

Union for Progressive Judaism

Annual Report



2018-2019

Mission Statement

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

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

UPJ Executive:

Va'ad

Roger Mendelson, President
Brian Samuel, Vice-President
Sharon Davis, Honorary Secretary
Sally Castle, Honorary Treasurer

Committee members

Alison Dwyer
David Knoll
Helen Shardey
Franklin Tate

Staff

Jocelyn Robuck, Executive Manager

Ex Officio Committee members

Steve Denenberg (ARZA President)
Sefi Shalam (Progressive Community & Netzer Shaliach)
Nancye Kochen (Netzer Federal Mazkira)
Sharene Hambur (WUPJ Representative)
Rabbi David Kunin (Moetzah Chair)

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October 2019 /Tishrei 5780

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Progressive Jewish community in Australia is an extraordinary role model for K'lal Yisrael and an unwavering partner in the work of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ).

We are all proud of the continuing growth in Progressive Judaism in Israel and throughout the world. This report on the Union for Progressive Judaism's (UPJ) activities in 2018 captures vividly that strength in Australia and charts the UPJ's immense contribution to our world-wide efforts. Indeed, Australian Jewry is the Jewish world's second largest financial supporter of WUPJ, of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ) projects in Israel, and of our synagogues and programs in Russian-speaking countries. The UPJ and supporters of the UIA Progressive Appeal campaign contribute far more per household than does any other Jewish community.

Thanks to the Australian Jewish community and to generous supporters around the world, WUPJ has been able to expand our reach and impact, fulfilling our mission to strengthen Progressive Jewish life and values in Israel and in Jewish communities wherever Jews choose to live.

This year, in new and emerging communities, Progressive rabbis, educators, and leaders formed vibrant, caring hubs of Jewish life in places where Jews have never before settled or in places where Jews returned after centuries. In more established regions, including Australia, where Progressive Judaism has been going strong for years, rabbis deliberated on vital issues facing our Progressive congregations including protection of religious freedom, intermarriage, conversion, and fighting antisemitism.

In regional biennials throughout the year, including in Melbourne, we came together as members of the same global family, sharing values of inclusivity, compassion, unity, and youth engagement to celebrate our successes, to share best practices and learn from one another, and to map out new directions for the coming two years.

Reflecting on a year of achievement and impact reminds us how deeply our global family is connected and committed to growth. If you are not yet a supporter of the UIA Progressive Appeal campaign, we urge you to make a commitment of time and resources to this exceptional community.

We are deeply grateful to the Australian Progressive Jewish community and look forward to your continued leadership and involvement in the WUPJ's growth and success.

L'Shalom,

Carole D. Sterling
Chair

Rabbi David N. Saperstein
President,

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MESSAGE FROM THE EUPJ

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7 October 2019

Dear friends and colleagues at the UPJ

We are once again delighted to send you greetings from the Management Committee and the Executive Board on behalf of the all the members of European Union for Progressive Judaism.

Despite the rise in antisemitism across the globe, the EUPJ has had a positive and productive year with progress being made in many of our 17 countries across the map of Europe. We had a wonderful biennial conference in Prague last year and look forward to our next exciting biennial in Geneva next year.

It is a real comfort to know that there are members of our Progressive Jewish family in literally all corners of the world and we follow with the greatest of interest all the news of the growth and development in your own region.

We look forward to meeting up with so many friends from the UPJ on our and their travels and hope to celebrate with you many more delightful events, conferences and, simply happy occasions whenever and wherever they arise.

We take this opportunity of wishing that we are all be blessed with a healthy and above all, a peaceful 5780.

Gordon Smith
President

Sonja Guentner
Chair



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

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MESSAGE FROM THE UPJ PRESIDENT

ROGER MENDELSON

This is my final report as UPJ President, so it is an appropriate time to look back, and also forward to the future.

Achievements

When I took over as President, there had been little preparation, because Stephen Freeman, the previous President, had to resign unexpectedly due to serious medical issues faced by Rebecca, his partner.

At that stage, there were few executive members who were staying on, so I was faced with building a new team. At the same time, the extensive strategic review had been completed and the outcome was that Steve Denenberg retired as Executive Director.

Va'ad structure

One of my first steps was to establish the Va'ad structure. The Va'ad comprises the office bearers and Jocelyn Robuck, the Executive Officer. The intention was that the Va'ad would meet more regularly and deal with operational issues and would refer matters of policy and principle to the full Executive.

An inhibiting factor we face is that our Executive comprises people from across our region. and so meetings are online and across different time zones.

Movement Rabbi

An outcome of the strategic review was that there was a consistent view expressed that we would benefit from having a Movement Rabbi. The Executive took this on board and defined the position, provided a budget allocation for it, advertised it and ultimately appointed Rabbi Fred Morgan for a three-year term.

Rabbi Morgan retired from the position at the end of his ter, in March 2019 and at this stage the Executive has made no arrangements to replace him. We wish to thank Rabbi Morgan for the support and advice he provided, as well as the active hands-on role he played with congregations.

Budget

At the time I took over, the budget was in deficit, due essentially to the cost of employing an Executive Director. Since that time, we have been operating on small surpluses.

I wish to thank Sally Castle, our Treasurer, for ensuring that we operate on a financially sound basis.

Our budget covers an allowance for various grants we make, including to several rabbinic students studying at the Hebrew Union College; we provide some financial support to them on the basis that they will hopefully return to our region. The UPJ also supports Netzer with \$30,000 per year (\$10K for Outreach, \$10K for Admin and \$10K for Shnat).

UIA Progressive Appeal

A significant function we carry out is to raise funds in partnership with the UIA. Funds go into the UIA Progressive Appeal and are ultimately allocated to complying programs operated by the WUPJ (our roof body) and also support several organisations in Israel.

We normally raise just under \$1 million annually, but this year was exceptional, with the sum of \$1.2 million raised. A refinement has been the appointment of Joint Appeal Chairs in both Sydney and Melbourne. In Sydney, we had David Knoll and Alan Obrart, and the Melbourne Chairs were Brian Samuel and Philip Bliss. The largest increase in donations in total came from Sydney, but Melbourne has a larger number of smaller donors. In particular, we are very grateful to a small number of Sydney donors who very generously support the Appeal.

Machzor

A major project we took on about four years ago was to develop our own Machzor, specifically for our region. *Mishkan T'Shuvah* was introduced for High Holy Days in 2019. This was a massive undertaking for us and also for the Editorial Team. It was based on the CCAR version for North America, but with major changes.

The Editorial Team was led by Rabbis John Levi and Jonathan Keren-Black, and comprised Rabbis Kim Ettlinger, Jacqueline Ninio, Cantor Michel Laloum and Dr Linda Stern. We are grateful for the amazing result they achieved.

Biennial

Our last biennial was held in Melbourne in November 2018.

By all accounts, it was one of the most successful we have held. Total registered attendance was 166 people; 46 additional people attended day sessions and/or one or more of the evening functions.

I wish to especially thank Dr Rob Sward, who served as the Biennial Chair, for doing an inspiring job, and Rabbi Larry Hoffman for being our Scholar-in Residence, leading many challenging debates.

Moetzah (The Council of Progressive Rabbis in Australia, New Zealand and Asia)

Our relationship with the Moetzah has strengthened over the last several years.

In particular, with the retirement of Rabbi Fred Morgan as our Movement Rabbi, the Chair of the Moetzah, Rabbi David Kunin of Tokyo, has become more actively involved with the UPJ and partially filled the void which was left.

I believe that the relationship we have with the Rabbonim is constructive and healthy, and there is a clear line drawn between the roles of lay leadership and professional leadership.

Ambassadors

The Ambassadorial program has further developed over the past 12 months.

Active groups are: Outreach, Rabbinic Placements and Public Affairs. In each case, they are at the embryonic stage. However, we have established that there is a group of senior members of our Movement who are prepared to contribute their time and expertise, and the challenge for us is to develop this further and manage it so that it becomes self-sustaining.

ARZA

We have a close relationship with ARZA and, following the strategic review, a line was drawn between our respective roles.

Following the retirement of Steve Denenberg as ARZA President in November 2019, I wish to thank him personally and on behalf of the UPJ for the work he has done in keeping ARZA functioning and being an effective medium for harnessing Progressive votes for the World Zionist Conference. I also wish Helen Shardey all the best as she takes on the role as incoming President of ARZA.

Asia

The Asian communities have developed well over the past year. The fact that the Chair of the Moetzah serves the Jewish Community of Japan is an indication of how closely we are working.

The Asian communities held a conference in Singapore in January 2019, and Jocelyn Robuck attended on behalf of the UPJ. Rabbi Fred Morgan led Yom Kippur and associated services in Rangoon this year.

Associate Professor Josh Keller is joining the UPJ Executive. Josh lived for many years in Singapore and has now moved to Sydney. He is the embryonic UPJ Ambassador to Asia.

New Zealand

We were delighted that the contingent of New Zealanders at the Melbourne Biennial was by far the largest ever. This did not happen by chance; Paul Blaschke from Wellington was a member of the Biennial Planning Committee and was largely responsible for this excellent outcome.

The New Zealand congregations now regularly meet as a group, and Paul Blaschke is providing the link between them and the UPJ, for which I wish to thank him.

A concern is that there is still no rabbi based in New Zealand.

Sally Castle, our Treasurer, has moved back to Wellington and will be providing a more direct voice for New Zealand to the UPJ Executive and Va'ad.

Co-Presidency

Following extensive discussions, Brian Samuel and David Knoll have agreed to stand as Co-Presidents of the UPJ.

I am fully in favour of this arrangement because I believe that it harnesses the expertise of two senior members of our Movement. Brian has been my Vice-President for over four years, and I have worked with him in a partnership manner, so that he is fully informed of everything that has gone on over that period. He has also held other senior communal positions in Melbourne. David has held several senior communal positions in Sydney and is well connected in Sydney. Accordingly, the combination of the two will provide a powerful leadership team.

I have found that the presidency takes up at least two full days each working week, plus visits. By sharing the role, the team will be able to allocate tasks between themselves and provide effective leadership.

In addition, over 90 per cent of Progressive Jews in our region live in either Sydney or Melbourne, so this arrangement makes great sense.

I will be involved as Immediate Past-President and will be an ex-officio member of the Executive. I am happy to help out whenever I am asked, but am aware of the need to also step aside to allow space for the new leadership team.

Constitutional Changes

As the UPJ Constitution did not allow for co-sharing of positions, we will be submitting a resolution to amend the Constitution to allow for this. The changes being made are the minimum required in order to enable any of the officer positions to be worked on a job-share basis, but it will be limited to any one position at any time. For example, if there are co-presidents, there can be no other job-share positions.

Considerable thought and energy has been given to drafting the constitutional changes, and approval of this is a requirement to the election of the Co-Presidents.

I would ask that you raise queries about the constitutional changes with either myself, Jocelyn, Brian Samuel (bsamuel@bigpond.net.au) or David Knoll (davidknoll@gmail.com) well before the AGM, in order that the meeting itself not be sidetracked by discussion of technical issues.

Changes in the Executive Team

Alison Dwyer is standing down as a member of the Executive. I will be presenting a Vatik Award to Ali at the Shabbat Service in Adelaide, and this will be our opportunity to publically thank her for her service to the UPJ.

Sharon Davis will be stepping down as Honorary Secretary, but will be remaining on the Executive as a committee member. We are grateful for this, as Sharon will be able to assist the incoming Honorary Secretary.

Associate Professor Josh Keller is our UPJ Asia Ambassador. He lived for many years in Singapore and now lives in Sydney with his wife and two young children. He will be attending the meetings in Adelaide and has nominated to serve on the Executive Committee.

Professor Larry Lockshin is a past president of Beit Shalom Synagogue in Adelaide, and has nominated for the position of Honorary Secretary. Larry has been involved communally in Adelaide for many years.

Marsha Rosenberg of the Jewish Community of Japan will be standing as an Executive Member, at my invitation. Marsha has extensive communal experience in Japan spanning close to 40 years.

Trevor Creewel of Temple David in Perth is a past president of that synagogue and has carried out a great job as UPJ Ambassador to the Bali community. Trevor has also nominated to join the UPJ Executive Committee.

Helen Shardey is expected to become ARZA President at the ARZA AGM and thus will be stepping down from her position as an Executive Committee Member. However, Helen will continue to be involved, as the ARZA President is an ex-officio member of the UPJ Executive.

All of the above positions we expect to be elected on an uncontested basis.

I am delighted with our intake. It is diverse in terms of gender, experiences and regions and will provide a great base for the incoming Co-Presidents to work with.

Thank you

I thank my entire team. We have worked together collegially and in a positive and friendly way, and I am confident that the UPJ is in excellent shape for the new team to take over.

Brian Samuel became my Vice-President at my invitation at a time when I became President in unexpected circumstances. We have worked cohesively together and I thank him for his support and wish him well in his new role.

A special thanks comes from both me personally and on behalf of the UPJ to Jocelyn Robuck. She has been a veritable rock on whom we have relied: always easy-going, dispensing wise advice, working efficiently and productively, and always with the best interests of the Movement at heart. We are so lucky to have her.

Roger Mendelson



roger@mendelsons.com.au

MESSAGE FROM THE UPJ EXECUTIVE MANAGER

JOCELYN ROBUCK

Recently I was asked to write an article for “The Great Aussie Shtetl” edition of the Australian Jewish News, highlighting some of the UPJ’s accomplishments over the past year. I began by quoting the well-known Nigerian proverb: “It takes a village to raise a child”, or in our case: “It takes a shtetl to grow and nurture Progressive Judaism.”

Without a doubt, the most rewarding part of my position is the opportunity to get to know so many members of the UPJ region. I am constantly inspired by the commitment of members of our UPJ Shtetl, ranging from congregations in large Jewish populated areas to the smaller congregations in regions more remote from mainstream Jewish life. Furthering the analogy, the traditional Shtetl model has community members all playing an important role and sharing a wide range of their talents and abilities, each accordingly to their own abilities to further the success of the entire shtetl, and this is what I have observed in our UPJ congregations.

Here are just a few inspiring examples:

Following on from the excitement of last year’s Biennial in Melbourne – which boasted our highest attendance to date, I continued my work in supporting the Machzor Business Committee – led by committed “Shtetl Stars” Roger Mendelson and Neil Samuel – to bring to our region its new machzor, *Mishkan T’shuvah*. Our work over the course of the past three years focused on managing the necessary logistics and finances of the project, and we were grateful to the very generous “Shtetl benefactors”, who donated sponsorship funds that made the purchase price manageable for our congregations. With help from the CCAR Press in New York, the Editorial Team, capably led by Rabbi Dr John Levi AM and Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black, spent years working on updated liturgy, commentary and original readings to be included in the new prayer book. The machzorim arrived safely to our congregations in August, and were used for the first time in Australia, New Zealand and Asia during the High Holy Days. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

In July, the UPJ hosted its fourth biennial music conference, Shir Chadash (A New Song), at the Geelong Conference Centre, with more than 50 attendees from around the UPJ Shtetl in attendance. The conference featured sessions on music strategies to use with our new machzor, choral and song-leading workshops, vocal and guitar coaching, and text sessions incorporating niggunim (melodies) and mystical texts. Our skilled faculty, who generously donated both their time and talents, included Cantor Michel Laloum, Cantor George Mordecai, Judy Campbell, Andrea Catzel and Ari Sharfstein. Their presentations and teachings have enhanced the musical and spiritual experiences of our congregations.

