

THE UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Annual Report

2012-2013

5773-5774



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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WORLD
UNION FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



האיגוד
העולמי
ליהדות
מתקדמת

Greetings from the World Union for Progressive Judaism

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to send greetings and good wishes to the Union or Progressive Judaism at the conclusion of another successful year of partnership, growth and progress towards our shared goal of developing and supporting Progressive Jewish life in Israel and around the world.

During the past year we saw significant events throughout our global reform world. We were proud to welcome a very large and influential delegation from the UPJ who took part in our Connections 2013 international Biennial conference in Jerusalem. The conference saw hundreds of leaders from around the world coming together to learn, connect, discuss and influence our global family. Another milestone was the dedication this Simchat Torah of our synagogue center in Kiev, Ukraine, bringing new hope and a permanent home to "Hatikva" community after 22 years of dreaming. This completes a 10 year strategic plan of placing centers in the 4 major cities: Moscow, St Petersburg, Minsk and Kiev, and comes on the heels of a fantastic summer which saw 1100 children in summer camps in the FSU, for many their first encounter with Judaism, Zionism and Israel. Hundreds more took part in our summer and winter camps around the world, creating a strong global Netzer presence and a promising future for our movement. Closer to home, High Holiday services in Shanghai, Mumbai, Singapore and Hong Kong are all promising indicators of the emergence of new frontiers for Progressive Jewry in Asia. We are confident these will help strengthen the region significantly and acknowledge the dedicated and committed work of your UPJ leaders to nurture and support these communities.

The year has seen some major achievements in Israel in the area of religious pluralism and recognition of the need for gender equality. The decision to create a new egalitarian section at the Kotel is a milestone in our shared battle for equality at Judaism's holiest site. However, there continue to be many challenges that 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 in 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.

Our Movement continues to face many financial, social and political challenges and yet we are also aware of the exciting and significant opportunities for growth and strengthening of our Movement over the months and years ahead. The UPJ will continue to play a leading role in making the most of these opportunities, strengthening our valued partnership going forward.

Mike Grabiner
Chairman

Shai Pinto
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

רח' דוד המלך 13, ירושלים 94101, 13 King David St., Jerusalem, Israel

Tel: 02-620-3447 • Fax: 02-620-3525 • Website: www.wupj.org • E-mail: wupjis@wupj.org.il

633 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017-6778 • Tel: 212-452-6530 • Fax: 212-452-6585 • E-Mail: wupj@urj.org
Regional Offices: Aruba, Johannesburg, London, Melbourne, Moscow, Sao Paulo



October, 2013

Dear Union of Progressive Judaism,

On behalf of the Israel Movement for Reform & Progressive Judaism (IMPJ), its communities, professionals, lay leaders and members across the country, we would like to heartily congratulate the UPJ on yet another productive year of advancing Jewish pluralism throughout the Australian, Asian and New Zealand region, promoting Israel as the center for all Jews, and supporting the IMPJ in our continuing efforts to enrich Israel's society. Like you, the IMPJ works tirelessly to foster tolerance and equality based on the essential Jewish value of Tikkun Olam.

It is written in the Talmud that "the Torah begins and ends with acts of caring and loving kindness." (Sotah 14a) The IMPJ is dedicated to social justice and caring for those who live among us with an emphasis on empowerment, regardless of religion, place of origin or political affiliation. This ethic is embedded within all of its programs and communities, and is exemplified through the work of Keren Bechavod, the fund for humanitarian aid and emergency relief. From Gan Nitzanim – our preschool that welcomes children of asylum seekers and migrant workers – to our food package programs that reach Gypsy youth and Druze families in need, and through our Legal Aid Center for Olim (LACO) that helps new immigrants overcome the problems with absorption, we are fighting intolerance and promoting equality. This past year, our communities and members also helped those in the areas stricken by Operation "Pillar of Defense" by visiting bomb shelters, opening our homes to families who needed a respite from the rockets, and more. But there is still much work to be done, and no one knows this better than you.

The IMPJ has always recognized the value of its global partners, and in particular that of the UPJ and all that it has done to help strengthen the connections between Israel and your region. We fully acknowledge and deeply appreciate how each and every one of you has been standing alongside us with both your encouragement and your generous support. We wholeheartedly thank you for assisting us in leading Israel's Jewish renaissance and helping us to strengthen Israel's democracy. We also look forward to seeing this cooperation continue to increase and expand over the coming years.

Sincerely,


Adv. Yaron Shavit
IMPJ Chairperson


Rabbi Gilad Kariv
Executive Director



Office of the President

Dear Friends,

As the Union for Progressive Judaism prepares for its annual meeting, it is my pleasure to extend warm greetings—both personally and on behalf of the URJ—from friends and colleagues throughout North America’s Reform Jewish community. It is my hope that your gathering will be meaningful and celebratory and that all those in attendance will be refreshed and renewed by your time together.

The newest URJ initiatives seek to re-imagine Jewish life in ways that will engage individuals and families in synagogues and beyond, bringing God and Torah to our people in holy communities wherever they exist. Our three-pronged approach broadly focuses on:

- Engaging the next generation;
- Expanding our reach;
- Catalyzing congregational change.

We are delighted that the UPJ, too, works toward enriching and strengthening liberal Judaism in congregations and communities across Australia, New Zealand, and Asia, and we wish you continued success in these sacred endeavors. May the countenance of the Holy One of Blessing shine brightly upon all of you, bringing meaning and holiness to your upcoming gathering and to your work throughout the year.

Yasher koach.

L’shalom, Rick Jacobs

Greetings from WUPJ Latin America



We are very honored by the invitation to write a message on UPJ Annual Report. This demonstrates the integration of Jewish communities contributing doughtily for the strengthening of the progressive Judaism in the world, which seeks to bring people together as well.

Within WUPJ Latin America we use to say that we are one big family! Do not doubt that somewhere in the world where there is a progressive Jewish congregation, any Jew will be welcomed to spend the Cabalat Shabbat, the High Holidays or even become part of that group. This is because of one of WUPJ's pillars is religious diversity. Just like in a big family, there are closer people to our everyday lives and others more distant; some with fewer resources and others wealthier. We will always have differences among us.

But the most interesting about this is that is so, also are the communities that comprise the WUPJ - Latin America, gathering nearly 500 thousand Jews, with their differences, their peculiarities, and always with open doors to those who want to keep the values and Jewish traditions.

On this opportunity we still want to reinforce the invitation to all UPJ friends to participate of the 37th International WUPJ Biennial Conference 2015, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It will be a great honor for us to welcome everybody. WUPJ Latin America asks all of our UPJ friends to give serious thought to attending the 37th International Biennial Conference that we will host in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2015.

It is too soon to provide a meeting schedule and agenda, but we promise that if you come, you will be heartily welcomed by Latin America's Progressive Jewish Congregations. We include 500,000 Jews in almost every country in Latin America and the Caribbean. Although there are great differences and idiosyncrasies among us, we share a deeply ingrained desire to welcome every member of the World Union family. Come visit us, enjoy a Kabbalat Shabbat, High Holiday service, or just drop in for a talk. And you do not have to be a Progressive Jew – any/all Jews are welcome, as religious diversity in among the pillars of our core beliefs.

We will have our whole family on display at the Biennial. You can experience what unites us, how our family members differ, the vast diversity of history and culture from region to region and even city to city. Most of all, you will imbibe the sincerity of our welcome, how much we appreciate your interest in us.

We are truly a WUPJ community in transition, as we develop our own relationships, institutions and ways of doing things – but always within the core values we share with WUPJ friends wherever they may be found.

We look forward to seeing you in 2015.

Miriam Vasserman
President

Raul Gottlieb
Vice President

“Pray as if everything depended on God
Act as if everything depended on you”
[Ferdinand Isserman in *Mishkan T'filah* WUE]



European Union for Progressive Judaism
The Sternberg Centre for Judaism
80 East End Road London N3 2SY UK

Tel: +44 (0)20 8349 5651
Fax: +44 (0)20 8349 5699
www.eupj.org

October 2013

On behalf of the European Union for Progressive Judaism we send you greetings. It is wonderful to see how our sister organisation continues to thrive and to grow.

This is undoubtedly due to your professional, lay and spiritual leadership couple with the enthusiasm of all your members.

May you go from strength to strength.

Leslie Bergman Miriam Kramer EUPJ President EUPJ Chairman

President:
Leslie F Bergman
leslie.bergman@btinternet.com

Chairman:
Miriam Kramer
chairman@eupj.org

Honorary Life Presidents:
Ruth Cohen & Jeffery Rose

Administrator:
Deborah Grabiner
administrator@eupj.org



European Union for Progressive Judaism is an affiliate of The World Union For Progressive Judaism
The WUPJ is a constituent of the World Zionist Organisation and World Jewish Congress. Charity Number 253000

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is now 12 months since I was elected as President. During the year I have had the opportunity to meet with several communities and affiliates and I will continue to meet with other members of the Union across our region during my term as president.

My overwhelming impression is that we have in our movement, at every level, dedicated leaders and other volunteers who put in an enormous effort in both time and commitment to keep their communities vital and vibrant and to provide meaningful services and programs for their members.

While there are clearly challenges facing us, including an aging demographic, disengagement of some younger people, burdensome costs of maintaining community buildings and professional salaries, there is also a tremendous willingness to acknowledge these challenges and seek new approaches and strategies to counter them.

Progressive Judaism through its ideals of promoting acceptance, pluralism, inclusiveness and social justice provide a wonderful framework for us to develop these strategies both regionally and locally.

I do wish to thank the executive members and particularly the VA-ad for their suggestions, contributions and counsel during the last year. There is a truly collegiate approach to our decision-making processes. I also wish to thank our staff, Steve, Jocelyn and Ellen. We are very fortunate to have Steve Denenberg as our CEO, to guide and represent our movement. He has a deep understanding of the politics and dynamics of successfully running a professional organisation and ensuring our particular Progressive viewpoint is heard and respected in the wider Jewish community.

I look forward to the future as we collectively resolve these challenges to further promote Progressive Judaism in our region.

Stephen Freeman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

For me, this year is best summarised by the simple Hebrew phrase *higiya z'man* (the time has come). The time has come for us to welcome new groups of pluralistic Jews from around our region into our movement; the time has come for us, and Jews around the world, to call on the Government of Israel to treat all denominations of Judaism equally; and the time has come for us to use local expertise to provide training and leadership for members of our community. However, these things will only truly come to fruition if we continue to work – together – for their realization.

For helping to make these things come to be I offer thanks to each person who has volunteered their time, energy and support to the UPJ, ARZA and the UIA Progressive Trust. I offer special thanks to the dedicated volunteers who make up the Executive Committee of the UPJ and who give so tirelessly of their time and energy, and especially President Stephen Freeman who, for me, joins an amazing series of Presidents that I have had the privilege to work with. Finally I offer thanks to Ellen Frajman for the administrative help that she gives us in Victoria and, in particular, to Jocelyn Robuck for her dedication and creative talent that makes such a huge contribution to the work of the UPJ.

Steve Denenberg
Executive Director

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2013 are attached to this UPJ Annual Report.

This report is not intended to deal with specific items of interest as these can be more fully discussed at the Annual General Meeting of the UPJ.

The Executive of the UPJ approved a budget in June 2012 for the financial year July 2012 – June 2013 which would have resulted in a loss of \$24 200. This was set against a trading loss for the year ended June 2012 of \$54 000.

Unfortunately, due to a number of factors, some outside our control, the financial result to 30 June 2013 reflects a loss of \$67 500.

Expenses were, by and large, kept well under control with very few line items exceeding budget and many coming in below budget. There were 3 major amounts over budget, which amounted to \$28 500 in total. To, therefore, record total expenses below budget of \$9 300 means that, overall, remaining expenses were a net \$37 800 below budget.

2 major items of income contributed to the loss for the year, namely no success in attracting new sponsors or grants and a reduction in the grant we receive from the WUPJ. These items can be more fully explored at the AGM.

Clearly the challenge for the UPJ is to source additional funding in order to continue to provide outstanding service to its affiliates. Providing this service through excellent administrative support and guidance, programs and seminars as well as amazing conferences costs money and the UPJ needs to address this urgently.

The UPJ is still financially sound, however, we cannot afford to continue to incur losses and a model will need to be found that ensures the future financial viability of the UPJ.

My sincere thanks and admiration go to Steve Denenberg and Jocelyn Robuck in the office for their dedicated support and assistance during a difficult year. My thanks also goes to Fran Hotz, our external bookkeeper, for her continued support and timely and accurate reporting. I would also like to thank the finance committee for their input, comments, questions and advice.

Thank you also to our Auditors, Lowe Lippman, for, once again, undertaking a review of our accounts. That there were very few questions from them is testimony to the excellent work of the team mentioned above.

L'shalom,

David Robinson
Honorary Treasurer

PROJECT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

I have been privileged to work for the Union for Progressive Judaism since April 2009, when I was hired to coordinate the Mishkan T'filah project and to launch the UPJ monthly e-newsletter Gal Chadash. Since then my role has expanded greatly, which has been an enriching experience for me professionally. Many people are unaware of the work of the UPJ, so I thought it might be interesting to share how I spend my time at work:

About one-quarter of my time at work is spent on administrative tasks, as follows:

- Accounting: preparation of monthly ledgers, online banking, processing credit card payments, preparation of records for annual audit, administration of donations received through Paypal, follow-up on outstanding invoices;
- UPJ Executive and committee meetings;
- Email correspondence with congregations and committees;
- Creation of flyers, brochures and other marketing tools.

Another one-quarter of my work hours are spent on the following digital media tasks:

- Updates to the UPJ and ARZA websites, including website maintenance, posting of new articles, subscriber updates;
- Writing, editing and sending out weekly Parashat Hashavua, daily Elul Reflections (during the month of Elul), bi-weekly Chadashot e-newsletter and our quarterly e-newsletter Gal Chadash, as well as the monthly ARZA newsletter;
- Facebook page posts.

The remaining half of my time at work focuses on program development and coordination, including:

- Biennial planning;
- Regional gatherings planning;
- Moetzah meeting planning;
- Coordinating missions – Poland-Israel and Music Mission;
- Ongoing coordination with CCAR Press for Mishkan Nefesh, Mishkan T'filah Netzer siddur and Mishkan T'filah Minyan booklet;
- Progressive Trust event and campaign management (organising events, acquiring mailing lists from congregations, liaising with UIA).

As always, it is a privilege to work with Steve Denenberg on our many initiatives. Because we share an office, we are able to work cooperatively to collaborate and develop new ideas without needing to set up meeting times. UPJ President Stephen Freeman has been incredibly supportive and brings many needed skills to assist with our efforts, and the UPJ Executive Board members are always ready and willing to help whenever called upon. I want to especially thank our Treasurer David Robinson for his constant assistance and good counsel.

Respectfully submitted,
Jocelyn Robuck

MOETZAH CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I am happy to present this report to the UPJ AGM on behalf of the Moetzah. It has been a relatively uneventful year for us. We were very sad to say goodbye to Rabbi Paul Jacobson, who has returned to the United States for the next stage of his life's journey. Rabbi Brent Gutmann arrived in Auckland in July. I am looking forward to meeting him in person at our gathering in Melbourne. In the meantime, I'm very glad that his HUC-JIR classmate Rabbi Nicole Roberts was able to represent the Moetzah at his induction and has been an ongoing source of support for a rabbi in quite an isolated posting. Rabbi Roberts herself arrived in Australia just a year ago and has already kindly agreed to serve as our treasurer. Rabbi Don Levy remains our secretary.

For the second year in a row, Moetzah members, along with two of the Centre for Living Judaism fellows, published daily meditations for the month of Elul to a wide audience within and beyond our region. I was personally pleased to see such a large number of our members participating in this project, and I hope it will become an annual tradition.

In this last year, the Moetzah made a commitment to provide annual scholarship funding of \$1000 for young people attending Netzer Federal camp. We are hoping in this way to do our part to encourage and nurture future leaders in the Progressive movement.

As a group, we continue to debate a wide variety of issues. We are interested in seeing how our expression as religious people should translate into our actions in the wider world. At our meeting in June, we discussed a proposal that UPJ constituents alter their investment policies to avoid companies that are actively contributing to global warming. Our member Rabbi Gary Robuck has been doing fantastic work raising funds for Mazon, a visible Jewish organisation supporting hunger relief efforts around Australia.

