Poland and Israel, commemorating the Shoah. We visited and prayed with emerging communities in Krakow and Lublin. In Israel we commemorated ANZAC Day, Yom HaZicharon; celebrated Yom Ha'Atzmaut, met with many of our movements' leaders from ARZENU; IMPJ; IRAC; LACO; WZO; WUPJ; SALTZ Centre as well as meeting Rabbi Miri Gold, the Australian Ambassador and Mark Regev, spokesman for the Israel Prime Minister. We invite you to join us on this annual event in April 2013. Follow our last blog from the Mission on: <http://www.upj.org.au/index.php/news-and-events/190-upj-mission-to-poland-a-israel-blog>.

New Zealand: In July 2012 we were delighted to be special guests for the launch of ARZA New Zealand. We welcome our sister organisation to the ARZENU family.

JRAAC: ARZA supports the Jewish Religious Action and Advocacy Centre of the UPJ that launched in Melbourne May 2012. The Centre is providing policy statements and advocating on social justice issues locally and in Israel on behalf of the Progressive Movement.

Website: ARZA has a new website on www.arza.org.au.

E-news: ARZA produces and circulates monthly e-newsletters to more than 1,300 people

THE FUTURE: ARZA's enthusiastic Board takes an active role in providing support for our Youth and Educational institutions, together with supporting Israel and local Progressive congregations. Netzer and the Progressive Community Shlichim are included in the Board. Having modernized the appearance of our website and logo, and revamped the Board of ARZA we are about to launch a membership recruitment and promotional drive that, we believe, will increase the profile and presence of ARZA in our community.

Emanuel School – David Nathan, President



The School has maintained strong enrolments comprising 770 students from pre-school to Year 12.

Our financial results for the year ending 31 December 2011 showed an operational surplus of \$278,130 (2010: \$593,912) before including capital grants, donations and bequests. Any fee increase represents a challenge in today's economic environment and for 2012 they were slightly higher than we would have hoped. The Board is more than alert to the economic challenges facing many of our families. The Board has drawn comfort from the fact that over the last five years Emanuel School's annual fee increases have been the lowest of all private Jewish schools in Sydney.

We are pleased the budget for 2012 is balanced with a modest surplus.

The main focus of the Board is to ensure our Strategic Plan is being progressed including investment in enhancing our facilities to optimise the educational outcomes for our students.

The relatively new Kleinlehrer Family Science Centre is being fully utilised and it includes a Primary School library, four state of the art science classrooms and underground parking. Emanuel School is grateful to Aron and Helen Kleinlehrer for their ongoing support and to the Federal Government for their allocation under the Building the Education Revolution stimulus funding that together made this building a reality. The recently extended and upgraded Wolanski Learning Centre is also adding to the richness of our educational offering

The School's substantial building program is focused on bringing the facilities to a level that will make the learning environment an optimal one for students and teachers alike. As part of planning for the future, a site master plan has been developed identifying medium and longer term projects to further enhance the School

The next major project will be the replacement of the Primary School building that abuts the new Kleinlehrer Family Science Centre with a new building which will simultaneously enable us to also remove the demountables from the basketball courts thereby increasing our open space.

Anne Hastings continues to lead from the front. She has brought many strengths to her role and there is a expectation that her strong commitment to academic excellence will serve the School well in the coming years.

Emanuel School is grateful to the JCA for its community leadership and the generous support it has provided Emanuel School over the years. This year Emanuel School again received tremendous support from the JCA.

It is indeed a privilege to work with such a dedicated School Board and I thank the Board of Directors on your behalf for their contribution that benefits all of our students.

We commend all individuals who volunteer their time and expertise to Emanuel School. They set a fine ongoing example to their children and grandchildren and are an invaluable part of the success of Emanuel School.

Netzer – Alice Chipkin, Federal Merakezet



States

Sydney Netzer is proud to welcome Yuval and Inna into the Netzer Sydney family at last. After a month of delays the couple has settled beautifully into their new apartment and they are embarking on the challenge to get to know the “ins and outs” of Netzer Sydney as soon as they can.

Elections for the Mazkirut for 2013 are underway.

Melbourne Netzer is excited to announce their Mazkirut elect:

Mazkira – Nikki Silbert

Metaemet – Jordane Hyams

Rosh Chinuch – Orion Herman

Gizbar – Nathan Companez

Sydney have yet to elect the full Mazkirut but are also proud to announce that Eliza McCarroll is our new Mazkira elect.

Camp – Machane MaHamatzav

Summer camps for January 2013 have officially been launched and planning is well underway. They will take place on the following dates:

Sydney Junior Camp: 3-8th Jan (Years 3-8 + federal year 9)

Melbourne Junior camp: 2-7th Jan (Years 3-8)

Federal Senior camp: 15th-23rd Jan (Years 10-13)

Our roshim are working hard on all of the logistics and are on well on track. We are preparing for the integration of the returning Shnat group and new batch of young year 11 leaders, madatzim. This new cycle is imperative to Netzer’s yearly survival as we get new injections of passion, energy and excitement. Camps are set to be absolutely fantastic, and as always are a high point for chanichim and bogrim alike. Registrations can be made through the website.

Outreach

An incredibly successful Perth Outreach was held on the last weekend of August. Nikki Silbert and Lia Avisar of Netzer Melbourne flew out to join the Netzer Perth all-male tzevet and ran a full Shabbaton for the Perth chanichim, including the running of the kabbalat Shabbat service for the entire community.