I was honoured and grateful for the opportunity to represent the UPJ and join more than 80 attendees at the Asian Progressive Judaism Summit (APJS) in January, which was hosted by the United Hebrew Congregation of Singapore. The UHC is an inspiring congregation, which exemplifies the Shtetl mandate: Each member, to the best of their ability, contributes his or her talents to the community. APJS Chair Stefanie Green, along with UHC president Yoni Garbourg and Rabbi Nathan Alfred, presented sessions on the history of Asian Progressive Judaism, highlighting the journeys undertaken by those with Jewish roots making their way back to Judaism, as well as those who have recently chosen Judaism. “Shtetl Stars” Harvey and Rosita Goldstein welcomed the entire group into their gracious, large apartment for a Shabbat morning service, followed by a lunch prepared by Rosita featuring everything from kosher chicken satay and traditional brisket to a spectacular Indonesian dish Nasi Tumpeng and exotic snake fruit! Rabbi Lenny Thal and his wife Linda were the honoured guests; Rabbi Thal served the community for many years and greatly contributed to its growth. Just days following the conference, Rabbi Nathan and Shelly Alfred’s three-month-old son Noam suffered a serious illness and has undergone treatment in Israel; the UPJ continues to send our prayers for Noam’s recovery and return to full health.

While a significant amount of my work involves necessary administrative tasks, including board management, event coordination, financial management, public relations and marketing, my role has expanded over the years to work closely with the UPJ Executive in realising its vision and goals, including support for the Progressive Jewish communities in Israel through the annual UIA Progressive Appeal. I am extremely proud of the increase in support provided by our UPJ Shtetl to Israeli Progressive communities, assisting in their growth and joining in their continued struggles for religious equality. I am inspired and grateful for the commitment and hard work of UIA Progressive Appeal co-chairs Philip Bliss and Brian Samuel (Melbourne), and David Knoll and Alan Obrart (Sydney).

I would like to express my thanks to Rob Sward, who was an exemplary Chair of the 2018 Biennial. I am thrilled that Rob has agreed to join the 2020 Biennial Committee to provide welcome guidance to 2020 Biennial Chair Susan Kadar.

My sincere appreciation goes to Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky, who took on the task of coordinating the submissions of weekly Parashat Hashavua drashot written by the rabbis of our UPJ Shtetl, as well as once again compiling and editing this year's Elul Reflections.

I am truly grateful to the hard-working members of the UPJ Executive: Ali Dwyer, David Knoll, Helen Shardey and Franklin Tate, and honorary members Steve Denenberg (ARZA), Sharene Hambur (WUPJ), Rabbi David Kunin (Moetzah Chair) and Nancye Kochen and Sefi Shalam (Netzer representatives), who during the past year provided friendship and valuable advice, and volunteered many hours to assist whenever asked; special thanks to Franklin for generously providing storage space, and delicious wines for UPJ functions.

As my duties have evolved and expanded, the UPJ Executive recently changed my title to Executive Manager, and I wish to thank them for expressing their appreciation for my work.

My deep admiration goes to our hard-working Va'ad (office bearers): Roger Mendelson, Brian Samuel, Sally Castle and Sharon Davis, who generously devote countless hours to further the growth and vibrancy of our Progressive Jewish Shtetl.

I have had the pleasure of working with Sharon, who took on the role of Honorary Secretary four years ago. As Sharon steps down to devote more time to her growing family, I want to express my thanks for her assistance and support, as well as her friendship – and I am grateful she will remain on the UPJ Executive, as an ordinary Committee member.

Sally, as Honorary Treasurer, has served for four years and will continue the time-consuming task of managing the UPJ's finances, and I am grateful for her generous support and friendship. Sally has spent many late nights working on budgets and sorting out complicated spreadsheets, and has also travelled to Sydney to work with me in person when necessary. As Sally recently relocated to her hometown of Wellington, we wish her all the best, and appreciate that she is willing to attend the late-night meetings of the UPJ Executive in her new time zone.

Brian has devoted many hours and substantial effort to his role as Vice-President over the past four years. I have relied upon Brian on those occasions when Roger was not able to respond, and he has always made himself available to facilitate, problem solve and provide good advice – as well as a joke to brighten my day.

As Roger steps down as UPJ President, I want to express my profound appreciation for all that he has done for the UPJ. I believe that I am uniquely placed to understand the depth of his commitment and hard work, which he has approached as a daily job, his efforts often “under the radar” and certainly done without any expectation of thanks. Over the past four years, Roger fully committed his time and efforts to fulfill this important role, and did so with integrity and honour.

Finally, I want to thank you, the members of our region, for contributing your talents to the success of our Progressive community, and for the opportunity to serve in this challenging and rewarding role. It does indeed “take a Shtetl”, and I look forward to another year of shared growth and accomplishments.

MESSAGE FROM THE UPJ HONORARY TREASURER

SALLY CASTLE

I present the draft financial report of the Union for Progressive Judaism for the year ended 30 June 2019.

Regrettably, personal issues this year resulted in a delay in the audit process. This means that the audit is not yet finalised so the financial reports are presented in draft form, pending finalisation of the audit. I extend my apologies to members for this unfortunate circumstance. The draft reports do not contain Notes to the Financial Statements or a Statement of Cash Flows, which will be added when the financial report is finalised.

I can advise that a surplus of \$12k was made in 2018-19, compared to a budgeted deficit of (\$14k). The surplus was similar to the \$16k surplus made in 2017-18, which is pleasing considering that 2018-19 was a Biennial year.

Income

The good result overall was made possible by a higher than expected grant from the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), which was budgeted at \$130k and came in at \$173k. This was because the UIA Progressive Trust appeal collected considerably more in the 2019 campaign. Income from affiliation fees was on budget.

You will observe that sundry income in 2017-18 was considerably higher than this year. In 2017-18 the income from the UPJ music conference, which had a corresponding expense item, was included in both income and expense, rather than being netted off. In these draft accounts, the UPJ Biennial, which made a loss of \$44k, has been included as a net amount in "travelling and meeting expenses".

As always, affiliation fees and the WUPJ grant remain the UPJ's principal sources of income. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support of our affiliated congregations.

Expenses

Total expenses were \$301k or \$25k over budget. Most of this related to a greater loss on the Biennial than was budgeted for, an additional \$4k in Netzer grants (which were underpaid the previous year), and greater than expected travel expenses.

Mishkan T'shuvah

During the 2018-19 year, UPJ received and disbursed large amounts of funding relating to the production and distribution of the new Machzor, Mishkan T'shuvah. The reconciliations involved in managing this process were complex and extensive. However, the end result was that there was limited impact overall on the net income of the UPJ.

Outlook

The 2019-20 budget is for a \$35k surplus. This will be possible because expenses are expected to be lower – it is not a Biennial year, and we are forecasting lower staff costs due to the retirement in May 2019 of our Movement Rabbi, Fred Morgan. We will continue to support the valuable work being done by Netzer and as always will be prudent with expenditure due to the uncertainty that always surrounds the grant income.

Appreciation

My thanks as always go to our auditors, Lowe Lippman; and to our bookkeeper Fran Freiman. I am so grateful also to Fred Morgan and my colleagues on the Va'ad and Executive – an extraordinary group of people who live their devotion to the Progressive movement every day. Finally I would once again like to express my appreciation for the hard work, patience and good humour of my dear friend Jocelyn Robuck, UPJ Executive Manager.

MOETZAH CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

RABBI DAVID KUNIN

The Moetzah (the Council of Progressive Rabbis in Australia, NZ and Asia) met just previous to the Biennial in Melbourne and will meet again immediately after the Presidents and Rabbis meeting in Adelaide.

During the meeting, prior to the Biennial, a new Moetzah executive was elected: Chair – David Kunin (Japan), Vice-Chair – Nathan Alfred (Singapore), Honorary secretary – Shoshana Kaminsky (Adelaide), Treasurer – Nicole Roberts (Sydney).

The past year has been quite busy for the Moetzah despite only having one face-to-face meeting. One of my priorities has been to build on Rabbi Kim Ettinger's (my immediate predecessor) work to continue to strengthen the relationship between relationship between UPJ and the Moetzah. While this is always a work in progress, I believe that many positive steps have been in this direction. Another priority has been to strengthen the role of the Moetzah executive as a governance body. Through on-line meetings and regular email connections, positive steps have also been taken to meet this goal. A number of the issues that were examined are mentioned below, but I want to highlight the importance of discussions on Tikkun Olam. This discussion goes to the heart of what it means to be a Progressive Jew and needs to be seriously examined by not only rabbis, but our lay leadership (and Jews in the Pews) as well.

I want to thank Nathan, Shoshana and Nicole for serving with me on the Moetzah executive and look forward to another year of successful collaboration. While Rabbi Morgan has now retired from his role as Movement Rabbi, I want to thank Fred for all his work. I believe that he immeasurably strengthened UPJ. I also want to thank him for staying on as an ad hoc member of the Moetzah Executive. His wise council is greatly appreciated. I also want to thank Roger, Jocelyn and the members of the UPJ Executive for helping to create positive energy between the UPJ and the Moetzah.

The Region

Asia: Rabbis Shoshana Kaminsky and David Kunin continue to be a strong support for the nascent Indonesian communities. Rabbi Nathan Alfred, and Rabbi David Kunin continue to assist the congregation in **Bali**. There are many other potential communities within Asia, and there is much work to be done to assist their growth. The Moetzah commends the work of Rabbi Nathan Alfred and his community for the 2019 Asian Summit, held in Singapore, which highlighted the diversity and potential of the Asian communities.

The Moetzah is delighted to continue to support lay-led congregations. Each congregation and the Moetzah agree on a consulting rabbi. The role of the consulting rabbi is to offer guidance and support. During the past year the following congregations and rabbis were paired.

- Hobart: Rabbi Allison Conyer
- Canberra: Rabbi Gary Robuck
- Gold Coast and Brisbane: Cantor David Bentley
- Goldfields: Cantor Michel Laloum
- New Zealand: Rabbi Jonathan Keren Black

Machzor: Thanks to the very hard work of Jonathan Keren Black, John Levi, Jacki Ninio, Kim Ettlinger, Michel Laloum and lay leader Linda Stern The Machzor Mishkan T'shuvah has been published and distributed to congregations. It was in use during the recent High Holy Days (5780). Feedback has been very positive.

We would also like to thank Jocelyn Robuck, UPJ Executive Manager, for all her hard work in bringing the Machzor to publication.

Batei Din: The Moetzah rabbis convened regular Batei Din in Sydney and Melbourne, Tokyo, Singapore, Hong Kong and also convened ad hoc Batei Din Adelaide and New Zealand.

Some of the issues brought before the Moetzah over the past year include:

- Strengthening the role of Consulting rabbis in our communities
- Support of Nascent communities
- Status of Rabbis from non-Movement Seminaries
- Working relationship with the UPJ and Masorti Movement
- End of Life Decisions
- The Role of Tikkun Olam in our Communities

The Progressive Congregation of the ACT Jewish Community – Canberra, ACT
Jessica Dowell, Chair, Progressive Committee of the ACTJC



The ACT Jewish Community (ACTJC) is the peak Jewish organisation in the ACT to which all Jewish entities are entitled to belong. ACTJC members, making up around 200 member units, are welcome to attend our Progressive or Orthodox services. The ACTJC also delivers extensive social, cultural and educational programming for all our members. This report speaks only to the activities of the Progressive Congregation of the ACTJC.

I am excited to open this report by making reference to our full affiliation to the UPJ in 5779. This is a historically significant occasion for our congregation and we look forward to a long and fruitful association with the UPJ.

We have enjoyed some growth in our numbers this year due to a combination of new arrivals to Canberra and those pursuing conversion. We have continued to focus our actions on the four priorities identified in our strategic plan:

- Communal worship – we continue to seek to improve the professionalism of our lay-led services and deliver services that are inclusive and welcoming. We have introduced a range of children's resources to make services accessible and engaging for the youth and have introduced the use of the piano in services with the support of Rabbi Gary Robuck.
- New Progressive Prayer Space – we continue to support ACTJC fundraising efforts to raise the necessary funds for the new wing of the ACTJC building, which will include a Progressive prayer space.
- Education – we continue to seek to promote understanding of Progressive Judaism within our congregation, the ACTJC and broader community. This has included representation of the Progressive congregation on the ACTJC Board.
- Social networks – we continue to seek to facilitate enjoyable social contact for our members and friends. We continue to host potluck dinners and Shabbat meals in member homes, and have introduced children's events including Havdalah pyjama parties as opportunities for young families to socialise and connect.

We continue to deliver on our commitment to tikkun olam by running food drives in support of OzHarvest, and have recently committed to supporting Mazon with the same. We look forward to identifying further opportunities to act on our tikkun olam commitment.

We have enjoyed the support of Rabbi Gary and Jocelyn Robuck throughout 5779. Rabbi Robuck visited us 10 times across the year delivering High Holy day and Shabbat services, as well as inspiring, engaging and entertaining programming. This included a winter Shabbaton held in the Southern Highlands. We continue to see increased engagement and attendance with Rabbi Robuck's visits and it is our great pleasure to continue to work with him as our rabbi for 5780.

I would like to conclude by thanking the many lay leaders who make our weekly Shabbat services happen and who continue to do it with enthusiasm and warmth. Thank you to the Progressive committee for their passion, dedication and ideas, and to Rabbi Gary and Jocelyn Robuck for the commitment, support and expertise this past year. Thank you to the ACTJC Board for their continued support of the Progressive congregation and to the ACTJC office staff for their hard work throughout the year.

North Shore Temple Emanuel – Chatswood, NSW

Gwen Harrison, President



In November 2018, we installed Rabbi Nicole Roberts as Senior Rabbi of NSTE. The ceremony was officiated by Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman, PhD, beloved mentor of Rabbi Nicole and prolific author, long-time seminary professor, and leading visionary of the Progressive Jewish Movement. It was a historic day not only for our synagogue, but for the Australian Jewish community, with the appointment of the first female Senior Rabbi in this country.

The timing of the installation was just prior to completion of stage one of our “Building Our Future” capital works program.

Through a year of scaffolding, demountables, dust and noise, our Max Joseph building was transformed from top to bottom, inside and out to create a vibrant, refreshed, and integrated campus for current and future generations. It now includes purpose built facilities for our Apples and Honey Preschool as well as a beautiful shaded playground. Our staff and clergy have moved into light and modern offices on the upper level adjoining a spacious community hall and youth area. The improvements also include a lift which will provide, in the future, access to our main Sanctuary building.

On the spiritual leadership front, we were joined by Cantor Ted Labow from January 2018 to June 2019 as Interim Cantor and, from May 2018, as Director of Education of our Meah Hebrew and Religion School. Cantor Ted’s many contributions included his extraordinary musical talents both on the bimah and in concerts, his adult education sessions on Shabbat and festivals and his work with our Hebrew School.

In August 2019 we welcomed Rabbi Misha Clebaner, a Rabbi-Educator recently ordained at Hebrew College in Boston, having completed a rabbinical program as well as additional studies to earn his Masters degree in Jewish Education. Prior to entering rabbinical school, Rabbi Misha graduated from Emory University with a degree in Sociology and Religion. He has served with AmeriCorps as well as the American Jewish World Service (AJWS) in India and has also studied at the Hebrew University and Conservative Yeshiva of Jerusalem.

In addition to his role as Director of our Hebrew and Religion School, Rabbi Misha will be supporting Rabbi Nicole in serving the congregation’s lifecycle, pastoral care, adult education, worship, and other needs, while also particularly working with young families, teenagers and adults in their 20s and 30s.

We spent the past year building a culture of belonging through a wide array of pathways, which enrich the lives of our members, deepening their connection to Judaism and Jewish community. embracing the idea that there are diverse pathways to Jewish engagement, be they social, religious, philanthropic, educational, activist, or other means of expressing one’s Jewish identity, passion for Jewish causes, and desire for a sense of community.