Finally, as we look to the future, we continue to explore ways that we can build bridges with the Masorti movement in our region. Rabbi Adam Stein of Masorti Congregation Nitzan has a standing invitation to attend our meetings. As a group, we are discussing other strategies to strengthen our connections as movements, which provide vibrant alternatives to Orthodox Judaism. We'll look forward to the year ahead!

B'shalom,

Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The year could not have had a better start than the UPJ biennial conference in October 2012 with Scholar-in-residence Dr. Ron Wolfson. With the theme 'Sh'ma Koleinu' (Hear our voices) 180 people came together to learn, laugh and leyn together at the birthplace of modern Australia. The following 12 months has been a time of achievement for the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ) and for the Progressive movement generally, highlighted by changes in the Israeli political scene that suggest that the possibility of pluralistic Judaism being recognised as authentic expressions of Judaism is closer than ever before in the history of the Jewish State. Such a change will invariably have a significant and positive influence in our region and around the world.

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 focused 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. Some highlights from the past year include:

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 previous successes make us strive to maintain 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 request with the professionalism and positive attitude that we believe is the hallmark of the UPJ.

Asian Forum: Further to the establishment of a committee to support the development of pluralistic Judaism a 'mini conference' was held in Hong Kong in May this year. Hosted by the United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong, representatives of communities from Shanghai, Singapore, Indonesia, Tokyo & Hong Kong spent 2 days working with representatives of the UPJ Executive Committee to plan for future development in this important part of our region.

Australian Reform Zionist Association: The UPJ is very pleased to maintain its support for the vital work of ARZA by donating the time of the UPJ Staff to provide administrative support for the organisation. This enables ARZA to continue 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 Chairperson Barbara Ford attended the WUPJ Connections convention and combined personal visits with meeting ARZA leaders in Canada and Holland. ARZA was invited by the Zionist Federation of Australia to provide a panelist for its opening session. Steve Denenberg's presentation featured a call for the Government of Israel to recognise pluralistic Judaism now. This plea was endorsed by keynote speaker, M.K. Ruth Calderon and is now a resolution approved by the Zionist Federation of Australia and is being proposed at the forthcoming ARZENU and Va'ad Hapoel meetings in Jerusalem, where Steve will represent the ARZA Chairperson.

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 that permeates our congregations. This year's Award winners included: Ner Tamid – Liz Marks (Kedem); Herb Lesser (Gold Coast) and Naomi Johnson (Auckland). The Vatik Award was presented to Peter Marks (Kedem) and Phyllis Dorey (TBI). Outgoing President, David Robinson also gave three special 'President's Awards' - to Judy Campbell for the development of the

UPJ Music Network; to retiring Vice-President Neil Samuel for his many years of dedicated work; and to the WUPJ's Rabbi Joel Oseran for his partnership in the development of new communities.

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. The departure of Rabbi Gersh Lazarow to become Senior Rabbi at TBI and the completion of Marshall Voit's Fellowship has seen some changes. Jewish Life Fellow Stephanie Gratch has been promoted to Coordinator, and with the arrival of two Jewish Life Fellow, Noa Gibson and Shannyn Gelbart this has allowed the Centre to reach out to even more congregations.

Congregations and affiliates: During this past year it was a pleasure to welcome two new "roof body" affiliates to the UPJ, Progressive Judaism Victoria (PJV), and the NSW-based Board of Progressive Jewish Education. It is hoped that their inclusion in the work of the UPJ will strengthen interstate links and develop the educational resources available to all congregations. The overall range of activities and programs provided by congregations has been incredible and we have been pleased to offer publicity and support for them via our regular email distributions and through special notification on our website. As will be seen throughout this 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 UPJ.

Communication: Our focus on educating and informing our members and the wider community has continued through our online magazine, *Gal Chadash* ("New Wave") which has now been supplemented by a fortnightly internet-based newsletter *Chadashot* that focuses on the activities that the UPJ is directly involved in or responsible for.

Community representation: The UPJ and its affiliates are 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, State Zionist Councils, and attendance at communal functions such as Yom HaShoah, Yom Ha'atzmaut and AGMs of communal organisations. In addition there has been involvement in numerous interfaith and lobbying groups where members of our movement hold positions of leadership.

During this time the President attended the retirement of Senior Rabbi, Fred Morgan, at Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne as well as the opening of the renovated Beit Shalom in Auckland, and 60th anniversary celebrations of Beit Shalom in Adelaide. He and Steve Denenberg made a presentation to departing Israeli Ambassador, Yuval Rotem, at the ZFA Plenum meeting in August.

Gatherings: During the past year 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 was reviewed and it was determined that it is vital for the congregational leaders to meet more often. Subsequently a Gathering of Presidents, Executive Committee and Rabbis will take place at the Leo Baeck Centre for Progressive Judaism in Melbourne in November this year. At the same time a small committee has been formed during this time to plan and prepare for the biennial conference to be held in November 2014.

Internship: Thanks to a most generous donation we established an Intern program in conjunction with the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism. During this period no suitable applicants came forward and the donor generously agreed that the funds can be used to provide additional subsidies to the Netzer Shnat group. It is hoped that a suitable person will go to Israel as Intern during the following year.

Leadership development: The visit by the head of the WUPJ's Anita Saltz Centre, Rabbi Steve Burnstein as guest speaker for the Progressive Trust Appeal was an excellent opportunity to encourage people to participate in the Beutel Leadership program as well as the Education and Social Justice programs offered by the Centre. In 2013 three people attended the program and received financial assistance from the UPJ.

MAZON: Under the enthusiastic leadership of Rabbi Gary Robuck, MAZON – the Jewish Response to Hunger has held a number of campaigns, including the annual food drive over the High Holydays. The UPJ has been happy to provide the administrative support required for MAZON to be proactive without taking any money from the amounts donated. In August of this year the organisation chose 3 most worthy causes, each nominated by the Rabbis of the Moetzah for a \$1,000 donation each. They included the Asylum Seekers' Centre in Melbourne; a Family Support Centre in Adelaide; and the Red Cross in Queensland. A further \$1,000 donation was made to the Joint Distribution Committee towards their Aged Care facility in Mumbai, India, which is also supported by our local congregation, Rodef Shalom.

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 to remain relevant to our congregations and involved in interfaith activities and social advocacy issues. Chair of the Moetzah, Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky, has maintained and developed the 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; the President and Executive Director try to attend part of each Gathering. In June 2102 Rabbi Gilad Kariv attended and met with the rabbis at their meeting in Sydney.

New Congregations and groups: The development of a Progressive congregation in Shanghai, China continues in partnership with local residents and with support of the WUPJ, the UJC (Hong Kong) and the UPJ with services and activities for both Pesach and the High Holydays. It is particularly pleasing to note that the development of this congregation has resulted in the Jewish Agency sending the first-ever Shaliach to China to help this development. Following an approach to the WUPJ by a group of people from Indonesia five representatives attended the WUPJ conference and two came to the mini-conference in Hong Kong. Together with Rabbi Fred Morgan, representing the Moetzah, we are working with them to develop a conversion program for those keen to establish a congregation there. In another development, although it is not a Progressive congregation, the President of the Tokyo Jewish community attended the mini-conference and expressed interest in developing a closer relationship with the UPJ. In response to an invitation, Steve Denenberg will be spending a Shabbat with them on his way to Israel in October.

Mission to Poland & Israel: Further to the great success of the initial Mission to Poland and Israel in April 2012, the UPJ, ARZA and Emanuel Synagogue decided to undertake a similar event in 2014. During this period a most significant development has been the welcome addition of Temple Beth Israel as a sponsor. In October of this year group leader and educator, Sandy Hollis, ran information evenings in Melbourne, Auckland and Sydney, ensuring that a viable group will undertake the forthcoming trip.

Musicians' Network: Thanks to the energy and expertise of Judy Campbell the UPJ Musician's Network has continued to grow. During this year CLJ Fellow, Marshall Voit took on the leadership role and was in no small part responsible for the outstanding success of the UPJ's music seminar, *Hava NaShira* that was attended by 78 people from across the region. Following Marshall's departure at the end of his Fellowship, Cantor Michel Laloum has taken over as Network Chairman and is working with a small committee to organise a significant delegation to attend the Temple Musicians' Guild conference in Israel in June 2014.

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 programs 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. It is a true pleasure to congratulate outgoing Federal Merakezet, Alice Chipkin, and the entire Mazkirut on the outstanding job that they have done, and to welcome incoming Federal Merakezet Shoshana Booth, as well as pledging our continuing support to the incoming Mazkirut.

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. Rachel Safman has completed her studies and been ordained as a Rabbi. Unfortunately she was not able to find a position in the region, but we have hopes of her returning in the future.

We continue to encourage young people to attend the various programs provided by the WUPJ's Anita Saltz Centre, including financial assistance. We also continued to provide financial assistance to a Cantorial student.

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. During this time we said farewell to Rabbi Paul Jacobson (Emanuel Synagogue, Sydney) and welcomed Rabbi Brent Gutmann to Beit Shalom, Auckland.

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. Lior Argaman has made a tremendous contribution to the community and has emulated her predecessor, Anat Baruch in being recognised by the Jewish Agency as the outstanding Shlichah worldwide. As her shlichut comes to an end we offer heartfelt thanks and appreciation to her for all that she has achieved. NSW Community Shaliach, Yuval Nemirovsky has completed his first year with us and has also done an excellent job. We look forward to welcoming Nadav Shachmon as the Victorian Community Shaliach in the near future.

Social Action & Advocacy: 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 the community but they undoubtedly reflect the values of social justice and *Tikkun Olam* which are important to so many of our members. Throughout this period JRAAC has continued to develop position statements, with the Va'ad taking responsibility for approval of Statements. This has been supplemented by Steve Denenberg visiting Canberra to brief Jewish members of Parliament and the Israeli Ambassador on the work of the Centre.

Thanks: Following the recent move of the UPJ office to NSTE, Chatswood, due to the redevelopment of Emanuel Synagogue we offer our sincere thanks to the Board and staff of Emanuel Synagogue for their many years of support. We are also very grateful to North Shore Temple Emanuel for its warm welcome in providing our new office space. The UPJ will have a presence in both locations over the weeks and months ahead.

Training: In addition to encouraging and funding people to attend the world class programs of leadership development, Jewish education and social justice provided by the WUPJ's Anita Saltz Centre during this year we have planned the launch of a new series of training for current and potential lay leaders. Following his retirement in August this year we invited Rabbi Fred Morgan to develop and run a *Shaliach Tzibbur* course that will train and develop lay peoples' skills and knowledge in order that they can lead or assist in running Shabbat Services. The first of these courses will take place in January 2014 and it is planned to offer additional courses in the region thereafter.

UIA Progressive Trust: Based on the premise that in order for Progressive Judaism to develop its role globally and regionally it is essential that there is a strong and vibrant Progressive movement in Israel. 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. As well as providing funds for absorption and integration programs

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.

Guest speaker, Rabbi Steve Burstein, brought his tremendous skills as a speaker, educator and entertainer to his visit to Perth, Sydney, Melbourne and Hong Kong. Thanks to him and the key volunteers, with the support of the UPJ office 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.

UPJ Cultural Fund: After some time in formation, and with grateful thanks to Arnold Bloch Leibler, we have successfully established a UPJ Cultural Fund. 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 programs 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 before the UPJ Fund was established and we hope to have it operating in the near future.

Visitors: In addition to the presence of Dr. Ron Wolfson as a wonderful scholar-in-residence for the biennial conference in October 2012 we were also thrilled to welcome Mike Grabiner (Chairman WUPJ), Shai Pinto (Chief Operations Officer, WUPJ) and Miriam Kramer (Chairman of the European Union for Progressive Judaism) as special guests at our biennial conference. In December, former head of the IMPJ and WUPJ representative, now Deputy Chairman of KKL-JNF, Menachem Lebovic, visited and provided insight and encouragement to maximise our support during the forthcoming World Zionist Congress elections.

In February 2013 Rabbi Steve Burnstein visited Perth, Sydney, Melbourne and Hong Kong as part of his trip as Guest Speaker for the UIA Progressive Trust appeal, with successful functions in each place. In June Rabbi Gilad Kariv was one of the top international speakers at Limmud Oz and his informed and passionate presentations were a highlight of the weekend. Rabbi Kariv also visited Melbourne and Hong Kong during the visit.

World Union for Progressive Judaism: Our commitment to the work and mission of the WUPJ is undiminished and so is the presence of people from our region on the Executive Board: Philip Bliss is Vice-Chairman, and Phyllis Dorey and Ian Samuel are also on the Board. Immediate Past President and Treasurer David Robinson is now the official UPJ representative on the WUPJ Board. Our Honorary Secretary, Sharene Hambur did a wonderful job as co-chair is chairing of the "Connections" conference held 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.

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 meets on a regular basis to address day-to-day matters and to make decisions on behalf of, and subject to, the approval of the Executive committee.

Conclusion: This past year has been a time of considerable activity and achievement by the UPJ and our position in the region, within the community and in the world movement has never been stronger. As we conclude the 83rd year of the organisation, we can look back with pride on what has been achieved. We continue to try and provide assistance to congregations during time of need, and support to help them grow.

As we conclude this year we are commencing a process of review to clarify and strengthen our vision for pluralistic Judaism and to consider how best our organisation can help achieve that vision. We continue to be inspired and encouraged to redouble our efforts as we see small but significant signs of pluralistic Judaism being recognised in Israel. 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:

Va'ad

Stephen Freeman, President
Bev Gelbart, Vice-President
Roger Mendelson, Vice-President
Sharene Hambur, Honorary Secretary
David Robinson, Hon. Treasurer, WUPJ representative

Committee members:

Bernice Cohen
Joel Mendelson
Philip Levy
Sarah Fife (co-opted August 2013)
Gersh Lazarow (resigned July 2013)
Barbara Ford (ARZA)

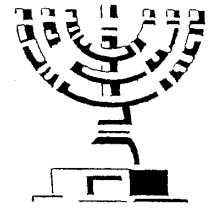
Staff:

Steve Denenberg, Executive Director
Jocelyn Robuck, Project Coordinator
Ellen Frajman, Administrative Officer

Shoshana Kaminsky (Moetzah)
Alice Chipkin (Netzer Australia)
Lior Argaman (VIC Community Shlichah, Vic)
Yuval Nemirovsky (NSW Community Shaliach)

Shalom Progressive Jewish Congregation – Central Coast NSW

Brian Green, President



Statistical overview and programmes: The Central Coast Shalom Progressive Jewish Congregation comprises a membership of 16 family units including 3 single units of approximately 26 adults, several young adults and 9 children. The ages of congregants range from 10 – 82 years with 2 children of Hebrew & Religion School age and the majority of the adults in the congregation being in their forties. Some congregants live in the Newcastle area one and a half hour's drive from Gosford where we meet. The Congregation has been in existence for 25 years and the Hebrew & Religion School celebrated its 16th anniversary in 2013. We have no established meeting venue other than renting a community hall, which we did mainly for Hebrew & Religion School. As the Congregation has reduced in size, we have found it more beneficial to revert to a 'home service model' to capture the chaverah that exists within the congregation. We have a family service, led by our children, once a month in someone's, volunteered, home. We only use the community hall for formal services such as, B'Mitzvahs, Communal Seder's and the High Holy Day Services of which only Erev Rosh Hashanah is celebrated. On Yom Kippur, most congregants, by established custom, return to their home congregations, usually in Sydney. Otherwise we journey down to NSTE, our closest formal Progressive congregation and the congregation of our consulting rabbi, Rabbi Gary Robuck, with whom we have very cordial relations. It should be noted that the last 2 children of Hebrew & Religion School age will be prepared for their respective B'Mitzvah's by private tuition now that Hebrew & Religion School has been suspended due to no future enrolments being foreseen.

Successes: Apart from our continued existence in an area, almost totally devoid of Yiddishkeit, our major accomplishments have been with our Hebrew & Religion School. During the life of the Congregation we have B'Mitzvahed a total of 33 children from our Hebrew & Religion School. In this endeavour, Rabbis Ninio and Robuck have assisted us, although the preparation has been by our own H&R School teachers. In this last year, three children have been B'Mitzvahed, Jakob Cohen and Miah Kaplan. Jakob celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at the Kotel and Miah, her Bat Mitzvah in the North of Israel near her father's kibbutz, Kibbutz Genosar. Leigh Shapiro celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in Manchester, England where her aged maternal grandmother was able to attend. All students were prepared in Australia and Jakob and Miah's B'Mitzvah coach, Jennie Green was in Israel with them as part of the ceremony and celebration.

