

THE UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM



Annual Report

2013-2014

5774-5775

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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MESSAGE FROM THE WUPJ

Dear friends,

We are delighted to send greetings and good wishes to the Union of 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 major gatherings of the World Union have been a testament to the vibrancy and dedication of the volunteers and professionals who make our Movement the largest stream of Judaism in today's world, with approximately 1.8 million members in 49 countries.

The summer of 2014 has been one of the most difficult summers in Israel in the past years, with a terrible war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, resulting in much devastation and tragic loss of lives on both sides, and many question marks on the best way forward. The World Union partnered with other organizations to launch a number of dedicated campaigns to support the population in southern Israel, a rally for help received with open hearts in all our regions.

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

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

The UPJ will continue to play a leading role in making the most of opportunities in strengthening our valued partnership going forward.

We look forward to joining you at the UPJ biennial conference with the opportunity to "Change The World".

Rabbi Daniel H. Freeland
President

Michael Grabiner
Chairman

Shai Pinto
Vice President, COO

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

MESSAGE FROM THE EUPJ

On behalf of the Management Committee and Executive Board of the EUPJ we send greetings on the occasion of your Biennial Conference.

EUPJ and UPJ are two of the seven regions of the WUPJ. If you visualise the seven branches of a menorah it helps to imagine the concept of WUPJ; of course Israel would be the central branch as that country is central to Judaism.

We are certain that yours will be a joyful and meaningful conference.

Leslie Bergman
EUPJ President

Miriam Kramer
EUPJ Chairman



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The last 12 months have seen a number of developments in our region, which are both exciting and challenging.

- “Changing of the Guard” - At a number of our congregations, including Emanuel Synagogue, Sydney, Temple David in Perth, North Shore Temple Emanuel in Sydney, a younger generation has taken on lay leadership positions. We have also seen the induction of a number of younger rabbis to senior positions at TBI and Etz Chayim, Melbourne, Temple David in Perth and Beth Shalom, Auckland and the imminent arrival of the first permanent rabbi for the Singapore congregation. It is vital for all congregations to encourage younger members to become involved and be given opportunities to develop new programs and services.
- New Communities - We have received requests for affiliation to the UPJ from a number of new and established communities, including Tokyo, Shanghai and the Sunshine Coast, and we are in contact with other groups in the region too.
- Strategic Plan - At this Conference the amazing work undertaken by Susan Kadar and her committee will be presented for discussion, and hopefully for eventual adoption and implementation. It is clear our members want the UPJ to limit its activities to the facilitation of regional issues and representation on national bodies, such as the ECAJ.

Conference - I am delighted that close to 160 people are attending the UPJ Biennial Conference in Adelaide, including several eminent leaders of our international movement, including Mike Grabiner, the Chair of WUPJ, Shai Pinto, COO of the WUPJ and Vice-chairs of the WUPJ, Carole Sterling and our own Philip Bliss.

I do wish to thank sincerely the organising committee for the enormous effort in putting together the program and logistics for what will be a truly fantastic event.

I also wish to thank the executive of UPJ for their contribution and support, and in particular to David Robinson, Sharene Hambur, and Bev Gelbart, who will be standing down this year.

Lastly, and most importantly, I wish to thank our Executive Director, Steve Denenberg, and Jocelyn Robuck, for their continuous professional support and contribution to ensuring our movement goes from strength to strength.

Stephen Freeman
UPJ President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bob Dylan's words "*The times they are a 'changing'*" can appropriately be used to describe the work that has gone over the past year with regard to reviewing the operations of the UPJ and determining a new path for the future. At the same time, though, the UPJ office has worked to maintain a full program of support for smaller congregations; development of programs and the resolution of problems throughout the region.

The development of the congregations in the Asian part of our region is particularly satisfying and it is wonderful that we will greet a number of representatives to the biennial conference and to the movement.

I believe that the "Year in Review" section of the report demonstrates the breadth and depth of the tasks that we undertake and also highlights the key role that a central organisation has in the maintenance and development of a dynamic movement.

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 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 and the members of the Va'ad. I offer special tribute to Sharene Hambur and David Robinson who have both completed their term of office and step down from the Executive. They have both been absolute towers of strength and support for me and for the organisation and I offer them heartfelt thanks for their amazing dedication and wisdom. I offer thanks to Ellen Frajman for the administrative help that she gives us in Victoria. Finally, I offer thanks and appreciation to Jocelyn Robuck for her dedication, talent, almost limitless patience, and the unending commitment 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 2014 are attached to this Report.
For the financial year ended 30 June 2014**

It is with pleasure that I present the financial report of the Union for Progressive Judaism for the year ended 30 June 2014.

I do not intend going through the financial accounts in detail in this report. That is best left to the AGM.

In summary we made a far larger loss for the year than budgeted for.

This was due, mainly, as a result of a reduction in income from affiliation fees as well as a reduction in the grant received from the WUPJ, reasons for which will be elaborated on at the AGM.

From an overhead point of view we managed to make significant savings across a number of expense items, namely accounting fees, meeting costs, education, salaries & superannuation.

However, we incurred expenses in excess of budget in advertising.

The losses were financed out of accumulated reserves and at no time during the year was there ever a possibility of the UPJ not meeting its financial obligations. That being said, the core role of the UPJ is to provide assistance, guidance, advice, education and study opportunities to the Progressive movement in our region; as well as representing the Progressive community at federal and international levels; and also maintaining strong and positive links to the World Union for Progressive Judaism and the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism.

These core roles cannot be undertaken without adequate funding and, once again, the message needs to be made clear to members that financial support through affiliation fees and other activities is essential. We cannot expect to provide essential services without this support and we obviously cannot continue to make losses each year.

Your Executive approved a budget for the current financial year to 30 June 2015 which also reflects a large loss. The budget was drafted on the basis that the current structure of the UPJ will remain unchanged for this financial year as there has not been any finality surrounding the new strategic plan at the time of drafting the budget. However, subsequent to the commencement of the financial year we have received confirmation about the repayment of a loan that had not been budgeted for. This should result, with all other budgeted items remaining fairly accurate, in the UPJ being able to show a surplus at 30 June 2015.

My final act as Honorary Treasurer of this wonderful movement is to acknowledge and thank a very few people without whose assistance I could never have fulfilled this role. All too often in a report the writer goes

about thanking people as a matter of courtesy. Those that know me and have worked with me over the years will appreciate I do not do that.

Again, for this report I will merely list those who have made this role so easy for me. A more detailed appreciation will be made at the AGM.

I start with our Auditors, Lowe Lippman and thank them, once again, for undertaking a review of our accounts.

My thanks also goes to Fran Freiman, our bookkeeper, who manages to process everything, answer queries and make required monthly adjustments in record time each month.

My deepest respect and gratitude goes to Jocelyn Robuck and Steve Denenberg. Without their dedication and tight controls I am convinced we would not have been able to control expenses as well as we have. While I know I have been a constant nag asking for information, they have always been willing to make sure things run smoothly. Thank you so much.

Lastly my humble thanks to all my colleagues and friends in the UPJ, on the UPJ Executive and particularly the Va'ad for all your advice and support over the many years. It has been a privilege to have been given the honour to have served you and I hope I have made some small difference in the way the finances of the UPJ have been controlled.

I wish the incoming Executive and particularly my successor all the best. Of course I will be available to assist as and when required.

L'shalom

David Robinson
Honorary Treasurer UPJ

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.

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 and outstanding invoices;
- UPJ Executive and committee meetings – coordinating meetings and taking minutes;
- 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 UPJ and ARZA websites, website maintenance
- Editing and creating weekly e-newsletters for the weekly Parashat Hashavua, Elul Reflections and our quarterly e-newsletter Gal Chadash, as well as regular ARZA newsletters;
- Facebook page posts.

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

- Biennial and regional gatherings planning;
- Moetzah meetings 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 events and campaign management

As always, it is a privilege to work with Steve Denenberg on our many initiatives. 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 give an honorable “mention” to three incredible “menschen”: Honorary Treasurer David Robinson, who has been an invaluable help to me, providing assistance, good counsel and friendship; Honorary Secretary Sharene Hambur, who has cheerfully assisted with anything and whenever called upon, in addition to always providing a much-needed chuckle; and Susan Kadar, who has inspired me with her high level of professionalism and efficiency in her chairmanship of the UPJ Strategic Planning Working Party, as well as being a wonderfully kind friend.

Respectfully submitted,
Jocelyn Robuck

MOETZAH CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Moetzah, the Council of Progressive Rabbis, met twice this year, once in Geelong, and again in the two days prior to the start of the UPJ Conference. We had a record attendance at our meeting in June and were so excited to welcome both rabbis from our Hong Kong affiliate for the first time. It is wonderful to see the UPJ's presence in Asia growing, and that is reflected by the anticipated addition to our membership of Rabbi David Kunin of the Jewish Community of Japan and Rabbi Nathan Alfred of United Hebrew Congregation in Singapore.

At the writing of this report, the Moetzah has not yet conducted its Annual General Meeting. It is anticipated that Rabbi Adi Cohen will step in the position of chair, with Rabbi Kim Ettlinger taking on the role of vice chair. Our hard-working treasurer Rabbi Nicole Roberts has kindly agreed to stay on. The Moetzah is grateful to her for shifting our accounts over the last year into Bank Mecu, in accordance with our decision to move our modest assets out of banks supporting the fossil fuel industry.

At our meeting in June, we were thrilled to welcome two master teachers, Everett Fox and Rabbi Cherie Koller-Fox, who generously shared their knowledge and wisdom with us. While our November meeting is more focused on business, we are anticipating some important conversations about the UPJ's Strategic Plan as well as the nature and identity of the Moetzah. We are also continuing to explore the pros and cons of expanding our tent from Progressive to Pluralist. We look forward to many lively discussions in the future!

Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

One of the key themes of the past year was set on the day of the AGM in November 2013 when the Gathering of Presidents, Rabbis and members of the Executive Committee commenced a Strategic Planning exercise to review the current structure and operations of the UPJ and to consider how the organisation can meet a number of strategic goals in the short- to mid-term. We were most fortunate that Immediate Past President of NSTE, Susan Kadar agreed to chair the Working Party that consisted of Bev Gelbart (representing the Executive Committee), Jim Cyngler, Philip Levy and Jonathan Keren-Black (representing the Moetzah). They were later joined by Louise Thurgood-Philips (President, Emanuel Synagogue), Robert Hershan (President, TBI), Brian Samuel (President PJV), Sarah Fife (President, NSTE) and Sam Zwarenstein (Executive Director, Emanuel Synagogue).

During the year the Working Party met a number of times; Susan Kadar carried out extensive interviews with individuals and groups; a number of sub-committees were established to discuss specific issues and the large Gathering re-convened in Melbourne in June 2014 to receive an interim report and discuss issues further. The key suggestions arising from these extensive deliberations were then formed into specific recommendations that were reviewed and endorsed by the Working Party, the UPJ Va'ad and Executive Committee during August and September.

These recommendations include a smaller central UPJ; the creation of regional UPJs with delegated responsibilities; an increased profile for the Moetzah; a more independent JRAAC; and an autonomous and strengthened ARZA; and an independent UIA Progressive Trust.

Australian Reform Zionist Association (ARZA): The vital work of ARZA has continued to be supported by the UPJ's gift of staff time 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 Zionist Federation of Australia as well as on 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.

The resolution on religious pluralism proposed by Steve Denenberg and approved by the Zionist Federation of Australia was then sent to ARZENU and was approved by the Va'ad Hapoel of the World Zionist Organisation. During his time in Jerusalem representing Chairperson Barbara Ford he also met with M.K. Ruth Calderon who said that she hoped to take the resolution to the Knesset. In June 2014 Barbara attended ARZENU and WZO meetings in Israel as well as combining her personal trip with the opportunity to represent and promote the work of ARZA in many places. Barbara will stepping down from the Presidency in November but will continue to serve as Immediate Past President and as a member of the Executive Committee of ARZENU.

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. The past year's award winners included: Ner Tamid - Janet Henrie (Beit Shalom, Adelaide); Gena Reiss (Netzer Australia); Beatrice Coleman (Etz Chayim, Melbourne); and George Deutsch (Leo Baeck Centre, Kew). Vatik awards were presented to Larry Lochshin (Beit Shalom, Adelaide) and Maree Findlay (Temple David, Perth).

