

Union for Progressive Judaism

Annual Report



2022-2023

## **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**

David D Knoll AM, Co-President  
Brian Samuel OAM, Co-President  
Roger Mendelson, Immediate Past President  
Danny Hochberg, Vice-President  
Helen Shardey OAM, Vice-President  
Professor Larry Lockshin, Honorary Secretary  
Sally Castle, Honorary Treasurer

#### **Committee Members**

Dorothy Graff OAM  
Judi Hall  
Laurian Harry  
Associate Professor Josh Keller  
Amanda Mace  
Dr Sue Silberberg

#### **Staff**

Jocelyn Robuck, Executive Manager

Representative

#### **Ex Officio Committee Members**

Avishai Conyer, Netzer Mederal Mazkir  
Hadar Lev-Tzori, Netzer Shlichah NSW  
Naama Yeruham, Netzer Shlichah VIC  
Helen Shardey, ARZA President & WUPJ

Rabbi Allison RH Conyer, ARC Chair

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## MESSAGE FROM THE WORLD UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM



Dear Friends,

Another challenging year is about to come to an end, and 'flexibility' and 'change' now appear to be the new normal. Communities worldwide are living with the long-term and unexpected effects of COVID; the gradual changes in demographic and societal views of community; the use of technology and the cost of travel. All our organisations have had to learn to adopt and adapt.

This year, in May, at our Connections conference in Jerusalem, we were thrilled to welcome members of UPJ communities to leadership positions in the WUPJ: Phyllis Dorey OAM, is the first Australian to be elected chair of the WUPJ and joining her on the Management Committee are Sharene Hambur (Melbourne) as Secretary and Daniel Kirwin (Hong Kong). Helen Shardey OAM (Melbourne) is your regional representative on the WUPJ Executive Board, and Dr Philip Bliss OAM (Melbourne) is an Honorary Life Member of the WUPJ.

Joining us at the highly successful Connections program– our first in person gathering at our home, Beit Shmuel, for more than 5 years – was a large, passionate delegation from this region, who did us all proud. This included 4 wonderful women leaders who also joined a group of international women leaders at the Wilkenfeld Leadership Program for the few days before the conference.

In cooperation with the leaders of our regions, the WUPJ has been planning and implementing educational and leadership programs; reviewing our governance structures; and continuing to support our emerging and smaller communities, worldwide. Our work has intensified especially in Ukraine and Russia, where our help is gratefully appreciated, but will be even more essential in the months and years ahead.

Our President, Rabbi Bergman, talks often of the approach of the WUPJ as being “glocal” and we are continually grateful for the leadership of the UPJ which embodies this principle– through the work undertaken to support communities within this region and, through the work of the UIA Progressive Appeal campaign, which you undertake with your partners around the world and which provides tangible support to refugees from Ukraine and eastern Europe, resettling in Israel, and for the professionals who work with them.

We know you are excited to have welcomed, finally, the two community/Netzer schlichot to Sydney and Melbourne and wish Na'ama and Hadar much success in our joint mission. We are working on being able to send one to New Zealand before too long.

The WUPJ Chair and Vice Chair (Finance) are joining with the UPJ leaders at their Gold Coast meeting to honour and thank the outgoing UPJ Co-Chairs, to welcome the new leadership, and to strengthen our ties of friendship and partnership.

Kol Ha'Kavod and thank you to all our UPJ friends.

Rabbi Sergio Bergman  
President

Phyllis Dorey OAM  
Chair

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EUPJ

European Union for Progressive Judaism

The Sternberg Centre for Judaism  
80 East End Road, London N3 2SY UK

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



London, 26 October 2023

Dear friends at the UPJ!

On behalf of our now 176 congregations, we are sending warmest greetings from Europe and wish you much success for your upcoming conference.

Had we written this letter just a few weeks ago, we would be sharing only our excitement about our plans to take the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) from strength to strength. This summer the EUPJ elected a new Management Committee with representatives from across Europe, in a clear signal that we are fully committed to being a European organisation.