We have established a Jewish cemetery (consecrated by the Chaverah Kadisha), in the Wyong Shire of the Central Coast and, with that council's assistance in providing donations of native trees, have attempted to beautify it and other areas of the Central Coast. We have conducted two funerals there in the last 12 months. On Tu B'shevat each year, for the last 16 years, we had, as an experiential learning exercise for Hebrew & Religion School pupils and their parents, planted these donated trees in the areas designated by council as needing regeneration. In this way as well as teaching the significance of Tu B'shevat in its modern iteration as an Arbor Day in Israel, we are also fulfilling the mitzvah of Tikkun Olam, the 'repair of the world' so apt in an era of increasing global, environmental degradation and species extinction.

We provide a hospital visiting service for non-affiliated Jews receiving palliative care in hospital and/or their home if requested. We are also available to say final prayers with them and conduct their funerals. As part of our relationship with other residents of the Central Coast and other faith communities we outreach, educationally to any school in the local area requiring information on Judaism, Jews and Israel. In the past year we have visited several schools in the area. Apart from this, individual Hebrew & Religion school parent/congregants have addressed the secular schools their children attend on a whole range of topics, mostly however, relating to festival celebration.

Congregational management: Our congregational Board of Management made up of myself as President and Education Director; Gary Berman as Vice-President and Honorary Treasurer; Sheryle Berman as Honorary Secretary and Publicity Officer; Jennifer Green as Welfare Officer and Shofar Editor. All office holders have acquitted themselves well in their various roles and capacities and being involved in all aspects of congregational management. The

Congregation is grateful to them for their talents and dedication and particularly for the fact that they are all busy working and running their homes. As Education Director I am also grateful to those parents who in the past contributed to our community by serving as teachers and Co-teachers in our Hebrew & Religion School. Their unpaid contribution and volunteerism made it possible. We are small but are an extremely active community

Challenges ahead: Perhaps our greatest challenge is to maintain the integrity of our Hebrew & Religion School initiative now that the majority of our students have become Bnai Mitzvah. Like all congregations Post-B'mitzvah involvement by our youth has been and is our Achilles' heel. We are hoping to initiate adult education classes aimed at our recent and not so recent H&R School graduates and have obtained some material they should find interesting and challenging. However, competing with sport and other teenage distractions, will require both time and the expenditure of resources, which are in short supply given our fee structure and membership base. We cant do much without raising funds, a challenge in itself given the mortgage and cost of living strains imposed upon young families as a result of schooling and life in general.

Strategic directions: With static congregational numbers, the challenge will be for us to outreach to unaffiliated Jews living on the Central Coast as well as to 'in reach' so to speak, to further inform our current congregational members and their children on Jewish issues/topics and vitally, what is happening in the Jewish homeland, Israel. This will be pursued vigorously. We look forward to an exciting and eventful 2014.

North Shore Temple Emanuel – Chatswood NSW

Sarah Fife, President (with inclusions from Susan Kadar, Immediate Past President)



This past year has been a busy but exciting year for the North Shore Temple Emanuel.

Without question, the stand-out event of the year was Rabbi Nicole Roberts' induction and the dedication of our new Torah Scroll. Several hundred congregants were joined by leaders of the UPJ and broader Jewish community, members of state and local government and other local leaders to participate in our celebration. The unrolling of the Torah scroll in the sanctuary symbolised the circle of our shared values, our past and our hopes for the future and was a special experience especially because this was a first experience for many.

Another highlight of our year was our High Holiday celebrations which featured all three of our Rabbis, our volunteer adult and children's choirs, Torah laining by various members of our community and a series of call ups which sought to recognize the contributions of the many dedicated volunteers within our community.

Other featured events included the 30th annual Senior Citizens Concert and the first event in our Beyond the Book Series which featured David Gonski and drew well over 100 people to NSTE.

On the Spiritual front, Shabbat and Festival Services continued to inspire those who attend. The leadership of our Senior Rabbi, Rabbi Gary Robuck, the contributions of Assistant Rabbi Nicole Roberts and the frequent contributions of our volunteer Choirs ensure that services have a balance of familiar and new.

The year also saw a significant increase in lay participation in services, a growing group of dedicated Torah readers and also the inclusion of Simon Holloway who educated and entertained the Congregation with his very well researched Torah commentary.

Regular Keshet services catering for the youngest worshippers and Shabbat Groove services have become much anticipated popular features. Kaleidoscope, the Mincha service, held on the last Shabbat of each month, is now under the leadership of Rabbi Nicole, who uses this platform to lead a more contemplative service where people can strengthen personal connection to their spirituality and to one another.

We look forward to formally launching our "Synagogue Without Walls" initiative in 2014.

We have also begun efforts to increase our engagement of Young Adults and are currently working to build a stronger partnership with our Netzer Shaliach (Yuval Nemirovsky) to create a series of events which bridge Young Adults – affiliated and not – in the North, the East, the Inner West and everywhere in between.

For our teenagers, Netzer remains an important magnet and the movement is being confidently and enthusiastically co-led but Eliza McCarroll, Josh Lazarus and Shoshana Booth and the Netzer Shaliach, Yuval Nerimovsky.

Playgroup and Shabbat Tot continues to attract families with toddlers and young children.

A small but dedicated and growing group of congregants take advantage of a weekly opportunity for meditation with a Jewish spiritual content and, in October, NSTE partnered with Neshama Life to co-host a Rosh Chodesh Chanting and Meditation event at Dee Why Lagoon.

Formal and informal education continue to be a central and core activity for our community. The Meah program in our Hebrew and Religion School is going from strength to strength offering our students quality education in Hebrew and Jewish studies as well as building strong links with parents, grandparents and the community.

The Night School, delivered by outstanding scholars from NSTE and the broader community, always attract a loyal group of supporters. Rabbi Lampert's Monday morning classes continue to be well attended as are Simon Holloway's Parshat Hashavua classes before the Shabbat morning service. Both Kesher Lanoar and informal learning opportunities continue to attract and engage post bar / bat mitzvah students.

In terms of membership, NSTE continues to grow, and it is encouraging that we have been joined by many young families who are involved with the Pre-school, Playgroup and / or the Hebrew and Religion School. Current membership stands at 555 "units" which includes families, singles, concessionary members.

Outside of the synagogue, our members continue to be engaged in the wider Jewish and general communities. We continue to have strong ties with the UPJ, the Montefiore Home and the Board of Deputies among others.

In particular our Jews for Social Action continue to put our value for tikkun olam into action, through their support of the Asylum Seekers' Centre, their partnership with JewishAid Australia and their Bushcare initiative.

From the administrative standpoint, this past year saw our transition to ShulSuite, which has increased our efficiency and ease of member management.

Our office staff continue to be exemplary in supporting our Rabbis, lay leadership and congregation at large.

Finally, it's necessary to acknowledge that NSTE's ambitious and rich spiritual, educational, social and artistic programming continued only through the hard work and dedication of volunteers. Some volunteers work as part of our committees, others form task teams for events or initiatives, yet again others just turn up when there is a need.

To honour those volunteers, we included an Awards component as part of our own AGM, highlighting volunteer contributions to NSTE as well as the wider community. We were thrilled to call attention to the fact that Nola Braude O.A.M was named Joint Willoughby Citizen of the Year for 2013, Judy Campbell received the UPJ President's Award and Rebecca Lucas was named the Manly Young Citizen of the Year for 2013.

Emanuel Synagogue – Woollahra NSW

Rodney Brender, President



Emanuel Synagogue is now engaged in one of the most exciting and dynamic times of change and definition in more than 40 years. The redevelopment of the Emanuel Synagogue campus is imminent. A significant amount of planning, thorough process with the statutory building approvals, work by architects, engineers and potential building contractors will hopefully see the walls move before the end of 2013. Community support for the project including the generous pledges received as a result of the 2012 Capital Campaign has given this project life. It is hoped that the Emanuel Community can host all three Minyan for the 2015 High Holydays on one campus at Ocean Street.

In May 2013, Rabbi Paul Jacobson left the Emanuel Community after seven years of service to become Senior Rabbi of his own congregation in the US. Farewell services and the Community events for Rabbi Jacobson's departure saw the participation of a large group of Synagogue Members. Rabbi Jacobson and his wife Lisa, along with their daughters will always have a spiritual home at the Emanuel Synagogue. The Board and Community appreciate with depth the contribution they have made and their legacy.

Several Board changes occurred at the May 2013 AGM with longstanding Member of the Executive and Hon. Secretary Naomi Elias stepping aside after some years of highly valuable involvement. Naomi has worked tirelessly for the Emanuel Community and also provided her services as the Emanuel Representative on the Board of the Emanuel School. As a result of Naomi's departure, Madelaine Cohen has been appointed to the role of Hon. Secretary of the Emanuel Synagogue Board and Tara Shillin is now representing the Synagogue on the Board of the Emanuel School. Andrew Silberberg has also retired; they were replaced by Ashley Antflick and Anna Goulston at the 2013 AGM.

Sam Zwarenstein continues to lead us as the General Manager, maintaining effective relations between all staff and the Board.

Rabbi Kamins and Rabbi Ninio have continued to work in outstanding collaboration with the extra workload requirements in the provision of Services, Life Cycle Events and Pastoral Care following the departure of Rabbi Jacobson. It is anticipated that the search for a replacement for Rabbi Jacobson will commence in late 2013.

Continued success of the three Minyan has resulted in positive feedback from the Emanuel Community and visitors during the course of the year and following the High Holydays. "Shabbat Live", a weekly musical service featuring 4 or 5 instruments each week, an initiative of Rabbi Ninio and Martin Yafe, has continued to grow in popularity. The Choir led by Andrea Catzel continues to be a feature in the Progressive Services for regular Shabbats and High Holydays. Simultaneously the Carlebach style Friday night service held in the Neuweg continues to attract a similarly engaged regular congregation.

A visiting musical fellow, Mati Shapiro, was a highlight this year, and led to the establishment of a youth band and a klezmer band.

Since the last UPJ conference the Board and staff at Emanuel have come together with the generous assistance of Lisa Rudner to develop a detailed new Strategic Plan for the period 2013-2017. The Emanuel Community is committed to the following mission: The Emanuel Synagogue provides a dynamic, pluralistic Jewish congregation committed to Jewish tradition, creating community and celebrating diversity. This plan has been completed with care and following many long days of planning, discussion and group workshops.

The programs and events that were a highlight in the past year included:

- Purim Spiel, again a large audience and terrific annual event.
- Lunch & Learn.

- Shabbat lunch with guest speakers.
- Shabbat Tot
- Harbourview events.
- Weekly visits and Pre-School programs for the Emanuel Pre-School.
- My PlaySpace
- BPJE Hebrew & Religion School.
- Bat/Bat Mitzvah tutoring.
- Basic Jewish Concepts classes.
- Introduction to Hebrew reading program.
- Our Jewish Story – discussion of texts and Jewish people.
- Mid-Week Study group at Montefiore Home.
- Visits to Emanuel Gardens.
- Rosh Chodesh Women’s Group.
- Emanuel Social Justice Program.

Brisbane Progressive Jewish Congregation – Brisbane QLD

Elizabeth Marx, President



This year has been another challenging one, with changes and planning being uppermost on the Board's horizon. It has seen much activity with highlights being:

- The operation of a Building Fund Management Committee to advise the Board on options available for the expenditure of accumulated funds on permanent synagogue premises;
- Continuing an active and energetic Sunday Cheder at Gan Gani Jewish Kindergarten, fortnightly, with a high number of enrolled pupils;
- Visits to Brisbane by Marshall Voit and Stephanie Gratch, Jewish Life Fellows at the Centre for Living Judaism in Melbourne;
- A Shabbaton Netzer Camp, combined with Temple Shalom Gold Coast, at Natural Bridge, which attracted over 30 participants;
- A Lay Leadership Training Day conducted by Cantor David Bentley;
- The continuation of the BPJC and community choir under the capable and committed guidance of Prof. Gina Geffen;
- Participation by our Minister and Bar Mitzvah students in the Brisbane Jewish community Yom HaShoah commemoration;
- The preparation of four students for their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs in 2014 and beyond;
- Baby namings for Jemma (Adi bat Rivkah) and Joseph (Yosef ben Rivkah), twin son and daughter of Nicole and Michael Hook, and Euan (Zvi ben Daniel), son of Daniel and Jane Kark;
- Moving our fortnightly Shabbat services permanently to Indooroopilly;
- The consecration of the Progressive Jewish section of the Jewish Monumental Cemetery at Mt Gravatt;
- Engaging Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky of Perth as our Advisory Rabbi, following the departure to the USA of our longstanding Advisory Rabbi Paul Jacobson, with his wife Lisa and children;
- Continuing to support a range of conversion applicants in their assessments and studies.

Over the year to 30 June 2013, we were pleased to welcome one family and three individual members to our community at Brisbane Progressive Jewish Congregation. During this same period we farewelled three individuals. As at 30 June 2013, BPJC's membership stood at: 13 families (including three distant), 24 individuals (including two distant), and one honorary life member. This compares with 12 families (including two distant), 24 individuals (including three distant) and one honorary life member at 30 June 2012. The composition of BPJC's membership is shown in the table below.

	<u>30 June 2012</u>	<u>30 June 2013</u>
Family	10	10
Family (distant)	2	3
Individual	21	22
Individual (distant)	3	2
Honorary Life	1	1
Our Minister	1	1

Cantor Bentley, as part of his contract, led six and participated in three Shabbat services through a full year, as well as the Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services this year. He also undertook pastoral counselling, sat on a Bet Din and represented BPJC at the UPJ Rabbinical Council (Moetzah). In addition he conducted education activities and life-cycle events such as B'ritot Milah, B'nei Mitzvah and funerals. Cantor Bentley is currently on a one year sabbatical (to 30 June 2014) during which time he hopes to organise his extensive collection of cantorial music for the use of the

Australian Jewish community. We commend him on his efforts and look forward to having him participate in special occasions at BPJC.

Building Fund: Our Building Fund operates under a Board By-Law and is run under a Management Committee comprising the President, Treasurer, Dan Shafferman and Mrs Glennis Swinson (Chair). The Building Fund Management Committee has been kept apprised of developments in the search for “permanent” premises, particularly in the western suburbs of Brisbane, where there are more members and more Jewish residents. Camp Hill synagogue The Board has continued its interest in the status of Beit Knesset Shalom (BKS) and the property it occupies at Koolatah Street, Camp Hill. This building, which was converted to a synagogue and dedicated in 1978, was used for Progressive Jewish services by a Progressive Jewish Congregation up until around May 2010 when Beit Knesset Shalom decided to disaffiliate from the Union for Progressive Judaism and become a “traditional” congregation. UPJ has attempted to enter into dialogue with BKS, but with little success to date. Further UPJ activity is being considered.

Services, festivals and functions: Our Shabbat services continue to run fortnightly in Indooroopilly Senior Citizens Club, 60 Stamford Road, Indooroopilly. Our service leaders are a small, but dedicated, group. We would love to have additional members join us. The training is free, but the experience priceless. We were privileged during the year to welcome the entry to Jewish adulthood of Aaron Marx and Aiden Haneman (November and December 2012). The Bar Mitzvah Shabbat services were led by Cantor David Bentley. Continuing on its many successes in 2012, the BPJC Choir gave performances at the community Yom HaAtzmaut and Yom Yerushalayim celebrations, which were well received. The Choir also led several songs for the 2012 and 2013 High Holy Days services. Anyone with a love of singing is most welcome to join the choir. Regular choir members include Gina Geffen, Sally Castle, David Bentley and Tony Leverton. A special “thank you” to Gina and Laurie for their generous hospitality in hosting the choir practices.

Festivals and functions: The Congregation ran the following festivals during the year: Sukkot picnic, Chanukah candle-lighting, Kabbalat Shabbat service and party, Purim spiel and party, Pesach community Seder (led by Cantor Bentley) The efforts of all those who assisted with organising and running these wonderful events are very much appreciated.