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 continued. Bryan Conyer has joined KDS as Head of Jewish Life and this includes supervision of the Centre. Centre Coordinator, Stephanie Gratch, continues her fine work with the Jewish Life Fellows, Noa Gibson (who departed in July), Shannyn Gelbart and Adam Tannenbaum, and they are continuing to develop the bank of resources and to make visits to congregations across the region.

Congregations and affiliates: The overall range of activities and programs provided by congregations has continued at an amazing rate and standard 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 outstanding and a source of great pride for all associated with the UPJ.

Community representation: The UPJ and its affiliates are represented at every level of community leadership and involvement at State, Federal, regional and international levels, including the World Union for Progressive Judaism, 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 visited numerous congregations in order to present the Vatik and Ner Tamid awards. He also attended the installation of Rabbi Gersh Lazarow as Senior Rabbi in TBI and was represented by Phyllis Dorey at the 20th anniversary celebrations for the Kedem congregation, and by Steve Denenberg at the installation of Rabbi Adi Cohen at Temple David in Perth earlier this month.

Conference 2014: The biennial conference theme *Ani v'Atah* ("You and I can change the world") will be a perfect opportunity for people from across the region to meet the leadership of our world movement; to learn and leyn with like-minded people; and to celebrate our achievements and aspirations in the beautiful city of Adelaide.

Connections 2015: The next opportunity for Progressive Jews from around the world to come together in celebration will be in Rio di Janeiro, Brazil from 13-16 May 2015 when the next WUPJ 'Connections' conference takes place. The convention will bring world-renowned teachers and presenters to share their knowledge and, in partnership with the delegates, to share all that is good about Progressive Judaism.

Gatherings: The decision taken in May 2011 to save funds by not convening another Gathering of the Presidents, Rabbis and Executive Committee until the biennial Conference 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 took place at the Leo Baeck Centre for Progressive Judaism in Melbourne in November 2013 and included the AGM and the commencement of the Strategic Planning exercise. A further meeting was held in Melbourne in June of this year to help progress the work of the Strategic Planning process.

The Millim Institute for Progressive Jewish Learning: In partnership with Rabbi Emeritus, Fred Morgan AM, we have initiated an innovative institute for adult Jewish learning. Commencing with two programs to equip lay leaders with the skills and knowledge required to lead Shabbat Services, it is planned to develop a much broader curriculum within the Institute to the extent that it will even help prepare those seeking further study to become a rabbi.

Leadership development: The excellent programs of the WUPJ's Anita Saltz Centre were again enjoyed by a number of people from our region and with our financial assistance. The Centre provides excellent opportunities for people to experience Israel and to learn with colleagues from around the world and we strongly encourage people to participate. In 2014 we sent participants to the Beutel Leadership program as well as the Bergman Seminar for Jewish Educators.

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. During the year Mazon made grants to a number of worthy causes in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia as well as to an aged care facility in Mumbai, India.

Moetzah: The Council of Progressive Rabbis is a vital and integral part of the UPJ. Under the leadership of the rabbis, the UPJ constantly reviews religious practice and policy to remain relevant to our congregations through involvement in interfaith activities and social advocacy issues. It has been a pleasure to welcome Rabbi David Kunin from the Jewish Community of Japan (Tokyo) and we look forward to welcoming Rabbi Nathan Alfred as he takes his position as Rabbi to the Singapore congregation in the near future. We have also been pleased to assist with the placement of Rabbi Adi Cohen in Temple David, Perth following the completion of his contract in Wellington, New Zealand.

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 and the UPJ President and Executive Director try to attend part of each Gathering. As Rabbi Kaminsky steps down from the position of Chairperson we pay tribute to her for her dedication, patience and the spirit of partnership that she has championed over her two years in this position.

New Congregations and groups: The development of the 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 and we are seeking to provide her with support and assistance in a number of areas. It is most pleasing to note that the congregation is now applying for affiliation to the UPJ.

Following the visit of Steve Denenberg to the Tokyo congregation their rabbi has joined the Moetzah. Further, following a visit of the President of the community to Sydney this congregation has also applied for affiliation to the UPJ. The development and participation of these two strong congregations is a wonderful boost to the “Asian Forum” which is to be led by the Immediate Past President of the Hong Kong congregation, Bob Cooper who is joining the Executive Committee of the UPJ.

We have also been delighted to receive a request for affiliation from the Sunshine Coast Jewish Community and we look forward to all of these applications being considered at the AGM.

Mission to Poland & Israel: Further to the great success of the initial Mission to Poland and Israel in April 2012, the UPJ, ARZA, TBI and Emanuel Synagogue co-hosted a second trip in April 2014. In the lead-up to the trip group leader and educator, Sandy Hollis, ran information evenings in Melbourne, Auckland and Sydney, ensuring that the energetic and informed group was ready to undertake a most enjoyable and instructive trip. Rabbi Steve Bernstein from the WUPJ’s Anita Saltz Centre joined the group as Rabbi and spiritual leader and helped make the trip the overwhelming success that it was. The next Mission is already being planned to take place around Sukkot in 2015.

Music Network: Network Chairperson, Cantor Michel Laloum led a delegation of 15 people to Israel to participate in the biennial conference of the American Conference of Cantors – Guild of Temple Musicians in June 2014. In addition to contributing much to the conference, the delegates had a wonderful experience and learned many things that they will be sharing with the participants of the UPJ conference in Adelaide.

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. Providing administrative support for the Shnat program has been added during this year. We continue to be impressed by the dedication and talent of the Netzer leadership, and they are respected and valued members of the UPJ family.

The Netzer programs of outreach to smaller communities continue to be very well received and the State and Federal camps become more popular each year. We see all support for Netzer as being an important investment in the future of our Movement. The UPJ congratulates Federal Merakezet, Shoshana Booth, and the entire Mazkirut on the outstanding job that they have done.

Professional development: As part of our commitment to maintaining and developing the calibre of the professionals serving our community as rabbis, cantors and educators. The UPJ provides loans to those undertaking approved courses and these funds are converted into grants as the person returns and works in the region. We continue to encourage young people to attend the various programs provided by the WUPJ’s Anita Saltz Centre, including financial assistance and we also believe that the Milim Institute, described elsewhere in this report, will greatly assist in the development of Jewish professionals and Jewish literacy.

Rabbinic search & mediation: As our congregations have developed, there have been a 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.

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. NSW Community Shaliach, Yuval Nemirovsky has almost completed his second year with us and has done an outstanding job, earning the respect and admiration of all who come in contact with him for his passionate commitment to Israel and to the Zionist movement. Similarly, Victorian Community Shaliach, Nadav Shachmon has done an excellent job for Netzer and across the entire community and we are extremely fortunate to have these outstanding representatives of the State of Israel.

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 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.

Thanks: The continued support of NSTE, Chatswood and Emanuel Synagogue in providing accommodation for the UPJ is greatly appreciated. We offer our sincere thanks to the Boards and staff of both congregations for their help and their continuing support.

UIA Progressive Trust: 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. We offer sincere thanks to the leaders and staff of the United Israel Appeal for their partnership and cooperation.

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. The continued success of this Appeal is a tribute to our donors who understand the special goals of the campaign, as well as to the dedicated volunteers who support this important cause.

Visitors: In February 2014 Rabbi Benjie Gruber 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.

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 remains the official UPJ representative on the WUPJ Board. Our Honorary Secretary, Sharene Hambur did a wonderful job as co-chair of the "Connections" conference held in Jerusalem in May 2013 and former President, Phyllis Dorey is on the Planning Committee for Connections 2015 that will be

held in Rio di Janeiro. We greatly value our partnership with the world body as we work toward our shared goal of developing inclusive and welcoming Judaism around the world.

Conclusion: The 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 continues even as we consider how to re-structure and increase the overall reach of Progressive Judaism across the Australia-New Zealand-Asia region. As we conclude the 84th year of the organisation, we can look back with pride on what has been achieved and look ahead to some significant changes to our organisation that will, hopefully, assist in the promotion and development of pluralistic Judaism in our region.

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

Staff

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

Committee members

Bernice Cohen
Joel Mendelson
Philip Levy
Sarah Fife
Shoshana Booth (Netzer Australia)
Barbara Ford (ARZA)
Shoshana Kaminsky (Moetzah)
Yuval Nemirovsky (NSW Community Shaliach)
Nadav Shachmon (VIC Community Shaliach)

Emanuel Synagogue — Woollahra, NSW

Louise Thurgood Phillips, President



Emanuel Synagogue is proud to be an active and passionate member of the UPJ. Our shared commitment to the promotion of Progressive Judaism is one of Emanuel Synagogue's most defining values, and we look forward to continuing to work together with the Progressive communities in our region in 2015.

Several Board changes occurred at the 2014 AGM, held in May, with Rodney Brender stepping aside as President after three years of service. I am truly honoured to have been appointed to the role and am grateful for Rodney's ongoing contribution as Immediate Past President. Madelaine Cohen has been appointed to the role of Vice President, with Tara Shillan stepping into Madelaine's previous role of Honorary Secretary. Craig Shapiro has stepped down as Honorary Treasurer, with Asheigh J. Anflick reprising the role, having served previously in 2011–12. Clare Sneddon has retired from the board, and we have welcomed new members: Anna Goulston, Alex Lehrer, Alan Obrart, Sam Weiss and Robert Woolf.

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. Our "Shaliach Tzibbur" (cantor), Martin Yafe, has relocated to the USA — we wish him and Yelena the best of luck and that they enjoy many successes there. We have begun a world-wide search for a new cantor who will be the best fit possible for our community, and whose mission it will be to deliver on our strategic goal of a world class music program.

The continuing 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 a live band 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 regular and engaged congregation, and provide more options for those attending Shabbat services.

Our Strategic Plan for the period 2013–2018 continues to guide us in our mission: to provide a dynamic, pluralistic Jewish congregation committed to Jewish tradition, creating community and celebrating diversity, and as we move towards 2015, we look forward to continuing that momentum and building on the success already achieved.

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

- Purim Spiel, again a large audience and terrific annual event
- Purim Carnival
- Lunch & Learn (averaging more than one a month in 2014)
- Shabbat Dinners and Lunches with guest speakers
- Shabbat Tot
- Harbourview events
- Weekly visits and Pre-School programs for the Emanuel Pre-School
- BPJE Hebrew & Religion School
- Bar/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 Synagogue Social Justice Program

North Shore Temple Emanuel – Chatswood, NSW

Sarah Fife, President



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

Through our regular range of Shabbat, Festival and High Holy Day services and celebrations, Rabbi Gary Robuck and Rabbi Nicole Roberts (with the support of our volunteer choir) have led, challenged and inspired us, bringing us together as a community in joyful worship.

As always, our High Holy Day celebrations were a pinnacle of the year, featuring 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.

A small but dedicated group continues to delight in Kabbalah meditation on the bima on Friday mornings and our Shabbat Without Walls program enjoyed success with an event which hosted 24 in a private home for Kabbalat Shabbat and a delicious dinner.

Regular Shabbatot services catering for the youngest worshippers and Shabbat Groove services have become much-anticipated regular events.

Congregants and visitors of all ages enjoyed The Shabbat Project which included Kabbalat Shabbat in the round at Beauchamp Park, Guess Who's Coming to (Shabbat) Dinner in various peoples' homes and a Shabbat morning Synaplex that offered opportunities for prayer, song, meditation, learning, schmoozing, noshing and more! On Shabbat Morning we even opened five of our Torahs (to different books of the Torah) so that congregants could have a closer look at the various styles of our sacred scrolls.

When not in the sanctuary, our members remained active in a variety of ways:

Our Books for Blokes and Come Dine with Me Programs engaged mens' and womens' groups respectively and Young Adults gathered to celebrate the festivals in ways ranging from a Pesach-themed excursion to the Royal National Park to Sangria in the Sukkah.

For our youth, Netzer remains an important magnet and the movement has been led confidently and enthusiastically by Shoshana Booth, Josh Lazarus and Eliza McCarroll, with the support of Netzer Shaliach, Yuval Nerimovsky.

Formal and informal education opportunities bring people of all ages to NSTE. The Meah program in our Hebrew and Religion School offers students access to quality education in Hebrew and Jewish studies while also building strong links with parents, grandparents and the community. Night School continues to inform and inspire those congregants who take a particular interest in continuing Jewish education and Rabbi

Lampert's Monday morning endures as one of the most interest and exciting mornings of the week for some of our most long-standing members.