Netzer is still very hopeful to pursue an Outreach to Singapore in early 2013 with the help of the UPJ who have been invaluable in setting up communication with the community there.

We were glad to be of help in providing High-Holyday program materials for children’s services in Singapore and were of great help in running youth services over Rosh Hashanah in a number of Melbourne Synagogues. There was also a considerable Netzer presence at all Synagogues, Sydney and Melbourne alike, with Shana Tova gift bags for the children with camp information included to coincide with the launch of machane.

Chinuch Seminar

Our second and last Chinuch Seminar for 2012 took place on the last weekend of September. It was attended by 40 bogrim from around Australia and took place at King David School and a number of bogrim houses over the 4 days.

Tal Meretz, Federal Rosh Chinuch and I organized the seminar which was a great success. The theme of the seminar was Shabbat and a re-evaluation of our Shabbat policy, the way we integrate Judaism into our daily lives outside of Netzer and hadracha. We covered issues of post-movement life, hadracha skills, Israel updates and more.

AGM – Voting for Federal Mazkirut 2013

As part of September's Chinuch Seminar, voting took place for next year's Federal Mazkirut. Incoming Mazkirut for 2013 is:

- Federal Merakezet – Alice Chipkin (Sydney)
- Federal Gizbar – Mitch Parsons (Perth)
- Shnat Rakezet – Elli Dean (Melbourne)
- Rosh Chinuch – Josh Appelboom (Melbourne)
- + Additional tafkid for PR went to a 4th Year – Sam Osborne.

Shnat Teva 2012

Shnat Teva have reached the final stage of the Shnat program, Kibbutz Lotan. They are well settled in their respective jobs and are loving kibbutz life with host-families playing an important role.

They are doing a lot of reflecting on the year that's past and also looking towards their return for the coming year. They have received their camp allocations, tzvattim, and have begun communication with the bogrim at home to prepare.

Shnat Yam 2013

Shnat Yam are set to leave at the end of January 2013. The group of 8-10 kids have just graduated from high-school and are now writing or preparing to sit their final exams.

As Netzer we face financial obstacles in order to help a number of families make the program a reality for their children. We have been in communication with Synagogues around the country and may need to turn to direct contact with members of the community willing to help raise funds for subsidies.

Netzer have made a separate federal account for all Shnat donations so that the financial mismanagement that occurred in years past is not a repeat occurrence.

We look forward to keeping the UPJ Executive in the Netzer loop! For further information please go to www.netzer.org.au

UPJ Awards

The 2012 award recipients will be announced at the gala dinner on October 27.

President's Award

Established in 2010, this award recognises exemplary leadership, outstanding service, devotion and commitment to the promotion and development of Progressive Judaism. It is only awarded every two years at the UPJ Biennial Conference.

Inaugural recipients: Phyllis Dorey, Penny Jakobovits, Michael Lawrence

Vatik Award

This award honours past presidents of congregations and affiliate organisations who have continued to give outstanding service and make a valuable contribution to their congregation and the wider community for at least five years after the end of their term of office. We recognise these worthy individuals and their continued commitment to the community and furthering the Progressive Jewish outlook in our region.

Previous recipients:

Merrilyn Ades	Philip Coleman	Sharene Hambur	Philip Mayers
Ken Arkwright	Geoffrey Cowen	Hans Jensen	Lynette Ninio
Arthur Berman	Joshua Goldman-Brown	Peter Kolliner	Eva Popper
Philip Bliss	Sam Granek	Stephanie Markson	Jonathan Taft
		Tony Leverton	Ted Waxman

Ner Tamid Award

Since the Biennial Conference of the Australia New Zealand Union for Progressive Judaism held in Melbourne in 1990, we have honoured the "Unsung Heroes" - members of congregations and affiliate organisations who perform exceptional service for our congregations and community, both Progressive and Jewish, and within the wider community.

Previous recipients:

Fred Albert	Arnold Cohen	Noel Hall	Eva Phillips
Libby Appelboom	Rachel Dennyss	Rhondda Hall	Amelie Rauner
Judith Arkwright	Anthony & Dianne Deutsch	Fred Hirsh	Ian Samuel
Stan Benjamin	David & Sue Esterman	Albert Isaacs	Chris Shiller
Albert Bentata	Norma Survana Esther	Elijah Jacob	Nat Sharpe
Heinz Bohm	Mick Fettmann	Ted Lewis	Fred Silberstein
Garry and Nola Braude	Bev Gelbart	Jan Marriott	Harry Smith
Eric Briskman	Mark Ginsburg	Valerie Minn	Joe Stupel
Nicole Brown	Sydney Goldstein	Charles Monat	Geoff Sussman
Margaret Capkin	Leon & Sue Goldwater	Sue Morgan	Michael Taft
Zvi Civins	Liz Goodman	Betty Mortimer	Joan Taylor
Marlis Cohen			

Atid Award

This award is presented to students in recognition of outstanding achievements and ongoing commitment to the ideals of Progressive Judaism.

Previous recipients:

Danielle Cohen	Amira Nathan
Cara Black	Jennifer Shkolnik
Steven Goldman	Jemima Stanwix
Sharon Ladowsky	Davina Vorchheimer
Ramelle Lewis	Dvora Zylberman