The projects that we conduct in partnership with the European Commission, including our flagship program Neighbours, which brings together Jewish and Muslim young people to combat antisemitism, as well as two other projects tracking antisemitism, are a central pillar of our work and we are grateful to the leadership of EUPJ's Foundation who ensure that these projects are successful.

The European Beit Din continues to do critical work in supporting our smaller communities in regions without an independent Beit Din. We carry out this important work in partnership with the European Rabbinic Assembly, which also supports us in providing rabbinic services to emerging and developing communities.

Sadly, the horrific events of 7 October in Israel have had a serious impact on the work of our member communities. We see rising rates of antisemitic incidents across all of Europe and an increased need for pastoral support for our members to process the impact of the Israel-Gaza war. Like our partner organisations across the WUPJ, we have been advocating on behalf of Israel and especially for the swift release of the hostages.

Even though you will be holding your meetings during these challenging times, we hope that you will be able to enjoy a wonderful conference and share in the joy of Progressive Judaism.

With warmest regards and all best wishes,

Rabbi Lea Mühlstein  
Chair

Miriam Kramer  
President

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Miriam Kramer  
miriam.kramer@eupj.org

Chair:  
Rabbi Lea Mühlstein  
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Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein  
Rabbi Menno ten Brink

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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 CO-PRESIDENTS**

DAVID D KNOLL AM AND BRIAN SAMUEL OAM

This being our last annual report, we have taken the liberty of undertaking a review of our progress over the last four years, Covid-19 interrupted as it has been, in achieving the goals that we set ourselves. We thank the members of our Executive team who contributed their thoughts to this review.

### **Build a culture of collaboration**

Through the Presidents' and Treasurers' Roundtables, and creating networking conversation at our Biennials, there is without doubt an improved collaboration across our various communities.

We hope that by the time you read this report, a grant that we have sought to bring emerging leaders in our communities together to network, learn about governance (with a separate program specially for New Zealand) and take our communities forward, will come through. Stay tuned!

That said, the demographic data tells us that our opportunities to grow are first, with those who see themselves as traditional but not Orthodox, and secondly with those who see themselves as of no denomination, just Jewish. This is where we will find Jews who probably subscribe to our values but do not know yet what they are.

Localised strategies have yet to be developed, and if we are to succeed at being relevant in the 21st century, we must work together across our communities and help each other to focus on building communities and not just congregations. We need to recognise in our planning that classical Reform Judaism has a limited shelf life, as Rabbi Danny Schiff has so eloquently explained.

A key tool for growth and relevance is Relational Judaism, but the uptake has not been as good as we would have hoped. Doing Relational Judaism within a community properly is hard work, as has been outlined at the past two Biennials. It is the path to growth from congregation to community. Ultimately, we at the UPJ can provide the tools and offer education and training on how to use them, but it is up to each of our communities across Australia, New Zealand and Asia to take up the challenge.

We are also facilitating stronger relationships between communities, and the Resource Sharing Network (RSN) will increase ease and depth of those relationships and strengthen the satisfaction of knowing that we all belong to one large UPJ community. Having learned from the pilot program, we expect the RSN to launch in November 2023.

In Australia, at least, there is a way to measure. If on the next "Gen" survey the percentage of identifying Australian Jews who have joined or now participate in our communities (note we do not say, congregations) is up from 11 per cent, and we had hoped to reach 20 per cent, we will know we are on the right path. If that percentage is stable or dropping, we will know that we have much more work to do.

A key area to drive further collaboration will be around structuring the golden partnership between lay leaders of congregations and their clergy to create mutually agreed expectations, a strong focus on growing our communities, and mutual support across our communities. We have reached out to communities when hiring clergy, but collaboration in that space is a work in progress at best.

### **Increase our members and participants self-perception of the importance of being Jewish**

We know from Gen 17 that our members' self-perception of the importance of being Jewish is as low as 23 per cent, and this reflects in part a need to strengthen everyone in our communities' confidence in expressing our

Jewish values, and recognising that the way in which we live our lives is as much an expression of being Jewish as ritual observance might be in ultra-Orthodox communities.