Over the course of the year, NSTE hosted a variety of events as part of our Music at VJ's series and community members came together to hear from a range of speakers including (but not limited to) The Honourable Mark Dreyfus, Simon Longstaff AO, Oded Lipschits, Sam Glaser, Simon Holloway, and Rabbi Emeritus John Levi.

Volunteer groups within NSTE worked (and played) hard through our Friends of the NSTE Garden Group, which maintains and beautifies our grounds, and the Kitchen Krew, which provides delicious Shabbat dinners for the masse. We celebrated Purim as a community with more than 100 volunteers delivering roughly 600 Mishloach Manot parcels across Sydney. And our Jews for Social Action group remains committed to a variety of causes through which they walk their talk and enliven our Progressive Jewish values.

After 20 years of volunteer service, Joan and Alan Taylor recently produced their final Hatikvah newsletter; we look forward to acknowledging and celebrating their commitment and incredible contributions at our upcoming Chanukah Shabbat dinner in December.

Away from NSTE, our Shabbaton to Wisemans Ferry was a grand success featuring musical entertainment, learning opportunities and plenty of time for those in attendance to relax and simply enjoy being together.

A certain highlight of the year was our Musical Mission to Israel through which various members of our choir and congregation traveled around Israel sight-seeing and singing. It wasn't only a wonderful travel experience for the group but also brought benefit to the wider congregation since our travelers returned full of energy and song which we've been enjoying ever since.

Many of our members continue to be engaged in the wider Jewish and general communities and we continue to nurture relationships with the UPJ, the Montefiore Home, B'nai B'rith and the Board of Deputies among others.

Behind the scenes at NSTE, our leadership has also put significant time and effort into strategic visioning and ensuring that we are taking the necessary steps to reach our goals.

We have sought to build stronger collaborations with other institutions ranging from Emanuel Synagogue and Neshama Life to Melton and The United Israel Appeal.

In terms of membership, NSTE is holding steady with 535 member units, and it is encouraging that we have been joined by young families as well as other newcomers to the North Shore.

Finally, it's important for us to recognize that NSTE's ambitious and rich spiritual, educational, social and artistic programming have come to fruition 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.

As we finish off 2014, many of us look back at the year with delight as we reflect upon our achievements and celebrations we've enjoyed together a congregation...and we look with excitement to what 2015 will bring!

Temple Shalom – Gold Coast, Queensland

Sara Longmuir, President



Rabbi Don and Clara Levy have contributed to Temple Shalom in many ways. They introduced new tunes and traditions that I suspect we will adopt as our own. We all enjoyed the Tu B'shvat and Rosh Hashanah Seders. The Rosh Hashanah Seder was new to us and through it we learned that we can have Seders for most festivals throughout the year. We have all benefited from their enthusiastic teaching of rituals for services, and of ways to celebrate the festivals. Rabbi Don taught the Shmoozers about Israeli and Progressive Jewish current affairs through reading articles together and discussing their content.

Doron Goldzweig is an asset to the Congregation. He comes to Temple Shalom every week to read from the Torah for us. This skill and his sharing of it is one much appreciated by the Rabbi and by the lay readers of the congregation. His devotion to Temple Shalom is recognised and greatly appreciated.

Jan Marriot spent a lot of the past year in Israel. She visited historic sites throughout Israel putting the jig saw of history together with the help of maps and Tanach. She increased her knowledge with courses that she studied and joined a choir. She kept in touch with us by phone. Many of our elderly members told me how touched they were to receive phone calls from Israel on their birthdays. I was visiting one of our congregants in hospital when she rang them to check on their progress. While she was away she continued to edit "Gates of Peace" which was no mean feat considering that we were sending her reports and local news from here. Jan we are pleased to have you back home.

As President of the Board of Management I have relied heavily on my Executive. My Vice Presidents have always been ready to help in any way possible. Dr Michael Shnukal has been a great support as Gabbai at Saturday Morning Services which meant that I could sit back and enjoy the Services. He was always prepared to stand in for me at Services that I could not attend. John Schinasi has been a wonderful support and mentor. Peter Linton who has been Secretary of the Board has also become the Board's expert on the Constitution with Herb Lesser. Herb has been a valuable resource as an experienced Treasurer for Temple Shalom and has also become a mentor. I recognise that my first year as President has been extremely advantaged by the Executive's experienced support. Thank you all. The rest of the Board have formed bonds which will, I am sure, work to the advantage of Temple Shalom for years to come.

We have heard a whisper that Kate Lesser is standing down as President of the Guild She has worked tirelessly with the Guild. I feel sure that her influence will be with us for a long time. When I joined Temple Shalom I was told by someone that all members are also members of the Guild. The Guild work together to make Morning Teas, Afternoon Teas, Lunches, Seders and Kiddushes. The secret to their success is the love that they have for good food, each other, and Temple Shalom. The food that they prepare is always freshly made and delicious. The ladies could not do what they do without the support of their men who set up tables, put out chairs, wash up dishes and lift heavy pots from the stove and out of ovens. The Guild have not only raised money for Temple Shalom but added to the caring environment in a big way.

Beit Shalom Synagogue – Adelaide, South Australia

Ron Hoenig, President



2014 was quite a bit more quiet than 2013, when Beit Shalom celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in high style. Still, there were a number of events worthy of note. Ruth Gilbert wrote and co-directed yet another original Purim Shpiel "Shushan High" featuring a star-studded cast of shameless thespians. Sixty members of Beit Shalom, their families, and the larger community gathered for our annual second night seder, including a magnificent five course dinner prepared by the Sisterhood Catering Committee. In the dark of the winter, Centre for Living Judaism fellow Shannyn Gelbart created a magical high-energy weekend which drew in a total of seventy-five Beit Shalom members over the course of four programs. We enjoyed her so much that we've invited her back for the first weekend in November. Our High Holy Day celebrations were quite meaningful, enriched by the contribution of our fantastic choir and also by a number of young people who shared Torah reading duties. As this report goes to print, Beit Shalom is currently hosting the exhibition "Remember the Holocaust", conceived and created by Andrew Steiner as a teaching tool for high school students. Hundreds of students have come through our Hall in the last several weeks to hear Andrew tell his own harrowing story and to learn from the artworks he has assembled.

Adult education continues to be an important component of life at Beit Shalom. The Abraham Institute in its third year put on a series of lectures on the timely topic Truth and Reconciliation which included a wide range of speakers looking at many conflict zones around the world. The rabbi began a Talmud study course, intended to run for only a few weeks, which continued over a number of months because the students enjoyed it so much. Who knows what adventures this next year will have in store?

Beit Shalom is very excited to be the host congregation for the UPJ's biennial conference. Our embroidery committee is hard at work to enhance our already beautiful sanctuary with the addition of a pelmet to be hung on either side of our lovely ark curtain. The pelmet will be dedicated to the memory of Regina Zielinski z"l, a very beloved Beit Shalom member who told the story of her escape from Sobibor to thousands of school students and community members over the years. UPJ guests will have the opportunity to appreciate the many works of stained glass and sculpture by Andrew Steiner which make our sanctuary so beautiful.

Hobart Hebrew Congregation – Hobart, Tasmania

Daniel Albert, President



With the ageing or passing of the Second World War migrants, the Jewish population of Tasmania has contracted in recent years. The population is dispersed over the state, further limiting the number of Jews within the greater Hobart region. Within these constraints, we continue to celebrate most festivals and run services on two Shabbat mornings and one Friday evenings a month. Services are led by a lay-leaders group. The Hobart Synagogue continues to be shared between the Progressive and Orthodox communities, with the Progressive service being held on a Saturday morning before the Orthodox service. However, sharing of the synagogues is difficult over the High Holy Days. To accommodate this, only Progressive services are held in Hobart. Orthodox services are held in the Launceston synagogue.

The Hobart Hebrew Congregation has no paid employees increasing the load on volunteers. Due to reduced Congregation numbers finding sufficient willing and able volunteers is a problem. This then leads to the same very small group carrying the workload, year after year, even when they are under pressure from elsewhere. The congregation is also the representative member for Tasmania on the Executive Council of Australian Jews. This adds to the workload of volunteers who have to deal with such matters as anti-Semitism and other state-wide matters impacting on Jews.

Fortunately, the long Gaza campaign seems to have had little impact in Tasmania with regards to anti-Semitism. No incidents were reported and the synagogue was not targeted. The only problem has been that the MONA art gallery displayed some anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic cartoons. However this was probably not related to the Gaza issue.

Kehillat David Hamelech (Kedem) – Armadale, Victoria

Jim Cyngler, President; Caryn Granek, Immediate Past President



Kedem is celebrating the twentieth anniversary of its founding this year.

Commencing with a Shabbat service on the 9th August our members continue to celebrate by acknowledging personal anniversaries and milestones by participating in our services.

The anniversary Shabbat service was a real tribute to our past and a joyful celebration of our wonderful kehillah. A whole range of musicians took part in the service as well as a very insightful Dvar Torah given by Rabbi John Levi. The festivities continued with a lavish Kiddush and we produced the first of three special anniversary editions of our journal “Megillah” which were distributed to all in attendance. Members of all the PJV communities were represented as well as members of the UPJ Executive. Phyllis Dorey presented Kedem with a beautiful gift on behalf of the UPJ and we were inundated with good wishes from around our region. We are truly grateful for the support and generosity of the whole Progressive movement.

In February we held the first of four Nevitim services at Kedem. These services are designed to enhance a connection between families with special needs reflecting the values that Kedem holds dear - inclusiveness and a recognition of the worth and contribution of every individual.

We held a very successful retreat at Lyrebird Park over the Anzac Day long weekend and celebrated two Bnei Mitzvah during the year. We also hosted a very successful Netzer farewell and throughout the year we have enjoyed a close relationship with Netzer and the PJV Shaliach Nadav Shachmon. Our thanks go to all the madrichim and to Nadav for their ongoing support.

We continue to remain debt free however our funds have been rather depleted due to the expense of funding our contribution to the Centre for Living Judaism. Agreement was reached last year with the Centre for Living Judaism to acquire more of the resources they offer. We were delighted to welcome Stephanie Gratch to our Kabbalat Shabbat services over the past twelve months. Noa Gibson provided us with several learning sessions before her return to Israel and more recently Shannyn Gelbart and Adam Tannenbaum have had regular appearances at Kedem. Our thanks go to all of them for their hard work and enthusiastic involvement in the life of Kedem. We wish Adam great success in his future endeavours as he prepares to return to the USA..

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 providing challah for our Shabbat services. Our sincere thanks go to David Opat, Marc Light and Mark Harrison for making us feel so welcome at the school. This year we welcomed Marc Light as the new Principal of the school. We have had several meetings with him and are planning ways for an even closer relationship in the future.

The issue of our future premises has been raised and we are pleased that the school is encouraging us to consider alternative premises on campus in the next 18 months when the Kooyong Road campus is finally closed.

We are proud that one of our members was honoured by the UPJ with a Ner Tamid award this year. Devorah Komesaroff was presented with the award by Vice President of the UPJ, Bev Gelbart, at a Shabbat service during the year.

We are delighted that Rabbi Allison Conyer has agreed to become our consulting rabbi after the retirement of Rabbi Fred Morgan. We look forward to her wise counsel on the multitude of ritual and other questions that arise in our very lively kehillah on a regular basis.

Life at Kedem continues to be very full with activities every week. We have a membership of 93 family units a high proportion of whom attend a wide range of activities on offer. Our Kabbalat Shabbat services and Service for the Soul are popular and well attended as are our book and theatre clubs and learning sessions. Leon Sterling continued his popular study group learning the Guide to the Perplexed. This year for the first time we held a joint Tisha B'Av commemoration with Kehillat Nitzan. It was a wonderful opportunity for the non-Orthodox congregations in Melbourne to meet one another and share this very meaningful evening.