Our choir continued to thrive. Our Kitchen Krew involved members in all ages and stages of life, repeatedly serving Shabbat dinners booked at maximum capacity. Our Community Wellbeing “Care Team” grew in size over the course of the year, helping so many members feel more connected to the congregation. Our lay led Boomers & Beyond activities multiplied, meeting a wide range of interests. B’nei mitzvah and post b’nei mitzvah teens enjoyed an unprecedented number of roles in our High Holy Day services and on Shabbat, while our Hebrew School children helped lead our quarterly Hands Free Tefilah services. Over the course of the year we welcomed many guest speakers to our bimah to share *d’rashot*, and our lay leaders were called on to help lead services and study sessions. Our Jews for Social Action, Inclusion

Task Force, and Friends of the NSTE Garden offered opportunities to engage in *tikkun olam*—making the world more whole, and a number of members represented NSTE in the wider community as liaisons to the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, Jewish Care, UIA, our neighbouring Armenian Church community, and multicultural events around the city.

NSTE offered many opportunities to further develop one's sense of Jewish identity, and feel an increasingly greater connection to our heritage and tradition through study with the clergy on Shabbat and Festivals; a year long, Introduction to Judaism class for those considering conversion or exploring their heritage for the first time; and expanded *leyning* opportunities for teens and adults. One could further one's skills throughout the year in Israeli dancing or Kabbalah Meditation, attend Jewish films or join our team of Shammashim who facilitate services. Members had an opportunity to make the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah* a habit, thanks to the year-round Livracha collection program.

We look forward to our 60th anniversary in 2020.

Emanuel Synagogue — Woollahra, NSW

Alex Lehrer, President and Suzanna Helia, CEO



We are proud to report on the activities of Emanuel Synagogue.

After 80 years of striving to enrich Jewish lives today we are more vibrant. This journey brought us to the position as the largest synagogue in Australia, and our operations plus prudent and robust financial stewardship is delivering encouraging and sustainable results.

The year marked the completion of the new sanctuary, state-of-the-art preschool for 60 children and a new entrance with a beautiful garden full of greenery and flowers. The new sanctuary was designed with the primary objective of enhancing the potential for our community to engage in the uplifting and beautiful practice of Judaism. It was also designed with a view to engage more proudly with our community and with an outlook to multi-generational sustainability. Based on feedback from the clergy and members, the sanctuary is achieving the objective of creating a beautiful and holy prayer space very well.

The High Holy Days had a vibrant and special atmosphere because, for the first time, we were able to accommodate the whole community on one campus. The new building provided a warm and welcoming space that oozed elegance and practicality. We had 2300 congregants attending Kol Nidre services.

We are working towards realising the founders' vision for Emanuel Synagogue to be a place for prayer, learning and communal gathering. Through our cultural and thoughtful leadership we hope to engage community of all ages and make our connection to Israel thrive.

We are pleased to report that Emanuel presented yet another exciting and varied program of services and events, creating a great opportunity for the new space to provide cultural exhilaration throughout the year. We hosted the ACO in the new synagogue space; its state-of-the-art acoustics and inviting space offered a memorable experience.

The campus hosted more than 1000 music enthusiasts at the Shir Madness festival, which set a great precedent for years to come.

Our clergy team has welcomed Cantor George Mordecai. Cantor Mordecai brings music and a world of expertise to our prayers and hearts. He compliments the well-accomplished clergy team. We acknowledge the progressiveness that our rabbinical team manifests, and the voice they carry in the wider community with a profound and lasting impact.

We are proud to report that the Emanuel preschool and synagogue are enjoying a harmonious and supportive partnership, encouraging community and family engagement. There is a signed Principles of Partnership agreement with a primary focus on collaboration and financial sustainability.

We continue to thrive on our strong foundations, and our organisational structure is proving to deliver efficiencies, solid governance and high performance across the team. We are grateful and proud of our team who put their hearts into the work they do and have achieved excellent results. A huge thank you must go to the whole team for their efforts and a very special thank you to Rabbi Kamins, without whom none of this would be possible.

We are excited about the future ahead.



Beit Or v'Shalom

Alvin Maradeen, President

During the past year our Congregation witnessed the passing of Beit Or v'Shalom members Dr Eva Popper and Dr Daniel Gaffney. There have also been members who have experienced their own loss of loved ones. To them, their family and friends, and to all those who have lost loved ones over the course of the year, we wish "long life".

It has been a wonderful year of stability and growth for Beit Or v'Shalom. Much has happened in our congregation, some obvious and much behind the scenes, with grant applications, plans for our future, maintenance of our existing assets, etc.

During the year we have welcomed some new members and associates to our congregation, had many visitors to our Shul, Jewish and non-Jewish, local, interstate and international. Some have stayed and chosen Beit Or v'Shalom as their home during their journey to becoming Jewish or during their stay in Brisbane and we welcome their involvement in our community.

In December 2018, we welcomed Rabbi Dr Larry Hoffman and his wife Gayle to our congregation. It was a pleasure for us to have been given the opportunity to have Rabbi Hoffman deliver a presentation to our community, which was both educational and inspiring.

In January, we were honoured to have Rabbi Gary Robuck and his lovely wife Jocelyn, visit our congregation for the Bat Mitzvah of Lucy Israel. Max and Shannyn Einsohn spent the Australia Day weekend with us, filling our souls with their beautiful music and sharing their wonderful ideas and inspirations with the children of our Cheder.

In March, we were delighted to have Rabbi Fred Morgan join us for a week. With Purim celebrations, a beit din, a Shaliach Tzibbur course, Shabbat services and the presentation of the Ner Tamid Award to Sally Castle, we packed in as much as we could.

After preparing to welcome Dr (Rabbinic Student) Esther Jilovsky, to lead our High Holy Day services, we were saddened to hear that due to poor health, she was unable to travel to Brisbane and lead our congregation. With thanks to Jocelyn and Roger, we were blessed to be able to have Rabbi Aviva Kipen lead our High Holy Day services, which were very well attended and appreciated by our community.

Our Cheder continues to thrive under the leadership of Dr Andrew Cohen. Numbers remain steady, despite the fact that 5 students have recently moved on to B'nei Mitzvah studies. Our older Cheder children participated in the Brisbane Yom HaShoah Commemoration. They retold the stories of children during the Holocaust. We held a stall at the Communal Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations, which was well received by the community.

We have continued to run Shabbat morning services every week over the past year and have also enjoyed a very successful Purim event, a Seder night and a couple of Kabbalat Shabbat services and dinners. It is our hope to continue with our Kabbalat Shabbat services on a regular basis. Our services are led by a small, but capable and dedicated team of lay service leaders.

In this last year we celebrated the Bat Mitzvah of Lucy Israel and Rosie Rosenberg. A sincere and hearty Mazel Tov to both families. In the next 12 months, we have another 8 B'nei Mitzvahs planned.

Our website, www.beitorvshalom.org.au continues to provide members and others with information on services, functions and other Beit Or v'Shalom activities. The contact form on the website is used regularly by visitors to the site. We provide a news feed and a wide range of handy links.

Our Facebook page is also a great resource for our members and others in the community and allows an easy method for exchanging of messages. With thanks to Mavis, we now have a public page, a members only page, a Cheder family page and a page for those studying for conversion to Judaism. These allow us to communicate effectively and appropriately with the different groups within our community.

We have now produced 5 editions of our Shul newsletter, "A Biseleh News". Many thanks to Barry and Gael Levy, together with Yoni Malley, for producing such a high quality publication. Thank you also to all who have contributed reports, stories and photographs.

Our congregation continues to function and grow only through the help and support of volunteers at every level. We have an active program of services, a wonderful Cheder and great social events which depend on all of these volunteers. My grateful thanks to you all and a special thanks to Mr Paul Johnston, who regularly volunteers as our security officer, to keep us all safe.

Last month, Cantor David Bentley resigned from his position of congregation Minister. We wish David good health and success in his move to the Gold Coast.

Temple Shalom – Gold Coast, Queensland

Michael Shnukal, President



REFURBISHMENT

Significant effort has been put into modernizing the Temple, inclusive of which has been painting, complete re fit of Cheder, new lighting and ceiling fans, the development of a much needed disabled facility and new air conditioning in the kitchen.

LIFECYCLE EVENTS

We witnessed our first same gender ceremony, with Kevin and John reaffirming their love and devotion to one another.

Sadly we saw the end of life's cycle with the death of 3 of our senior members, we remember, Alfred (Jimmy) Wiseman, Gwen Wiseman and Anita Wiseman and wish their families Long Life. Irene Schinasi head stone was consecrated.

HIGH HOLY DAYS

This year we welcomed back to the Gold Coast Rabbi Uri and Mrs. Geraldine Themal who conducted all of the services during their stay. We have been pleased with the commitment that Cantor David Bentley has demonstrated since joining the Temples team. We were pleased to be able to honour Jo and Ian Fletcher as Chatan Torah and Kalla Bereshit for this years Simchat Torah honours. Chanukah in the Park, as well as Chanukah services in the Shul were both successful and generally well attended. We were happy to have been visit by Rabbi Fred and Sue Morgan, Cantor Michel Laloum, Rabbi Jeffrey Finestien (USA) and the Levenston mishpocha visited from Bermuda.

BUILDING PROJECT

The temple decided to utilize the block of land they owned (adjacent to existing Shul) to build (in stages) four x four apartments, The project (of two houses) commenced 29th January and hand over of keys on finished houses was June 2019. Next stage of the project will commence after the sale of one of the new buildings

EDUCATION

After 7 years without a Cheder we are pleased to announce the re-opening of the Cheder with 10 children, two of which are nearing Bar Mitzvah age. The children have a lovely new facility in which their education will progress ably assisted with our new Cheder teachers Skylar and Rivka.

HOUSE

The building project necessitated the demolition of Gan Elishiva, this has now been revamped and biblical trees are showing signs of growth. At the time of the building it was determined to update our CCTV and Security lighting. This was enabled via a successful grant secured by the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies and shared across Brisbane and the Gold Coast. We now have 16 CCTV cameras and excellent lighting around the premises

Sunshine Coast Jewish Community

Gary Meyer, President



The past year has seen some significant shuffling in our small community, with the line being quite clearly drawn between those who wanted involvement with Chabad and those who did not.

Happily, even after losing some members to the Chabad camp, and after allowing for members who left the Sunshine Coast altogether, we attracted members who had not previously been paid up members, leaving us in a net member position a little stronger than where we were before Chabad forced themselves into our midst. Our immediate past president actually represents Chabad interests on the Sunshine Coast now. This time last year we had 38 family units, we lost 3 of those to Chabad, 5 left the Sunshine Coast altogether, and today we stand with about 45 units.

Whilst our overall numbers are much the same as the past few years, the makeup of the community is very different to what we were say ten to fifteen years ago. Since the formation of the SCJC in early 2002, there was always a core of adults who identified strongly with their religion (even if they were not actively religious) and had every intention of seeing to it that their children would do so as well. We have noted however, that our younger generation local families, and also the more regular influx of young Israeli families, no longer have the same levels of commitment to creating an environment of Jewish and Hebrew learning (the Israelis no doubt because they know who they are, it is entrenched, and they have yet to understand that their children will not necessarily grow up with those same attributes).

As a result, we have decided that instead of trying to force our past ways on the new and current membership (who are very diverse and small in number making it difficult to form a cohesive group culture), that we will try and help them navigate their way in a manner that they will feel comfortable with. At the same time, the current board of management will stand back and encourage new members to come forward and try and take the lead. To this end, at the end of the financial year, we actually decided to stop delivering the same level of service we had done in the past, dropping membership fees drastically, cancelling our insurance policies, cancelling scheduled future events, in a way, hoping that if there is a strong cultural or communal spark in this group, that they will rise to the occasion and make a stand for what they want. To continue providing them with an easy solution whereby the old guard continues to do all the work and planning will not make this community strong in the long run, so, we have to try and force them to stand up independently.

By dropping the level of services we provided, and providing a clean slate to start with, hopefully a potential new board can be convinced that they are not taking on an onerous commitment, rather they can make it as complex and involved as they like, as they grow into it. We hope they will do so, but if they do not, so be it, the future will take care of itself.

We have also removed all non-members from our communications and email lists, in effect putting them out in the cold. This might seem a bit drastic, but past experience has shown that those who only want a free lunch will always only want a free lunch, and we just do not need them if we are going to try and rebuild. If they want in bad enough, they will need to make a token commitment.

So I am sorry if this is not the typical annual report you would have expected, with a regular list of achievements, goals and plans in place, rather it is a small community trying to be flexible and planning on the run whilst trying to encourage the uncommitted to change their ways.

Beit Shalom Synagogue – Adelaide, South Australia

Janet Henrie, President



Beit Shalom is the only synagogue in Adelaide with a full-time rabbi and the only one offering regular services. In December 2018, we held a Special General Meeting to discuss a proposal by the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation to co-locate in their premises. An overwhelming vote to consider this proposal has led to the establishment of a committee designated to draw up the terms for co-location. The discussion is ongoing.

MEMBERSHIP

Beit Shalom continues to maintain relatively steady membership numbers. In total, we had 138 memberships in 2018-19. We were excited to welcome six new member units this year, and one baby naming. We mourned the passing of four dearly beloved members. We celebrated one Bar Mitzvah.

RABBI

We are fortunate to have Shoshana Kaminsky continuing to serve as our Rabbi. We are proud that she was awarded an honorary Doctorate Degree in Divinity for serving her congregations for 25 years, half of this time as our Rabbi. She continues to be a leader in interfaith activity in this state, leading many school groups through our synagogue and participating on multiple interfaith committees. We're also proud of the work she is doing as Vice President of the South Australia/Northern Territory Association of Clinical Pastoral Education. She also continues her work as co-consulting rabbi to Jewish communities in Indonesia, and as secretary to the Moetzah.

ACTIVITIES

We held a Shabbaton with more than 50 adults and children attending the weekend of games, activities and prayer.

We hosted SA Shabbat when we welcomed dignitaries and leaders from other faiths to attend a shacharit service, from the Governor to the Greek Archbishop. It was an opportunity to showcase our Jewish faith and our small but thriving community.

We support older people in our community through close ties with Jewish Community Services, hosting a games afternoon.

Our local youth movement JAZY (Jewish Adelaide Zionist Youth) continues to be an amazing program which brings together young people from Progressive, Orthodox and secular Israeli backgrounds, providing the opportunity to explore nearly every Jewish youth movement. Although it was a transitional year for JAZY leadership, the winter camp was very successful with local and interstate leaders.

We at Beit Shalom are also working to create interfaith dialogue, particularly through running education programs through our own Abraham Institute's current Pursuing Peace P2 program this year. P2 is working directly with young people in middle and high schools to bring together speakers from Jewish, Muslim and Christian traditions to discuss faith beliefs and shared values. Beit Shalom leaders are also active in the South Australian Council of Christians and Jews.

Some of our congregants took part in SALA, South Australia Living Arts Festival, showcasing their art work to the larger Adelaide community.

COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEERS

The Board held a service day assembling 200 birthing kits for safe delivery of women giving birth in developing countries. The kits include basic hygiene items to provide a cleaner and safer birthing environment and reduce preventable deaths of mums and bubs from childbirth.

SISTERHOOD

The Sisterhood continues to be very active with its regular book club over the year. There have been outings initiated by the Sisterhood, including attending Fringe events and going to the Roller Derby. The Sisterhood Catering Committee, as always, provided a great service to the community for many simchas and events, including the Communal Seder, not to mention the hotly contested Shavuot Annual Cheesecake Competition.

CHEDER

As the only ongoing Jewish education for children in Adelaide, Beit Shalom has swelled to an incredibly full Cheder this year with 28 students from a diverse range of age groups and backgrounds to challenge Rabbi Kaminsky and our teachers. We are lucky to have the valuable support from members who graciously dedicate their time to teach in the Cheder.