We already know and have shared with you over the last few years that for many young adults, identifying through issues such as climate change and social inequality is far more important than participating in a Jewish institution. Much as we have encouraged congregations to embrace the need to empower young adults to coalesce around issues rather than institutions, the take-up needs to improve, and whilst the UPJ can encourage, it is up to our communities to implement.

And we are developing a new initiative. We are currently piloting the program: “Talking about our Jewish values” and it will be presented at the upcoming leadership gathering. We will need your feedback as to how best to take it forward.

Finally, in this context, our survey conducted a few months ago reminded us that educating our communities about how to talk about Israel warrants a significant educational effort. We will start that process at the upcoming leadership gathering.

### **Build young adult and youth engagement strategies**

We have begun to understand that the under-45s create different challenges. What they demand may not be what we supply. For them, participation in institutional Judaism is not a given. The new Connected Communities Project is a launchpad for driving this forward.

Further, with our new shlichot onboard, after a lengthy delay and significant fundraising efforts, it is hoped that further growth for Netzer and the introduction of TaMAR will help building stronger youth and young adult communities.

The sad reality is that we continue to use our institutions to address issues that are outside of our institutions. We know that will not work, and we need to change our strategies. That is best done collaboratively.

### **Clear, positive engagement in the public space**

There is little doubt that the UPJ and ARZA are now perceived as an integral part of mainstream Australian Jewry. At the leadership levels within the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (the national roof body), the Zionist Federation of Australia and in the media at J-Wire, +61J and the Australian Jewish News, there is a clear acceptance that Progressive Judaism in Australia has an important role to play as an integral part of the Australian Jewish fabric. We are less and less perceived as second-class Jews, although there continues to be some self-perception in that regard across our communities. We need to tackle that self-perception more as we go into the future.

### **Build a UPJ Biennial program in alignment with strategic goals**

We had a difficult time trying to maintain the Biennial program during Covid-19, but the Virtual Biennial was more successful than we could have imagined. Last year’s first in-person Biennial since Covid-19 was particularly well-attended and despite many in attendance undertaking to maintain their conversations with friends they have made from other communities, our follow-up indicates that not many kept up that commitment.

Our movement can only grow if each individual participant makes their own effort to build networks right across our various communities, and not only within their own.



## **Grow the UIA Progressive Appeal**

Our community's connection to Israel continues to grow and prosper, and this is not just a result of the UIA Progressive Appeal but also a result of the extraordinary and successful efforts of ARZA under the leadership of Helen Shardey OAM.

We have managed to raise \$1.2 million in support of the Progressive movement in Israel over each of the last three years, well up from previous levels.

Our thanks go out to all who have contributed, and we particularly note that there have begun to be a steady stream of contributions from the smaller states, for which we are particularly grateful. We only wish we could establish a tax-deductible fund in New Zealand, and of course each Asian community has their own methods for fundraising. These we must respect. We are particularly grateful that so many have been especially generous in supporting the emergency campaigns currently underway.

## **A big thank you!**

We would like to thank each person who has served on the UPJ Executive over the past four years. The teamwork and collegiality have been excellent. If we have forgotten anyone, please forgive us:

- Rabbis Martha Bergadine, Adi Cohen, Allison Conyer, Kim Ettlinger, Rafi Kaiserblueth, Jeffrey B Kamins OAM, Shoshana Kaminsky, Jonathan Keren-Black OAM, David Kunin, Fred Morgan AM, Jacki Ninio, Nicole Roberts, Gary Robuck and Sam Zwarenstein;
- Vice-Presidents Dorothy Graff OAM, Danny Hochberg, Helen Shardey OAM;
- Our indefatigable Treasurer, Sally Castle;
- The sage Honorary Secretary, Larry Lockshin;
- From Asia, Laurian Harry and Yoni Garbourg;
- Immediate Past President, Roger Mendelson;
- Our Netzer Mazkirim, Noa Abrahams, Avishai Conyer, Lior Kalisse, and Michael Sacks;
- Our Shlichim, Sefi Shalem, Hadar Lev-Tzori and Naama Yeruham;
- Our project leaders, Judi Hall, Susan Kadar, Josh Keller, Amanda Mace, and Sue Silberberg;
- Providers of sage advice and wisdom, Trevor Creewel, Sharon Davis, Franklin Tate, Sharene Hambur and Joel Mendelson.