Kedem is an active member of the wider Progressive community and our thanks go to the UPJ – in particular to Steve Denenberg, Joceyln Robuck and Steve Freeman - for their continued support and wise counsel. Thanks also to the PJV – in particular 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 wish to thank every single Kedem member for sharing with me the adventure that being a part of Kedem offers. As I completed my term as President on 19th October I feel that I achieved my vision of setting a strong foundation on which we can begin to build a new and exciting future. Jim Cyngler, our new President, will take Kedem into a different and exciting new phase. As a first step in the new direction we established a Rabbinic Search Committee which has finished articulating our vision for the employment of a part-time rabbi. It is clear that we will be looking for a Rabbi who will be happy to take a central role in the life of our community rather than leading “from the top” as well as ensuring the growth of Kedem into a more community based kehillah. The next step is to ensure that we are financially secure in order to achieve the employment of such a leader without risking our financial future.

We are grateful that we have formed such a strong team at Kedem with the ability to work together toward a common vision. Teamwork is defined as “the ability to direct individual accomplishment towards organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to obtain uncommon results.”

Etz Chayim Progressive Synagogue – Bentleigh, Victoria

Frank Moore, President

Family units: 165; Adults: 243; Children: 109; Total: 352



The last 12 months have been very exciting for Etz Chayim but at the same time quite challenging. The community has had to support itself for a number of months with no Clerical leadership until early in January, when Rabbi Conyer joined us. I would like to thank all the clergy within Victoria because each one of them gave assistance to our community during this time. This assistance from both clergy and the whole of the community again reflected the great value Etz Chayim gets from the PJV as well as the larger UPJ.

Since Rabbi joined us, things began moving at a rapid pace, whilst we attempted to keep running our normal activities for our community and at the same time, taking time out to restructure the way our community is managed and challenging our existing processes and visions. These activities are still occurring but are vital to ensure the right foundations are being dug for next 10 to 20 years. Unfortunately this type of work, although vital for long term growth and vitality can challenge the short term. Over the last few months this has impacted our membership. Between these challenges and the reality of our older membership beginning to thin, we have had a loss in our membership, which has not occurred for a number of years.

So whilst looking to the future and the high level planning this involves, we still were able to have an exciting year! From a mystical Tu B'Shvat seder to a lively Purim to honouring Geoff Sussman's 40+ years of service to the community, to the long awaited induction of our new Rabbi in a unique bonfire for Lag B'Omer, to our Shavuot Master Chef competition, to the Taste of Judaism classes, to our Monthly Kabbalat Shabbat services and dinners and our Shabbat Tot program, to the return of our family services for the High Holy Days, to the announcement of the community matching grant for our new kitchen, to a multi-generational packed house filled with laughter, song, dance and prayers for Sukkot and Simchat Torah.

Next year we have again set a challenge for our community which requires strength and character, which we have in abundance down in the Southern Suburbs of Melbourne. We will find a way to have Rabbi Conyer employed full time from the beginning of 2015, which will include full time administrative support. We will have a new President who will ensure we move to be an even stronger community. The call given to the community at our last High Holy Days were the wise words of Yoda: "Do or do not. There is no try". Therefore what we are going for will happen. So understanding the mentality of an Etz Chayim member you will understand we don't do things by half. To our sister communities here is a quick look at what is in store for Etz Chayim in 2015: Full time rabbinic leadership of Rabbi Allison RH Conyer; Full-time office administrative staff; Return of our after-school program (Yrs 1- B'nei Mitzvah); increased youth activities through Netzer and the graduates; adult Jewish learning courses; family programming; young adult engagement; and much more!

Leo Baeck Centre for Progressive Judaism, East Kew, Victoria



Mannie Gross 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 (<http://www.lbc.org.au/>), following us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/LeoBaeckCentre>), requesting a subscription to either our weekly electronic newsletter or our bi-monthly printed newsletter. Contact our office: 03 9819 7160 or office@lbc.org.au.

Last year we conducted a survey of members to try to gain an understanding of what we are doing well, what we can do better, what we should not be doing & what we ought to be doing. Following on from the survey results & inspired by PJV's 2020 Vision conference, LBC held its own strategic planning workshop earlier this year. As a result, existing and newly formed committees were given key goals to achieve.

Our House of Study Committee had yet another busy and satisfying year. This year's Leo Baeck Lecture, in March, was presented by the Hon. Mark Dreyfus, MHR. At our Annual Yom Ha'atzmaut dinner, our theme was Jews of Persia, whilst all present enjoyed a great Persian restaurant meal. This year's Shavuot Tikkun theme was Jewish Leadership through Time. A sample of other study sessions over the past year includes: Daniel Deronda and Proto-Zionism ; The Influences of Hidden Jewish Leadership in Jewish History ; Hillel Vs Jesus; My Promised Land.

The Purim Spiel held at TBI with a second performance at LBC was a great success. Just over 100 attended, many of whom were not members of LBC.

We staged a very successful exhibition of the paintings of Nita Jawari. The opening of the exhibition was accompanied by vocal arrangements delivered by Michel Laloum & Galit Klas, accompanied on piano by LBC's Music Director, Maurice Duband. Our Arts Committee is planning further exhibitions & a cabaret night featuring the songs of George & Ira Gershwin.

Of the many cultural activities two stand-outs were the "Four Faces of Israel" created and performed by Helen Gottstein and a wonderful performance by the Liron Choir, directed by Maurice Duband, of soiree of music & songs in Hebrew, Yiddish & English

Our Education Committee has been busy revising & improving our education programs. We are very pleased to have recently appointed a part-time Youth Education Service officer to engage with youth from school to university ages.

Our Israel Awareness Group continues to bring stimulating speakers to discuss issues relating to Israel. Our Care Committee is continues to support members in need. Through generous member donations & under the auspices of our House Committee we have a new Sukkah & pergola & new front garden. There are so many committees & groups that LBC depends on to survive & thrive. They should be recognized & thanked. Without the ceaseless drive & inspiration of our Rabbi Jonathan Keren Black, LBC would only be a shadow of itself.

We look forward to another busy, engaging, educational & inspiring Year 5775.

Temple Beth Israel, St Kilda, Victoria

Robert Hershan, President

As my second term as President comes to an end it is my pleasure to present the president's report for the financial year 2013/2014. It has been an extremely positive year for our community, one in which we have come a long way towards achieving the goals set by our Board of Governance.



There have been many highlights during the last year; we have celebrated the retirement of Rabbi Morgan as our senior rabbi after 17 wonderful years of service to our TBI community. The farewell concert and final Shabbat service for Rabbi Morgan saw our sanctuary packed with well-wishers and these events were an amazing chapter in our almost 85 year history.

These celebrations were soon followed by Rabbi Lazarow's induction service; this was also an event to remember. We had three TBI senior Rabbis involved in the service; Rabbi Levi, Rabbi Morgan and Rabbi Lazarow. I doubt that such a trifecta will ever be repeated in the future. The service was led by Rabbi Ettlinger who was masterful in this role plus we had the magical musical skills of Cantor Laloum.

There were other outstanding events that I feel are worth mentioning. The Mid-Summer Service for the members of the GLBIT community. The Sacred Music Concert, bringing together performers and communities from Melbourne's Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Indigenous traditions that attracted a full house, and our annual Business Breakfast and Ladies Lunch.

Plus, attendances at festivals such as Sukkot and Purim saw record numbers, in particular the greater attendance of young families. We are extremely grateful to our TBI Interns Sarah Edelstein and Josh Nezon for their contribution towards attracting younger families into our community.

Another event that has attracted large numbers is our monthly Friday night community dinners following our service.

We have set 5 simple clearly defined goals our Board of Governance set for the year just completed.

Our Goals:

- Transitioning of the Senior Rabbinic Role
- Reinvigorate our Community with a particular focus on Young Families
- Refresh, refurbish and rebuild our home at Alma Road
- Being a more welcoming community / valuing relationships – providing greater communication
- Successful Fundraising

TBI operates with a manageable deficit; membership fees do not cover our operating expenses, let alone provide funds for capital works. Also, we have not increased our membership fees this year and in some instances we have reduced them to make membership more accessible for young adults and young families. Your Board of Governance believe that if we run to breakeven we are not doing enough for our community. Fundraising helps fill the gap.

The year just completed has seen the largest investment in our facilities for 25 years. We are well on the way to delivering the generational change I have been speaking about and I hope that we can continue our facility upgrade in the following financial year 2015/2016.

Our new sound system allows everyone to hear equally no matter where they are seated in our sanctuary. We have installed new hearing loops throughout to ensure those that have hearing impairment can fully participate in our services and events.

One area of expenditure that was not planned for but essential to approve was replacing the 30 year old carpet downstairs as it was delaminating and becoming a safety hazard.

We are delighted with the outcome of this expenditure and hopefully you have all had the opportunity to be with us to see our refreshed home.

Without the generous support of our community largely via our two annual fundraisers; the Pesach Appeal and the Kol Nidre Appeal, these improvements would not have been possible. We still have more capital works to do and with the ongoing support for our appeals we will continue to refresh, refurbish and rebuild our TBI home.

Our Clergy:

Rabbi Lazarow has now completed his first year as our Senior Rabbi and what a wonderful year it has been for our community. His open style of leadership and his willingness to share the Bimah with his colleagues has strengthened our rabbinic team.

Rabbi Lazarow as you will have noticed is a person of action who rises to every challenge, we are extremely fortunate to have him as our senior Rabbi.

We have a strong, energetic, youthful and vibrant rabbinic team. We are fortunate to have two active emeriti Rabbis John Levi and Fred Morgan serving many of the needs of our community. Our Rabbis are ably supported by our two wonderful TBI Tamid interns; Sarah Edelstein and Josh Nezon. One of the highlights of the year is the contribution Sarah and Josh have made to leading services for all age groups.

The contribution made by our Board of Governance is well beyond what one could expect from a volunteer board. Their commitment to our stated goals and their involvement in our community life has helped make TBI a most exciting and vibrant place.

Each board member is involved in at least one Board Sub Committee: Membership, Religious Life, Governance, Finance, Communications & Marketing, Education and the newly established Honours and Awards.

Our two Vice Presidents; Dorothy Graff and Rob Sward, have been wonderful support to me. Our open style of communication and the willingness to share the load has made my role ever so much easier than would be expected.

To our office bearers and board members I am extremely grateful for the commitment and contribution you have made to our community.

Our Financial Position:

The year just gone as already mentioned has been a year of refreshing and refurbishing our home here at Alma Road. The installation of our new sound system, new carpet, new classrooms, new Netzer room, new offices and meeting rooms has depleted our cash reserves.

Given this situation the budget for the current financial year will be free of major expenditure for capital works, and it is planned that only essential repairs will be attended to. Our energy and focus is on our core activities. To ensure the services, programs and activities we offer are in line with our community's needs.

We are extremely grateful to the generous support we have received from our community via our Pesach and Kol Nidre Appeals to be able to fund these projects. Also, thanks to the good work of our Fundraising Committee chaired by Rob Sward.

Our Administration Team:

Our new administration office provides a most positive work environment for our Administration team. In addition its open format makes all who enter our building feel most welcome.

Our Volunteers:

I would like to express my appreciation for the wonderful contribution our volunteers make to our community. We couldn't manage without them. We have approximately 200 active volunteers who are regularly involved plus the wonderful volunteers that support individual events whether they are activities in our Shule or outreach activities like helping at the Sacred Heart Mission in St Kilda. If others have an interest in volunteering we would certainly welcome it.

Looking Ahead:

I am excited about our future as we have a talented team of clergy, a wonderful effective Board of Governance and amazing group of volunteers. We have all the ingredients for growth as we move forward.

Kehillat S'dot Zahav – Goldfields Congregation Inc.

Report from President until June 2014: The Hon Howard Nathan QC

Another year of limited activities but nevertheless survival. Bendigo is growing very quickly but many of its Jews are transient and disinterested in communal life. Despite this we have continued to conduct irregular services in the homes of members and the occasional shiur with the incomparable assistance and learning of Rabbi Fred Morgan.

We have more than maintained our presence in the general community with participation in the Bendigo Multifaith Council which was formed to support the building of a Mosque in this city - a move opposed by anti-Muslim activists from outside this area. We have also supported the Bendigo Hospital both by visiting ill Jews, within its chaplain service and the construction of a quiet contemplative space within the new buildings.

By far the most important and exciting development has been the election of a new Board and Chairman, who together have set about reinvigorating the kehillah. A schedule of services has been set out. More orderly accounting procedures are now in place, Kate Varallo is our new and vital secretary; she has set up a proper email connection service between members. Dr David Kram is our new President and with his organizational skills and Yiddishkeit knowledge more people are becoming members and most have expressed a desire for more religious activity. The conclusion is that KSZ, albeit small, is alive and well, looking forward with optimism to 2015 and beyond.