Hobart Hebrew Congregation – Hobart, Tasmania

Jeff Schneider, President



This past year has seen growth and optimism for the Hobart Hebrew Congregation. Our activities reflect the pride we have in our nearly 175 year old synagogue as we continue to keep Judaism alive and well in beautiful Tasmania.

After several years of stagnation, our membership has seen a flurry of activity as we have welcomed several new families. Our total number of membership units now stands at 41, and as more people move to Tasmania and we increase our outreach, we expect this number to grow. It is exciting that many of our newer members are families with children. Our board of management has a new makeup, with a combination of long serving and new members that reflect the diversity of our congregation.

The Orthodox and Progressive groups continue to share the synagogue with services led by lay leaders. There is an Orthodox service every Shabbat morning and two progressive Shabbat services a month.

We have been fortunate to host several events this year. There have been four lectures from visiting Rabbis, academics and authors on a range of Jewish topics. In addition, two concerts featuring Jewish music were held at the synagogue.

Along with the growth of Tasmanian tourism, we have been fortunate to host an unprecedented amount of visitors to the synagogue for both services and tours. During the summer months, we host several tours a week to visitors who learn about the history of Australia's oldest synagogue.

During the weekend of 3-5 July 2020, the congregation will be celebrating the 175th anniversary of the consecration of the synagogue. We are expecting a large amount of interstate visitors, including several descendants of our early founders, former members, and friends of the congregation. There is an exciting and full program planned for the weekend that will showcase our remarkable history.

With growth comes new challenges. With such a small Jewish population, we must find ways to provide lasting Jewish education for our children. We are also exploring ways to increase attendance at services, and add more lay leaders. Also, as a completely volunteer led group, it is sometimes a struggle to find enough helping minds and hands to ensure smooth operations.

It has been a busy year for the Hobart Hebrew Congregation, and we are sure 2020 will be even more vibrant.

The past year has seen Kedem consolidate its membership base and numbers. We have experienced a year of Jewish enrichment and community engagement and connection.

This was exemplified during 2018 Yamim Norai'm (High Holy Days) when Kedem was assisted for 5 weeks by student Rabbi Dahlia Shaham. Dahlia brought a high level of musicality, spirituality, wisdom and warmth to all our Services and her interactions with our members. In addition, the students and staff of The King David School benefitted from her warm and engaging manner in exploring many topics relevant to both our, and Israeli communities. We are delighted that Dahlia and her family returned for the High Holydays this year.

In June 2019 we celebrated our first anniversary in our new home at KDS. We are fortunate to have such an engaging and practical space for our services and other activities.

Our ongoing study of Jewish texts included the Books of Daniel, Jonah, Esther, Ruth and the Song of songs. These small focussed groups allow us to engage with our texts in new ways, and a number of new people have engaged in this area this year. This year we also commenced a monthly Parashat Hashavua study group.

The monthly Kabbalat Shabbat evenings continued in member homes this year. The relaxed and musical nature continues to build community spirit over a shared meal. We especially appreciated having Netzer involved in leading and co-hosting a number of these, providing new musical input as well as adding energy and fun. We have also had havdallah get togethers accompanied by an early dinner during the year.

This year we were delighted to celebrate 3 B'nei mitzvah. It's a tribute to our program and the students that, post the celebrations, they continue to lead services and read from the Torah.

Our ongoing focus on encouraging members to increase their Jewish engagement, continues to do well. Having members engage with the service, with support, grows our connection to our traditions. Members lead, sing, give drashot and read Torah among many roles. Attendances at services have risen through the year.

Of course, we continue to celebrate all the major Festivals in our Kedem style, which continues to be a highlight.

We have been fortunate to have enjoyed a range of guest speakers including Netzer shlichim Uri Levin and Sefi Shalam; Rabbi Dr John Levi, Rabbi David Kunin, Rabbi Lea Muhlstein, Joel Burnie and Leslie Sachs the Executive Director of Women of the Wall covering a broad range of subjects.

We held a retreat in August 2018 at Amberly and will be held a very special retreat at Uluru in July 2019.

This year also saw the introduction of the highly popular "Spin a Story" which attracted vinyl loving music fans providing the story behind their choice of music. This is a highlight that we plan to repeat later in 2019.

New Tikkun Olam projects this year have included women's clothes and accessories for "Fitted for Work", men's summer and winter clothing for the Avalon Centre, Fair Trade Coffee awareness and support for the Women of the Wall.

My sincere thanks goes to Rosi Meltzer and Ruth Gross for their wonderful and selfless work in their respective roles as Executive Officer and Jewish Life and Education Coordinator. We are all aware they are critical to continuing our successful community. Thank you also to our many member volunteers who support the work of our kehillah.

Etz Chayim Progressive Synagogue – Bentleigh, Victoria

Maureen Barten, President



Etz Chayim has enjoyed a very active past year. Our unified Board of Management has worked beautifully, building community-engaged action groups working towards the goals and objectives established in our annual strategy meeting.

The community initiated several hugely successful programs, including our Soup Kitchen – lovingly prepared soups – that are delivered to members and loved ones who are unwell or who need some support. A freezer chest was generously donated by one of our congregants which enables the Soup Kitchen to build inventory and always be prepared with delicious, homemade soup. At Shavuot, supported by another congregant, our youth made gorgeous bouquets of fresh flowers which were then delivered to infirmed members of our community. The impact of both of these initiatives has been widely appreciated and our community is very blessed to have members who are willing and able to donate generously to underwrite both of these beautiful programs.

Etz Chayim has received 2 grants this past year which will be used to upgrade our building and improve our security, further mitigating risk and ensuring a safe and secure environment for all – which we began work on last year. A small grant was received for multicultural growth and festivals – which will be put to good use – increasing community outreach and engagement.

In our 4th year of full-time rabbinic leadership, we are enjoying a more mature engagement with the broader Progressive Movement. Rabbi Allison is well loved within our small community and the wider community – which translates to very well attended services, programs and classes. This year, the adult education offering included an extensive series about Death and how to discuss it with people from every generation, as well as how to comfortably navigate the journey when the time comes. Of particular note are both the outstanding Purim Shpiel and our 5th Annual Woman's Seder.

A Merry Potter Purim was extraordinary, written and directed by Rabbi Allison. Custom-painted stage sets were lovingly created by Pam Spiegel; Judy Firestone & Jade Rosenberg provided unparalleled backstage management; volunteers of all ages from within as well as outside of our membership came together to support and participate in *A Merry Potter Purim*. This was truly an unrivalled community building experience with everyone loving the show as well as participating in making it happen.

In an evening of personal insight and communal bonding, Rabbi Allison and Vered Harel led a fun, thought-provoking and moving 5th Annual Women's Seder. We were also privileged this year to welcome two incredible speakers to our Seder, expanding our understanding of a woman's experience of oppression. Dassi Herzberg shared with us her experience growing up in Adas Yisrael, the struggles she had with the role of women and the role of religion in their lives. Naureen Choudhry shared her experience of being a Muslim woman and the challenges she, and other women have, to have freedom of religious expression and recognition of their rights and abilities within their community. Women of all ages came together to share stories, sing and dance. An evening to be remembered.

Our musical team has continued to grow. Under Carolyn Patkin-Watter's musical direction, we welcomed our new accompanist, James Fredman. James plays piano on most Shabbat mornings, and at various special occasions. Our new Choir Leader, Sharon Mattatia joined us several months ago. Working very closely with our Musical Director, Sharon and our newly formed choir richly enhanced our High Holy Day services, along with our growing team of Cantorial Soloists. The musical and spiritual environment was enchanting.

We look forward to a year of continued growth, change and evolution as we tackle shared communal concerns including membership models and engagement of our youth.

Leo Baeck Centre for Progressive Judaism, East Kew, Victoria

Jim Beck and Gillian Lubansky, Co-Presidents



This year the Leo Baeck Centre for Progressive Judaism (LBC) is celebrating the 70th anniversary of its establishment. An extensive program of activities is underway to highlight LBC's contribution to Jewish life in the northeast of Melbourne and the congregation's engagement with the region.

The Anniversary program has been deftly intertwined with our annual program of festivals and special events and structured to showcase important aspects of LBC's contribution to the religious and cultural life of Boroondara and surrounding municipalities. Major anniversary events include a Shabbat Retreat (April), followed by a Trivia Night and a month-long Interfaith Festival and faith leaders conference timed to coincide with the festivals of Shavuot, Ramadan and Pentecost (June), a bus tour of Jewish Boroondara (August) and most recently a joyful social evening hosted by a member family (September). These activities culminate in November with a Commemorative Dinner which will be addressed by Justice Howard Nathan AM QC (Ret) and Rabbi Dr John Levi AM and later a night service modelled on the very first service held by the LBC community.

As a congregation we are at an interesting point in our development. We remember and owe a debt of gratitude to our founding families for their vision and leadership. We also acknowledge that we need to keep revising our thinking about membership and inclusiveness while retaining much that we value in our family-friendly traditions. The challenge for this generation of leaders is to respond to contemporary needs while building an infrastructure and a legacy that sustains the congregation for the *next* seventy years.

Balancing our budget in the face of increasing costs is an ongoing issue that is exacerbated by static membership. This year we again drew on reserves and in the short term we rely upon tight cost and income management to limit the deficit. The medium-term strategy requires us to develop additional sources of income. In assessing our future, we have the comfort of knowing LBC possesses a strong asset base.

Modernisation of support processes and electronic infrastructure has been an ongoing focus of the Board. Particular effort has been put into improving management's ability to monitor and track finances. We are indebted for this effort to our Co-Treasurers, IT Group and office staff.

Presentation also received attention. The Communications Group has put a great deal of effort into redesigning the LBC logo in time for the 70th Anniversary so that it can be readily used on letterheads and other electronic publications.

While keeping up with technical innovation the Board is also conscious of the need to create the opportunity to innovate in the many things we accept as routine. That is in our education programs for our youth, our adult education activities, the ritual we adopt in our services and our delivery of aid and support to those in need. The introduction of the new machzor due these High Holy days is an example of an outstanding contribution to the future of LBC and regional congregations made by Rabbis Jonathan Keren-Black with Dr John Levi and our own Dr Linda Stern.

Innovation is also occurring in the way we structure membership. The traditional idea of family membership is being extended to encourage the continuing connection and association of adult children. Members now have the facility to nominate their adult children as part of the wider LBC community.

The highlight of our regular program has been the Leo Baeck Lecture which was addressed by Alison Harcourt. Alison's talk "40 years of Jewish wanderings" gave a fascinating overview of her career, pointing to the significant barriers faced by female academics. Alison was recognised as the Victorian Senior of 2019 and in the recent Australia Day awards was admitted to the Order of Australia. Alison is still active as a tutor at the University of Melbourne.

Our regular program of activities encompassed weekly Torah study sessions, LBCinema screenings and alternating monthly chavurah lunches and Fine Wine Fine Music presentations. Notable events were:

- A children's art exhibition organised by LBC's arts group
- A well-attended Pesach service and seder
- A mental health forum addressing identity issues
- Our regular series of brunches at the homes of members.

Addresses included the following topics and speakers:

- *Prominent Jews In Historical Audios and Films* (Albert Isaacs)
- *The (Progressive) Jews of Indonesia* (Rabbi David Kunin)
- *The Kastner Train* (Tom Tzafir)
- Yom Ha'atzmaut Dinner: *Jews of the Silk Road* (Rabbi Fred Morgan)
- Tikkun Leil Shavuot (Theme *Religion - Secularism*)
- *Tikkun Olam: Be Careful What You Wish For* (Mannie Gross)
- Interfaith Panel: *Shavuot, Pentecost and Ramadan* (part of the Month of Interfaith activities)
- *Why are Palestinian refugees different to all other refugees?* (Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black & Elisabeth Holdsworth)
- *The God You Don't Need to Believe In* (Jerome Winston).

Temple Beth Israel, St Kilda, Victoria

Rebecca Silk, President



The past year saw a focus on core activities, as well as on planning for our future.

We have been thrilled as Rabbi Gersh Lazarow has continued his return to health and to his role. He will continue to lead us as Senior Rabbi for another seven years.

Our clergy team of Rabbi Lazarow, Cantor Laloum and Rabbi Kim Ettlinger creatively co-ordinated and delivered religious services, life-cycle events, pastoral care and education programs. The collaboration of our clergy team was evident as they led from Mishkan T'shuvah, inspiring and challenging us over the High Holy Days. We congratulate the editorial team of the new machzor; it is a work of wonderful scholarship and liturgy.

Some highlights of the year:

- Our parallel minyanim have thrived, including Gesher and Hineinu services, Pop Up Shabbat at Emmy Monash Aged Care and at the Mornington Peninsula in the summer.
- Our partnership with the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning flourished with enrolment of 80 students in ongoing courses.
- Our Geirut (conversion) program has been enhanced by students being partnered with a Jewish journey mentor. The mentor supports the student and connects them to community.
- Our music continued to inspire us and enhance our prayer. A major project to digitise Shabbat and High Holy Day music has supported the choirs with great impact on our liturgical experience.
- Our nourish program – providing food for the disadvantaged in our neighbourhood - expanded and now serves lunches, as well as the regular Monday evening meal.
- Our religious life, office support and community engagement continued to be strengthened by the commitment of our many volunteers.
- The TBI L'dor Va'dor Foundation became fully established as a charitable trust, with seed funds from a major bequest, other bequests and donations. The charter of the trustees is to preserve and grow the Foundation's funds so as to support TBI's sustainability.
- The Board developed a Strategic Plan for the next five years. It has a clear focus on core values, core business, youth and young families, and financial sustainability.
- The King David School announced closure of the preschool located at the rear of our site, thereby handing back the building to TBI effective from December 2019.

We ran three very well received member forums to consult the community and gather ideas about potential uses of the preschool building. In the short term, a tenant has been secured while we consider the possible options.

Kehillat S'dot Zahav – Goldfields Congregation Inc.

David Kram, President



COMMITTEE

The Committee for 2018-19 consisted of Dr David Kram (President), Sarah Austin (Vice-President), Dr Linda Stern (Secretary/Public Officer), Dr Bruce Sokel (Treasurer), Elisabeth Holdsworth, Leah Mow-Yoffee.

I would like to thank **The Hon. Howard Nathan**, founding President of KSZ, who not only led its activities from 2007 to 2014 and remained on the committee until 2017 but remains very active representing the Goldfields Jewish Community in many ways, not least by his membership of the Bendigo Interfaith Council but also for his sterling efforts on behalf of Jewish heritage issues around the preservation and integrity of the Jewish section of the historic White Hills Cemetery in a northern suburb of Bendigo.

I would like to thank Vice President **Sarah Austin** for juggling a busy life-style and commutes from Castlemaine to Bendigo with involvement again on our committee. Sarah, along with Howard, was a founding member of KSZ. Sarah's major effort this year has been the White Hills Cemetery project, for which she was nominated KSZ representative and has fulfilled her role with flying honours. Congratulations, Sarah!

Linda Stern, secretary, comes up from Melbourne to support us. Linda has a wealth of experience in matters Jewish and matters organisation and we are honoured to have her on the Committee.

Bruce Sokel, treasurer, assisted and supported by his wife Fran, is always incredibly generous and willing to help, even if his orthodontic practice takes him regularly from Bendigo to Echuca and even further-flung townships. Thanks, Bruce!

Committee member **Leah Mow-Yoffee** on her own initiative has started a Jewish women's network in Castlemaine. Leah brings artistic sensibility and a deep, fervent knowledge of Yiddishkeit to enhance our gatherings.

Committee member **Elisabeth Holdsworth** contributes dynamism, initiative and ideas to our committee, for which I am very grateful, as I am too for the support of Elisabeth's husband Robert. They travel regularly from Strathbogie near Benalla to be with us. Two hours drive!! At the same time, they will be moving to another location. I hope that Elisabeth will continue to be part of our number electronically, as she is a terrific writer and is very much in touch with the wider Jewish community through her work for Leo Baeck Centre and UPJ (Union of Progressive Judaism).