## **Another big thank you!**

While Gal Gadot successfully auditioned for the role of Wonder Woman, she no doubt breathed a sigh of relief when she learned that the real wonder woman did not apply. We continue to be ever so grateful that the real wonder woman makes the UPJ happen. Jocelyn Robuck, we cannot do it without you!

## **L'hitraot**

Hebrew has no word for goodbye. After all, "shalom" is used for both "hello" and "goodbye," but its actual meaning is "peace." As for goodbye, the closest thing is "l'hitraot" — see you later. That is because connected Jews stay committed Jews. As we sign-off after a hardworking four years, we know that we leave the UPJ on very firm foundations in handing over to the new leadership team. May they continue to take our movement from strength to strength.

We remain optimistic for the future. L'hitraot, David D Knoll AM and Brian Samuel OAM

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE UPJ EXECUTIVE MANAGER**

JOCELYN ROBUCK

The past year has felt like a whirlwind, swirling with ups and downs, both personally and professionally.

Gary and I had initially only planned to be away from our Sydney home for one year, and when he accepted the invitation to remain as Temple Beth Israel's interim rabbi for an additional year, it was with the understanding and generosity from TBI that we would undertake more frequent visits to Sydney; as we all know, kids grow up so fast.

The complicated road map of our lives intersected with the extremely busy schedules of the UPJ and TBI, monthly trips to Sydney (with Gary and I visiting in alternate weeks), a Chanukah cruise to the South Pacific, Lesley Sachs' visit from Israel to speak on behalf of the Progressive Appeal, the UPJ's Shir Chadash music conference in Geelong, our son Aaron's dream role in the musical "Parade" (which was conveniently being shown in Melbourne, and will next year play in Sydney), and an extended sojourn for me in Sydney for six weeks while our dear daughter-in-law was not well and I was needed to help care for the three grandkids. The disorientation of being away from our Sydney home was heightened by not being able to spend the High Holy Days with Gary in Melbourne at TBI – very topsy-turvy.

And now, the anguish we all feel for our brothers and sisters in Israel has added to the feeling that the world has truly turned upside-down. Sadly the tour that Gary and I were to lead starting at the end of October is on hold, but our entire group is fervently praying for return to peace and safety in Israel, and look forward to being able to travel to our beloved Israel and to show our love, support and solidarity.

Though during this past year we greatly missed seeing our grandchildren as often as we normally do, Gary and I will also miss the many members of the Progressive community we have come to regard as dear friends while sojourning in Melbourne. Of course, Gary jokes that he will miss even more the abundance of kosher restaurants in Melbourne! We are so blessed to return home not only to our family, but to our dual home congregations in Sydney: Emanuel Synagogue and North Shore Temple Emanuel, as well as the Emanuel School community, which our grandkids attend.

I am extremely grateful to those who served on the Executive Committee during this past year. They are deeply committed and passionate Progressive Jews and our community is truly blessed by their generosity of time and spirit. At this year's AGM, Avishai Conyer, Judi Hall, Laurian Harry, Dr Josh Keller and Dr Sue Silberberg will step down from their roles on the Executive, and we say a heartfelt "todah rabbah" to them for their many significant contributions. After the AGM, we look forward to welcoming new faces to join the remaining dynamos on the Executive, Amanda Mace and Rabbi Allison Conyer.

My heartfelt thanks to our hard-working, dedicated Va'ad (officers): Vice-Presidents Dorothy Graff OAM, Danny Hochberg and Helen Shardey OAM, Honorary Secretary Larry Lockshin, and Honorary Treasurer Sally Castle. These incredibly talented individuals have made completing my UPJ tasks a pleasure, and they are all dear friends. To Roger Mendelson, who finally (!) gets to step down after four years as Immediate Past President, I say a very hearty "yasher koach" – well done for your deep dedication and commitment.