Report from President from June 2014: Dr David Kram

The new Committee is grateful to Howard Nathan for founding KSZ in 2007 and for nurturing the group in its development so far. His drashes and his advocacy of Progressive Judaism in Central Victoria are particularly valued, alongside his deep knowledge of Judaism and society.

My committee colleagues: Katie Varallo (Secretary), Dr Bruce Sokel (Treasurer), Prof. Peter Disler, Dr Kate Grosser, The Hon. Howard Nathan, Ms Win O'Hoy and Dennis Upton.

KSZ's community extends as far as Ballarat to the West, Melbourne to the South and Shepparton to the north – a very wide area. We normally attract 20-30 people to our events, which from June-October 2014 were: 19/7/14 shabbat service in home in Malmsbury, conducted by Rabbi Fred Morgan; 6/9/14 Introduction to Judaism/excerpts from shabbat and rosh hashanah services in home in Bendigo, with guest speaker Karen Rosauer M.A. – this event was also attended by representatives of Bendigo churches as part of KSZ's education and outreach program; collaboration with Ballarat Hebrew Congregation for High Holydays.

There are seven events planned for 5775, including a Chanukah Bush block adventure and service and themed lunches on Judaic environment and music. Categories of membership range from full (\$25 per year) to visitor (\$0 per year) – we welcome all who have any connection with Central Victoria. Email goldfieldsksz@gmail.com.

Temple David – Perth, Western Australia



Joel Mendelson, President

As I sit down to write this report I reflect on a wonderful and whirlwind time the last few months have been, and indeed how much preparation and hard work has been done by so many to make it all happen. First and foremost I would like to thank every member and friend of Temple David, as everyone has been so receptive to all the stress, anxiety, uncertainty and, finally, change that each of us feels when a new Rabbi starts with us. Whilst there is always some reluctance, it is the ability to adjust to variation from what we are comfortable with that makes us true progressive Jews

It is not the role of the President to talk about any personal achievements, but I would like to take a moment here to thank the whole community for your support of me during my unexpected illness this year. While it was certainly a shock to me and my family I could not have asked for more support and compassion from everyone involved in Temple David. I received so many visitors, calls, emails, texts that I was overwhelmed. Also, special thanks must go to the Board of Management for both their support and also tolerance – chairing a meeting two weeks after brain surgery and on dexamethasone was not, in hindsight, a good idea if 'not looking insane' is your goal. I can honestly say, without any sarcasm, that receiving flowers from 'All at Temple David' did indeed make me shed more than one tear.

So back to business. Since the last AGM, as every year since its foundation, Temple David has gone from strength to strength. Please remember, while I may be the one honoured to write this report, anything that happens at Temple David happens because of the desire of members of the TD community and the hard work of many, many people. The list of achievements and events here at Temple David has includes (but is not limited to):

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

Consistently excellent, well run and well attended adult education classes, T, T & T and Temple David Religion School

A continually well attended and well run 'Mothers-&-Babies' group, that meets every week

The growth of Shabbat Tot

A wonderful Bikkur Cholim Service

Many funeral and memorial services carried out with the greatest dignity and respect

Wonderful Pesach, Purim, Chanukah celebrations, services, onegs, seders etc, many with wonderful singing and dancing from the Israeli Dancing group and Kol Hakavod

AFL Western Derby 'BBQ and Bar' functions in our function centre

At this stage you may be asking yourselves "That seems like an incomplete list, why are others not mentioned? The answer is simple, this is the list of fantastic events that occurred by a community run only by volunteers

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.

However, running a completely lay led congregation places an enormous burden on our lay leaders and volunteers – many of whom are also full time parents, professionals and pursue other fascinating hobbies. Also, the actual 'running' and growth of the congregation can often be an exhausting activity.

It was for this reason that the previous board decided to employ a full time Rabbi. I announced the imminent start of Rabbi Adi Cohen at the last AGM and am proud to sit here today to say that in late May 2014 we welcomed Rabbi Adi Cohen to the congregation. As I am sure everyone has noticed, in the last four months has been both wonderful and equally a whirlwind of activity. I can honestly say that Rabbi Cohen has hit the ground running. While there have certainly been cosmetic changes (with different office furnishings, artwork etc.), the transformations run much deeper. Rabbi Cohen is dynamic, enthusiastic, approachable and has many ways of ensuring the ongoing growth and vibrancy of Temple David, not just as a place of prayer – but as a Progressive Jewish Community that each member can be proud of and those who are not yet members wish to be part of.

The following list is just some what has happened since May 2014. Let me be clear, these activities too would not have happened without our member's support and the hard work of many volunteers and are a combined set of innovations from members, volunteers and Rabbi Cohen:

- Wonderfully attended services and onegim, both for chaggim and Shabbat;
- A fantastic and lucrative sausage sizzle fundraiser at Bunnings Morley;
- The start of bi-weekly study classes over coffee at Vege Mama;
- The sad departure of Tamara van den Berg as office coordinator, but also the wonderful start of Kim Rosenblum in the role;

- A spiritually uplifting High Holiday period, with a huge number of people staying right until Havdalah; at the conclusion of Yom Kippur;
- Many new members joining our 'Kehillah Hakodesh', with many more to come.

After much hard work and determination, over many years, Temple David secured status as a "Building of Historic Value" by the National Trust (WA).

This is a mark not only of the significance of our building and its design by the late Mr Harold Boas, but also the strength and significance of our community.

Importantly, this also now allows Temple David to accept donations from members, and indeed the broader community, for the purpose of preserving our premises – with these donations being TAX DEDUCTABLE

A particularly special announcement from the Union for Progressive Judaism was the announcement that Maree Findley, a stranger to none in our community, was nominated for and won the prestigious Vatik Award for past presidents continuing their outstanding service. Maree's service and commitment to Temple David is so wide-reaching, deep and complete that it impossible to sum up. For many decades Maree has given 'her-all' for the Temple, even through times of extreme personal hardship. Maree is already a past president and life member – and the Vatik award again recognises the extreme devotion that she has to Temple David. On behalf of everyone Maree – congratulations.

The list above is but a sample of what HAS happened, but more importantly what IS TO COME.

It is the aim of the board, committees and staff to ensure that Temple David is a place and a community that each one of us can continue to be proud of, and that it becomes an even more desirable place to join.

It is also unfortunate that many of our community have passed away since my last report. To all of their families, friends and companions, on behalf of the whole community I pass on our condolences for your loss and wish you long life. May their memory be blessed and may it be a blessing for us that remember them.

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 2013-1, Alan Amanda, Barbara, Gwen, Helen, Katheryn, Ken, Madeline, Mark and Ute, 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, especially Barbara who has served for 14 years – and also has taken on for this time the role of 'housekeeping director' – organising the repair of every broken toilet, light switch, roof and everything else you can think of. Thank you for your commitment and stamina in making Temple David the wonderful place it is.

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. We have 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. I will leave the details to Mark, but our financial stability is not completely assured, and it will take community growth and the solid commitment of our current and future membership to ensure Temple David can continue to employ quality Rabbinic leadership and continue to improve the amenity, service and sense of community we all wish for and deserve.

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 each one of us to give Rabbi Cohen and those who take on responsibility our support. 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.

It was the aim of the 2013-14 Board and Committees, and indeed will be the goal of the 2014-15 Board and Committees to continue to work hard and smartly to do our very best to bring these wishes closer to reality, and I certainly hope can, want to and will do the same.

It has been an honour to serve as President for the last year. Thank you for putting your trust in me to lead a congregation with such a proud history and a very bright future, and thank you everyone for your dedication to our community, our Jewish home.

Beth Shalom – Auckland, New Zealand

Paul Wilton, President

Over the past couple of years, the Progressive Jewish congregation of Auckland has been very active. With a membership of some 220 family units, over 50 individuals are involved as volunteers in various aspects of community life. Regarding achievements, the highlights include:

Employing of a full-time Rabbi for a period of three years from July 2013;

The completion of a significant refurbishment of our sanctuary in September 2013;

The achievement of an initial milestone in our endowment fund that has enabled us to use the fund interest to assist with synagogue operations;

The reintroduction of adult learning through our Shalom Institute. This is in addition to the programme we offer for those who wish to convert to Judaism.

The holding of our annual Shabbaton, a weekend retreat of learning, prayer and spiritual enrichment attended by the majority of our members;

An annual communal seder for Pesach and celebrations of other chagim;

Participation in wider community events including Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzmaut;

Regular onegs and pot luck dinners following Shabbat services. These have increased with a fresh emphasis on celebrating simchas in the community;

Resuscitation of our Social Committee, with the introduction of a new 20's-30's group that meets periodically.

Our Hebrew School continues to thrive and we have started a weekly "Tot Shabbat" play group for littlies up to three years-old and this has been well attended.

It has been a priority to foster wider relationships and I would like to acknowledge my counterpart at the Auckland Orthodox congregation, who has recently taken the unprecedented step of inviting our Rabbi and me to meet their new spiritual leader, during the interviewing process.

It has been heartening to watch the friendship develop between our rabbi and the rabbi of the orthodox congregation over the past year and I see this as a sign of the maturing of our community.

While on the subject of maturing, there are exciting times ahead of us as we as we approach our Diamond Jubilee year in less than eighteen months.



Dunedin Jewish Congregation – Dunedin, New Zealand

Andrew Spiegel, President

5775 is shaping up to be another good year. We are thrilled to have seen Abigail Bat Mitzvah in April, and have Avi and Levi working towards their respective big days at the end of this year. This year for High holidays, we welcome Shannyn Gelbart from the Centre for Living Judaism in Melbourne. We also have Rabbi Brent Gutmann from Auckland visiting in early November for Avi's Bar Mitzvah, and JoEllen Duckor visiting in December for Levi's Bar Mitzvah.

This year we have had numerous visits from Shani Halber-Goldstein our Christchurch Schlichah, and we had a lovely community Pesach Seder at the Shul. Miri hosted a wonderful Purim party, and Miri and Karen have started a play/learn group for our community's youngest members.

We look forward to having JoEllen Duckor working more closely with our community with possibly more visits throughout the year.

Temple Sinai – Wellington, New Zealand

Dr Paul Blaschke, Chair, Temple Sinai Board of Management submitted by
Kelvin Ratnam, Board Member



Rabbi Adi Cohen completed his contract with Temple Sinai in April 2014. Rabbi Cohen contributed to the vibrancy of our shule during his time with us. In particular he promoted greater participation in Kabbalat Shabbat, fostered greater interaction with the orthodox congregation and was involved in promoting the Temple to the wider Wellington community through inter-faith activities 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 also took part in UPJ rabbinic (Moetzah) conferences in Australia and the UPJ biennial meetings.

Our membership continues to grow slowly but steadily. We have special services to welcome new members. On 20 December 2014 we will be welcoming 11 new members to our congregation.

Adult Education classes are held weekly. A selection of classes are offered. Wednesday night has become the 'regular' night for study. Classes are currently available for Parashat HaShavua, Biblical Hebrew (at various levels) and Introduction to Jewish Practice. There are also other opportunities to learn Talmud and Torah on Shabbat. We also contribute to community seminars, with joint participation from the orthodox and progressive congregations, such as the very successful Kia Ora Torah series that has been running over the last three years. We trialled a new programme called "Mindfulness through a Jewish Lens". It is a meditational programme which was conducted by our Mashpiah. Members of Temple Sinai are also active as volunteers in the New Zealand Holocaust Centre.

CyberShul, our project to help members use the Internet to further their spiritual growth, has settled into two regular cyber activities. One is a Parashat HaShavua discussion group comprising country members and the other is a morning Minyan group with members from all over the North Island.

A women's Rosh Chodesh group has been meeting regularly on a month basis to socialise and discuss matters of common interest.

A new Ritual Committee 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. On 16 December 2014 we will be holding a special Shabbat service to commemorate our keeping of one of the Czech Torah scrolls from the town of Hermanuv-Mestec whose Jewish residents perished in The Holocaust.

A small group of adults have been studying towards their conversion to Judaism and regularly attend Temple services, celebrations and study groups. The Board, through 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. The spirit of tikun olam and compassion evident

in our congregation remains strong. Our members are also actively involved in the New Zealand Council of Christian and Jews which is working to become an Abrahamic Council of Christians, Jews and Muslims.