Cheder: Our Cheder meets fortnightly through the year (apart from Summer Holidays and during the High Holy Days) at Gan Gani Jewish Kindergarten in Fig Tree Pocket. Peter, Elizabeth, Boaz, Hila, Dafna and Emma are to be congratulated for their fine efforts in running a highly successful Cheder in 2013. A special nod goes to Aaron Marx who, after his Bar Mitzvah last year, elected to teach Hebrew letters to the Gan group of Cheder for one hour each fortnight as part of the follow on to his becoming a Jewish adult. I hope more B’nei Mitzvah follow his example in the future. With an ever-expanding enrolment of families of all denominations and backgrounds, Cheder has truly been one of our success stories. Currently we have families hailing from USA, Russia, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and Israel coming together in the common goal of providing a solid education for their children in Hebrew and Judaica. A special thank you to Hila Jacobi who is taking over the role of Cheder Director for 2014 and to Emma Kark, a trained primary school teacher, for assisting with 2014’s curriculum. I also thank the team and parents for their important commitment to Jewish education.

B’nei Mitzvah tuition and policy: Approved B’nei Mitzvah tutors work to a B’nei Mitzvah Policy which sets out the basic prerequisites for entry into the program, requirements for demonstrated competency and an outline of expected activities during the B’nei Mitzvah service. All our students this year undertook their training with enthusiasm, and participated in regular Shabbat services as a part of their preparation.

Adult Education: Our adult education discussion group has been meeting after many Shabbat services and has been a fruitful source of discussion and learning, especially for our enrolled conversion students.

Web and social media: Our website, www.bpjc.org.au continues to provide members and others with information on services, functions and other BPJC activities. The contact form on the website is used regularly by visitors to the site. We provide a news feed and a wide range of handy links.

Union for Progressive Judaism : Advisory Rabbi: BPJC is honoured to have retained the services of our Advisory Rabbi, Shoshana Kaminsky of Beit Shalom, Adelaide, who provides us with much sound advice. We owe her, her shul, the UPJ's Rabbinical Council (Moetzah) and the UPJ a debt of gratitude. From time to time there are people sincerely interested in joining the conversion program and we are deeply grateful that Rabbi Kaminsky has interviewed and mentored them as they contemplate their religious future.

BPJC remains affiliated to UPJ and is assisted by them in the provision of an Advisory Rabbi, as well as advice and administrative support from time to time, as needed. The UPJ's October 2012 Biennial Conference in Sydney ("Sh'ma Koleinu – Hear our Voices", with principal guest speaker Dr Ron Wolfson) was attended by Elizabeth Marx and Tony Leverton, with Sally Castle participating as a Conference Choir member. Sally also attended the Hava Nashira musical workshop in April 2013.

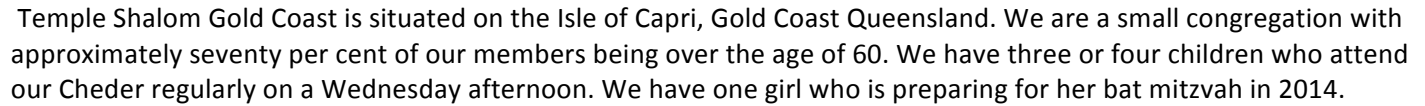
Relationships with affiliates: BPJC is affiliated to the following local organisations: Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies (of which Tony Leverton was elected Vice-President and Sheila Levine elected Executive member); State Zionist Council (of which Tony Leverton is President) Queensland Jewish Community Services (providing welfare for people in the Jewish community). The Board determined that, as each organisation played an important part in the life of the South East Queensland Jewish community, BPJC should continue as an affiliate.

Relationships with congregational and community organisations: Following on from the February 2011 agreement with Brisbane Chevra Kadisha on the use of Tahara and burial facilities for our members, further discussions were held on the details associated with the shared use of the Jewish (monumental) Cemetery at Mt Gravatt. With the agreement and support of the Chevra, congregation members planted a melaleuca hedge to delineate the Progressive Jewish section of the monumental cemetery. BPJC has undertaken responsibility for maintaining the hedge. This area of the cemetery was consecrated by Cantor Bentley in August 2013 – a really moving and significant occasion. Other community organisations BPJC members are involved in the full range of Queensland's Jewish community organisations, indicating how strongly integrated our Congregation has become in community life. Such organisations include: Betar, Community Security Group, National Council of Jewish Women (Brisbane), Jewish National Fund (Qld), Maccabi (Qld), Queensland Association of Jewish Ex-servicemen (QAJEX), Sinai College, United Israel Appeal (UIA), Women's International Zionist Organisation (WIZO).

Our sister UPJ congregation in Queensland has long been gracious and generous in supporting BPJC. Where possible, we organise joint activities, e.g. the Shabbat with Netzer sleepover and Shabbaton Netzer camp. These are planned to continue. In addition we advertise and attend their functions when practicable. We particularly enjoy the annual Temple Shalom Trivia Challenge, held in August. TSGC have kindly loaned us a sefer Torah for special occasions, such as B'nei Mitzvah, and we thank them sincerely for their support

Our Vision is: A vibrant and enduring focus for Progressive Jewish life and thought in Brisbane. BPJC has again been vibrant this past year, and we have endured in a changing environment. The challenge before us for the coming 12 months is to continue to grow, both in the quantity of our services and in the quality of what we have to offer.

Sara Longmuir, President



The congregation's attendance at services has grown since the appointment of Rabbi Don Levy in June 2012. On average we have 30 attendees on a Friday night and Saturday morning services. We have an Oneg Shabbat one Friday a month and a Suedat Shabbat one Saturday a month after services. Members are asked to bring a dairy or vegetarian dish and a dessert. These are extremely popular with the congregation frequently growing to over 45 for these occasions.

We welcome visitors to our services for Shabbat and Holy Days.

Beit Shalom Synagogue – Adelaide SA

Ron Hoenig, President



Adelaide's Jews need to be DIY Jews: to participate in maintaining a community. Being Jewish in Adelaide means a commitment to the community through the shul. It means maintaining, and if possible, extending the warmth and vibrancy at Beit Shalom; having an active membership; paying our bills; retaining rabbinic services; maintaining and hopefully growing our membership base and making this place a centre of Jewish community activity. This year new faces have become regulars in our community. People have stepped forward to celebrate the anniversaries of their youthful Jewish experiences. About five people have wanted to join us to become Jews by Choice, The next executive has a good mix of both generations and gender.

Membership: This year, Beit Shalom membership numbers are a little higher than last year and almost as high as in the previous two years, with 136 membership units including 50 family memberships. We welcomed nine new members and associate members this year. We also honoured three life members, celebrated five b'nei mitzvot and mourned the passing of five members

Our Outlook: For many years the Board of Management has worried about declining numbers of people who attend synagogue. We have surveyed the membership about what discourages people from coming to services. Last year some raised hearing-related issues and we are purchasing a system, which will help to improve audibility. Last year we bought in new 'Shabbat only' lighter prayer books; this year we are thinking about online streaming of services for those who can no longer get here for services.

This year I want us to extend the ways in which people can use Beit Shalom for community activities. While we sometimes have difficulty getting a minyan, Beit Shalom is nevertheless a hub of activity. Our doors continue to be open more often 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, Health classes, Introduction to Judaism classes, Talmud classes, Sunday Walkie-Talkies group, Israeli dancing and Tai Chi classes. We are the venue for Yom Hashaoah commemorations, Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations, JNF drives, ours and other groups' AGMs, and we can be more optimistic about our future.

Finances: Our budget for the year delivered a small surplus, partly because of the contribution of the Adelaide community's Aaron Feldman Trust. I addressed the Rabbinic Fund, which is vital to ensuring we have long-term sustainable rabbinic services at Kol Nidrei. At the time of writing this report, we were still approaching our annual target of \$65,000.

Rabbi: Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky provides religious and educational leadership for a curriculum of Jewish and Hebrew language education, educates and prepares of pre-Bar and Bat Mitzvah students from their twelfth birthday; provides education for adult members of the community, to maintain and develop our Jewish knowledge. She is currently tutoring five students becoming Jews by Choice and is also the supervising Rabbi for seven students in Queensland. She is the Chair of the Moetzah. She is a leader in interfaith activity in this state. She educates huge numbers of school students and adult study groups through guiding visits to the synagogue. She is a pastoral care worker with her finger on the pulse of the needs of our diverse community and is able to spend time with those whose physical condition prevents them participating more actively in the congregation.

Activities: Our major activity this year was the celebration of our 50th anniversary. It was not only a celebration but also an opportunity to honour our pioneers. The main events were a year-long series of anniversary life-cycle events, a Shabbat celebration service which attracted leading politicians on both sides and many interfaith colleagues, as well as the President of the UPJ. It also included an enormously successful gala dinner and reunion. It will conclude with a time capsule.

We tried some new food on Shabbat events this year including pre-negs – a bissle wine and cheese every month before Shabbat services. We've also had a very successful Pizza and Beer Oneg earlyier in the year, which will be repeated with the good weather.

Beit Shalom hosted a visit by Stephanie Gratch from the Centre for Living Judaism and members enjoyed a great weekend of singing, learning and finding new ways to be spiritual. Our Purim Speil this year was specially wonderful

The synagogue sponsors the interfaith Abraham Institute whose program this year Days of Enlightenment: Nights of Despair provided a three-term long weekly conversation about how and why multiculturalism flourishes and wanes in a range of nations and cultures. It was a contribution to raising Beit Shalom's and the Adelaide Jewish community's reputation as a source of enlightenment and interfaith understanding.

Committees and Services: Our member Nathan Nirens put in untiring and creative work in upgrading our website to give us a bright new and efficient and navigable face to show the world as part of our 50th year.

Our library continued to grow even as we farewelled Liz Bor for her 19 year contribution. Our archives, run by member Ilana Culshaw remain well kept and a huge resource for us and for the wider Jewish community. We congratulate our one maintenance committee and our gardeners. .

Our Shamuses are up just that little bit earlier every Saturday morning to ensure Shabbat services run smoothly. The ritual committee continued to serve Beit Shalom this year. Our finance committee provides oversight and advice for Beit Shalom investments. The Beit Shalom choir helped bring the beauty into our High Holy Days and Shabbat services with their amazing voices and we salute the selfless and important work of our Chevra Kaddisha

Sisterhood: The Sisterhood continued to be very active with its regular book club and social events over the year as well as financial contributions t the shul The Sisterhood Catering Committee, as always, provided a great service to the community for many simchas and events, especially for the 50th anniversary.

Cheder: Beit Shalom has had an incredibly full Cheder this year with 19 students in a diverse range of age groups to challenge Rabbi Kaminsky and our teachers.

Management and Administration: We welcomed Marie Galletta into the administration role last year. This year she has been tireless in maintaining the shul, acting as our front line, the voice on the end of the phone and the voice that speaks for the needs of many of our members.

Hobart Hebrew Congregation – Hobart TAS

Daniel Albert, President



Unfortunately, during the year our numbers further declined. As a result, numbers attending Shabbat services are low. While the percentage of membership that regularly attends services is high compared to other congregations, our starting point is of small numbers, does mean that there are sometimes no more than a handful of members attending Shabbat services. For the high holidays we had a good attendance for Rosh Hashanah, but the numbers for Yom Kippur were disappointing. However, despite the low numbers we continue to maintain a program of services and functions.

A significant part of the congregation's income is from bequests. These bequests have severe restrictions placed on how we can use the money. Generally, it can be used for maintenance of the Synagogue building and/or the education of children of the congregation, of whom there are few. The balance of our funds mostly comes from interest and donations, with a small proportion from seat hire fees. It is this funding that we can use for the day to day running of the congregation and also to fund rabbinical visits, functions and the newsletter. The historic nature of the Synagogue building means that it costs a considerable amount to maintain it. Therefore we are fortunate to have the bequests to provide the funds needed. However, with record low interest rates and the general economic situation, our income for the day to day running of the congregation has been limited and this year we ran at a deficit. This has necessitated significant cutbacks in expenditure. In particular there has been a major cutback in the program of bringing rabbis to visit. After building maintenance, it is our biggest expense.

Levels of anti-Semitism have been low in Tasmania over the past year. However, based on a security review, we are undertaking a substantial upgrading of security. This includes the installation of security cameras around the building and the upgrade of lighting on the outside of the building.

The past two years have been busy, challenging and inspiring. As Kedem approaches its twentieth anniversary next year I would like to express our gratitude to every Kedem member for their commitment, enthusiasm and support. We are a lay led community and the involvement of every member is truly appreciated. Kedem's membership remains steady with the same number of family units as last year – although the mix of people has changed as some have resigned and others joined.

We continue to remain debt free and again recorded a surplus in our accounts due to some very successful fundraising efforts last year.

Tikkun Olam continues to be part of the Kedem DNA as we continued our usual projects beginning with Mishloach Manot distribution on Purim, a speaker from the NIF on Pesach to highlight the themes of freedom and liberation, ongoing donations and awareness programs for asylum seekers and the distribution of Mazon bags to Ardoch Youth Foundation.

Kedem's Bnei Mitzvah program has supported five 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 Bnei 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. I wish to highlight a most inspiring Bat Mitzvah that occurred at Kedem last May. Tamarah Stanton has been a Kedem member from the moment she was wrapped in her mother's tallit at the bima on the morning she was welcomed into our community. Tamara has struggled with an intellectual disability all her life and has reached her developmental milestones late and slowly. As the time approached to plan for her Bat Mitzvah it became clear that Kedem would be the natural place for an appropriate ceremony to take place. A special program was planned and Tamara was mentored by Kedem members to the moment when she was called to the Torah. Sharing in Tamara's amazing journey was a real privilege in which Kedem was fortunate to share.

We commenced the year by hosting Netzer's Farewell service at the end of January. It was a delightful evening which strengthened the ties between Netzer and Kedem. My thanks go to Lior Argaman and Jordane Hyams for the wonderful work they have done to enhance both the Netzer and Kedem communities.

We enjoy an increasingly close and warm relationship with the Centre for Living Judaism and my deep thanks go to Rabbi Gersh Lazerow, Stephanie Gratch, Noa Gibson and Shannon Gelbart for making this possible. Early in May we bade farewell to Marshall Voit, the first Centre for Living Judaism Fellow who had a remarkable influence on all communities in our region with his refreshing approach to Jewish music and traditions.

Before leaving he co-ordinated the first Hava Nashira Music conference for the region which was very inspiring and out of which developed the new Kedem Music Group. We look forward to working even more closely with the CLJ in the year ahead.

Kedem is an active member of the wider Progressive community and our thanks go to both the PJV and the UPJ for their continued support and wise counsel. The leadership of the UPJ has worked hard to support every community in the region and we appreciate their efforts very much. My thanks go to Steve Freeman and Steve Denenberg as well as to Jocelyn Robuck for their dedication. Two Kedem members attended the Beutel seminar in Israel at the start of this year – a program that is supported by the UPJ and which has provided Kedem members over the years with knowledge and inspiration. I would also 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.

Thanks also to Brian Samuel and Ellen Frajman for all the support that the PJV provides to Kedem. The Presidents of all the affiliated bodies of the PJV are now meeting on a regular basis and I appreciate the wise counsel and support of each of them.

I would like to acknowledge the King David School for their continued support and encouragement of all our activities – from the use of their premises to building a succah especially for us and for providing challah for our Shabbat services. Our sincere thanks go to David Opat, Michele Bernshaw and Mark Harrison.

My deep thanks go to Rosi Meltzer for her enthusiasm and hard work in her role as Office Manager. Her enthusiasm and cheerful “Can Do” attitude sustains me at all times. Our Board meetings continue to provide a forum for Kedem leaders to discuss the best way forward for the continuing growth and development of our community. We welcomed Josh Cole to the Board and he has already made his presence felt with new and exciting changes to the way we communicate. My thanks go to all Board members for their wise counsel and their immense unfailing support and devotion.

Looking to the future we have a very bright vision indeed. Naturally we face many challenges including the need to find a new physical space once the Kooyong Rd campus of KDS is sold and the need for major fundraising to support our growth and development leading to the employment of additional professional support.

In thanking many people I find myself saying “You’re an angel” and I mean it. We learn from Torah that God needed angels to help with creation. But we also learn that God does not depend on angels. God depends on us all to be angels.

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 – Bentleigh VIC

Frank Moore, President



Family units: 181 ; Adults: 272 ; Children: 132 ; Total: 404

In the last year Etz Chayim has seen growth in our membership. The growth may have been minimal but it has been very satisfying for a number of reasons. This biggest is that during the year we lost our Rabbinical leadership with Rabbi Lazarow moving to TBI. As I said at the time, the agreement with The King David School was always for three years so we knew Rabbi Lazarow was leaving us. Rabbi may have moved away from Etz Chayim but he has moved to a role where he will benefit Progressive Judaism throughout Victoria in a win-win for all.