At the AGM on August 31 I will have the pleasure of announcing a new committee member, subject to election, so I will table her biography at the meeting.

I would not be able to lead the KSZ community without the support and assistance of this fine committee.

Our membership has grown to thirty-six, even though average attendance at events is slightly lower. This is important. Dues (\$30 per annum, much less than the norm), dollar donations and donations in kind are the life-blood of any organisation, not least our far-flung community. We pay hire fees for halls, honorariums and travel expenses to visiting service leaders and of course there are catering, web site and administration costs. So do not feel as though you are not contributing if you pay your annual subscription and cannot come to events – you certainly are supporting KSZ and are very valuable to us. KSZ's financial and committee year is from July 1st to June 30.

FORMAL EVENTS

The event calendar has now formed a pattern, which seems to work well for the committee, members and visitors.

AGM and social event: in 2018 at West End Hall, Castlemaine, on August 2: AGM, supper and a film.

High Holy Days – shabbat shuvah: in 2018, on September 15, same venue, music workshop led by David Kram, service led by Karen Rosauer as guest, kiddush and chavurah lunch.

November Torah service: in 2018 at same venue on November 24, service led by Rabbi Fred Morgan (UPJ) as guest, bringing up Torah scroll, followed by Kiddush, chavurah lunch and study workshop on UPJ and ideas for enhancing Jewish worship and practice, led by Rabbi Morgan.

Interfaith/Nature – in 2019 on February 9, a Nature and Interfaith service, referencing *tu bish'vat*, in the open air, under the trees at Malmsbury Botanical Gardens. Led by Dr David Kram (in previous years by Rabbi Keren-Black as guest)

Seder theme – in 2019, on April 13, a model community seder at West End Hall, Castlemaine, led by KSZ Consulting Rabbi, Cantor Michel Laloum.

Shavuot theme – in 2019, on June 15, in a new venue – the Rotary Gateway Function Centre, Kangaroo Flat. In place of the usual service, it was decided to hold a study day, with topics Music, Judaic faith, anti-semitism and Israel, which was chaired by Elisabeth Holdsworth. Netzer (Youth Movement) President Rochelle Bravermann was a guest, brought some study materials and helped our adult community understand what the younger generation is doing vis-à-vis Judaism and Israel. Chavurah lunch followed.

INFORMAL EVENTS

It had long been agreed to hold ad hoc, informal events between the ones delineated. This occurred three times in this financial year.

Chanukah: David Kram hosted an informal gathering (about 8 people) to light the 1st Chanukah candle in December 2018.

Purim: About the same number clustered around tables in a café in Bendigo to read the megillah (scroll) of Esther.

Acknowledging the once numerous Jewish community of the Goldfields: The same day, we paid a visit and said some prayers at the White Hills Cemetery in the Jewish section.

VISITING RABBIS

Our thanks to KSZ Consulting Rabbi **Cantor Michel Laloum** (Temple Beth Israel, St Kilda, Melbourne), **Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black** (Leo Baeck Centre, Kew, Melbourne) and **Rabbi Fred Morgan** (Union of Progressive Judaism). Karen Rosauer, who led the shabbat shuvah services, holds a Masters in Jewish education from a university in the USA. We acknowledge with thanks the support of the Progressive Jewish community.

MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

KSZ membership has slightly increased (19 in 2015-16, 26 in 2016-17, 35 in 2018-19), now standing at thirty-six. People come from Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Malmsbury, Melbourne, Shepparton and Strathbogie.

The membership fee remained at \$30 per annum. Some additional donations have been received. There was also much in-kind support, mainly from committee members, as well as ample contributions of sumptuous food from a wider variety of attendees.

Thanks to visiting Rabbis for in-kind support and inspired leadership and education.

KSZ has held three regular committee meetings (as well as much email and telephone communication) since the 2018 AGM, on 25/08/18, 24/11/2018 and 9/02/2019. Thanks to Committee members.

FINANCES

KSZ liquid assets reduced from \$1,610 in 2017-18 to \$1,445 in 2018-19, the major expenditures being hall hire fees and honorariums. \$400 was given to two committee members to reimburse them for out-of-pocket expenses incurred attending the UPJ (Union of Progressive Judaism) international conference in Melbourne in November 2018.

No major expenditures are envisioned for 2019-20, except by special donations. It is planned to raise funds to enhance the Jewish section of the White Hills Cemetery, purchase additional items to make our services more distinctively (bearing in mind KSZ's practice of hiring community halls), purchase of a sefer torah and purchase of a number of siddurim (*Mishkan Tefillah*, the prayer book we use for our normal services) to offer to a small number of schools and libraries in our area.

UMBRELLA ORGANISATIONS UPJ, PJV

We are still classified as 'nascent' community by Progressive Judaism Victoria (PJV) and Union of Progressive Judaism (UPJ). At the same time, we do participate in UPJ and PJV (Progressive Judaism Victoria) meetings. Four of our number attended the UPJ conference in Melbourne in November 2018.

WHITE HILLS CEMETERY

As already mentioned, thanks to Vice-President Sarah Austin, who actively assisted Howard Nathan in intense negotiations with Remembrance Parks Victoria, preserving what remains of the unique Jewish portion of the White Hills Cemetery in the northern part of Bendigo. More work needs to be done. There is a portion of land outside the newly delineated Jewish area which needs to be secured exclusively for our Jewish community, non-Jewish graves having been inserted in the past few years. That area needs to be scanned to see if there are any interments there. Also, there are plans to erect a menorah bearing the names of Jews buried in unmarked graves, based written records. Opposite the Jewish area there is a Chinese section with a historical information board. It is hoped that there will be a similar information source for the Jewish section. Thanks to Howard, Sarah, and all who supported them and continue to support our efforts.

CONCLUSION

We are pleased to announce that there are two Jewish babies in our area. A yawning age gap remains – and we are not entirely alone in the small community cohort. At least our name and activities are now better known within the Jewish and non-Jewish community in what is a large geographical area, encompassing Bendigo, Castlemaine, Malmsbury and Kyneton, with, as I have said, members and visitors from much further afield.

I hope that we will continue to attract new visitors and members as they move into this expanding region of Central Victoria. In the meantime, we will continue to practise what has been proven to be successful, be responsive to member feedback and widen our advocacy and educational work in the Goldfields area.

Temple David – Perth, Western Australia

Amanda Mace, President



It has been a very rewarding year at Temple David with much to reflect on. Highlights range from our Festival programmes to our increasing community involvement in them.

I am delighted to report we have boasted 'sell outs' for both our communal 2nd night Pesach Seder and our annual Rosh Hashanah lunch.

The Board of Management continues to push itself to ensure we are a vibrant and financially sustainable congregation. This includes a proposal currently under consideration by the members regarding relocation. While the community considers this important proposal, there are many successes to report in areas of our Strategic Plan

A couple of examples are:

- Increasing our volunteer base. This has been a clear goal of our Strategic Plan. Just this year, new to our stable of offerings is the Noshes luncheon, monthly Talmud study and a Yiddish Club.
- Importantly, for both the diversity of the community and our books, we have welcomed 22 new members. This is a clear and one of the most important goals set out in our Strategic Plan.

Temple David continues to grow and our community is engaged. Whether through our wonderful services lead by our Rabbi and lay leaders, the ever-increasing social events or our expanding learning opportunities. Attendance numbers are up, as are volunteering numbers.

In my time on the Board, I have seen more installations then one would expect. In my first year was the installation of Rabbi Cohen, in May this year our newest Torah Scroll. Not nearly in the same vein but important for community comfort, I've even seen the installation of split air systems in our sanctuary, boardroom and classrooms this past year. The former two, important and celebratory occasions for our community.

Our Temple David Religion School (TDRS) graduates continue to shine, not only at Netzer, but also through TDRS in various teaching and assisting roles. We can proud state that we have post B'nei Mitzvah students, of their own free will coming back to shul weekly. These teenagers are showing amazing amount of maturity and commitment, they are openly, proudly displaying their Jewish identity, giving an incredible example to the younger kids. They are a standout model of which we are incredibly proud.

As this is my last year as President, I would like to thank all whom I have served with on the Board, the community, and of course, my family. Thank you for your support and confidence during my time service as a Board member in each of my roles over the last 6 years.

Beth Shalom – Auckland, New Zealand

Debbie Swiatek, President

Beth Shalom, the Progressive Congregation of Auckland, has had another full year.

We welcomed new members and several visiting Rabbis, as well as a cantor. We celebrated with our B'nei Mitzvahs and mourned the loss of dear friends. We continued to observe Shabbatot and holidays, lead by the most amazing lay leaders. Beth Shalom's strongest asset continues to be its membership. The year has gone by in a blink.

While we continue to invest time and energy in solidifying our strategic plan for the future, we have also been offered the opportunity to become part of a larger Jewish community centre in Auckland. We will be continuing to investigate the feasibility of a move as we go forward this year.

We will also be furthering our rabbinic search. We are convinced that we can find the right balance for us and for a potential rabbi.

Beth Shalom remains a vibrant community and the board is dedicated to ensuring the viability of our congregation long into the future.



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

Dunedin Jewish Congregation, Dunedin, New Zealand

Jamin Halberstadt and Keren Segal, Co-Presidents

It has been an interesting, productive, and challenging year at the world's southernmost Jewish community. We have always operated on a thin budget, and an even thinner board, who had just about reached burnout by the end of last year. However, I'm happy to say we've turned a corner, with a new, full board, committed to new ideas, starting with our first co-presidency (Jamin Halberstadt and Keren Segal). Other board members included Andrew Spiegel (immediate past president), Zim Sherman (treasurer), Robin Lamont (secretary), and four additional members: Ariela Yehezkely, Lynette Taylor, Olwyn Pezaro, and David Green.

We began with year with a full board retreat, and with the help of a professional moderator worked out a Vision Statement ("A thriving Jewish community preserving and celebrating our cultural heritage and enriching our world"), and a list of priorities for the year. We invested some time (and effort) in this process, but there is more work to be done in designing our goals and strategic planning. The most significant goal we set was to increase membership and community engagement via more diverse programming and outreach.

Unfortunately, that goal was almost immediately complicated by the Christchurch terror attacks, which introduced a new element of fear into all New Zealand communities, but especially faith organizations. Because of uncertainty about the risk to Jewish organizations in particular, we held no events in the synagogue from March to June (we held a couple of events off the premises), while we consulted with the police, security specialists, and the community, who themselves are divided on how or whether we should change our procedures. Luckily, we have had great support from the Dunedin Police and, in particular, their Ethnic Liaison Constable John Karakas, who has organized police drive-by's for all our events (and who personally sat outside the shul during Yom Kippur to ease everyone's minds). Security is still an ongoing issue, however, and we have yet to decide on what permanent changes, if any, we will make to how we do things in our community.

Security concerns notwithstanding, we hosted a number of new and successful events during the year. Highlights include community celebrations such as a Hannuka art workshop (led by a local artist, Zehavit Darlington), a Shavout hallah making activity and children's workshop led by Emily Schwartz, and High holidays services and meals, led by Shannyn and Max Einsohn and organized by Sarah Pezaro. We have also had new opportunities this year to engage with other faith organizations, including a well-attended talk by Professor Laurence Sherr on the music of the holocaust, with live music performed by cellist Heleen du Plessis; participation at the Dunedin civic vigil for Christchurch victims; and a clean-up our shul by the Dunedin Interfaith group.

We concluded the year with a membership drive, in which we successfully encouraged a number of our regular participants to formalize their relationship with the DJC. We look forward to expanding on our successes of this year in 2020, particularly in terms of social and cultural events, and interfaith communication.

Temple Sinai – Wellington, New Zealand

Matthew Smith, Chairman



This is a milestone year for Temple Sinai with our congregation celebrating our 60th anniversary.

Our anniversary celebrations in August was a joyous occasion and we were privileged to be joined by our founding Rabbi John Levi and Rebbetzin Robyn along with the Ambassador of Israel, Dr Itzhak Gerberg and his wife Shifra, founding members and friends from near and far.

But the joy of our 60th anniversary was tempered by the tragic and very confronting events of the attack on the Christchurch mosques in March that came 6 months after the Pittsburgh synagogue attack. The extreme and tragic events around the world and right here in New Zealand have shaken us and left us feeling quite jittery. These events have also placed a burden on the Temple and have caused no small measure of disruption.

While we have mourned with the bereaved and continue to decry this right-wing extremist violence and hate, there have also been some positive outcomes in the aftermath of this tragic event. Instead of making us more isolated and wary it has brought us closer together as a Jewish community and at the same time opened us up to embracing our local Muslim communities that have been deeply hurt by this event. This outreach has become an ongoing and deepening feature in our community as exemplified by the Wellington Islamic Centre hosting Rabbi Jonathan Keren Black's talk on "Religious Responses to the Climate Change Crisis".

The functioning of Temple Sinai continues to rest on the dedicated efforts and support of its volunteer members serving on the Board and its committees, as lay readers and chazzanim, educators, on the security team, producing our Bulletin and much more. We are also indebted to our Mashpia, Rabbi JoEllen Duckor for her dedication and inspiration and our Temple Administrator Kathy Kerry for her tireless efforts in ensuring the smooth running of our Temple.

JoEllen in the role of Temple Sinai Maspia has been a bedrock for our congregation for years and we have come to rely on her in ways that we are only starting to realise. So, it is with sadness that we have recently farewelled her on her retirement for her role as Mashpia. We wish her ever success in her future endeavours and trust she will continue in her rich contribution to Progressive Judaism in New Zealand and hopefully across the UPJ region.

Our young families and youth continue to be a priority through ongoing successful programmes:

- Our Tot Shabbat service has gone from success to success with a number of families both old and new attending on a regular basis along with grandparents, aunts, uncles and older siblings.
- Our Beit Midrash has seen reduced number of students this year, a consequence of an age gap in our congregation. Our last batch of three celebrated their Bar Mitzvahs recently, the calibre of which most impressive. We look forward to an upcoming younger cohort starting in a year or two.
- Our Young Adults group has continue apace extending beyond Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat dinners and reaching out to a wider group.
- Garin Sinai, the Temple Sinai youth group continues to thrive working together with Habonim Dror, to take on Tikun Olam initiatives, socialise and have fun.

We are excited about a new initiative with Max and Shannyn Einsohn, engaging them in a partnership to provide an ongoing programme of Jewish education and spiritual engagement. This will include visits to Temple Sinai with services, workshops etc., along with remote support via online webinar sessions and other resources. The aim is to bolster our volunteer team in the absence of a Maspia and provide fresh and engaging experiences for our members.

This year we have also placed particular emphasis on member outreach and keshet. We have revitalised our outreach and keshet team and introduced neighbourhood hubs to keep in touch with our young and especially older members and ensure that they are supported.

Our Conversion Committee has been active again this year, with a bumper Beth Din convened and overseen by Rabbi Jonathan Keren Black, accepting four candidates into our Jewish family.

Our membership has continued to grow with 17 new members being welcomed at our New Member services.

Temple Sinai has a rich and active ritual life. Shabbat morning services continue to be led by our dedicated lay team of service leaders, chazzanim, Torah readers and Drash givers. We have erev Shabbat services on the second and last Fridays of the month followed by a shared meal. There is a monthly contemplative service, Ma'ariv service in Lower Hutt, and a Tot Shabbat service. Temple Sinai women continue to come together every Rosh Chodesh, with the group now in its sixth year and recently a men's group, the 'Lunatics' has been launched.