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 participate in events such as Kia Torah, Chanukah in the Square, the Wellington Jewish Community Picnic. International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haatzmaut. Joint meeting of both Boards occurs twice yearly.

Looking forward to the remaining part of the year, we will be holding a Temple Camp and participate again in another celebration of Chanukah together with the orthodox congregation, the Embassy of Israel and possibly the United States Embassy (the latter not confirmed at this stage).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the UPJ for their on-support. Kelvin Ratnam, member of the Temple Sinai Board, will represent Temple Sinai at the UPJ Biennial in Adelaide November 2014.

ACT Jewish Community Progressive Congregation – Canberra, ACT

Peter Wise

A major event in the history of the ACT Jewish Community was the arrival in July of Rabbi Alon Meltzer and his family. Rabbi Meltzer is the Community's first full-time rabbi. His main responsibilities are Jewish education, pastoral care, organisation of social events and officiating at Orthodox services and life events.



In October, a consultation paper was prepared and an open meeting was held to discuss:

- the benefits and opportunities of the Rabbi's appointment for the Progressive Congregation
- ways that the Congregation can access support and advice from the wider Progressive community to complement the services that Rabbi Meltzer offers
- the replacement of the current Progressive Committee with a working group whose members have more clearly defined roles.

It was decided to seek nominations for the working group and have further consultations on these issues.

The Progressive Congregation continues to run services on Friday nights and the first Saturday morning of most months. Unfortunately, except for High Holydays and life events, we still struggle to get a minyan.

We have welcomed a number of new members during the year.

Although we have managed to run most scheduled services, there is still a need to increase both the number and skill level of service leaders, particularly for Saturday morning services. Rebecca Lehrer, Raffi Lehrer, Solomon Elijah and Peter Wise continued to lead services during the year, and we welcomed Lisa Gelbart as a new service leader. Dan Rosauer does an exemplary job running a popular Children's Service for the whole Community. Rebecca Lehrer and Peter Wise have coordinated the Friday evening services. Jerzy Jagiello has continued to coordinate and lead the Saturday morning services. Special thanks go to him for the considerable effort he puts in to learning the Torah portion and encouraging the participation of others.

Rebecca Lehrer, with the assistance of members of the Congregation (and visiting siblings!), once again co-ordinated the High Holy Day services with her warm and inclusive manner. Excellent drashot were given by Robert Cussel, Daniel Casey and Jacob Elijah.

Once again, 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 Holy Day services, and officiate at weddings, funerals and name-givings throughout the year as required.

Peter Wise attended Rabbi Fred Morgan's Shatz (shaliach tzibbur) course in Melbourne in January. It is hoped to be able to run this course in Canberra in the future.

Noa Gibson and Shannyn Gelbart from the Centre for Living Judaism visited the Community in November. They led the Progressive services on the Friday night and Saturday morning, as well as conducting a session on the Resource, a guide to the Shabbat service produced for us by the CLJ, on Saturday afternoon. They also visited the Cheder on Sunday morning to lead a session of music with the students.

Adam Tannenbaum from the CLJ visited the Congregation in April to conduct services and visit the Congregation.

Robert Cussel attended the UPJ Presidents Meeting in Melbourne in November, and the Strategic Planning Day in June.

We were delighted to celebrate a number of simchas during the year:

In February, Adele Thorp, daughter of Deborah Sims, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah. It was officiated by Rabbi John Levi, her great uncle

In June, there was a baby naming for Sylvie Hannah Liebowitz, daughter of David and Sally Liebowitz.

In July, there was a baby naming for Liora Fleur Zuckerman, daughter of Michael and Susannah Zuckerman

In November, Joshua Gittelman will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah, which will be officiated by Rabbi Aviva Kipen. And in April next year, Ethan Platow will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah. A hearty mazel tov to them all, and their families!

Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins continues to provide assistance in his role of Consulting Rabbi for the purpose of providing assistance regarding halachah. Unfortunately, we were not able to arrange any rabbinical visits this year.

ARZA Australia

Barbara Ford, President



AFFILIATION & REPRESENTATION:

ARZA Australia represents Progressive Zionists in Australia. The organisation is affiliated to, the International Reform and Progressive Religious Zionists Association (ARZENU), the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ) and the Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA). ARZA represents the Progressive community at Federal and State level, the ZFA, State Zionist Councils, and is represented by delegates at the World Zionist Congress. ARZA is proud to work with others in the Australian Jewish community to ensure that Israel remains a strong and healthy nation that is understood and supported by the people and Government of Australia.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Some of ARZA's achievements during this period include:

WZO Va'ad Hapoel: In November 2013 in Jerusalem ARZA, as part of ARZENU, the leading partner in the strongest coalition in the World Zionist Congress was delighted that most of the resolutions put forward were overwhelmingly endorsed. These resolutions relating to crucial areas of Israeli society, including Civil Marriage, combatting Racism, Religious Pluralism and egalitarian prayer space at the Kotel. In June 2014 as chairperson I attended meetings of ARZENU in Jerusalem, including significant discussion about the possibility of elections for the World Zionist Congress in 2015 ahead of the Congress in November 2015. There will be a further meeting in February 2015 where it is planned to support the attendance of the chairperson and a young adult delegate. In June 2015 I was elected as Honorary Secretary of ARZENU replacing Ian Samuel whose time in that position had ended.

WZO Presentation: Following the meeting of the Va'ad Hapoel in November ARZA Australia produced a PowerPoint presentation explaining the workings of the World Zionist Organisation and the role that ARZA plays in it. The presentation has been lauded by our ARZENU colleagues and has being adapted to suit the needs of several ARZA groups around the world.

The King David School: ARZA has continued its sponsorship of the "ARZA Israel Seminar" and "ARZA Hebrew Camp" run by the King David School.

Emanuel School: ARZA provided sponsorship for the visit of students from the Leo Baeck School in Haifa to Australia and, in particular, for a day run by Netzer at Emanuel School, Sydney.

Website: ARZA has updated its website with the latest software at arza.org.au following a series of hacking attacks.

E-news: ARZA circulates e-newsletters to members providing links to relevant news stories locally, in Israel and around the Jewish world. Regular mail outs occur when there are interesting new stories to share.

Netzer: ARZA continued to provide funds for Netzer Olami's Beit Midrash seminar enjoyed by all participants of the Shnat programme and has offered financial support to Netzer Australia. The Federal Mazkir(ah) and the Netzer community Shlichim were invited and are now members of the ARZA Executive committee.

Mission to Poland & Israel: together with the UPJ, Temple Beth Israel and Emanuel Synagogue ARZA co-sponsored a second Mission to Poland and Israel in April 2014. The group was led by Educator Sandy Hollis and the WUPJ's Rabbi Steve Burnstein provided the spiritual leadership. The group commemorated the Shoah, visiting the death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec and Majdanek as well as visiting and praying with emerging communities in Warsaw, Krakow and Lublin. In Israel they commemorated Yom HaZicharon; celebrated Yom Ha'Atzmaut, did walking tours of Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv and Yafo, as well as meeting with many of our movements' leaders from ARZENU; IMPJ; IRAC; LACO; WZO; the WUPJ; the Saltz Centre and meeting the Australian Ambassador and Mark Regev, spokesman for the Israel Prime Minister.

UIA Progressive Trust: ARZA remains totally committed to supporting the annual fundraising UIA Progressive Trust Appeal that sent approximately AUD\$900,000 this year to the WUPJ to assist in the resettlement of Olim and in the development of Israel as an inclusive and democratic State.

Strategic Planning: In November 2013 the UPJ commenced a rigorous Strategic Planning process. Among the desired goals of the exercise was a determination to raise the profile and independence of ARZA. We believe that the outcome will be a strengthened and invigorated organisation able to be even more active in local Zionist politics and within the WZO.

Elections: An election committee with a representative from each of the parties has been formed and met in October. This meeting was an introduction to the process of the elections and a further meeting was planned in November. This meeting was cancelled and the next meeting will take place in January. We welcome elections and need to be prepared. ARZA membership is essential to ensure that the Reform voice is heard. The more members we have the greater the representation we receive in the World Zionist Congress. We will need an updated list of all ARZA members by mid December. It is crucial that we maximise the number of ARZA members, including people who will be 18 by October 2015, and it is hoped that all congregations and organisations will initiate a membership drive over the next few weeks.

Visitor: At the time of writing this report Yaron Shavit, Chairman of the Mandates committee of the WZO, and ARZENU Board member is arriving in Australia as guest of the UPJ. It is hoped that his visit will inspire many to become active members of ARZA.

The future: The past year has seen some dramatic and positive developments in Israel that have endorsed and implemented many of the social changes that ARZA and ARZENU have called for over a long period as part of Israel's move towards being a fully inclusive and democratic society.

UPJ: I offer sincere thanks to the UPJ for their generosity in allowing Jocelyn Robuck and Steve Denenberg to support the work of ARZA as part of their overall duties and at no cost to the organisation. I also offer thanks to Jocelyn and Steve for the dedication and efficient manner in which they support our work. ARZA is a proud affiliate of the UPJ.

Conclusion: Internally we are seeking to implement a long-term succession plan for the leadership group. I offer heartfelt thanks to the members of the Executive who have supported me and the work of the organisation during the past year. I will be stepping down from the position of chairperson at the AGM, having completed my full term in office. It is my heartfelt belief that regeneration and succession are a crucial part of the maintenance and strength of a healthy organisation. I am delighted to pass on this important role and I pledge my support to the incoming Board.

Board of Progressive Jewish Education – Sydney, NSW

Carolyn Davey, President

BPJE is changing its name to JPEN - Jewish Pluralistic Education Network.

The current board consists of: Carolyn Davey, President, Sara Joffe, CEO, Robert Cussel, ACT representative, Steve Denenberg, UPJ Yuval Nemirovsky (Netzer), Alan Baynash (NSTE), Ashleigh Antflick (Emanuel Synagogue). Sandy Hollis is our educator. The Board farewells and thanks immediate past President, Garry Davis, for his contribution to NSW Jewish education.

JPEN acts as an umbrella organisation responsible for setting goals and curriculum and financing the individual campus operations. Its work includes the responsibility to fund, supervise and co-ordinate the activities of Hebrew and Religion Schools located in Woollahra, Chatswood, Glebe, Canberra (ACT), as well as the provision of Progressive Jewish Adult education and Family education through distance education to remote and regional areas.

The curriculum, formal and informal, delivered at each centre, continues to explicitly reflect pluralistic values, with particular focus on gender equality, openness and mutual respect for all dimensions of Jewish experience. The emphasis may differ from location to location, as may the mode of instruction, but the focus as expressed, is consistent. The delivery of the curriculum is undergoing change to a Project Based model where students will be working in groups to study Judaism.

A part-time Coordinator of JPEN develops and maintains a broad-based curriculum and in in-servicing of teachers. This includes ongoing development and review of a generic syllabus. This allows each campus to develop programmes to cater for their differences in age groupings and still meet common outcomes.

The campuses are autonomous, in charge of enrolments, teaching and campus supervision through paid and volunteer teachers, and in the case of Emanuel and North Shore Temple Emanuel, with the active assistance of Rabbi's. Emanuel and NSTE have a part-time assistant to administer the school.

The "Refrigerator University" programme involves sending all families of all of our four campuses weekly Torah readings attached to a fridge magnet by a clip, and to be used if possible around the Shabbat table for discussion.

Yom Hashoah: Offered at NSTE to year 6 and 7 students to enable them to learn about the major incidents of the Holocaust.

JPEN has a distance education programme that is currently successfully implemented through the Woollahra Centre. It encourages the parents to join with their children in studying and also allows for the use of Skype meetings with Sandy Hollis and the Rabbis if necessary so as to broaden the education of the students in Distance Areas.

JPEN has continued to be available and to provide assistance, to students and teachers, with the Judaism component of the Studies of Religion HSC course.

JPEN is working with Academy BJE and the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies and the Sydney Jewish Museum to ensure that we jointly provide the comprehensive overview required.

Our new website also hosts links to material for HSC Studies of Religion, Modern History (Arab Israel Conflict, Germany 1918 - 1939 and the Weimar Republic (this of course includes the Rise of the Nazi Party). Material will be modified to cover topics in the new National Curriculum when it is finalised.