With great excitement we have been able to announce the naming of our very own Rabbi. Rabbi Alison Conyer will be starting in January 2014 as the Etz Chayim Community Rabbi. She may officially start in January but she has already has visited the congregation a number of times and has begun to meet her community. Rabbi Conyer also came down to lead our High Holy Day services with the assistance of Rabbi Levi. This great announcement has been made possible through the support of many of the PJV communities, especially the King David School. Rabbi Conyer will be seconded to the school for 2.5 days a week in a senior teaching role. Under Rabbi Conyer's leadership we know we will move to the next stage in our community's growth. The hiring of Rabbi Conyer highlights the importance of the PJV and UPJ who have been closely involved in our search, selection and negotiation process. I can only thank both of our umbrella movements and our sister communities who are members of these organisations. These movements have again helped smooth the roads for Etz Chayim.

Over the past year, we continued with the beautification programme of our building. As one team completes the initial plans, another team is already looking at the next stage of building development (it is like the painting of the Sydney Harbour Bridge). Soon we will be seeing the unveiling of new signage for our building designed, not only to help our building stand out, but to complete our first phase of "rebadging" as Etz Chayim Progressive Synagogue.

This year saw us take a new road in meeting our promise of ensuring we have a Jewish education programme available for children. UJEB has hired our class rooms to run its after school religion school programme, 5 days a week. Our membership has been given the option of availing themselves of this education option or attending the TBI Religion School (thank you TBI). Two years prior to their Bnei Mitzvah, they join our very successful Bnei Mitzvah programme. We have had a change in the leadership of our youth education programme but the programme continues to offer what is required for our youth in an exciting and warm environment. Adding to our education programmes, we are trialling an Adult education programme ("Travelling Through Our Traditions"), running on Wednesday mornings from 10.30 AM. In the past we have run these programmes at night. By running them during the day, we are looking at including another demographic within our community.

At the last High Holydays we asked our community to put their names down for small interest groups where like-minded members could get together to enjoy a common interest. This initiative is in its infancy but we expect it to be another building block in our small but vibrant community.

The past year saw our community continue to drive forward with new and exciting initiatives to ensure we continue to be a vibrant and engaging community. Next year Rabbi Conyer comes to move us to the next stage of our growth, which is really exciting. So if you come to the Southern Suburbs of Bentleigh, where else would you want to be!

Leo Baeck Centre for Progressive Judaism – East Kew VIC

Julie Contole and David Rose, Co-Presidents



We have a wonderful team and membership base at LBC that allows us to offer a myriad of activities to cater for the diverse tastes and interests of our members. Each year some activities lose their momentum and others arise to replace them, in reflection of our members' own changing interests. You can see the breadth of activities we offer by looking at our web site (www.lbc.org.au) or requesting a subscription to either our weekly electronic newsletter or our bi-monthly printed newsletter. Just contact our office to make arrangements (03 9819 7160 or office@lbc.org.au).

Along with many religious organisations we have turned our attention to our future, asking such questions as: where will our new members come from? Is there anything we can do to attract a younger age group? Are we fulfilling the needs of our current members? Why do people leave our community? As a starting point to approaching these questions we have undertaken a survey of our members, mainly using an online format. The survey closed on Friday 18th October, and we anticipate it will be several weeks before we can report fully on our findings; however we can now report that there was a very high response rate.

We asked each of our approximately 300 'billing units' (which could be a single person, a couple or a family) to complete at least one survey form and, if possible, for each individual in a couple or family to fill in their own survey form. Altogether we received 175 responses – 163 completed online and a further 12 completed by filling in a printed version (as some of our members do not have or use email). As many of the responses were anonymous, we cannot be sure of the number from each household but this may represent about half our billing units, which we feel is an exceptionally good response rate. For comparison, many professional researchers are pleased to have 10% of all people who are asked to respond actually provide information.

What we can be sure of is that our members care and want to be heard. This is the best base from which to start building. We further believe the best source of new members is current members. They are the ones who will be talking to and mixing with our target demographic. If we can continue to encourage them to talk about and be proud of their association with LBC, there will be opportunities to attract new members. If our current members are engaged and active, they will bring friends and family with them.

The second plank of our membership strategy is strengthening the initial experiences of new members. Through initiatives such as mentoring, religious and social activities, and disciplined verbal and written communication we hope to make the first experiences of our new members a memorable and highly rewarding experience. Once again it is our belief that new members are an ideal voice in their circle of family and friends to promote LBC as a desirable organisation for progressive Jewish life in our area.

We look forward to sharing with congregations in our region these and other ideas about the challenges we all face.

Temple Beth Israel – St Kilda VIC

Robert Hershan, President



Let me say what an honour and privilege it has been to serve as president of the Temple Beth Israel community over the past year and it is with great honour that I share this report outlining the events of the past year.

It will not come as a surprise to say the year was a most important one for our congregation with the retirement of Rabbi Morgan after 16 years at the helm. I wish to thank Phyllis Dorey, chair of the Rabbi Search Committee, for her leadership and guidance in the selection of our new Rabbi. I was a member of this committee and know firsthand just how lucky we were to have Phyllis head this most important task. Thanks are also due to my Search Committee colleagues for their significant contribution.

We are extremely fortunate to have Rabbi Lazarow join us as our new senior rabbi. To find a local successor with a great deal of international experience led to a smooth transition. As Rabbi Lazarow is well known in the Melbourne community he has been able to hit the ground running. With only a few months in the role he has made himself known to a large proportion of our membership.

Given the extent of change this year there was a great deal more to organise than usual, and I am extremely grateful to our clergy, our Board of Governance, our administration team and our many committee volunteers for delivering such wonderful and memorable events in the life of our community.

The Zimriya Concert took place on 30 June as the first of the three farewell events for Rabbi Morgan. This event was an outstanding success and all credit to Cantor Laloum and his musical team for putting on this most wonderful event. Special thanks to Rob Sward and his support team for their superb planning and logistics. Attendance was beyond expectations with downstairs at capacity, spilling over to the upstairs area. The night couldn't have gone better, with spontaneous dancing in the aisles and consensus that it was a night to remember.

The Friends of the Morgans Dinner on 28 July was a sell-out and a wonderful success.

And the Farewell Shabbat Service to Rabbi Morgan on 10 August was a joyous celebration of Rabbi Morgan's contribution to our community. Again Rob Sward and the Farewell Committee did a remarkable job coordinating this event. This service was a true expression of the love and affection our community have for the Morgans. To see our Shule full of familiar faces and all joining hands to celebrate this wonderful couple was an amazing sight.

This service was one of the most memorable in all my years at Temple Beth Israel. The quality of the event was due to the contribution of our clergy, our board, our administration and our wonderful team of volunteers. I have had such positive feedback from so many on how well organised the day was; from the quality of the guest speakers, the assistance provided for those in need, the welcoming of members, dignitaries, visitors and members, the floral arrangements, the amazing portrait, the most thoughtful book of testimonials, the wonderful glass sculpture the quality of the Kiddush, and the spirit of the community that shone through.

To see our bimah almost overflowing with three generations of our rabbis and their close colleagues and to have nine past presidents with us was a tribute to the strength of our TBI community. I left this service feeling so proud to be a member of Temple Beth Israel and I know many many others felt the same.

Whilst the farewell activities for Rabbi Morgan were taking place we had another team focussed on introducing Rabbi Lazarow to many of our community members. Welcoming functions were held in a number of member's homes plus a welcome breakfast was held on the 17 August ahead of Rabbi Lazarow leading his first Shabbat service at Temple Beth Israel. By the time the High Holidays were upon us Rabbi Lazarow was known to many of our community.

Our Clergy

2013 has been an historic year. We have seen Rabbi Morgan retire after serving as senior rabbi for 16 years as the third longest serving senior rabbi in our 83 year history.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a strong and youthful team of clergy. In addition Rabbi Morgan now serves our community as an Emeritus Rabbi alongside Rabbi Levi. Rabbi Morgan will continue to assist with life cycle events, education and leading services. How fortunate are we that we will continue to have Fred and Sue Morgan as part of our community as we move forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rabbi Morgan for his friendship, guidance and support over the seven years I have been on the board of Temple Beth Israel. Rabbi Morgan teamed so wonderfully well with Rabbi Ettlinger and we are extremely fortunate that Rabbi Ettlinger is an integral part of our team going forward. In addition to her rabbinic duties Rabbi Ettlinger has completely revamped our youth education program and religious school TBI Tamid.

Cantor Laloum has now completed his first full year and his impact on our community has been appreciated by so many. He has made a major contribution to life cycle events, caring for the elderly and bringing new life into our services. His focus on developing cantorial soloists for our progressive community is another highlight.

Our Board of Governance:

I have been extremely fortunate to have such a talented and committed Board of Governance. Our two vice presidents, Dorothy Graff and Alain Grossbard have been amazing support to me. Our other office-bearers Jeff Leigh (Chair), Victor Appelboom (Treasurer) and Rebecca Silk (Secretary) have given so much to our community that saying 'thank you' sounds insufficient. Our other board members have also made significant contributions through their involvement on our various board committees.

At the beginning of the year each board member identified where they were best suited to make a contribution. We then established a calendar plan, our goals for the coming year and then all signed on to our agreed plan. We established the board committees and goals with each board member contributing to one or more committees.

Our Goals:

We set five goals for the year:

To have a successful transitioning of the Senior Rabbinic role

To reinvigorate young families' interest in our congregation

To be a more 'welcoming community', valuing relationships and communication more effectively

To refresh, refurbish and rebuild our home at Temple Beth Israel

Fundraise – to raise sufficient funds to achieve our goals

Our Administration Team:

There have been some changes in our administrative team over the past twelve months. Justine Bedford, the assistant to our General Manager, went on maternity leave in March and Jenny Schulman (formerly our receptionist) has stepped in to fill this role. Chris Gounis was appointed as our Accounts Coordinator, replacing Elana Green who was a part time contract bookkeeper. This is a positive move as Chris is now able to handle more of the general administration issues.

In July Rachel Wundheiler joined us as Communications Manager and we are delighted to have her join our team. One of our key Board of Governance goals is to improve our communications and Rachel certainly has the skills to help us achieve our goal.

In August 2013 our General Manager Robyn Felman resigned. Robyn had been at Temple Beth Israel for two and a half years and did a great deal for our community in that time. We wish her well for the next chapter in her career.

Community Relations Report:

Cantor Laloum started our calendar year off with a delightful Mystical Seder, which was followed by the 2nd night Seder in March conducted by Rabbi Ettlinger and Cantor Laloum.

We had two Academy Award-nominated films for our TBI film nights - Anna Karenina, The Great Gatsby and The Butler - held at the Palace Cinema in Brighton.

Our Business Breakfast was held in February with guest speaker Mike Quigley, the CEO of NBN Co. Prof Susan Davis, head of the Monash Medical Centre for Women, was our guest speaker for the Ladies luncheon.

Looking Ahead:

I believe we are in for exciting times. We have a young and vibrant team of clergy, a focussed and talented Board of Governance and a committed administrative team. This plus our wonderful network of TBI volunteers gives us the energy and purpose to achieve new heights.

A priority for us this year is to focus more on young families and our youth. We have younger members joining our Board of Governance and some of our young leaders attending the World Union Conference in the US this summer.

Over the last few months Rabbi Gersh Lazarow have lead a review of our current organizational structure with a view to becoming a more cohesive and responsive organization. An organization that better serves the needs of our members, while improving the quality of service offered. He determined that significant efficiencies can be achieved in our operational administration, and there is clear need for more directed leadership of our educational and programmatic offerings.

The summary of the restructure is as follows:

The position of General Manager no longer exists.

The position of Receptionist no longer exists.

The position of Rabbinic Assistant has transitioned to that of Administrative Assistant focused on supporting clergy and their portfolios.

The position of Executive Assistant to the General Manager has transitioned to Executive Assistant to CEO and Board.

The position of Communication Coordinator has transitioned to that of Community Relations Manager.

A position of Business-Operations Manager has been created.

A position of Ritual Life Coordinator has been created.

A position of Membership and Relationship Coordinator has been created.

A position of Administrative Assistant has been created to support the Managers and their portfolios.

The fulltime caretaker has transitioned to become the Facility Coordinator.

In addition to the current staffing matrix, philanthropic support is enabling us to welcome two new TBI Tamid Fellows who will take over co-ordinating of our B'nei Mitzvah and TBI Tamid program as well as supporting a raft of new youth and prayer initiatives. These Jewish Life Fellows (or Rabbinic Interns) will immerse themselves for a 2 year term into the Jewish life of our community while serving as positive role models for our youth. Many of our members would already have met Sarah Edelstein over the High Holy Days and we are proud to announce that she, together with Josh Nezon will be our inaugural TBI Tamid Fellows.

All in all, we are blessed at TBI with outstanding youthful leadership, sound finances and a clear vision for the future. We recognise that the road ahead is daunting and anticipate significant challenges with regards membership retention and the maintenance of our physical site. But we are confident that our community will continue to flourish and we hope and pray that this is true for each and every congregation within the union.

Kehillat S'dot Zahav – Goldfields VIC

Sarah Austin and Howard Nathan, Co-Convenors

The name of the community reflects its location not its wealth. We are the Progressives in the central goldfields of Victoria. Centred on Bendigo, which was once the richest town on earth, we are a small but active congregation that functions without rabbonim or shul. We meet in each other's homes and sometimes with a large event in public spaces.

The past year we conducted several Shabbat onegim, which were attended by between 16 and 25 people. Linda Stern from the PJV travelled from Melbourne to hold the services and Cantor Bruce Levin held the people spellbound by his bass voice. Some community mitzvot engage us in teaching at the Catholic College of Bendigo wherein over 200 year 11 students were given some basic information about Judaism. As a number of our congregants are from the local hospital and educational institutions, we face the reality of transience of membership; nevertheless after seven years we soldier on but could not do so without the support of the PJV and of course, the UPJ.

Temple David – Perth WA

Joel Mendelson, President



It is with a good deal of joy that I write this report. When I took on the role of President at the last AGM I did so with equal measures of excitement and absolute terror. However, thanks to the support of the board and congregation I can honestly say that it has been a very enjoyable, memorable and rewarding year.

It is not the role of the President to talk about any personal achievements – because there is no such thing. Anything that happens at Temple David happens because of the desire of members of the TD community and the hard work of many people, and 2012-13 has been a year of many happenings. Some, but by no means all of the events of this year have been (in no particular order):

Having services run on each and every Shabbat, Festival and occasion. This is an absolute credit to any synagogue,

- Two extremely successful visits from the Centre for Living Judaism (Marshall and Stephanie)
- The recruitment of an excellent new office administrator, Tamara van den Berg
- The successful gerut of many new members of our community
- Consistently excellent, well run and well attended adult education classes, Torah, Text & Tea and Temple David Religion School
- The successful recruitment of Rabbi Adi Cohen, to commence in early 2014,
- The opening of our refurbished social hall,
- A re-start of the 'Mothers-&-Babies' group
- Shabbat Tot
- The always inspiring and welcome visit of Rabbi Fred and Mrs Sue Morgan for the Yonim Noraim
- Wonderful Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Pesach, Purim, Chanukah celebrations, services, onegs, seders etc, many with wonderful singing and dancing from the Israeli Dancing group and Kol Hakavod

Temple David is a vibrant congregation that has much to offer to our members and the community. The list above is merely a smattering of what has happened over the last twelve months – and each one of these achievements has been because of and for the members of Temple David.

I would like to take this opportunity, to thank all the members of the board of management for their trust, encouragement and, most of all, incredible dedication and hard work. The board members of 2012-13, Alan, Arlette, Barbara, Gwen, Helen, Ken, Madeline, Maree, Michael and Ray (in alphabetical order) are an extraordinarily committed and hard working group of people who I cannot adequately thank for their service to Temple David and their support of me over the past year. You each have my sincere admiration for all the passion each and every one of you show to our community.