One event that stands out this year was the inaugural Limmud in Wellington, jointly organized by volunteers from Temple Sinai and the WJCC, our sister Orthodox Congregation. It was a great success with strong attendance and outstanding international and local speakers. A highlight event was 'Limmud in the Hood' at a local craft beer bar, hosted by Bram Presser and posse of local Wellington writers and artists each telling a story – definitely a format to repeat.

The New Zealand Progressive Jewish Forum ('Kiwi PJ') continues to meet on Skype every few months to keep in touch and discuss issues concerning Progressive Jewish communities across New Zealand. Our 'Kiwi PJ' has been bolstered by the coordinator Paul Blaschke being appointed as the UPJ New Zealand ambassador, a new role that is going well.

Temple Sinai and our congregants have been active participants in the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand (HCNZ) and their many programmes. After much volunteer work the Children's Holocaust Memorial Exhibition was launched in Wellington this year and is now travelling the country and the book launch of Te Reo Maori edition of Ann Frank's diary published by the HCNZ was well supported by Temple members.

As a final note, it is necessary to mention the more mundane but essential topic of operations and management. While our membership remains healthy and growing the ongoing low interest rate environment has impacted on revenue. The major renovation work that was planned for this year is delayed until the new year due to complications but grants and fund raising will need to be sought to cover the costs. With the retirement of JoEllen from the role of Mashpia, we will also be looking at other options and roles to provide ongoing ritual and educational support for our Temple family. Looking to the future, the option to engage a Rabbi be it a 'rabbi-in-residence' or on extended contract will be up for consideration funding allowing.

My thanks go to our Board members, our Mashpia JoEllen, members of our various committees and congregation who devote their time and energy in making Temple Sinai the vibrant community it is.

Kehillat Beijing – Beijing, China

Scott Kronick, President; Roberta Lipson, Chairman



Kehilat Beijing is the liberal egalitarian congregation serving the Jewish residents of and visitors to the capital of China, since the community's founding approximately 40 years ago. The face of our community continues to evolve as does the demographics of the expatriate population of Beijing- but we have never wavered from our mission of being an inclusive, lay led community, here to be a Jewish home for residents and visitors alike.

Although there are fewer families with young children, we have a small solid core of regular teenage attendees, and the vast majority of the our Friday night regulars are students and young professionals in their 20's and 30's.

Our weekly Friday night Shabbat services and dinners continued uninterrupted, as they have for 25 years, at our home in the Capital Club Athletic Center – which is followed by a delicious community dinner, which is open to all. Matzah Ball Soup, knishes, and other Ashkenazi favorites are often served, but the table is always graced by delicious home-made Chalah, and lively conversation. Services are lay-led, each week two different congregants lead the service and “do the dvar”. We have a 33-year-old aspiring rabbi who often leads our lay-led services. On several occasions throughout the year, we have occasional Musical Shabbats with our very own Klezmers accompanying the service. We sometimes also host speakers. This year, two of our highlights were Ron Leibowitz, the president of Brandeis University, speaking about the challenge of Brandeis as a Jewish Institution, as well as Dr. Elan Ezrahi speaking on Jerusalem a Divided and Now United City.

As usual we host a yearly Autumn Community Retreat in Beijing countryside. This year many of our members attended the Limmud in Shanghai, which we will hold in rotation in the coming year. And, of course, Kehillat Beijing's steadfast traditions continued – with our annual Purim Spiel and party and a lively community Passover Seder drawing strong attendance.

We were fortunate to have Rabbi Naamah Kelman, dean of Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, in residence for 3 weeks as our spiritual guide for the high holidays this year.

Our alumni community is strong. and many current and past community members gathered for simchas including Ilana Rosenshield's Bat Mitzvah in Taipei, Annica Schoenberg's Bat Mitzvah in California and Rebecca Ruskin and Jake Laband's wedding in Boston.

Financially, we are looking for ways to continue offering subsidized Friday night meals for students and young professionals. We offer a discounted meal price to attract more students and young professionals, but the demographic shift away from families has put the meal subsidy program in jeopardy, and we're reaching out to Kehillat Beijing “alumni” outside of Beijing to raise funds.

We are grateful to be included in UPJ's wider network and we look forward to hosting any of you on Shabbat or Holidays if you are visiting Beijing. Please reach out to our community coordinator Jennifer Holstein, at info@sinogogue.org or check our website at www.sinogogue.org for more information.

Kehilat Bnei Chof - Bali

Serge Davis

Most activities take place at the home of Liat Solomon, the soul of the community

Every Friday evening, a Kabbalat Shabbat dinner, catered by Liat, including traditional blessings and lots of singing attracts 20-30 people week after week, residents as well as tourists .

High Holy Days - Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, with visiting Reform Rabbis from WUPJ for the past four years lead the services with the musical help and the great voice of our Chazan, Dan Kohane. As many as 70 people in attendance. The services are celebrated in Hebrew and English with educative commentaries.

Pesach Seder lead by "chazan" Dan, and all prepared internally with Matza imported from Jerusalem.

Other holidays such as Hannukah or Purim parties are sometimes held outside Liat's home

Support for Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. Two young members of the community have already had a joint event, which we believe is the first ever to be held on the island. Serge Davis provided Talmud/Torah instruction to the youngsters under the direction of Rabbi Nathan Alfred from Singapore and is currently instructing another student living in Bali (though his ceremony will be elsewhere). We also plan to host and support a group of Indonesian Jews from around the country in late December 2019, who will also have a Bar Mitzvah ceremony with us.

Bali delegation have been to both Asia Progressive Judaism Summits - first in Hong Kong and second in Singapore.

Held and hosted Teen Shabbaton in Bali, which drew teens from around Asia - especially Hong Kong, Singapore, and Tokyo.

Only producer of challah on the island in Bali. In addition to supporting our own events, staff trained by Liat provide cooking and baking services for the island's Beit Chabad.

Kehilat Bnei Hof is the sole importer of matzah from Jerusalem to Bali and is general producer of kosher food.

United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong

Joshua Lavin, Immediate Past President



The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong (UJC) had another successful year in 2018. The UJC Sanctuary and other parts of the Jewish Community Centre (JCC) were the main venue for Shabbat services, holiday services, festival celebrations, educational programs including Shorashim. Shorashim, the congregation's religious school, began its nineteenth year. Many life cycle and other celebrations were held, including B'nai Mitzvah, Brit Milah, conversions and naming ceremonies.

Leadership. Rabbi Stanton Zamek; Education Director Rabbi Martha Bergadine; Cantor Melissa Berman until September 2018 and Cantorial Soloist Ayal Ben Or from August 2018 provided spiritual leadership and developed or expanded programs for the congregation, and the Hong Kong community.

An Annual General Meeting on 12 June, 2018, elected the following UJC members to the Executive Committee: Charles Allard, Cheryl Blanco, Bob Cooper, Sergio Fernandes de Lima, Rachel Fleishman, Andrew Gordon, Karl Herrup, Stephen Lable, Joshua Lavin, Robin Roschke, Alan Schiffman, Yuval Tal, Barbara Thomas, and David Zeiden. Robert Green, as Founding Chairman, Robert Meyer, Mark Michelson, Charles Monat are Honorary Members of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee chose the following officers: Joshua Lavin (president), Alan Schiffman (vice president), Andrew Gordon (treasurer) and Rachel Fleishman (secretary). Nancy Lui, Executive Administrator, Charlene Hsia, Assistant Administrator continued to make outstanding contributions to the operations and spirit of the UJC.

Membership

Membership figures (in units) as of 31st December, 2018, were as follows:

Type	Number
Family	96
Individual	30
Individual "Under 35"	6
Non-Resident	13
Associate	6
Life	3
Total members	154 (288 adults; 114 children)

The majority of members have come from Progressive, Reform, or Liberal congregations in North America and Commonwealth countries, and many have also been affiliated with Conservative synagogues. The UJC is international, including members from Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, Chile, China, France, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, the United States, Uruguay, and a number of UJC members are originally from Hong Kong. We estimate over half of our congregation have lived in Hong Kong for more than five years with many living in Hong Kong for decades.

Shabbat services. The UJC holds weekly Friday night Shabbat services in its permanent Sanctuary in the auditorium of the Jewish Community Centre. On Saturday mornings, Torah Study sessions are held in the Rabbi's apartment in Robinson Place. The following is a summary of the Shabbat programs offered during the year:

Shabbat Evening Service. Every Friday, 7:00pm in The UJC Sanctuary -- followed by Shabbat dinner at the JCC. When the Rabbi and Cantor might be away, lay leaders conduct services.

Havdalah Pajama Party

A monthly program for "older" 2's, 3, and 4-year olds and their parents. Held in The UJC Sanctuary, the children learn about Shabbat and holidays through songs, games, crafts and stories.

Torah Study: Parashat HaShavua

Rabbi's Residence, One Robinson Place, Every Saturday, 9:30am-11:00am. Study of the Torah portion of the week, drawing on both traditional and contemporary sources. A light breakfast is served.

Visiting Rabbis, Scholars, etc.

Paul Liptz – 20th-22nd April, 2018

Rabbi Minna Bromberg – 18th-21st May, 2018

Rabbi Larry Hoffman – 1st-4th November, 2018

Holidays and Festivals. The UJC again organized an active and diversified schedule of holiday and festival events during the past year. Rabbi Stanton Zamek, Rabbi Martha Bergadine, Cantor Melissa Berman until September 2018, Cantorial Soloist Ayal Ben Or from August 2018, Nancy Lui, Charlene Hsia and numerous UJC volunteers took the lead in planning, coordinating and conducting these celebrations. Holiday celebrations during the calendar year 2018 included:

Tu B'Shevat Outing to New Life Organic Farm, Tu B'Shevat Seder

Purim: Megillah Reading and Purim Schpiel in The UJC Sanctuary, Purim Carnival in The UJC Sanctuary

Passover Seder, Passover Day 1, Day 2 & Day 7 Morning Services, Passover Day 8 Morning Service & Yizkor

Community Yom HaShoah Ceremony

Community Yom HaZikaron Ceremony

Tikkun Leil Shavuot, The Sinai Experience: Shavuot Family Program, Shavuot Day 2 Morning Service & Yizkor

Farewell Shabbat

Selichot Program and Service

ExCo Installation Ceremony

High Holy Days: Led by Rabbi Stanton Zamek and Cantor Melissa Berman and Cantorial Soloist Ayal Ben Or

Tashlich Service

Family Sukkah Party, Sukkot Dinner, Sukkot Day 1 & Day 2 Morning Service, Sukkotoberfest

Shemini Atzeret Service & Yizkor, Simchat Torah, Atzeret/Simchat Torah Morning Service

Chanukah: Chanukah Cocktails at The China Club, "Shabbanukkah" Service

Social Activities

Breakfast Havurah: A gathering that features lively discussion over breakfast usually with visiting scholars in attendance.

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

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

Havdalah and An Evening with Rabbi/Stand-up Comic Bob Alper

Special Jazz Evening with Isabelle Demenge and friends

Tikkun Olam

UJC NETT Service Learning Project The UJC NETT (Native English Teen Tutor) Service Learning project completed its seventh year. Fourteen UJC teens travelled to Tin Shui Wai approximately once a month to serve as English tutors for English High-Achieving students at the HLC School. After the visit, The UJC NETTs joined Rabbi Zamek for Shabbat lunch and a learning session. For the final session in March 2019, the HKFYG/Lee Shau Kee EHAs visited The UJC. The NETTs also had a special session with English Low-Achieving students at the HLC School in the end of March 2019.

UJC Make a Miracle Mitzvah Day: On UJC Make a Miracle Mitzvah Day (9th December, 2018), over 160 individuals came together for a day of volunteering with Hong Kong charitable organizations. UJC volunteers as young as age two worked with organizations serving underprivileged children, vulnerable populations, and environmental concerns.

Youth Group. The purpose of YG is to provide an opportunity for UJC member children age 13+ to socialize together, and to give those children who attend Carmel and those who attend Shorashim a chance to get to know each other better. Events included a bowling party, Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival, and Chanukkah Bubble Soccer.

Junior Youth Group – is for UJC member children age 9-12. Activities have included Pizza & Movie Night, Games Night, and Chanukkah Bubble Soccer

The 6th Annual Asian Progressive Judaism Youth Group Shabbaton was held in Hong Kong between 23rd-25th November. Teens from Shanghai, Beijing, and Singapore visited HK. Overall, the Shabatonim have been extremely successful.

Adult Education

“One Congregation, One Book” Project – “Sacred Trash: The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza”

“One Congregation, One Book” Project – “The Story of the Jews, Vol. 2”

Shorashim, under the leadership of Education and Programming Director continues to provide quality liberal religious and Hebrew language education to primary and middle school age children and their families. The school is inclusive and egalitarian, reflecting the values of Progressive Judaism and the diversity of the Jewish Community in Hong Kong. Shorashim is for children pre-kindergarten to grade 8 and covers history and social studies, holidays and ceremonies, Hebrew and prayer, ethics and values and Torah. High school students continue to be involved with learning and also serve as madrikhim ("guides" or teachers' aides) for the lower grades. Education is the cornerstone of The UJC, and the quality of Shorashim emphasizes that commitment. On average, 33 students were enrolled during the year.

Life Cycle Events. During 2018, UJC members celebrated:

4 B'nai Mitzvah; 4 Brit Milah; 4 Naming Ceremonies

In addition, 1 child was born to UJC members during the year and more are imminently due.

Asia Progressive Judaism Regional Activities

The UJC played a key role, along with UHC Singapore and JCJ Tokyo, in the formation of the Asia Pacific Judaism (APJ) body, and continues as a leader in the region. The UJC hosted the Asia Progressive Judaism Summit 2018 – 25th-27th January, which brought together the leadership of congregations/chaverot in Singapore, Tokyo, Shanghai, Bali, and Burma as well as representatives of the WUPJ and UPJ, to discuss how congregations in Asia can work together and support each other.

The very successful APJ Teen Shabbatonim are a regional activity of the APJ and The UJC was happy to host in November, 2018 (see under Youth Group above). The JDC has provided grants for the APJ Shababtonim beginning with the November meeting in Hong Kong, and we are grateful for their support.

Funding. The Congregation is partially funded by dues and fees for specific programs and events. UJC members and other friends of the congregation make general donations to the congregation and also make donations to recognize Holidays and life cycle events. The UJC is grateful to the Ohel Leah Synagogue Charity for their generous subvention to our Congregation, including the UJC office premises, the UJC Sanctuary and the apartment for the UJC Rabbi.

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

United Indonesian Jewish Community – Indonesia

Benjamin Meijer Verbrugge, Community Rabbi and Chairman

In January 2019, United Indonesian Jewish Community (UIJC) sent 15 delegates from Lampung Province, Jakarta and Ambon to attend the Asian Progressive Judaism Summit in Singapore. We regret that our Papuan, Manado, and Central Java teams could not attend.

We are very thankful to Rabbi Nathan Alfred and the United Hebrew Congregation of Singapore members for their warm welcome, support and assistance. The UHC hosted an excellent event, featuring Singaporean Jewish history tours, important information and meaningful messages.

During the conference, Rabbi David Kunin, as the mentor rabbi of UIJC, shared the growth of our community, and outlined his and Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky's work in supervising the UIJC for more than four years.

Benjamin Meijer Verbrugge, as chairman and rabbi of the Indonesian community, shared the history of Jewish immigration to Indonesia during three periods: before 1500, from 1600-1800 and after 1900, and how the Jews there survived and preserved their Jewish identity.

The UIJC team was delighted to have met other representatives of communities in Asia, especially China, Myanmar and India, as well as Kehilat Bnei Chof leaders from Bali at the summit.