Centre for Living Judaism – Armadale, Victoria

Dr Bryan Conyer, Director



The Centre for Living Judaism is now in its 4th year of existence. This year was a year of substantial evaluation, as we needed to determine how this exciting initiative is to move forward, and to evolve from the many lessons learnt during its four years of existence.

Staffing

This year, we farewelled Noa Gibson and welcomed Adam Tanenbaum, Stephanie Gratch remained as the impactful coordinator and Shannyn Gelbart continued as one of the charismatic fellows. Bryan Conyer took over the Directorship of the CLJ.

Activities

Over past year, Jewish Life Fellows have travelled around Asia, Australia, and New Zealand, teaching and learning about Judaism. In Singapore, the Fellows provided services for Shabbat and led Seddarim. Within Australia, the Fellows visited most congregations and run Adult Education discussions, Shabbat services, song workshops, cheder programs, family programming and celebration of chaggim. All programs and resources provided to these congregations have been added to the website www.livingjudaism.org.au.

Initiatives

This year also saw some initiatives that have strengthened the CLJ. Each fellow participated in a formal mentoring process, enabling them to match personal goals with those of the fellowship. The fellows participated in semi-regular study sessions, ensuring a growth in their own Jewish learning. The fellows also developed and piloted skill based workshops so that the fellows can upskill members of congregations according to the congregations needs. For example, the CLJ can now offer all communities the following workshops, in addition to a Shabbat or other experience:

- How to write a Dvar Torah
- How to prepare to lead tefila
- How to teach Jewish music
- How to use Elul to reclaim control in those areas of your life that need it

The Centre is expanding the resources it is developing for the community. This year saw the first stages of the creation of A Movement Jewish Music resource booklet and a Wall Chart of the Jewish Timeline

Moving Forward

CLJ will be strengthened next year by restructuring and really targeting the needed skills for the congregations. In 2015 we will be employing only one full-time fellow, who will be dedicated almost exclusively to the needs of the UPJ and its constituents. This individual will be able to nurture relationships

with UPJ communities and facilitate a cross fertilization of resources and ideas. That individual will continue to be supported by King David School and benefit from a collaborative relationship with The King David School Jewish Experiential Educational team. A number of measures to ensure that smooth induction and on-going professional support and development of this fellow will be implemented.

Conclusion

Our evaluation reinforces the wide held belief that the CLJ is one of the most important initiatives to come from within the UPJ community – thank you Rabbi Gersh Lazarow. As additional funds become available, and additional fellows can be employed, the potential contribution of the CLJ to our region is enormous. Funding is the single biggest challenge to overcome.

We look forward to a successful 2015.

The King David School – Armadale, Victoria

Mark Harrison, President

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL
Modern | Thinking | Judaism



The past 12 months has been an incredibly busy time at The King David School.

Our long-standing and respected Principal Michele Bernshaw retired in April this year and recently the school held a gala dinner to honour the 14 plus wonderful years of service Michele provided. We thank Michele for her outstanding dedication to the School; she will be missed by staff and students past and present.

After an extensive search the School appointed Marc Light. It is thought that Marc is the first alumnus to become Principal of a Jewish School in Australia having attended King David in his primary years. Marc is highly regarded globally as a strong Jewish Educator and is looking forward to the 'privilege of shaping values and capacities of the next generation of The King David School'.

We also welcomed the new Director of Jewish Learning, Dr Bryan Conyer. Bryan joined us together with his wife Rabbi Allison Conyer and their family, from the Emanuel school in Sydney. With a strong academic background Bryan is enthusiastic about integrating Jewish Studies across the curriculum.

Our outstanding 2013 VCE results placed The King David School in the top 10 schools in the State of Victoria for the first time. In addition, 3 students received Premier's Awards and The Australian Student's Prize. Our students continue to excel in a variety of sports winning recognition nationally and internationally in Fencing, Gymnastics and Cycling.

Earlier this year, The King David School Centre for Student Wellbeing conducted the inaugural Student Wellbeing Conference. With Key note addresses and workshops by Professor Marc Brackett, (Yale University). Up to 20 schools from across Victoria and interstate attended the conference.

The King David School Foundation continues to focus its efforts on the Annual Scholarship Appeal raising funds to support over twenty percent of the current student body via scholarships, bursaries and fee assistance.

The school's largest redevelopment, Project Chai V'Kayam is continuing to gather momentum and is expected to commence in 2015.

At the recent community Gala Dinner to honour Michele Bernshaw it was announced that forming part of this redevelopment would be The Michele Bernshaw Senior School Resource Centre.

At the AGM in July, Ben Cowen retired from School Council and we were delighted to welcome Lahra Carey, Associate Professor Erica Frydenberg, Rick Tudor OAM, and Rochelle Rothfield.

Kehilat Shanghai – Shanghai, China

Arie Schreier, President



2014 programs

December: Monthly Shabbat dinner - Guest speaker: Prof. Zhang; Chess winter camp

January: Monthly Shabbat dinner- Guest speaker: Ambassador Shalom Cohen; Tu Bishvat program for parents and kids; A tour at the Shanghai Jewish Refugee Museum

February: Visit to the Lantern festival in Jinqiao; Butch Bradley live show ; Monthly Shabbat dinner- Guest speaker: General Consul Arnon Perlman; Monthly morning coffee; Jewish teens get together: at Daoshun Archery; Kids' program - visit to the science and technology museum

March: Kids' programs- Getting ready for Purim; Purim festival; Monthly morning coffee; An afternoon of family fun at the Kerry Hotel Pudong ; Monthly Shabbat dinner- Guest speaker: Prof. Chalom Schirman

April: Hebrew lessons starts; Monthly Shabbat dinner- Guest speaker: Sam Moshinsky ; Passover Seder- Rabbi Levi Kelman; Kids programs - Getting ready for Passover with Rabbi Kelman; Jewish Prayer and meditation class (with Rabbi Kelman); Monthly coffee morning; Jewish Jam Session; Shabbat dinner (another Shabbat dinner with Rabbi Kelman); Mark Di Suvero's Exhibition in Shanghai; Baby naming ceremony

May: Limmud China (Beijing); The Jewish Shanghai tour with Dvir; Kids' programs - DIY Havdalah workshop; Course on Jewish history (with Luis Greenspan); Monthly Shabbat dinner- Guest speaker: Dr. Tamar Safra

June: Kaifeng- Discover China's lost Jews ; Shavuot Potluck picnic; Kids' programs-; Getting ready for Shavuot; Puppetry workshop; A fun day at the Shanghai wild animal park; Cast mask making; The Jewish Shanghai tour with Dvir (2nd group); Course on Jewish history (with Luis Greenspan); Monthly Shabbat dinner- Guest speaker: Carol Sterling

July: Kids' programs-; A tour at the Shanghai animation and comics museum; Shanghai annual water fight; Board game session; Monthly Shabbat potluck dinner with the MH; Sending letters of support from KS members to the people in Israel (during the operation in Gaza)

August: Qingdao Beer and Beach weekend- a trip to Qingdao; A visit to the Shanghai glass museum; Mr. x puzzle house- a program for young professional; Fund raiser for the Baynesay family starts; Monthly Shabbat dinner- Guest speaker: Paul Ross

September: A day trip to BIOFarm; 8K Fun Run- Fund raiser for the Baynesay family; Rosh Hashanah dinner- Rabbi Jonathan Stein; Rosh Hashanah morning services; Monthly Shabbat dinner with Rabbi Stein; Baby naming ceremony ; Kids' programs-Getting ready for 5776- Stories, Songs and Celebrations; Saying Sorry and Setting Goals- Learning from our mistakes and making New Year's Resolutions; Yom Kippur: What's in it for me? Ethical Decision Making for Teens

October: Torah study with Rabbi Stein; Yom Kippur services ; A discussion about Human Sexuality and Ethical decision-making: A Taxonomy (With Rabbi Stein); Shabbat potluck dinner in the Sukkah; Kids' programs - Building a sukkah; DIY Challah and Challah cover making; Monthly Shabbat potluck dinner; WIZO in Shanghai- introduction to WIZO with Esther Mor; Love Without Boundaries- Art Exhibition that presents the story of the Jewish refugees in Shanghai

November: Shanghai beer festival- with the MH; A visit to the Shanghai's contemporary art museum; monthly Shabbat dinner; Members' dinner

Netzer and Progressive Community Shaliach NSW

Yuval Nemirovsky



Finishing my second year of shlichut is a great feeling. This year (as all the years) was full of challenges that we managed to confront in order to create great activities in Netzer and in the communities. I feel blessed and lucky to work in this incredible movement. We worked hard to create the best framework we can give to the kids so they can explore their Jewish identity.

As for the communities: discussion about Israel and activities for young adults that I had the pleasure to be involved with, represent the vibrant identity and values of the Progressive Movement.

I want to take advantage of this opportunity to thank the UPJ, the synagogues and all the professionals and leaders that help the shlichim in Australia.

Activities:

- Supervision and educational involvement of Netzer Activities during 2014:
- Summer Camps: Junior (years 3-9) and Senior (10-shnat)
- Shnat Program (Netzer leadership training for one year in Israel) preparation & training of applicants
- Regular Netzer meetings thru the year in North Shore Temple Emanuel and Emanuel Synagogue
- Chocolate Seder (Pesach) at Emanuel Synagogue
- 2 Training seminars (chinuch seminars) for our Federal BOGRIM body (Netzer leaders)
- Sydney winter camp
- Shnat seminar in Melbourne
- AZYC seminar (BOG SEM) in Melbourne for madrichim
- Regular involvement in Synagogues during the year and the Chagim
- Outreaches thru the year to Perth and small communities
- Involvement in the Shabbat Project.
- Working with the UPJ and the moetzah (new Siddur project)
- Involvement in ZFA and ZCNSW events.
- Supervision of the Federal Mazkirut
- Communities:
- Education for adults and kids: classes, activities, creation of materials in different frameworks at the synagogues.
- Leading young adult Shabbat dinners, excursions, chaguim, and social events for the community.
- Involvement in ZFA, ZCNSW and Jewish Agency seminars and events
- Involvement in UPJ and Arza executives
- Involvement in JPEN (BPJE) board.
- Representing the progressive movement in wider community events

Shaliach of Netzer Victoria and Progressive Judaism Victoria

Nadav Shachmon



My first year as a shaliach for the Progressive community in Melbourne was both exciting and challenging. I am thankful for the incredible opportunity to work together with the community, creating educational programs and projects. In the past year my goal for the Progressive community and Netzer was to enhance the connection between Israel and the community in Melbourne. As such, the focus of my work revolved around three main aspects: 1. Zionism. 2. Jewish Identity. 3. Israeli Society.

Netzer

In order to push the movement forward and with the limitation of nine bogrim, we set three main goals: 1. Increase the number of chanichim. 2. Develop strong leadership in the senior movement. 3. Create original and creative programs according to the Netzer ideology.

During the past year Netzer leaders ran weekly programs for the senior movement. In addition, every month we have a Kabbalat Shabbat. Here are the main programs and activities Netzer created and ran this year:

Camps: Fed summer camp- (6-24/1): 118 chanichim; Melbourne summer junior camp (21-26/1): 115 chanichim; Melbourne winter junior camp : 130 chanichim Functions and programs

Event / program	Content of the program
Post function event (16/2)	Chanichim, Madtzim and Bogrim gathered for the summer camp reunion.
Purim Junior event (30/3)	Purim carnival
Livluv Seminar Year 12 (18-20/4)	The main focus of the seminar is the Netzer ideology and Shnat program.
Yom Ha'atzmaut Junior event (3/5)	We celebrated the birth of Israel with games about Israeli symbols, food and music.
Federal chinuch seminar (24-27/4, 27-29/9)	Netzer bogrim from all over Australia discussed Netzer ideology and established together guidelines for the rest of the year.
Tiyul Hagshama (16-15/5)	During the weekend we explored "What is the 'Netzer realization' and how you can achieve it."
Rosh Hashana Seder (18/9)	A Progressive Seder for Rosh Hashana for chanichim and families.

A significant part of my shlicut is my engagement with The King David School. The partnership with the school is valuable to my relationship with the community and the youth. Here are the main projects in which I was involved this year:

Youth movement at school campus: youth movement panel, canvassing, coordinating, participation of youth movement leaders on school camp.