Special thanks go especially to those who are leaving the board this year – Ray Findley, Maree Findley Arlette Culshaw, Jeremy Culshaw and Michael Wise, who collectively have served over 40 years on the board. Thank you for your commitment and stamina in making Temple David the wonderful place it is. Stepping off the board often does not mean a decrease in any way in for many, who will continue to give their valuable time to teach adult education classes, assist in the office, run the gift shop etc., and also to provide mentoring to new members of the board of management.

Extraordinary acknowledgment must be shown to Ken and Judith Arkwright, both life members for their exceptional dedication to our community, who after many-many years at the helm of the Temple David Choir stepped down this past High Holiday period. Your devotion to beautifying the music during services over so many decades has been so very much appreciated by the congregation, and will live on in the memories of all.

Temple David would not exist or function without the volunteers, who (and this is by no means an exhaustive list) run our classes, sit on every committee, run every single service, sing in the choirs, fold Hadashot, maintain our buildings, visit the sick and needy, maintain our office records, run our bookshop, read Torah, pick up Rabbis and visitors from the airport, provide food and drinks for every event, run Shabbat Tot.... I cannot even hope to encapsulate every task that gets done, so thank you all - it is this volunteering that makes our community what it is. I cannot hope to list everyone who assists in running Temple David, and I am sure if I tried I would only offend those who I forget – but please accept my sincere thanks, everyone, on behalf of the whole congregation.

So, as you can see, there is much to be thankful for and many people to thank – but this reflection is only a starting point. In order for Temple David to continue to grow and to thrive it is up to each member of the congregation to take advantage of what is on offer and suggest new and exciting things we could do. Temple David is in a fantastic position to become even more vibrant – we have a brilliant new facility in our social hall (I am particularly fond of our dishwasher, I have to say), new groups popping up (mums and bubs for example) and a warm and caring group of people who make up our community. This is soon also to be complimented by a full time Rabbi in Adi Cohen.

The commencement of Rabbi Cohen in 2014 presents Temple David with an opportunity that cannot and should not be squandered. As a congregation we will need to work *together* with Rabbi Cohen to take best advantages of his talents and skills and take full advantage of the strengths of Temple David. To do this will also mean that together we will also have to be honest about where Temple David has weaknesses and areas for improvement. There is no such thing as a perfect Rabbi and there is certainly no such thing as a perfect community or organisation. It is up to every congregant to give Rabbi Cohen our support and to be appraising rather than critical, positive and forward thinking rather than pessimistic and judgemental. Undertaking this exercise may be difficult at times, and changes may need to occur – but we must all keep our focus on what is best for Temple David Congregation and its future.

Temple David is a congregation with such a proud history a very bright future and a community dedicated to making Temple David a *Kehillah Hakodesh*.

Beth Shalom – Auckland NZ

Judith Hunt, President

Currently Beth Shalom Auckland is in good health both spiritually and financially. The highlight of the past year has been to employ and install Rabbi Brent Gutmann. Rabbi Brent his wife Jill and daughter Daria arrived in July from Dayton Ohio and our congregation welcomed them with open arms.

The big vision that I am promoting at Beth Shalom is to raise our Endowment Fund to \$1m so we can enjoy continuous rabbinical employment. Historically Beth Shalom has employed a Rabbi for a three-year term only as after that period of time our funds are depleted. To reach our target of \$1m would be a major achievement for Beth Shalom. We have raised about \$250,000.00 in the last 18 months and we are now at \$523,000.00. Just over half way.

The upgrade of our building continues, our new sanctuary is a delight and we are moving on to create storage solutions with a new archive. At the same time we will be reconfiguring the present office space and foyer. As we have completed the outside works our last big project will be to renovate the kitchen and bathroom block which will be the final stage of our total refurbishment. We started outside four years ago and hopefully this last stage will be completed in three years.

Beth Shalom has many talented volunteers and we simply could not operate without them. Service leading and teaching, also we have a great Board of Management, some having skill sets we are so grateful for. Our cheder flourishes with around 50 to 60 children attending from 9.30 to 12.30 on Sunday mornings. We are averaging five b'nei mitzvot per year from our membership units of 235. Programs for next year are in the planning process and Rabbi Brent has been instrumental in forming the Shalom Institute for Adult Learning starting in the new (secular) year.

We have Kabbalat Shabbat for the entire community the first Friday of the month and we have the Ma'ariv Dinner for our senior citizens the third Friday of the month. Always booked out. There is a real need for the Ma'ariv dinner as the elderly and lonely often miss out on sharing a Shabbat meal. We hope to introduce an Israeli speakers Shabbat dinner and a youth Shabbat dinner in 2014.

There are two aspects of Beth Shalom's work, which I regard as urgent. Fundraising for the Endowment Fund, which will ensure permanent rabbinic leadership and working across all streams of Jewish community in Auckland so we can share as much as possible. We will also be introducing some novel ways of ensuring that the Jewish community throughout New Zealand has access to our Progressive Rabbi.

In closing I am very comfortable with the progress we are making to make our vision a reality.



Dunedin Jewish Congregation – Dunedin NZ

Katherine Greenberg, President

The Cheder continues to grow with up to six preschoolers attending in a given week and a dozen children total. This is remarkable growth-- three years ago, Cheder had just three students. The older children have taken leadership roles, with all taking a very cooperative and supportive approach to their cultural, religious, and Hebrew education. The EMET programme was donated to the Cheder, with a new module each school term. It is expected that even greater use will be made of EMET in 2014 with the children really enjoying and benefitting from it. Cheder could not continue without the extensive support provided by all the parents, week after week. Thank you.

We have trialled the Swing-By Shabbat, a very brief Friday evening service, followed by kiddush. We hoped this new model would take some pressure off both of service leaders and encourage after-work attendance. Swing-By Shabbat is "come-as-you-are" and has everyone home in time for a family meal. This is working well and we are looking towards it more often in 2014.

Udi and Osnat Dvorkin visited us several times providing valuable support in service leadership and adult and children's programming. Thanks to an generous allocation from the JNF to ZFNZ, the schlichim programme will be able to continue to through 2014, with a possible further extension of two years. We have been able to extend the programme to ten visits (from six) due to the proximity of Shani's base in Christchurch. This support is expected to be invaluable in the upcoming year given additional external commitments (and extensive travel) expected by several board members. Shani Goldstein's first visit was 8-9 November with another expected in before January.

Sabrina became bat mitzvah on October 5, marking the DJC's first in seven years. She did an outstanding job and was absolutely thrilled to have visiting UPJ dignitary, Steve, in attendance. What a special simcha this was!

We continue our relationship with the Centre for Living Judaism, with this year's highlight being Noa Gibson's visit for Sukkot. Probably the world's southernmost sukkah was filled with lots of old and new friends. Supported by the UPJ, we hosted Noa for four days of programming for children and adults. We'll continue to work with her and the other fellows to share resources and knowledge. It's great to have the fellows as part of the extended DJC family.

We have continued Friday evening services with the popular shared meal. Several Shabbat morning services were also held. Options for education and training of service-leaders are being considered. Any member interested in this opportunity is asked to contact one of the Board.

For the first time, Dunedin was included in the Survivor Lecture series. Eva Lavi told her most-incredible story to an audience of over 600 (the largest audience gathered in New Zealand). It is hoped that we can further strengthen our relationship with AUJS in 2014 to assist them with a repeat of their positively heroic effort organising such a successful event.

The chaggim were celebrated with well-attended events, most notably the sold-out seder, for which a special thanks is extended to the Spiegel family for single-handedly planning and organizing what was a superb event.

The Introduction to Judaism (a joint-venture with Progressive Judaism Victoria) students are coming along well in their studies, submitting top-class work. We expect a beit din to be convened early in 2014 and to welcome three new members to the congregation with a most joyous simcha at that time.

Toitu, the Otago Settlers' Museum will feature, until April 2014, a special exhibition chronicling the history of the DJC. Stuart Swerdloff presented a talk about the exhibition, attended by over 50 very interested Dunedinites. Linking precious historical items to our modern lives, this exhibition is a reminder that the Jewish community did not leave

Dunedin when the gold rush ended. A slideshow of community members and their contributions to Otago accompanies the show.

Olveston House is working closely with the DJC to increase the visibility of the Theomin's Jewish life. The first example of this is a rather grand reworking of their dining room setting to showcase Shabbat. It is welcome news that a local school has approached Olveston so that Jews can join the groups already part of their "Settlers in Dunedin" programme. The DJC hopes to cohost an event with Olveston this year, and to begin growing an etrog in their greenhouse.

We are looking forward to three further b'nei mitzvah in 2014, so it is shaping up to be a simcha-filled year.

We have welcomed several new member individuals and families to the community.

I am truly grateful for the efforts of the board, community members, and wider Jewish world who have given so much to supporting the continuation of congregational life in Dunedin.

Temple Sinai – Wellington NZ

Phillip Green, President



Temple Board of Management:

Chair (Governance & Strategy): Phillip Green

Rabbi (including Beit Midrash): Adi Cohen

Mashpiah: JoEllen Duckor

Temple/Community Security: Kelvin Ratnam

Finance: Sam Segal

Beit Midrash (Board Liaison): Sally Thomson-Gregg

Education: Paul Blaschke

Policy: Martin Halliday/Kelvin Ratnam

Ritual (Board Liaison): Ayelet MacDonald

Building, Maintenance, Interfaith: Wayne Phillips

Communications: Anna Hollander

Temple Secretary (Administration): Kathy Kerry

Committees of the Board of Management

The following committees support the Board of Management: Finance; Fundraising; Building; Member Services; Conversion; Communications; External Relations (DCM & Interfaith); Israel Embassy/UPJ; Security; Ritual; Employment; Caterers; Keshet and Library.

Programmes

- Beit Midrash
- Adult Education
- B'nei Mitzvah
- Sinai Seniors
- Teens Programmes (with Habonim)
- Post-Bnei Mitzvah group
- Mindfulness through a Jewish Lens (Meditation)
- Women's Rosh Chodesh

In April 2013 Temple Sinai held a Special General Meeting to discuss and approve a new Constitution. A new Board was elected in June under the new Rules of the Congregation with Phillip D Green as the Chair of the Board of Management. Phillip is a former President of the Temple.

Rabbi Adi Cohen will be completing his contract with Temple Sinai in April 2014. Rabbi Cohen has contributed to the vibrancy of our shule during his time with us. In particular he has promoted greater participation in Kabbalat Shabbat, fostered greater interaction with the orthodox congregation and has been involved in promoting the Temple to the wider Wellington community through inter-faith and as a guest lecturer on Judaism at Victoria University and outside Wellington at the University of Otago.

Apart from his normal rabbinical duties Rabbi Cohen has also taken part in UPJ rabbinic (Moetzah) conferences in Australia and the UPJ biennial meetings.

Our membership continues to grow slowly but steadily. Last week we had a special service to welcome several new members.

Adult Education classes are held weekly. A selection of classes is offered. Wednesday night has become the 'regular' night for study. Classes currently available are Parashat HaShavua, Biblical Hebrew (at various levels) and Introduction to Jewish Practice. There are also other opportunities to learn Talmud and Parashat HaShavua on Shabbat. In addition there are other community learning opportunities for, such as the very successful Kia Ora Torah series that has been running over recent months. We have also recently been trialling a new programme called "Mindfulness through a Jewish Lens". It is a meditational programme which is conducted weekly by our Mashpiah.

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.

A new Ritual Committee has been in place since July of this year and has been working through a number of issues and has been active in organising services for the high holy days and other ritual activities. One of the main functions of the Ritual Committee is to help plan services for Shabbat and the various holidays. The Ritual Committee was also instrumental in purchasing additional prayer books for the High Holidays. The Pesach Community Seder was very well organised and successful. It was led by Rabbi Cohen and enjoyed by all who attended.

A small group of adults have been studying towards their conversion to Judaism and regularly attend Temple services, celebrations and study groups. Rabbi Cohen, with the support of the Mashpiah and the Conversion Committee, works with all these students under the guidance of the Moetzah's requirements for conversion in our region.

The Temple continued its involvement in social action through its association with the Downtown Community Ministry (DCM) and other charitable activities. On 17 November we will participating and supporting Judaism's international Mitzvah Day. The object of this year's Mitzvah will be the Wellington Women's Refuge. We are proud of the spirit of tikun olam and compassion evident in our congregation.

Our members also participate in other Wellington Jewish organisations and in doing so ensure that the Temple is well represented in the wider Jewish community. Members of the progressive and orthodox congregations collectively organise and participate in events such as Kia Torah, Chanukah in the Square, the 103rd Wellington Jewish Community Picnic (February 2013), International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haatzmaut.

In August this year the Temple celebrated its 54th anniversary with a special service using the 50s format and a Temple birthday party based on a fifties theme of dress and food. A lot of planning, thought and hard work went into this event. It was a most memorable and fun occasion.

More recently on Simchat Torah we inaugurated the use of a new Torah scroll. The purchase of this scroll was made possible through the generous donations from Temple members and efforts by Rabbi Cohen to look for a suitable new or pre-loved Torah. Our rabbi had the foresight to deliberately choose a scroll that would be light enough for women in our congregation to perform the Hagbah and as a result women are now doing the Hagbah in our Temple.

In October the Executive Director, Steve Denenberg of the UPJ visited Temple Sinai and met with Board members and Ritual assistance Committee members. Steve explained how the UPJ can support progressive Jewish communities in New Zealand in the areas of ritual, visiting rabbis and workshops on specific themes, just to name a few areas of assistance from the UPJ.

Looking forward to the remaining part of the year, we will be holding a Temple shabbaton and participate again in another celebration of Chanukah in the Square together with the orthodox congregation and the Embassy of Israel.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the UPJ for their support.

United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong

Bob Cooper, President



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

Leadership. Rabbi Stanton Zamek; 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 June 11, 2012, elected the following UJC members to the Executive Committee: Cheryl Blanco, Clayton Carol, Laurie Constantinides, Bob Cooper, Andrew Gordon, Daniel Kirwin, Jonathan Kriegel, Joshua Lavin, Adam Nelson, Dorri Ramati, Barbara Thomas, Andrea Viders, Kenny Weinstein, David Weisner and David Zeiden. Robert Green, as Founding Chairman, Robert Meyer, Mark Michelson and Charles Monat are Honorary Members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee chose the following officers: Bob Cooper (president), David Zeiden (vice president), Andrew Gordon (treasurer) and Daniel Kirwin (secretary). Nancy Lui, Executive Administrator and Charlene Hsia, Assistant Administrator, continued to make outstanding contributions to the operations and spirit of the UJC.

Membership. Membership figures (in units) as of December 31, 2012, were as follows:

Family: 119, Individual: 29, Individual "Under 30": 2, Non-Resident: 18, Associate: 1, Life: 3; total members: 172 (308 adults, 282 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 a 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 a 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 3 year olds and their parents to introduce them to the Sanctuary and Shabbat services. Songs, games, crafts and stories about upcoming holidays and festivals.

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: **Dr. Charles Small** March 16-18, 2012; **Zein Williams** March 30, 2012; **Dr. Daniel Matt** May 25-27, 2012; **Clive Lawton** June 5, 2012; **Noa Sattath** June 19-22, 2012; **Julee Allen** November 18, 2012; **Kylie Uebergang** November 23, 2012; **Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz** December 7, 2012; **Rabbi Ralph Mecklenburger** December 21, 2012

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.

OOMF – The Overlords of Maniacal Fandom: OOMF is the UJC affinity group meeting on a monthly basis for lovers of nerd culture in all its myriad forms.

UJC Gala: April 28, 2012

Tikkun Olams

UJC NETT Service Learning Project: The UJC NETT (Native English Teen Tutor) Service Learning project completed its second year. Fifteen UJC teens (up from 10 last year) travelled to Tin Shui Wai approximately once a month to serve as English tutors for students at the HLC school. After the visit, the UJC NETTs joined Rabbi Zamek for Shabbat lunch and a learning session. For the final session in April, HLC students met with the NETTs at The UJC where they learned a bit about Judaism, taught the NETTs some traditional Chinese games, and enjoyed a pizza party.

UJC Make a Miracle Mitzvah Day: On UJC Make a Miracle Mitzvah Day, 150 individuals comprising 48 families came together for a day of volunteering with Hong Kong charitable organizations. UJC volunteers as young as age five worked with organizations serving underprivileged children, migrants and vulnerable populations, and environmental concerns. Our volunteers were drawn from families with children, but next year we hope to open that program to the entire congregation.