Rabbi Kunin, his wife Shelley and Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky will visit Jakarta, Ambon, and Bali in December 2019. There will be about 10 students celebrating B'nei Mitzvah and Bnei Torah from Surabaya, Lampung, Jakarta and Papua in Jakarta and Bali. Benjamin's son Yitzhak Benjamin's wedding to Junita on 22 December will be the first Jewish wedding conducted by a UPJ rabbi in Indonesia.

My son Yitzhak Benjamin's wedding with Junita will become the first Jewish Wedding conducted by UPJ rabbi in Indonesia on 22 December 2019.

We are truly blessed that the UIJC leadership has built a good relationship with an Iraqi Jewish family in Surabaya (ex-Beth HaShem synagogue members), who will send their son to have his bar mitzvah celebration at Kehilat Bnei Hof at the end December, B'ezrat HaShem. Our thanks go to Liat Solomon and the team in Bali for hosting this special event.

Kehilat Shanghai – Shanghai, China

Stephane Wilmet, President



Shana Tovah, we hope that the New Year 5780 has started well for you, your family and dear ones! As you know, the High Holidays marked a BIG milestone for our Community: our lucky number 8th anniversary! As we reflect on the past years, we wanted to share some important news with you.

Throughout these years, we stayed true to our mission: to build a diverse, welcoming, multi-faceted community for progressive Jews living in and visiting Shanghai.

Two weeks ago, we celebrated the Bat and Bar Mitzvah of five talented youth who joyously stepped into their Jewish adulthood at Ohel Moshe, strengthening the intra-generational bonds of Kehilat Shanghai.

Today, Kehilat Shanghai has grown to provide more than 100 different exciting programs per year, including weekly Shabbat services & dinners, Passover, Chanukah, Purim, Shavuot and High Holiday services and activities.

Tov!, our flagship education program for children (and adults too) provides Jewish culture, history, and traditions to our children. Tov! also allows our kids to learn Hebrew, prepare for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah and increase their understanding of what it means to be Jewish. Our Tov! year is already off to a great start with our Opening Day celebration and great teachers!

Kehilat Shanghai also actively supports, runs and/or collaborates with Limmud, the Jewish Young Professionals Network, BBYO, Moishe House, PJ Library, Scotch & Cigars and many other organizations and events to further develop an inclusive Jewish life for all Jews living in or visiting Shanghai with their friends and families.

We have just welcomed our new coordinator Julia Ullman, who brings a high level of professionalism, deep knowledge of Jewish life and traditions and strong community development experiences. Your (all-volunteer) Board works tirelessly to ensure that Kehilat Shanghai continues to serve the needs of our diverse and growing community and to provide a slew of exciting initiatives for the year 5780.

Click on the following link to donate to the Kehilat Shanghai 5780 Fund: <https://donorbox.org/Kehilat-Shanghai>.

Some generous donors have offered to match raised funds if we can meet our goal of raising up to USD 50,000. (Please note that the Kehilat Shanghai Foundation is a non-profit 501c3 organization: donations are tax-deductible for US taxpayers). We have already raised \$10K so far. Help us reach our ambitious target and donate today! You can specifically donate for Tov!, Teachers' funds, Students scholarships, PJ Library, family Shabbat programs, Kehilat Shanghai Teens programs, Julia's salary, and so many other important projects.

United Hebrew Congregation - Singapore

Yoni Garbourg, President



This past year the United Hebrew Congregation (UHC) celebrated its 25th anniversary! We were reminded of our incredible, humble origins, and the transformative journey we have been on for the past decade – from a spirited, lay-led congregation to the Rabbi-led Tiger-Shul of South East Asia. We are thankful to Rabbi Nathan Alfred, who has been with the community for the past five years, lovingly guiding us through these changes. Likewise, we remain grateful to our Rabbi Emeritus Lennard Thal, who patiently helped guide us for twenty years, all the way into Rabbi Nathan's hands.

And of course, we would be nothing but for the love, energy, and support of our amazing congregants. The climax of the 2018/19 cycle was definitely the 25th Anniversary Gala in January, yet the year was filled with a rich program of prayer services, holiday gatherings, and social events. Of particular note was our 5th Pink Dot Shabbat, in recognition and support of our LGBTQ members – this year we were honored to have Abby Chava Stein join us for this special Shabbat and Shavuot. One of our young professionals produced a very successful Jewish business networking event that drew a larger-than-expected crowd and was reviewed favorably by all attendees, so we intend to repeat the program. We also got more deeply engaged with the Israeli embassy, especially through a social innovation hackathon based on the successful Tikkun Olam Makers platform. And, finally, with an almost weekly Shabbat program, this was probably the most prayerful year on record for the UHC.

Some of you had the pleasure of getting a taste of our congregation when you visited us here for the 2nd Asia Progressive Judaism (APJ) summit that we hosted here in Singapore. We were so delighted to meet and get to know many of you on both a social and professional level. The experience was eye-opening, and we were excited to dive into the work of bringing the Asia congregations closer together and to do holy work on a regional level.

It is therefore tragic that, just as we were coming down from that high, our Rabbi Nathan's son Noam became gravely ill. Since February, we have been operating with some uncertainty, and we truly appreciate everyone's support through this difficult time. We are especially thankful for the tremendous coming-together on behalf of Rabbi Nathan and his family, from the wider Jewish community in Singapore, the various congregations of the UPJ, and all around the world.

I would like to especially thank Rabbi Stan Zamek and Rabbi Martha Bergadine of Hong Kong's UJC, Rabbi Kunin of Tokyo's JCJ, as well as Rabbi Morgan of Melbourne's TBI, past UPJ Movement Rabbi. They were a tremendous help to our community in a time of need. Yasher Koach to you all and Toda Raba.

Rabbi Nathan and his family are currently settled in Haifa, Israel. However, Rabbi has expressed his wish to continue to lead the congregation on a best-effort basis through the coming year, for which the UHC can only be grateful. Rabbi Nathan will provide congregational support for the community through a number of trips to Singapore, and by staying in touch through all means possible.

During this time, we will be actively looking at congregational continuity to ensure that we remain in good hands and maintain a stable operation. We have been fortunate in the past with our rabbinical leadership, and we will pray and work hard to continue our good fortune.

I am personally thankful to so many of our lay leaders and volunteers for taking on the work of community-building this past year. To the Board for its serious oversight; to the UHC School Co-Chairs and parent volunteers for another successful academic year; to the Rituals & Shabbat, Membership, Communications, Festivals, Adult Education, and Fundraising

Teams for all their work running the community's core operations; to the Teens Group for keeping our young adults involved; to those pursuing social justice and Tikkun Olam in our wider community; to the generous donors who keep our doors open, and the many hosts that invite us into their homes for prayer and social engagements; to the musicians and singers that delight us during services; to the advisory committee for providing timely support on difficult matters; and to all those who have toiled behind the scenes to make this community work on so many levels and for so many people; to our wonderful administrator Alice Teo, and our beloved Rabbi Nathan: Yasher Koach & Thank You!

If my personal involvement with the community over the past 9 years has taught me anything, it's that you get more by giving more...

Thailand Progressive Jewish Community

Barry Satz, President



Thailand Progressive Jewish Community (TPJC) had another wonderful year 2018 – 2019. We had our largest ever Hanukkah party, and one of our largest Passover Seders at the beautiful Conrad Bangkok Hotel with 40 participants. We held a Purim party, and most months a Shabbat potluck at a member's residence. We were fortunate to once again have Rabbi Michael Zedek from Chicago lead beautiful High Holiday services, with large participation. Sadly his wife couldn't join us this year because of illness. During the Erev Rosh Hashanah service, Rabbi Zedek conducted a lovely baby naming ceremony for a new daughter of TPJC members (see photo). The parents – and the grandparents in UK – were very happy to be able to participate in such an important life cycle event. In addition to services, Rabbi Zedek held several children's activities, and met privately with members for consultations.

One of our members successfully completed her Beit Din in UK, becoming a Jew-by-Choice, and we had a very nice celebration. TPJC Vice President Alec Goldman attended the November 2018 UPJ conference in Melbourne, and TPJC President Barry Satz participated in the January 2019 Asia Progressive Judaism (APJ) conference in Singapore. Both Alec and Barry considered the conferences to be very valuable, making connections with WUPJ, UPJ and APJ members, and sharing methods to achieve community success.

Looking forward, TPJC is having three Hanukkah parties this year – our major one in Bangkok, and also ones with members in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai. We will continue to hold monthly Shabbat potluck events at member residences, as well as a Purim party, Passover Seder and High Holiday events. Other social or cultural events also will be considered as opportunities arise, such as when rabbis or Jewish musicians visit Bangkok. And we will continue looking for a way to provide Jewish education for our members' children.

TPJC very much appreciates the support we receive from WUPJ and UPJ, such as paying for the airfare of our High Holidays visiting rabbi, and making Progressive Jewish visitors to Thailand aware of our existence. We hope this support continues.

Jewish Community of Japan – Tokyo

Philip Rosenfeld, President; David Kunin, Rabbi



The Jewish Community of Japan is proud to be part of the UPJ family. We look forward to continuing cooperation here in Asia and across the region.

Our community, though small, continues to be vibrant, with a diverse population of expatriates and long-term residents. The Jewish population of Japan is not much more than a thousand, and our Centre stands as the focal point. We have a strong cooperative relationship with the Israeli Embassy, and the two smaller Chabad Houses.

Rabbis have served our community for many years, and we are pleased the Rabbi Kunin is beginning his seventh year as our spiritual leader. He works with a group of committed volunteers and synagogue staff who dedicate many hours to build a strong community. His wife Shelley has led our religious school for the last four years and has been an invaluable addition to our staff.

Our religious school of more than 50 children is the centre of our synagogue community. It creates a vibrant energy on Sundays and Wednesdays. Our learning environment is second to none, and our children play an active role in leading our monthly family services. We are very proud of our Bar and Bat Mitzvah, they not only chant from the Torah and Haftara, but also lead the entire traditional service from Shacharit through to Musaf. We are also thrilled that 90% of our post bar/bat mitzvah youth return to volunteer as aides in our synagogue school.

Our High Holidays are always a highlight in the synagogue year. As with the last several years we were pleased to have Yoni Roth return to serve as our High Holiday Chazan. All the services are very well attended. And this year, as in the past, our community was the only one here in Japan to have a minyan on the second day of Rosh Hashanah. Our members and guests also enjoy a series of delicious meals on the holidays and in the Sukkah, especially the gourmet Japanese meal featured in our “Sushi in the Sukkah.”

This year we in addition we will be hosting a series of monthly “International Shabbatot,” featuring menus from around the world. We look forward to Hungarian, Indian and Moroccan cuisines over the next few months. Around Tu B'Shevat we will also have our second Taste of Israel Dinner, a gourmet dinner featuring the best of modern Israeli cuisine.

We have also enjoyed meeting and greeting Jews from across the world at our series and at our regular Shabbat dinners and lunches. We also serve as a home away from home, at our two communal Pesach seders (especially our family friendly second seder), and on Purim and Channukah. We invite our UPJ family to visit us here in our beautiful building at the very centre of Tokyo. In this regard we were very pleased to welcome Roger Mendelson, President of UPJ, to our community in August. While Roger came to honour Marsha and Jerry Rosenberg, two long time members, I know that all of us felt honoured by Roger's presence. We hope this is the first of many visits by the UPJ leadership.

Over the past few years we have worked closely with the other UPJ communities in Asia. We had an exciting meeting of lay and professional leaders in Singapore as we learned about the diversity of Asian Progressive Judaism. We were pleased to have Jocelyn Robuck, UPJ Executive Officer, and leaders from the WUPJ join us for this meeting. There have also been a number of opportunities for Asian teens and young professionals to meet. Teens from our Asian region meet-up in Hong Kong and Bali. They will be joining us here in Tokyo immediately after the Adelaide meetings.

Other synagogue activities have included trivia contests and very popular synagogue Sunday after school brunches. We also held a third JCJ Art Show. This well attended event was highlighted by a very successful art auction at the conclusion of the afternoon.

During the late spring our Israel Day celebrations were a great success. This full day event included movies, an Israeli Shuk, live performances, workshops and great food, was attended by nearly 1000 people. We were especially glad that Shalom-chan, the mascot from the Israeli embassy paid a visit.

ARZA Australia

Steve Denenberg, President



ARZA Australia is pleased to offer very best wishes to the UPJ and to offer very best wishes for the organisation's continued efforts to coordinate and promote Progressive Judaism across Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

For ARZA Australia the past 12 months have been a time of planning for the future, and leadership succession in particular. We have also been preparing for the vitally important forthcoming elections for the World Zionist Congress (WZC) to be held in 2020. At the same time, we have been busy in providing information – via articles and social media – regarding the crucial social issues that continue to prevent the full development of Israel as an inclusive and democratic society. We have also been delighted to host and assist with visits by the President of our world body, ARZENU, Rabbi Lea Muhlstein and the Executive Director of the Women of the Wall, Lesley Sachs.

ARZA has remained volunteer-run and the funds we receive, almost totally from the subscription fees of members, have been used to assist representatives to attend the meetings of the World Zionist Organisation in Jerusalem; to support the wonderful work of Netzer, both locally and in Israel; and to maintain our presence as a Progressive voice in the Zionist Federation of Australia and within the community. While this structure has been financially successful it has meant that the ability of the organisation to promote itself and provide an effective and useful service to the UPJ's congregations has been greatly restricted.

The work of the past year in preparing for elections for the WZC has been crucially important as the WZC is the Parliament of the Jewish People and it is only there that we, the Jewish communities of the Diaspora, can truly “make a difference” on issues including religious equality, the treatment of minorities and ensuring transparency and accountability in the National Institutions of Israel.

Regarding succession, with thanks to Sharene Hambur and David Knoll for their help, we now have a succession plan in place that will put ARZA in a very strong position for the WZC elections, for increasing support for Israel, and for developing and strengthening the vital relationship between ARZA and the Union for Progressive Judaism.

As my term as President of ARZA Australia draws to a close I offer thanks to all who have served with me and I express the heartfelt wish that the future will see increased cooperation with the congregations, Netzer and the UPJ in order that each organisation can continue to grow in number and in the influence that we collectively bring to the WZC; to the Zionist Federation of Australia; and in making Progressive Judaism stronger.



Board of Progressive Jewish Education – Sydney, NSW

David Speiser, President

The Board of Progressive Jewish Education (BPJE) is the umbrella organisation for Hebrew and religious schools that provide education to school-aged students in NSW and ACT Progressive and Pluralist communities. BPJE's new constitution aims to instil values of openness and mutual respect for all dimensions of Jewish experience, supporting all campuses formal and informal educational curriculum.

BPJE's function is to assist campuses to run effectively by providing funding to ensure that campuses can provide quality, innovative and engaging education to their students, as well as curriculum content, teacher training and assistance with student recruitment.

BPJE's campuses work together at times, with Netzer engaging with students from Woollahra's Kef Kids' ACT Jewish Community's Cheder, Chatswood's Meah. JCA remains the sole source of funding for BPJE.

Our available funds are distributed directly to campuses based on detailed reporting, where student educational outcomes are placed at the heart of the allocation process. Over the 2018 to 2019 period, the number of students engaged in Jewish learning has continued to increase as has the reach of our programs into some of the less established Jewish areas of Sydney and Canberra.

Over the past few months, BPJE has been approached by additional Jewish educational organisations seeking support for their programs and planned educational outcomes. The BPJE (in consultation with the JCA) is carefully reviewing ways in which support may be provided in the future to assist these organisations grow and help broaden the reach of educational programs beyond the well established and integrated parts of the Jewish community.

BPJE is a volunteer board that is proud of the service that it provides to the students of NSW and ACT Progressive and Pluralist communities.

Emanuel School – Randwick, NSW

Andrew Watt, Principal



As we reach the end of the school year and my second as Principal of Emanuel School, I continue to be inspired by our students who strive to be critical and curious thinkers, love learning, have a strong sense of community, a love for Israel and are proud of their Jewish heritage.