Programs and functions:

- Teaching and supporting the teachers (Hebrew, Jewish studies)
- Mifgash – supporting weekly informal programs run by year 12.
- Yom Ha'atzmaout carnival
- Arava Delegation at KDS
- Zionist seminars at KDS
- Day programs for years 8, 9 and 11.
- Zionist camp for year 10.
- Community Shaliach

In the past year I had the pleasure to work with the Progressive congregations: TBI, Kedem, Etz Chayim and LBC. Here is my involvement with the congregations this year:

- Israel update- programs and sermons about the situation in Israel
- Services – attending and participating in services
- Events and programs – supporting community events (Limmud, B'nei Mitzvah, holiday functions)

Zionist Federation/Council

A significant part of my shlicut is representing the Progressive community and Netzer in the committees and programs of the Zionist Federation and the Zionist Council:

- Yom Hazikaron committee – representing Israel and the youth movement.
- Yom Ha'atzmaot committee – representing the Progressive community.
- Bogsem – seminar for all the bogrim from the different youth movements.
- Supporting Jamboree camp- chnichim from all youth movements in years 10 and 11.



Netzer Australia Progressive Zionist Youth Movement

Shoshana Booth, Federal Mazkira

This year has seen an impressive effort from all of our bogrim (leaders) and the communities who support us. In 2014, we had a small leadership body with twenty bogrim across three states, and yet we managed to have a very successful year.

For those of you who haven't encountered Netzer, we are a Reform Zionist youth movement, and we align ourselves with the Progressive movement. We operate mainly in Sydney and Melbourne, and run outreach Shabbatons biannually in Adelaide, and quarterly in Perth. Our philosophy is informal education, and we run meetings, camps and seminar aimed at engaging and inspiring Progressive Jewish youth. Netzer is unique in that it is run entirely by volunteers, who are university-aged students who have completed our Shnat gap year program in Israel.

On a federal level, this year was incredibly inspiring. As a bogrim body we completely reevaluated our Progressive and Zionist ideology, and sent it to Israel. It will be discussed and voted by Netzer leaders from around the world in Jerusalem in January.

We also ran an amazing federal machane (camp), Machane Festival, with ninety-six chanichim from around Australia including from Perth and Adelaide. 2014 has also seen the production of a new Netzer siddur, based on the Mishkan Tefillah. We have not had a new siddur for the past three decades, so thanks to the help of the UPJ and Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black we are going to use it for the first time in our January camps!

Finally, we ran two new federal seminars this year, one for all the students in Year 12 thinking of participating in the Shnat program, and the other for the new incoming mazkirut (council).

2014 was also a big year for Sydney and Melbourne, as both states had a smaller number of bogrim previous years. Thankfully, there is a lot of demand for Netzer in the Progressive and Zionist community, so our leaders worked very hard to meet that between them.

In Sydney, we ran a Hummus fundraiser, as well as two events every month and new involvement in synagogues on High Holy Days. We ran a successful leadership seminar for Year 10, we had two very enjoyable camps, one in January and the other in July.

In Melbourne, the bogrim ran a very successful training program for junior Year Eleven leaders, held monthly meetings, were active in community events and ran a July Winter camp with a record number (over ninety-five) chanichim.

As a small bogrim body, we are very much looking to the future of the movement. So, possibly the most exciting thing about this year is that we have fourteen shnatties returning back to us in December, just in time to lead on camp. Further, in 2015, we are looking forward to sending fourteen shnatties to Israel, as

well as the expansion of our snif (branch) in Perth with two returning shnatties excited to work with the community there. This will double the amount of leaders we have currently, which means that we can increase our activity and expand.

2014 has been a year of growth and learning for Netzer, and we are very excited when we look to the chanichim in our senior movement, those about to go on Shnat and those returning to lead. We are sure that we are leaving the movement in very safe and inspiring hands!

Regards, Netzer's Outgoing Federal Council:

Shoshana Booth (Chairperson, Sydney) Mitch Parsons (Treasurer, Perth) Eliza McCarroll (Head of Education, Sydney) Nikki Silbert (Shnat Liaison, Melbourne)

Progressive Judaism Victoria – Melbourne, Victoria

Brian Samuel, President

It gives me great pleasure to present my second report to the members of Progressive Judaism Victoria. Once again there has been a high degree of activity within our movement and I will try and highlight the main activities.



Vision 2020

The Vision 2020 project has not progressed at the pace originally anticipated. There have been a number of sub groups that have met during the year and a draft reported has been sent to all constituents a couple of months ago for comment. A very big thank you to Michele Bernshaw and her committee for the excellent effort in preparing and documenting an excellent paper on the vision of education which was one of the three key groups established. It is hoped that in the new year the same group will be able to take it to the next step and develop an implementation plan. Unfortunately the agenda has been temporarily hijacked with the proposed changes to the structure of the national roof body, the Union for Progressive Judaism, as set out below.

UPJ

I have been participating in a working party for the last twelve months, which came about after the Annual Meeting last year in Melbourne. The concept is to be presented to the biennial at the end of this month. In brief, the concept is for the management, organisation and responsibility to be divested from the roof body into a number of regional bodies with Victoria becoming part of a Southern Region. PJV is to take a lead role in fostering and developing growth in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, in addition to expanding the growth in Victoria. There are no plans to alter the structure of PJV which has been operating successfully since its own reorganisation, but any change will see a Southern region running in parallel with the current PJV. Whilst there has been considerable discussion and debate on the merits and potential areas of concern, the concept is to be fully debated at the biennial ,with final acceptance or otherwise being brought back to the constituent members in early 2015.

Outreach

In the past year Linda Stern has been working tirelessly to foster outreach with smaller communities in regional Victoria. It is a thankless task, as it involves a huge amount of time in preparation, travel and follow-up. Unfortunately, Linda has found it necessary to step down from this role due to other commitments and your executive is currently searching for a suitable replacement to continue the great work established by Linda and her colleagues .

Meeting with Presidents

I have continued to meet with the Presidents of all affiliates on three occasions during the year. I initiated this last year at their suggestion as they felt that they were not always well informed on the activities of PJV. Although the restructured PJV is open to the entire Progressive movement in Victoria it is important to

receive feedback from the Presidents to ensure that we are all on the same page. There is keen interest to explore where money can be saved by sharing and combining resources, however this has been slow to progress due to the significant changes within the individual constituents over the last twelve months. On the positive side PJV via TBI and Leo Baeck ran a very successful Purim Spiel with participants from all constituents. This has prompted many to ask what else can be done in resource sharing. The function held over two nights was packed out at both venues. Next year it is planned to rotate with TBI and Etz Chayim over the two nights.

Community Representation

During the last twelve months I have represented PJV at various community organisations--Zionist Council of Victoria, JCCV, the JCCV Youth Alcohol Project and Jewish Welfare / JCCV Social Inclusion Committee. Each plays an important role in our community. The two roof bodies participate in ongoing dialogue with other organisations within the wider community as well as lobbying State and Federal government on a wide range of issues affecting the Jewish Community. I have attended a number of functions between the Jewish community and the Catholic, Indian and Chinese communities to create greater awareness of the issues affecting all parties. I have endeavoured to attend all the Annual General meetings of each affiliate and have visited each synagogue and KDS during the last twelve months. Although the Progressive Community does not have the voice and strength in the community that existed in the latter part of last century, it is pleasing to see that all affiliates including KDS are thriving entities. Whilst membership retention is a core issue I am convinced that with the arrival of younger clergy at two of our affiliates the future looks very bright.

Communication

Once again Ellen Frajman has done a sterling job in preparing our weekly communication to all members who wish to be on our mailing list. Whilst we are all bombarded with a multitude of emails on a daily basis, it is getting harder to get the message across to everyone. With a sophisticated tracking system we are able to determine how many read the weekly emails and how many click onto the links. The figures have remained constant but not as high as hoped. A task for the new year will be to review and see if we can increase readership. In addition we are actively participating in social media and thanks to Max Gross for setting up and monitoring the page over the last twelve months.

Shaliach

Early this year we welcomed Nadav Shachmon as our new Netzer Shaliach. Nadav has settled into his role with great ease and has become a highly respected member of the team. Nadav and Netzer will be presenting a separate report at our AGM so I will not elaborate in this report. Many thanks to Treasurer Alan Samuel who has spent many hours updating Netzer accounts and filing returns from past years. I have raised this issue with the UPJ as we need to set up a more formal process to ensure ongoing compliance.

Bet Olam

Under the Chairmanship of Barry Fradkin the organisation continues to perform a necessary task within both the Progressive and wider Jewish community. They continue to be the main source of our funding and we

will continue to give them every support that that is required. For the second year I recently participated in their annual memorial service at Springvale.

Rabbinic Support

Once again I would like to thank each of the clergy for the ongoing support and attendance at our monthly meetings. Unless you have been heavily involved with one of the affiliates it is not appreciated the time devoted by each of the clergy. Whilst most of us lay leaders work a regular 9-5/ive-day week our clergy are working six days and participating in early morning meetings right through to evening activities. Even their "day off" is often compromised by funerals or other emergencies. Even with the addition of new clergy into the movement, their time is often stretched to the limit. We have an ongoing demand for Rabbinic support with affiliates, outreach with smaller regional communities as well university youth assistance. Under the current structure we are stretched to the limit. However I suggest that the incoming executive needs to sit down with the Rabbinic Moetzah and see how we can expand the base to cover some or all of these requirements. A very special thank you to Rabbi Keren-Black who has been a stalwart of PJV since its inception. He has recently resigned from the organisation and we hope that he will continue to support our activities even though he is unable to attend our regular meetings.

Administration

In conclusion I would to once again extend my thanks to Ellen Frajman and Oonagh Thomas without whom the organisation would cease to function. During 2013 I was meeting regularly each week with Ellen but I admit to a shortfall this year. However we have continued to communicate daily when Ellen is at work and the process appears to have continued without stress. No task is too difficult for Ellen. Ellen has even undertaken the task of proof-reading my reports which only highlights one of my shortcomings. Spell check will only do so much. Oonagh looks after our accounts each week and keeps a close eye on my need to sign off each week.

I thank my fellow executive and you the members for your ongoing support and hope that in the coming twelve months I can continue to uphold the office bestowed upon me.

UPJ Awards

The 2014 award recipients will be announced on 20 November 2014 at the Adelaide Pavilion.

President's Award

Established in 2010, this award recognizes exemplary leadership, outstanding service, devotion and commitment to the promotion and development of Progressive Judaism. It is only awarded at the discretion of the UPJ President.

Previous recipients:

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

Vatik Award

This award honours past presidents of congregations and affiliation 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 recognize these worthy individuals and their continued commitment to the community and furthering the Progressive Jewish movement in our region.

Previous Vatik Award recipients:

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

Atid Award

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

Previous Atid Award recipients: Danielle Cohen, Cara Black, Steven Goldman, Sharon Ladowsky, Ramelle Lewis, Amira Nathan, Jennifer Shkolnik, Jemima Stanwix, Davina Vorchheimer, Dvora Zylberman

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 affiliation organisations who perform exceptional service for our congregations and community, as well as the wider community.

Previous New Tamid Award recipients:

Fred Albert	Bev Gelbart	Charles Monat
Libby Appelboom	Mark Ginsburg	Sue Morgan
Judith Arkwright	Sydney Goldstein	Betty Mortimer
Stan Benjamin	Leon and Sue Goldwater	Fred Mote
Albert Bentata	Liz Goodman	Dorothy (Dot) Nathan
Heinz Bohm	Sidney Grant	Eva Phillips
Garry and Nola Braude	Brian and Jennifer Green	Amelia Rauner
Eric Briskman	Noel Hall	Gena Reiss
Nicole Brown	Rhondda Hall	Ian Samuel
Margaret Capkin	Janet Henrie	Chris Schiller
Zvi Civins	Fred Hirsh	Nat Sharpe
Marlis Cohen	Albert Isaacs	Fred Silberstein
Arnold Cohn	Elijah Jacob	Harry Smith
Beatrice Coleman	Naomi Johnson	Joe Stupel
Rachel Dennyss	Devorah Komesaroff	Geoff Sussman
Anthony and Diane Deutsch	Herb Lesser	Michael Taft
Dr George Deutsch	Ted Lewis	Joan Taylor
David and Sue Esterman	Liz Marks	Dorothea Tropp-Boas
Norma Survana Esther	Jan Marriott	Betty Waxman
Mick Fettmann	Valerie Minn	