High Holy Day Food Drive: The UJC Youth Group organized a High Holy Day Food Drive. On Rosh Hashanah, congregants were provided with bags (supplied by Homegrown Foods), and asked to return the bags filled with non-perishable food items on Yom Kippur. All the food collected was donated to Feeding Hong Kong who reported that we collected 340kg/750 lb of food – the equivalent of 582 meals.

Adult Education: Introduction to Judaism, Torah Boot Camp, Hebrew Reading for Beginners, “One Congregation, One Book” Project – “The Essential Kabbalah”, Sh’nat HaTaNaKH – The Year of the Bible

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, 58 students were enrolled during the year.

Life Cycle Events: During 2012, UJC members celebrated: 6 B’nai Mitzvahs, 9 Brit Milah, 5 Naming Ceremonies, 3 Conversions. In addition, 4 children were born to UJC members during the year and more are imminently due.

Funding: UJC members and other friends of the congregation make donations to the congregation during High Holidays, in connection with the annual Gala 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.

ACT Jewish Community Progressive Congregation – Canberra ACT

Robert Cussel, President

The Progressive Congregation continues to run services on Friday nights and the first Saturday morning of most months. Low attendance continues to be a cause of great concern – except for the High Holydays, we struggle to get a *minyan*. However, we have welcomed a number of new members during the year.

Although we have managed to run all scheduled services, there is a need to increase both the number and skill level of service leaders, particularly for Saturday morning services. Thanks go to Rebecca Lehrer for continuing to coordinate the Friday evening services. Special thanks to Jerzy Jagiello for coordinating the Saturday morning services. He has revitalised them by encouraging others to share in the leadership of services and master *leining*.

Rebecca Lehrer, with the assistance of members of the Congregation, once again co-ordinated the High Holyday services with her usual warm and inclusive manner.

Particular thanks go to Raffi Lehrer for his services to the Progressive Congregation, and the Community as a whole, throughout the year. Raffi is prepared to lead services at short notice when he is in Canberra, make an erudite contribution to the weekly *drash*, read the Torah at High Holyday services, and officiate at weddings, funerals and name-givings throughout the year as required.

The Progressive Committee meets periodically to discuss future events and coordinate the participation of the Progressive Congregation in the wider ACT Jewish Community.

Peter Wise attended the inaugural Hava Nashira Jewish Music Conference in Melbourne, coordinated by the Centre for Living Judaism. It was an inspiring experience, which we hope to build on through our participation in the UPJ Music Network to enhance the role of music in our services.

On Friday 11 October, we held our first Progressive Children's and Family Shabbat Service, led by Dan Rosauer. Thanks go to Dan and Michael Zuckerman for being prepared to lead this new event, which we hope will be held monthly and followed by a picnic, Friday night dinner or pot luck dinner.

Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins continues to provide assistance in his role of Consulting Rabbi for the purpose of providing assistance regarding *halachah*. This year, we were visited in May by Rabbi Aviva Kipen, who has consented to become our new visiting Rabbi. Rabbi Kipen led services on Friday night and Saturday morning, participated in an *oneg* after the Friday night service, ran a planning breakfast on Saturday morning, met privately with individual members, conducted a *shiur* and visited *cheder* in a very busy weekend! It is hoped that future visits can be arranged.

Submitted by Peter Wise (on behalf of the Progressive Committee)



AFFILIATION & REPRESENTATION:

ARZA Australia represents Progressive Zionists in Australia at every level of the community, including Federal representation on the Zionist Council of Australia and on the major State Zionist Councils, and through sending delegates to the World Zionist Congress. ARZA is also actively involved in the United Israel Appeal Progressive Trust,

ACHIEVEMENTS

Some of ARZA's activities and achievements during the past year:

- **New Zealand:** In July 2012 we were delighted to be the special guests for the launch of ARZA New Zealand. We are delighted to welcome our sister organisation to the ARZENU family.
- **The King David School, Melbourne:** ARZA sponsored the Hebrew Camp for Years 7 and 8 students at the King David School, Melbourne, which has been renamed the "ARZA Israel Seminar" and "ARZA Hebrew Camp." These camps are provided by the staff of the **Centre for Living Judaism**.
- **Young Adult Seminar, Jerusalem:** We continue to try and identify young adults to attend this seminar in Jerusalem each year and to ensure that they return with a strong commitment to Israel and to supporting the work of ARZA.
- **UPJ:** We greatly value the support that we receive from, the UPJ, and particularly that the organisation provides the administrative support for our work. This not only saves valuable resources but also ensures that our work and efforts are totally integrated.
- **E-news:** ARZA continues to produce and circulate e-newsletters on a fortnightly basis to our membership , providing links to relevant news stories locally, in Israel and around the Jewish world as well as bringing people to our website www.arza.org.au for more information about our work and goals.
- **Congregations:** We continue to visit and send material to our congregations across the region in order to get their understanding of the importance of ARZA and ARZENU having their involvement as members and supporters. Throughout this period, presentations about ARZA have been made to numerous congregations across Australia.
- **Netzer:** We have continued to exclusively sponsor the **Jewish Identity Seminar** provided by Netzer Olami that is a highlight of the Shnat programme for the Southern Machzorim. We have made funds available for Netzer Australia to enable them to provide additional activities in the region.
- **Visitors:** During the past year we were delighted to welcome KKL Vice President and former head of the IMPJ, Menachem Lebovic, who provided an excellent insight into the work of KKL-Jewish Agency, as well as telling our congregations of the importance of their support for ARZA during the coming months. We were also very pleased to welcome and co-host the visit of the head of the WUPJ's Anita Saltz Centre Rabbi Steve Burnstein during his visit on behalf of the UIA Progressive Trust. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from IMPJ head, Rabbi Gilad Kariv who was a keynote speaker at Limmud Oz and took the opportunity to speak to several congregations and have dinner with some young adults.
- **Mission to Poland:** Following the outstanding success of the Mission to Poland and Israel run together with the UPJ and Emanuel Synagogue we are currently planning a similar trip in 2014 and have invited ARZA groups from other countries to consider joining us.

- **UIA Progressive Trust:** We share the UPJ's concern and commitment about achieving religious and gender equality in Israel as a key to the development of Progressive Judaism around the world, we are keen to support the annual fundraising Appeal that sends approximately AUD\$1,000,000 each year to the WUPJ to assist in the resettlement of *Olim* and in the development of Israel as an inclusive and democratic State.
- **International cooperation:** As part of ARZENU we see the development of strong and active links as vital for our shared efforts to come to fruition. It was a great pleasure earlier this year for ARZA President, Barbara Ford, to combine a personal trip to Canada with the opportunity to meet and work with some of the leaders of ARZA Canada. Barbara also visited The Netherlands and met with both present and past ARZA Presidents during a Shabbat service and dinner.
- **ARZA Board:**
We have continued to develop a new Board that is very enthusiastic and willing to take an active role in providing support for our Youth and Educational institutions, as well as continuing to support Israel and local Progressive congregations. This has been enhanced by some new young representatives as well as through the inclusion of representatives of Netzer and the Progressive Community Shlichim on the Board.
- **The Future:**
While conscious of the slow pace of achieving our goals over many years, we have been energized by recent changes in Israeli society and the increased awareness in our communities about the role of ARZA and the importance of having a strong ARZENU presence at the World Zionist Congress and in the associated elections. We are hopeful that the forthcoming gathering of ARZENU representatives in Jerusalem will equip and prepare us for the forthcoming ARZENU and WZC elections. We are about to launch a membership recruitment and promotional drive that we hope and believe will increase the profile and presence of ARZA in our community.

Board of Progressive Jewish Education – NSW

Carolyn Davey, Chair

The NSW Board of Progressive Jewish Education (BPJE) is the umbrella body for the provision and promotion of Jewish education within a Progressive framework and orientation. It's work includes the responsibility to fund, supervise and co-ordinate the activities of Hebrew and Religion Schools located in Woollahra, Chatswood, entral Coast, Canberra (ACT), a newly established campus in Inner West as well as the provision of Progressive Jewish Adult education and Family education through distance education to remote and regional areas.



Centre for Living Judaism – Armadale VIC

Stephanie Gratch, Coordinator

The Centre for Living Judaism is now in its 3rd year of existence. The program is growing and shifting on a regular basis. This year we welcomed two new Jewish Fellows, said farewell to the director and inaugural Jewish Life Fellow, and welcomed a new Coordinator to the CLJ.



Over past year, Jewish Life Fellows have travelled around Asia, Australia, and New Zealand, teaching and learning about Progressive Judaism. In Singapore and Shanghai, the Fellows provided services for Shabbat and led Seddarim. On top of this, they discussed ways the Centre could be of use in the future and resources already available to them through the Centre's work. Within Australia, the CLJ Fellows have visited all of the congregations. The programs that have been run in these congregations have consisted of Adult Education discussions, Shabbat services, cheder programs, and chaggim programming. All programs and resources provided to these congregations have been added to the website www.livingjudaism.org.au. Through this website, the Centre is able to share resources to the region without physically being at the congregations. Over the CLJ's few years of existence, we have learned the importance of establishing personal relationships through congregational visits. These visits have given us the opportunity to speak with the congregations, personally, about ways they can use the Centre and ways the Centre can provide specific resources for the congregations. For example, we created a Torah Service template for Canberra, and provided Perth with a number of Pikei Avot songs.

The goal of the Centre to bring congregations and communities closer by providing accessible resources has been a huge success, as seen through this year's music conference. This past April, musicians from around the region came together in Melbourne to share and learn together. The music conference was very successful and left attendees feeling inspired and ready to bring new music back to their communities.

Over the next few months, the Centre is looking to expand its partnerships to continue to provide the Australasian communities with resources, increase personnel within the Centre, and provide professional development opportunities for the Jewish Life Fellows. The Centre is looking forward to these changes and continuing its current transition.



Thinking was the focus of 2012 in a year of stable enrolments. As a learning community we worked on building our expertise to more fully engage our students in the process of thinking so that a culture of thinking is built across the School. Thinking is a pre-requisite for understanding and learning – learning is not about memorising or merely completing work, and classrooms are no longer the places of ‘tell and practice’.

2012 was packed with learning across all the domains. Academically, we began the year very proud of our 2011 HSC results, with close to 40% of students gaining an ATAR of over 90. One student gained first in the state in Extension Mathematics and 3rd in the state in the 2 Unit Mathematics course, while he was still in Year 11. At the end of the year we received the impressive results of our class of 2012, with 9 out of the 66 students gaining an ATAR over 99, 50% of the group gaining an ATAR of 90 or over, and 10 all-rounders awards. As well one student gained 1st place in the state for SDD and another gained 2nd in the state for Extension History. In addition there were 7 nominations from the Music classes for Encore, one for the whole Drama class in OnStage and one in Visual Arts for ArtExpress, the NSW HSC showcases for the top HSC major works.

Spiritually, there were so many opportunities for reflection and collaboration, with Interfaith programs, Year 10's Zionist Camp, the Mifgashim run by the Israeli Madrichim, the new Moadon, the various celebrations and commemorations that follow the Jewish calendar throughout the year. Twenty-one of our Year 11 students did the March of the Living program, the largest of any school group.

Musically we saw events such as the King David School Exchange, the Music and HICES Camps, along with a range of performances throughout the year. In collaboration with the Drama department, we had the musical, Little Shop of Horrors.

Students excelled across other areas in 2012, particularly in Sport, Debating, the UN Mock Security Council competition, informatics and many more activities. The sense of our responsibility to others also pervades our School and the community. Students through various fund-raising events have raised over \$35 000 this year for a variety of good causes.

Beyond our own community, we welcomed visitors from overseas and other communities, with 12 students from Leo Baeck Education Centre in Haifa visiting us in August for 2 weeks. We strengthened our relationship with the Jilkminggan community in the Northern Territory, again sending two groups of students there to visit and again being blown away by the impact on our students of this experience.

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.

Financially there was a modest surplus from 2012 and the school went forward into 2013 with a small increase in fees of 3.5%, one of the lowest of all the Jewish schools.

Report from PJV/Netzer Shlichah (Melbourne) Lior Argaman

It's hard to believe that it has been almost two years since we embarked on this exciting journey, and that it is about to end pretty soon. It was clear from the initial job description provided to me before arriving that this would be an interesting and full-on shlichut. The reality was not less than that, and possibly more. It did not take a long time into my role as the PJV and Netzer Shlichah to learn how multifaceted the role is and how much energy it takes to do everything at once (even before speaking of my role as a wife and mother....).

The job description was reflecting of the reality and included working in a variety of fields: Netzer, the four Progressive communities in Victoria, TKDS, the Centre for Living Judaism, PJV, ZFA and be a part of the Israeli delegation. Reviewing my monthly reports shows the fine balance amongst all the different obligations. I feel I managed to meet most of the expectations set by my supervisors, as well as the different organizations. Each month in the past two years was filled with Jewish and Zionist activity in a variety of settings, be it in Shules, in Netzer or in the wider Jewish community.

Accomplishments, successes and opportunities achieved during my Shlichut

- Became a genuine part of the Melbourne Jewish community.
- Seen and heard both in the communities and in Netzer.
- Established good relations with different organizations and individuals.
- Became a relevant and important point of contact for Netzer Bogrim in their decisions and planning.
- Shaped my role according to the needs of the different organizations I work with.

Challenges encountered during my Shlichut

- To be involved in everything needed in a sufficient way.
- Being seen as the "go to person" for Netzer, rather than speaking with the leaders themselves.
- To be more present at TKDS as an informal educator.
- Dealing with more urgent things and not necessarily the important things.
- Managing to avoid unnecessary politics.

The main part of my role is being involved in Netzer. This is a fascinating role and a unique one, but it presents its challenges. Firstly, as this is a youth movement, and is run by youth, there are some things that fall between the cracks, i.e. mandatory reporting of finance etc. Two more challenges we currently face are that we have an ideological crisis in the movement, where a lot of the bogrim are not committed to the movement's ideology. Lastly, there is a big question as to the relationship between Netzer and the Shules, in which all involved need to invest time and energy to progress for the sake of the future of the community.

All in all it has been a highly successful Shlichut in terms of my work, as far as I hear from all organizations and individuals I'm involved with. The handover with Nadav, my successor, is already taking place on a weekly basis. I hope the transition goes smoothly and that we will go from strength to strength. Thank you all for your ongoing support and for embracing us into your communities.

Report from Netzer Shaliach (Sydney) Yuval Nemirovsky

I have now spent 13 months in Australia, having arrived in October 2012 together with my wife Inna, straight after our wedding in Jerusalem.

The UPJ, Emanuel Synagogue, North Shore Temple Emanuel and Netzer have been amazingly welcoming. It is hard to find words to describe the warm hospitality we received and continue receiving from the UPJ family.

Being a shaliach is not always easy, but as much as we all know the hard work it is, I can say that I can see the good work previous shlichim have done and how important it is for the UPJ and the communities to continue this important link to Israel, to Progressive Judaism and to Reform Zionism.

My work during this year has been centered in 3 main fields:

Netzer: Being the shaliach for Netzer Sydney, working closely with the madrichim, supervising the educational content, helping them to build programs, creating new structures for our movement, being responsible for the logistics on camp, helping to run main activities, being in contact with the chanichn (participants) and their families, looking for resources and financial support for our activities, motivating our leaders and bringing the best quality to our events.

Netzer Federal: together with the best shlichim ever Lior Argaman, we work hard to send participants to our leadership program in Israel (Shnat Netzer), we are responsible for the federal leaders and federal events like Chinuch seminars (twice a year) and Federal camp.

Communities: It has been fantastic to work closely with all the rabbis and the staff in two amazing communities: North Shore Temple Emanuel and Emanuel Synagogue. It has been my job to help in the planning of main chagim and events like the Mimouna, Israel Day, Movie nights, classes, discussions, new projects (Dancing group), Harbourview (Young Adult group), Nights school and much more. I have to thank all the people I work with for giving always feedback and for letting me feel part of the team. The shaliach position at the end of the day is an education position and to connect Reform Zionism and Progressive Judaism from Israel to the communities is wonderful.

Mishlach: As an emissary from the Jewish Agency, I have under my responsibility also the mishlach of Sydney (group of shlichim). The shlichim are responsible for training seminars and for main events to the wider community like Yom Haatzmaut, Yom Hazikaron, Tekkes Rabin, ZYC seminars and much more. I have to say that this year we had only 2 shlichim in Sydney and many of these responsibilities fell down on my shoulders. All the events were done with an excellent feedback and I always did it representing the values of the Progressive Movements. "Our" voice was always there and "we" were always present in the wider community.