Lastly, to our Co-Presidents, David D Knoll AM and Brian Samuel OAM: You have both been truly inspirational to me. I hope that you can now sit back a bit and reflect upon the wonderful service you have provided, which is so very much appreciated by so many. May we all continue to build upon the strong foundations you have established.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE UPJ HONORARY TREASURER

SALLY CASTLE, CA

I present the financial report of the Union for Progressive Judaism for the year ended 30 June 2023. This report is presented after the auditors have completed their review.

### NET RESULT

I can advise that a surplus of \$5k was made in 2022-23, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$6k. The net result of \$5k surplus was \$11k better than expected, which was mainly due to:

- \$36k more than expected in revenue from the UIA annual contribution (\$10k), donations (\$6k) and grants (\$20k); and lower than expected staff costs (\$13k);
- Offset by greater than expected deficits for the Biennial and Shir Chadash conferences (\$39k).

### INCOME

Income in 2022-23 was \$347k, \$95k more than the previous year. The main drivers for this increase were:

- UPJ Biennial income of \$45k (there was no biennial in the previous year);
- Shir Chadash income of \$9k (there was no Shir Chadash in the previous year);
- An increase of \$10k in the amount received from UIA from the UIA Progressive Appeal; and
- An increase of \$20k in the amount received for grants (from WUPJ and PJCF Cultural fund).

### EXPENSES

Expenses in 2022-23 were \$342k, compared to budgeted expenses of \$264k (which included a budgeted net loss of \$30k for the biennial). This represented an increase in actual expenses of \$121k compared to the previous year. The increase in expenses of \$121k between 2021-22 and 2022-23 was mainly due to:

Increases totalling \$154k from:

- \$6k in advertising;
- \$123k for Biennial and Shir Chadash expenses;
- \$10k in salaries expenses;
- \$7k in travel (expected in a Biennial year); and
- \$8k in insurance, printing, IT and other administrative expenses.

Decreases of \$33k from:

- \$23k in grants (last year included a writeoff of a rabbinic loan);
- \$10k in Netzer grants as the grants to Netzer returned to normal in 2022-23 following pandemic disruptions to the Shnat program.

### OUTLOOK

Last year I forecast a loss of \$6k in 2022-23. I'm happy that we were able to achieve a modest surplus, despite higher than expected losses on the Biennial and Shir Chadash. Every surplus we make, however small, is a contribution to the long-term sustainability of the UPJ.

As always, the UPJ retains its income uncertainties relating to affiliation fees and the WUPJ grant. We maintain prudent financial management with a conservative approach to spending and in full awareness of our limited budget. We have a small buffer of \$250k to provide a small amount of future proofing. In these uncertain and frightening times, we stay fully committed to working together with our constituent communities to support the Progressive Jewish movement in our region, around the world and especially in Israel. What we do in our region matters to all.

#### APPRECIATION AND FAREWELL

My thanks as always go to our auditors, Lowe Lippman, especially Brett Welsh; and to our bookkeeper Fran Freiman.

After nine years, this is my final report as Treasurer for the Union for Progressive Judaism. It has been an inspiration to work with everyone who has contributed to the UPJ Executive Committee over the time I have held the office of Treasurer. All of these amazing people are not only colleagues in the work to which we are so committed, but my friends. My successor, Harry Bernfield, is highly qualified and will add his own fantastic experience and expertise to this group. I look forward to working with him on transition over the coming months.