As the only pluralist and egalitarian K- 12 Jewish School in NSW, we actively promote dialogue, engagement with and respect for diversity in all its forms: in relation to society, the individual and all streams of Judaism.

Emanuel advocates for, and promotes human, social, political and economic equality within an inclusive Jewish ethos and with an emphasis on Tikkun Olam. Our students have many opportunities to be involved in hands-on social justice and charitable projects, both in the Jewish and wider community. We recently, for example, hosted a dinner for refugees in our sukkah. This provided our students with the opportunity to explore and connect with the important themes of homelessness and freedom.

Student trips to Israel, Northern Territory, East Timor and Kenya provide exceptional opportunities for students to immerse themselves in other cultures and share our own. These have also encouraged our students to focus externally and develop first-hand understanding of their responsibilities as global citizens.

Emanuel is unique in being small enough to provide student-centred, high quality education in a Jewish community environment. At the same time, it is big enough to offer a diverse range of subjects, extra-curricular activities and high-quality facilities. Our alumni have excelled in many areas and most recently, for example, Joel Adler, Class of 2011, has exhibited his work, *Viewfinder*, at Sculptures By the Sea in Bondi.

We cultivate a culture of academic excellence, student wellbeing, high expectations and continuous improvement. Our teachers use innovative learning approaches and technologies to foster curious, adaptive and ethical students, who are well-prepared for the workforce of the future. Our fourth annual Innovation Festival in Term 3 celebrated our students' innovative thinking. The purpose of the event was to celebrate learning and inspire Primary students to continue to develop their passions for STEAM fields. Our Imaginarium and Design Lab continue to provide students with opportunities to develop their creativity, thinking skills and entrepreneurship which will well-place them for the future of work.

Our approach to Jewish Life strives to be rigorous and relevant. From Jewish history and ethics, to Hebrew language and contemporary Israel, we explore Jewish studies within our pluralist and egalitarian framework. Our Year 10 Speaker Series, for example, sees many experts from the wider Jewish community, both local and international, share their varied experiences and dilemmas with our students.

We create a safe, supportive, caring environment where students flourish. Our students are encouraged to be well-rounded and grounded individuals, who are guided to develop their diverse interests and passions so as to make a positive difference to the world.

At Emanuel we believe that education encompasses the broad domains of academic, social, emotional sporting, musical and extra-curricular learning, while building a strong sense of responsibility, compassion and justice.

We strive to connect with our community and create a welcoming and inclusive environment that is known for its genuine acceptance and understanding of diversity.

Netzer Australia Progressive Zionist Youth Movement

Nancye Kochen, Federal Mazkira (Chairperson)



I've been incredibly privileged to end my years in Netzer as the Federal Mazkira during an absolutely incredible year for Netzer Australia. In 2019 we have celebrated Netzer's 40 years of existence. It has been an incredible year for Netzer Australia and I'm proud of everything we've been able to achieve this year.

It's been an honour sharing this year with my dedicated and passionate Federal Mazkirut and I'd like to give my thanks to Morgan (Head of Education), Mikaela (Shnat Co-ordinator), Liv (Treasurer) and Joshi (Head of PR and Advertising) for their hard work and support.

Camps and Activities

2019 has been a massive year for Netzer. We're happy to be able to provide a positive Progressive Jewish experience to so many chanchim across Australia.

Bogrim: This year Netzer has 31 bogrim across Australia, with 15 in Melbourne, 9 in Sydney, 3 in Perth, 3 in Canberra and 1 in Adelaide. This has allowed us to expand upon our operations and engagement across Australia.

Sydney and Melbourne: In both Sydney and Melbourne Netzer has been working on its shared events with Synagogues. Netzer has been involved in services, and community events, as well as the consistent and regular programming in Melbourne and Sydney.

Sydney and Melbourne both held very successful Junior Summer and Winter Camps. Over the summer we had a total of 278 participants across Australia, and a total of 200 chanchim on our Sydney and Melbourne winter camps.

In Melbourne over 50% of our chanchim come from non-Jewish day schools (JDS), and from those who attend a Jewish day school, 47% got to The King David School (TKDS). 47% of chanchim from Melbourne are affiliated with a Progressive Jewish synagogue. It is interesting to note that 15 chanchim from Melbourne are not affiliated with any synagogue, nor attending a JDS, and therefore Netzer is their primary source of Jewish education. In addition, 26 chanchim are not affiliated with a Progressive synagogue, nor attending TKDS, meaning Netzer is their primary source of Progressive Jewish education and practice.

In Sydney, the majority of the chanchim are affiliated with a Progressive synagogue, either North Shore Temple Emanuel (NSTE) or Emanuel Synagogue Woollahra (ES). An overwhelming 83% of chanchim in Sydney do not attend a JDS. It is important to note that 28 of these participants are also not affiliated to any synagogue. Netzer is proud to provide Jewish experiences, education and a community to many children who have limited or infrequent involvement in other Jewish frameworks.

Perth: Netzer Perth has continued to thrive, under the new leadership of Nathan Angert. With new internal management systems for Perth and more focus on communication and professionalism with Temple David and parents we've been able to grow the number of Chanchim attending Netzer Perth Shabbatonim and attending our Summer and Winter Camps. We've held 2 Shabbatonim in Perth this year.

Adelaide: This year Netzer leader's attended JAZY winter camp and we held 1 successful Netzer outreach to Adelaide. Netzer values this community highly and we look forward to seeing JAZY go from strength to strength.

Canberra: Under the combined leadership of their Shlichim, Community and dedicated team of leaders CATZ has grown into a thriving pluralist youth movement. We've been lucky to have 3 Netzer madrichim, Lior Kalisse, Tahlia Bowen and Michael Lieberwitz, be heavily involved in CATZ. Michael has even taken on high levels of responsibility within CATZ, being the official Chairperson of the organisation. Netzer has run 1 outreach to Canberra and have maintained our number of Canberra chanichim.

Netzer Appeal

This year our Netzer Appeal is aimed at raising \$40 000 for 40 years of Netzer. Our appeal this year is fundraising for Shnat and Camp subsidies and leadership training. We've been very thankful for the support and advice from our community. I'd like to give a special thanks to the PJCF for helping us with the appeal. From the appeal, over the summer camp season Netzer allocated nearly \$10,000 worth of subsidies to 49 families, with an average subsidy of \$230. This is an incredibly large amount of money for Netzer which we were able to allocate because of the generous donations and grants received, as well as the success of the Netzer Appeal in 2018. Once again, Netzer camps were amongst the cheapest of the Australia Zionist Youth Movements, and our low camp prices will continue to reflect our commitment to the financial accessibility of our movement.

Shnat

Shnat Aleh 2019: As Shnat 2019 draws to an end, we're happy with the leadership training of our current shnat group. Shnat Aleh has proven to be an exciting and wonderful group of shnattim, with 5 shnattim from Sydney and Melbourne. Alongside this there were several Aleh chanichim who stayed in Australia and have joined the bogrim body immediately. We're excited to see what Aleh will bring to Netzer.

Shnat Perach 2020: Shnat Perach will leave for Shnat at the end of January. Perach will be the first group to participate in the new and improved Netzer Olami Shnat program. Our appeal efforts and community funds will help to ensure that every participant will be able to attend the program. We are incredibly excited for them to undertake this journey.

Shlichim

This year we have sadly said goodbye to our beloved Sydney shaliach, Dudu, and wish him all the best of luck and good health in his new job in Israel. We also welcomed our new Melbourne Shaliach, Sefi Shalem, who has already proved to be an invaluable member of the Netzer family.

Leadership Training and Engagement

As our movement grows, we're able to provide more opportunities for our Bogrim and chanichim to learn and to grow. In 2019 we've held 8 seminars across the federal movement with another 3 planned for November and December. We're introducing new seminars and initiatives including a first time ever Netzer trip to Poland and Germany.

Conclusion

Netzer has had an incredible 2019 so far and we would not have been able to have without the warm embrace and support from our community. I'd like to thank the UPJ and all of our partners for their support and enthusiasm for Netzer. With the professional and educational guidance and resources that Netzer receives from you I have no doubt that Netzer will continue to grow and thrive.

Progressive Judaism Victoria

Dr Philip Bliss OAM, President



The last 12 months has very much been one of renewal and re-visioning. The role of PJV is very much as a roof body acting as spokesperson for all of our five congregations, Netzer, Bet Olam, KDS and hopefully a revival of ARZA at Victorian Jewish meetings such as the Jewish Community Council of Victoria and Zionism Victoria. We have also been represented at Government and NGO meetings such as the annual Sir John Monash Commemoration at Parliament House and a superb event at Government House on Climate Change. We have also held meetings with Victorian parliamentarians to discuss legislation on Freedom of Religion, the recital of the Lord's Prayer and Assisted Dying Legislation. We also had talks on the Safe Schools Legislation that PJV strongly supports.

PJV is also setting up a support program for end of life Communal Decision Makers. We have also started to develop a fundraising calendar to try and prevent clashes between the various affiliates.

PJV held a very successful strategy meeting in country Victoria where the heads of all our affiliates contemplated our future role. We will be working on a Melbourne Statement on what is Progressive Judaism in 2020. We also to plan an number of programs and activities where we can all work together and with other organisations such as with Jewish Care on a family violence seminar. We also hope to revive ARZA activities that have become dormant over recent years and also to share platforms with organisations that wish to profile various kindred speakers.

Last December saw a huge walk in support of the William Cooper Aboriginal protest to the German Consulate on December 6th 1938 just after Krystalnacht. Over 600 hundred attended the march in 36 degree heat through the city of Melbourne ending with an Aboriginal smoking ceremony from which the Shammes candle was lit for the 5th night of Chanukah. The event was organised mainly through TBI and Rabbi Gersh Lazerow, Abe Shwartz and PJV. 13,000 people signed our petition to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

We also welcomed our new Netzer Shaliach, Sefi, to Melbourne. He has made a terrific start since his arrival just before Pesach. He makes a great addition to our team and to advance Netzer with our congregations.

Each of the affiliates will present their own reports but generally there has been universal acceptance of the Mishkan T'Shuvah High Holiday prayerbooks which has been long overdue! Mazeltov! to all concerned with its production

I am delighted that we now have a much more co-operative relationship between the affiliates and professional clergy that has made this a year of looking to the future and in fact one that has been most enjoyable.

I would like to thank especially Kathy Kaplan OAM, Alan Samuel OAM JP, Maureen Barten and Herme Rabl who have provided outstanding support.

Best wishes for a fulfilling and successful conference!

The King David School – Armadale, Victoria

Marc Light, Principal



In 2019, The King David School has continued to excel in providing a Modern Thinking Jewish Education to 750 children from Pre-School to VCE.

The School has implemented a number of programs based on Educational Neuroscience to focus on essential skills for the future such as critical thinking, creativity and entrepreneurship. Project Based Learning (PBL) presents students with 'big ideas' to which they solve problems and explore their creativity. We continue to offer Philosophy classes from Kindergarten through to Year 8 so that students learn to question the world around them and learn how to examine issues facing society.

Our Wellbeing program has extended in 2019 to include Mindfulness sessions in the Junior School after lunch time to refocus students for the afternoon of learning. This has become a highlight of the day for both staff and students. We continue to focus on cyber safety education which is taught at every year level in age appropriate ways. Parent Education sessions have provided opportunities to bring the community together for important topics such as safe parting and the responsibilities of parents when hosting gatherings.

In 2019, we welcomed Sidra Moshinsky as our new Director of Jewish Life and Learning. Sidra and her team of Jewish Studies teachers and Jewish Experiential Educators have delivered an engaging combination of formal and informal Jewish education experiences. Our students have celebrated chaggim (festivals) with a range of hands-on learning opportunities and milestone events were celebrated with families invited to join in celebrations throughout the year. Our goal is for our students to find joy in Jewish learning and to develop a Jewish identity that resonates with their personal and family values.

Another milestone in 2019 was the conversion of the School's energy supply with the installation of solar panels across the campuses meaning that 80% of the School's energy is now powered by the sun. This is inline with the School's sustainability policies and provides wonderful educational opportunities as students can monitor the School's power consumption in real time on the screens in their classrooms.

At the end of 2019, we end an important chapter in the life of The King David School with the relocation of the Pre-School from its original home at Temple Beth Israel to join the rest of the Early Learning Centre at the Dandenong Road campus. We are extremely grateful for the support and care shown by TBI over the years. Many King David students have begun their learning journey at the Pre-School Centre in Alma Road and it will forever hold many special memories and be an important part of the history of our School. We look forward to a continued relationship with TBI as we continue to educate Jewish students with egalitarian values.



UPJ Awards

The 2019 award recipients will be announced during the UPJ Gathering in Adelaide in November 2019.

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

Previous Vatik Award recipients:

Merrilyn Ades, Edwin Argy, Ken Arkwright, Arthur Berman, Philip Bliss, Helen Bryant, Philip Coleman, Julie Contole, Geoffrey Cowen, Phyllis Dorey, Alison Dwyer, Maree Findley, Joshua Goldman-Brown, Matthew Goode, Sam Granek, Phillip David Green, Ruth Gross, Sharene Hambur, Hans Jensen, Peter Kolliner, Kate Lesser, Tony Leverton, Joe Lewit, Larry Lockshin, Peter Marks, Stephanie Markson, Philip Mayers, Howard Nathan, Lynette Ninio, Eva Popper, David Robinson, Jerry Rosenberg, Brian Samuel, John Schinasi, Jonathan Taft, Tex Waxman

Ner Tamid Award: Since the Biennial Conference of the Australia New Zealand Union for Progressive Judaism held in Melbourne in 1990, we have honoured the “Unsung Heroes” – members of congregations and affiliation organisations who perform exceptional service for our congregations and community, as well as the wider community.

Previous New Tamid Award recipients:

Tony Abo, Fred Albert, Libby Appelboom, Judith Arkwright, Stan Benjamin, Albert Bentata, Heinz Bohm, Garry and Nola Braude, Eric Briskman, Nicole Brown, Margaret Capkin, Sally Castle, Zvi Civins, Marlis Cohen, Arnold Cohn, Beatrice Coleman, Nathan Companez, Rachel Dennyss, Anthony and Diane Deutsch, Dr George Deutsch, David and Sue Esterman, Norma Survana Esther, Mick Fettmann, Ellen Frajman, Ted Friedlander, Bev Gelbart, Mark Ginsburg, Sydney Goldstein, Leon and Sue Goldwater, Katherine Goode, Liz Goodman, Sandy Graetzer, Sidney Grant, Brian and Jennifer Green, Noel Hall, Janet Henrie, Fred Hirsch, Albert Isaacs, Elijah Jacob, Ailsa Jean, Naomi Johnson, Barbara Karet, Devorah Komesaroff, Harvey Livschitz, Alison Marcus, Charles Monat, Sue Morgan, Betty Mortimer, Myra Mortlock, Fred Mote, Joan Motta, Judy Myers, Dorothy (Dot) Nathan, Rhonda Nirens, Teresa Petrzeka, Eva Phillips, Amelia Rauner, Gena Reiss, Marsha Rosenberg, Peter Rosenfeld, Ian Samuel, David Sharp, Chris Schiller, Nat Sharpe, Fred Silberstein, Harry Smith, Linda Stern, Joe Stupel, Geoff Sussman, Michael Taft, Joan Taylor, Dorothea Tropp-Boas, Reuben Urban, Tanya Warms, Betty Waxman.

President’s Award previous recipients: Judy Campbell, Phyllis, Dorey, Stephen Freeman, Sharene Hambur, Penny Jakobovits, Peter Kohn, Michael Lawrence, Joel Oseran, David Robinson, Neil Samuel, Dr Rob Sward