In addition to these 3 main fields, the position of the shaliach is to help reaching young people for ARZA and for the UPJ. I thank all the people in the UPJ and the wonderful communities it serves for letting me be your shaliach. Thanks for the great educational work you do. Yashar Koach.

Netzer Australia

Alice Chipkin, outgoing Federal Merakezet



It has been an honour to serve as Netzer's Federal Mazkira for the past two years and to have been in the movement for the past fourteen. I look forward to carrying my passion for Progressive Judaism and Reform Zionism into our wider community. This report will sadly be my last, but I am very proud to introduce the Federal Mazkirut for 2014: **Federal Mazkira** – Shoshana Booth (Sydney) **Federal Gizbar** – Mitch Parsons (2013 Gizbar from Perth) **Shnat Rakezet** – Nikki Silbert (Melbourne) **Rosh Chinuch** – Eliza McCarroll (Sydney) **States** - In Sydney we turned what could have been a major obstacle of having only five regular bogrim into one of the most successful years for Sydney yet. Our strategy of quality over quantity for events proved wise. We had to close Winter Camp registration early due to over 100 participants signing up, our Reunion had over 50 chanichim and each of our monthly events and sleepovers neared similar numbers. Yuval Nemirovsky has been with us for one year already in Sydney and has been a huge motivator and source of stability. He will continue on as the Federal Shaliach into 2014.

In Melbourne, activities continued at a fiery pace out of our room at TBI and at each of our affiliated synagogues. Sleepovers and regular meetings happened nearly fortnightly and Shnat Teva returned with confidence and enthusiasm. Tikkun projects were a focus this year with over \$4000 raised for higher education scholarships for Nepali women. Hummus For Humanity was another project Netzer Melbourne pioneered and included meaningful inter-faith networking. We wished Mazal Tov to Lior Argaman, her husband Didi and son Adam as they welcomed two new additions to their family; twins Eden and Yarden. We are very sad to be losing Lior back to Israel in December but wish her and her family all the best. She has done an outstanding shlichut, and was recognized with a most deserved award from the Jewish Agency. We look forward to welcoming Nadav Shachmon before our summer camps!

Camp – Our upcoming summer camps, **Machanot Festival**, have officially been launched. Registration is now open on our website and we ask you to encourage the youth in your communities to sign up!

Federal Senior Camp 6-14th Jan (Years 10-13)

Sydney Junior Camp: 21-26th Jan (Years 3-8)

Melbourne Junior camp: 21-26th Jan (Years 3-8 + federal year 9)

Seminars – We ran two federal seminars for bogrim this year and in my humble opinion they were the best seminars we've ever had. We hotly debated things like the place of Jewish practice in our personal lives, gender and Netzer (specifically the discussion regarding co-ed sleeping arrangements – note we will not be changing the status quo of same-sex rooms), mental health and our duty of care and much more.

In addition to seminars for bogrim we ran seminars for the prospective Shnat group in April and then again in July, two Shabbat Seminars for those interested in learning how to lead Shabbat and Chadracha Seminars in each state for our year 10s.

Outreach – In addition to strong sniffim in Sydney and Melbourne we have continued our outreach work all over Australia. This year we ran three outreaches to **Perth** (run in conjunction with our resident bogrim Mitch Parsons, Jonathan Israel and Sam Slade), two to the **Gold Coast/Brisbane**, two to **Adelaide** (including representation on JAZY winter camp) and we had a constant presence in **Canberra** with Shoshana Booth coordinating AZYC activities there. We had intended to run an outreach to Singapore this year but did not manage to get it off the ground. We hope the Singapore community is able include us in their plans in coming years.

Each outreach entails at least two bogrim flying interstate and running a variety of activities that include Shabbatonim for whole communities, sleepovers and camps for children, shiurim by a Shaliach for the adults and much more. If you

would like Netzer to join your community in 2014 please email federal@netzer.org.au – we are always looking to expand what we do!

Shnat Yam (2013) have reached the final stage of the Shnat program and are enjoying their last days on Kibbutz Lotan. We are extremely excited to welcome them into the bogrim body in time for summer camps in January.

Shnat Kinneret (2014) are set to be our biggest group in three years, with 14 chanichim well into the application process. This year we began fundraising for subsidies early. We have had a very positive response from the community and thank those who have contributed; these donations are critical in allowing financially challenged families to send their children on the program. The link between Shnat Netzer and Netzer Australia cannot be overlooked; Shnat graduates feed back directly into our active leadership body and ultimately secure our future in Australia.

Challenges: While this has been a year of great success we still face a number of challenges. In Sydney operating out of NSTE has meant we have lost consistent engagement with youth from the Eastern Suburbs. In Melbourne, the same could be said for the synagogues that have sleepovers held at them but not fortnightly meetings. We face financial challenges in the form of a critical lack of accounting knowledge. We are years behind in our reporting requirements and are working hard to rectify this recurring problem. We are very much in need of community members willing to help us get our affairs in order. The Shnat price continues to rise and Netzer Olami are under increasing pressure to give us prices based on the number of participants which means that in future smaller Shnat years the price will be entirely unaffordable. We hope that the WUPJ Shnat Fundraising Committee is able to work quickly and efficiently for all our sakes. The program is fundamentally important in securing Netzer Australia's future leadership.

UPJ - we would like to thank the UPJ for their annual support. Without their funding we would not be able to cover the costs of important outreach work, Shnat subsidies, seminars or our administration operation.

In conclusion, it has been a pleasure getting to know you and your congregations. I am immensely proud of our movement and hope that the UPJ Community continues to recognize the importance of Netzer and what our bogrim do as volunteers each and every day.

As the new kid on the block, 2013 required a steep learning curve. Fortunately, I have been surrounded by an executive of experts, in addition to my own experience as Past President of one of the affiliates, so the role has been easier than expected although I have found it to be far more time consuming than what I had anticipated. Nevertheless I have found it to be a rewarding experience and as I become further involved in the role I realise there is so much to achieve.

Vision 2020: At the start of the year we held a very successful one-day seminar at the KDS facility. I was surprised by the huge turn out and enthusiasm from delegates representing all our affiliates. At the conclusion we established working groups to look at key areas of potential and those groups have been working independently to develop a framework for going forward. One can either take the glass half -empty or glass half -full approach to the current status. Whilst I personally had some initial reservations on the effectiveness of the working groups and the time set to achieve our objectives, I realise that there has been so much change occurring with in the movement and rather than push for results by a specified time I have been happy to let each group work at a pace that suits their group. At the time of writing I hope to be able to table a separate report on the outcomes so far.

UPJ: At the beginning of the year I had discussions with my counterpart in UPJ and we agreed to exchange information to avoid perceived or potential conflict. Unfortunately by May this had not come to fruition as planned and this resulted in a meeting between UPJ, PJV and constituent Presidents. The outcome has been extremely positive with an open exchange of minutes and representation by one of the two current Vice Presidents attending PJV meetings as desired. At the meeting in May there was a desire for the Presidents to meet separately to the PJV executive to discuss some operational issues not necessarily related to PJV.

Presidents Meeting: I convened my first meeting of this group in early October, which proved very successful with positive outcomes achieved. It was suggested that more savings could be achieved if we looked at combining some of the administration functions of the constituents. Whilst the saving is a motivating factor the more important goal is to try and build closer relationships within the constituents and see where sharing of resources can assist growth. Upon confirmation from the various boards, I will be establishing a working party to scope the possibilities during 2014. As there are a number of changes occurring within the affiliates, particularly at TBI and Etz Chayim, I felt that it was better to go slowly on this proposal. The Presidents also suggested a more regular meeting. They have requested three face-to-face meetings to cover issues not dealt with by PJV and the next is planned for early 2014.

Outreach: Under the leadership of Linda Stern this has been a shining light in 2013. We have managed through frustration and perseverance to commence links in a number of regional areas. As has been mooted, Rabbi Morgan is planning a training seminar for lay leaders in January 2014 and this will enable us to both support our existing shules as well as providing additional support for the regional congregations. Once again this has highlighted the need for additional Rabbinic support within our community. Our market competitors are able to offer a full service role and because our size is small it presents a frustration when we know there is demand for our Progressive services.

Education: The education committee has been working tirelessly on the development of the Introduction to Judaism Program. The course has been developed and enhanced over the last couple of years and is now going through a review process to determine both efficacy and acceptance by the participants. At the same time there has been considerable effort in the development of an online course, which will enable students in rural areas to have access previously denied due to the problem of distance. At the time of writing, this was still in development but if successful will be available to students throughout the Pacific region in partnership with UPJ.

JCCV and ZCV: I have taken an active role in attending most of the JCCV and ZCV plenums during the year as well representing PJV on a couple of committees. I see that it is important for us to be represented on all the roof bodies to ensure that a Progressive Jewish view is well received. We are fortunate that in each of these bodies we are well

represented at executive level by members of our constituents. I have also had now several meetings with representatives from Jewish Care an organisation that is desperate for our input but has been inconsistent over the last few years. It is the one major organisation in Melbourne, which currently has no Progressive members on their Board. This is an item for consideration in 2014.

Communication: One of the first tasks I undertook was a review of our communication strategy. Experience has shown this is the topic that comes under most criticism in any organisation. Working with Ellen Frajman we have completely revamped our weekly email notices, which I saw as a critical necessity. We have received many compliments on the new format, but I have indicated that this is a moving target and is under continuous review. I have been less concerned with our website as this is not as important as the weekly messages. We are now tracking readership and other factors to ensure we are on a path of continuous improvement.

Netzer: At the end of November we see Lior Argaman returning to Israel, after two very positive years leading our Netzer movement. Vision 2020 identified our youth as one of the movement's biggest weaknesses. This is a problem not exclusive to Progressive Judaism and is an area that needs focus in 2014. There are no quick answers to solving the problem of post b'nei mitzvah retention as well as engaging those who are secular. One of our key priorities for 2014 will be to focus thought on initiatives that may start to reverse the trend. We thank Lior for her magnificent contribution over the last couple of years and wish her a safe return to Israel and all the best in her new venture. At the end of November we will be welcoming Nadav Shachmon as our new Shaliach. Nadav was selected after an exhaustive process which was skilfully coordinated by Rabbi Ettlinger from TBI; many thanks to her and her committee for handling the smooth transition. I would also like to thank ZCA for their assistance in the absorption process, which has made our task much easier to handle at this end.

Bet Olam: Under a restructured leadership model our Bet Olam funeral service is operating very successfully under the experienced management of Rhonda Nirens. A committee has been looking at the possibilities of establishing a Progressive burial service to perform *Tahara* -the Jewish rituals prior to burial. This is still in the development stage but it hoped to bring this on line in 2014. We have also suggested that UPJ look at the model of Bet Olam and adopt it in some of the other states but at this stage it has not come to fruition.

Rabbinic Support: We are blessed in the PJV movement with the depth of knowledge and experience of our clergy team. Over the last twelve months, we have seen the addition of Cantor Laloum to the TBI team and the retirement of Rabbi Morgan as Senior Rabbi at TBI. We are extremely fortunate that although Rabbi Morgan has retired from the Senior Rabbi role, we will enjoy his contributions in other areas for many years to come. Rabbi Lazarow has moved from the educational role at KDS to the fill the Senior Rabbi role at TBI. Rabbi Alyson Conyer takes up a rabbinic role at Etz Chayim in the new year and she will be joined by her husband to fill the role of head of Jewish Studies at KDS. The additional rabbinic support will prove a bonus to the movement and sets the tone for growth in the SE corridor, which has seen the largest growth of young Jewish couples over the last ten years.

King David School: When the PJV was reformed a few years ago , KDS kindly volunteered to host PJV in the grounds of KDS in Dandenong Road to remove any perceived bias to one of the synagogue constituents. We are eternally indebted to KDS for this magnificent contribution and hope that this relationship will continue for many years. The school itself continues to flourish and go from strength to strength. It is about to embark on a major capital upgrade however the detail of this is best presented under a separate report by KDS.

Administration: Finally I would like to thank Ellen Frajman who has done magnificent role in supporting me over the last twelve months and has ensured that working quietly in the background the movement functions without stress. Her professionalism is a blessing to our movement. My thanks to our long-suffering treasurer Alan Samuel who has continued to keep an eagle eye on our finances and ensure that we remain financially viable. To the rest of the executive many thanks for your individual contributions and I look forward to working with you in 2014.

The King David School – Armadale VIC

Mark Harrison, President



2013 has been another momentous year at The King David School. Earlier this year, Michele Bernshaw, our Principal of the last 14 years announced her intention to retire by the end of 2014. School Council is well advanced in the search for Michele's replacement and I look forward to announcing the new Principal to the community in the near future.

Project Chai Ve'kayam continues to progress with permits for the School's redevelopment expected to be received early in 2014. This Project will see the School move to a two campus model with the Pre- School and Prep – Year 5 located on the Dandenong Road Campus and Years 6 – 12 located on the Orrong Road Campus. The sale of the Kooyong Road campus in 2014 will enable the School to fund this substantial building program which will result in the School having state of the art facilities amidst a more robust financial model. The Pre-School at Alma Road will continue to operate and having listened to the needs of our community, will now enrol children from 9 months old to 3 years old.

In 2013, the School launched The King David School Centre for Student Wellbeing. We also formalised an alliance with Dr Marc Brackett from Yale University who is the creator of the RULER approach to Wellbeing. Dr Brackett visited the school in May to outline the program that is being implemented throughout the School. The integration of the Wellbeing program at all year levels will result in our graduates leaving The King David School with a well-rounded education that teaches life skills such as Emotional Intelligence in addition to the high academic achievements that are a hallmark of the School.

The King David School Foundation continued to develop throughout this year. The Annual Scholarship Appeal raised a record amount enabling more students to receive a Modern Thinking Jewish education where they may otherwise not have had the wonderful opportunities that our School can provide. We were pleased to have our Scholarship Program endorsed by the Premier of Victoria, The Hon Dr Denis Napthine, MP, at our sold out Business Breakfast held at the Park Hyatt in October.

It is remarkable how many exciting educational programs are being conducted at all different levels of our School; from the Kibbutz program in our Junior School to the Robotics and Technology programs in our Middle and Senior Schools, our outstanding Performing Arts department that provides students with opportunities to develop their confidence, our Sporting stars who are very competitive in our Inter- School competitions – The King David School is truly a remarkable institution with many opportunities for our students.

In 2014 we will welcome Dr Bryan Conyer who will commence as Director of Jewish Life and we also look forward to greeting our new Principal.

UPJ Awards - *The 2013 award recipients will be announced at the AGM on 17 November.*

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.

Previous recipients: Judy Campbell, Phyllis Dorey, Penny Jakobovits, Michael Lawrence, Joel Oseran, Neil Samuel

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	Geoffrey Cowen	Hans Jensen	Philip Mayers
Ken Arkwright	Phyllis Dorey	Peter Kolliner	Lynette Ninio
Arthur Berman	Joshua Goldman-Brown	Tony Leverton	Eva Popper
Philip Bliss	Sam Granek	Peter Marks	Jonathan Taft
Phillip Coleman	Sharene Hambur	Stephanie Markson	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	Rachel Dennyss	Rhondda Hall	Fred Mote
Libby Appelboom	Anthony & Dianne Deutsch	Fred Hirsh	Dorothy Nathan
Judith Arkwright	David & Sue Esterman	Albert Isaacs	Eva Phillips
Stan Benjamin	Norma Survana Esther	Elijah Jacob	Amelie Rauner
Albert Bentata	Mick Fettmann	Naomi Johnson	Ian Samuel
Heinz Bohm	Bev Gelbart	Herb Lesser	Chris Shiller
Garry and Nola Braude	Mark Ginsburg	Ted Lewis	Nat Sharpe
Eric Briskman	Sydney Goldstein	Liz Marks	Harry Smith
Nicole Brown	Leon & Sue Goldwater	Jan Marriott	Joel Stupel
Margaret Capkin	Liz Goodman	Valerie Minn	Geoff Sussman
Zvi Civins	Sidney Grant	Charles Monat	Michael Taft
Marliss Cohen	Brian & Jennifer Green	Sue Morgan	Joan Taylor
Arnold Cohn	Noel Hall	Betty Mortimer	Dorothea Tropp-Boas
			Betty Waxman

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