I could not sign off on my time as Treasurer without recognising the fabulous Jocelyn Robuck, who has become a dear and special friend and who continues to work tirelessly for the UPJ in the role of Executive Manager. Thank you, Jocelyn, from the bottom of my heart.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY OF RABBIS AND CANTORS OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND ASIA

RABBI ALLISON RH CONYER, CHAIR



Commencing after our annual general meeting in November 2022, our new Executive Board was elected, including Rabbi Allison RH Conyer (Melbourne) as Chair, Rabbi Kim Ettlinger (Perth) as Vice-Chair, Rabbi Rafi Kaiserblueth (Sydney) as Treasurer, and Rabbi Martha Bergadine (Hong Kong) as Secretary. We accepted the resignation of Rabbi Gersh Lazarow and celebrated the smicha of the newly ordained Rabbi Sam Zwarenstein. We currently have 23 Progressive rabbis and cantors in our region, 4 of whom are Rabbis Emeriti, 4 of whom are employed part-time, and two of whom are not actively serving in congregations, but serve as consulting rabbis for smaller communities. The remaining rabbis are serving as full-time rabbis in our UPJ congregations. We are strongly associated with Rabbi Yonatan Sadoff, a Masorti rabbi in Melbourne, with whom Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins and Rabbi Rafi Kaiserblueth support with Conservative conversions. We are currently in conversations with a new rabbi in Taiwan, Rabbi Cody Bahir, with whom our Asian colleagues have engaged in their regional Jewish youth programming. Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky engaged in a pulpit swap for her sabbatical, and Rabbi Margaret Jacobi joined Adelaide's Beit Shalom community for a number of months.

Sadly, Rabbi Kaminsky and Rabbis Miriam and Beni Wajnberg in Singapore will be leaving our region. Rabbis Miriam and Beni Wajnberg joined the United Hebrew Congregation in Singapore during Covid and have been respected and cherished members of the ARC and their community. Rabbi Kaminsky has served as the rabbi for Beit Shalom Synagogue since 2006. During her 17 years in our region, Rabbi Kaminsky was the longest serving chair of the Moetza (now ARC), during which time she was integral in engaging the Indonesia Jewish community, was an outstanding role model and advocate for climate change awareness and action in her engagement with the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC), and was known for her interfaith and pastoral care work. She has been a mentor to many and is a valued colleague. After 20 years of service, Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black was made Rabbi Emeritus at Leo Baeck Centre for Progressive Judaism and has left Victoria for the warmth of New South Wales. Rabbi Keren-Black has arguably been our leading rabbi in all environmental issues for the past two decades, has been a visible voice in interfaith dialogue in Victoria, and has left a permanent mark in his work on editing both our Mishkan T'filah (our regional Progressive Shabbat and weekday siddur) and Mishkan T'shuvah (our regional Progressive Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur machzor). He provided a voice of reason and ethical integrity in all he did and was an incredibly important member of our Progressive rabbinate. We wish Rabbi Keren-Black, Rabbi Kaminsky and both Rabbis Wajnberg all the very best in their future endeavours.

At the November conference, we confirmed three significant regional agreements and made one recommendation:

1. We voted in favour of permitting rabbis, who are comfortable, with the consent of their boards, to participate in interfaith ceremonies in a very limited capacity:  
*"The Rabbis of the ARC Moetza be permitted to play a very limited role at a wedding ceremony between a Jew and a non-Jew when a secular celebrant is officiating. The role shall be limited to offering remarks and a blessing to the couple at the conclusion of the ceremony."*

2. We agreed to allow rabbis who were comfortable to offer conversion candidates different naming options other than ben/bat/b'nei/mi beit Avraham v'Sarah, a name that connected them to their Jewish lineage or a Jewish name of their choosing.
3. We agreed that all non-legacy ordained clergy would be accepted as members of the ARC on a case-by-case basis.
4. We recommended that all UPJ congregations searching for rabbis consult a member of the ARC regarding the candidate and ask the potential candidate to meet with a member of the ARC to understand our regional policies before making any decisions regarding offering or accepting a rabbinic or cantorial position.

At our mid-year ARC conference via Zoom in June, we invited presenters from Relationships Australia to run a session with us on “Managing Challenging Behaviours”, helping us understand our own triggers and work better with challenging people and situations with colleagues, staff, board members, and congregants. We discussed the issue of non-Jewish membership, prayers for non-Jewish partners in an interfaith relationship, non-binary conversion and b'nei mitzvah certificates, and creation of mutually agreed upon conversion standards and assessment with varying pedagogy.

We confirmed that:

- If a person was raised secular with ONE Jewish parent (regardless of which parent), MOST colleagues and congregations would require affirmation rather than conversion. Affirmation requirements differed based on the communities.
- If a child is adopted by Jewish parents, the Jewish parents' names are included on the naming certificate and bar/bat/b'nei/beit mitzvah certificate.
- Any document signed on behalf of the ARC must to be confirmed by at least two members of the ARC Executive.

With the help of Rabbi Sam Zwarenstein and Jocelyn Robuck, we set up a shared drive dedicated to the ARC and are in the process of uploading and sorting past and current policies and minutes. We've also created a faster and more efficient way of communicating and sharing information.

As the Chair of the ARC, I was privileged to attend the WUPJ Rabbinic Kallah and conference in Israel with the support of the UPJ, the ARC, and my congregation, for which I am incredibly grateful. Rabbi Beni Wajnberg also attended the conference. We were able to gain insights, new ideas, and form beautiful connections with colleagues from around the world, which has been most helpful especially during these difficult times.

Finally, we worked with the UPJ, PJV, and Netzer to create a statement about the Voice to Parliament, we re-instituted Elul Reflections, coordinated by Rabbi Aviva Kipen and Jocelyn Robuck, and I put out a rabbinic statement about Israel's judicial reforms, and worked with the PJV, UPJ, and ARZA to create a movement-wide Shloshim gathering after the 7 October Israeli massacres.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the UPJ Executive, especially to David Knoll, Danny Hochberg, and Jocelyn Robuck, along with the ARC Executive, who have been incredible supports to me as I have transitioned into this new role. I look forward to continuing the good work we have started in the coming year. Wishing all of us chazak v'amatz – strength and courage – as we continue through these difficult times.

## **The Progressive Congregation of the ACT Jewish Community – Canberra, ACT**

Dr Mike Kelly AM and Amelia Watson, Co-Chairs, Progressive Committee of the ACTJC



The ACTJC Progressive Congregation has had a busy year. We went into the 2022/2023 year not having a consistent Rabbi. We made it a priority to reach out to several Rabbis to create a program of almost monthly Rabbi visits. We also developed our relationship with Emanuel Synagogue in Woollahra, who have been providing assistance and have put forward Rabbi Sam Zwarenstein, who has been providing rabbinical support for the Progressive Congregation.

This year we have had visits from Rabbi Sam Zwarenstein, Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black OAM, Rabbi Adi Cohen and Rabbi George Mordecai.

Our High Holy Days were supported and led by Karen Rosauer. The Progressive Committee worked with Karen to develop services for the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur that were inclusive and involved much of the community. It was wonderful to see a large attendance of the Progressive community join us for High Holy Days services.

Our community has celebrated three bat mitzvahs and a baby naming this year and it has been wonderful to see our community grow.

We continue to run regular Friday night Shabbat services, led by community members. One Friday service of each month focuses on the b'nei mitzvah children and encourages their participation in the service.

We have a large number of b'nei mitzvah children coming through, supported by Dan Rosauer. This includes meetings with visiting rabbis and regular meetings with families, as well as the monthly Friday Shabbat service.

The Progressive Committee is working on bringing the UPJ Biennial Conference to Canberra in 2024 and the planning for this has started this year.

We look forward to growing our congregation in the coming year.

## North Shore Temple Emanuel – Chatswood, New South Wales

Julia Selby, President



By the end of 2022, we were able to concentrate on the future without the overriding factor of the pandemic that had dominated in recent years. People are again gathering at NSTE for services, learning, dinners, events and other activities as a community. Joyful festival activities have resumed, such as at Purim, Pesach and Shavuot.

Thanks to the efforts of our volunteer livestream team, we continue to bring our services to people who are unable to be present in the sanctuary for reasons such as distance or ill health.

The pandemic brought many downsides, but a positive outcome has been the use of online resources, such as Zoom and webinars, for discussions and talks, such as the monthly Phosphorescence conversation for the start of the new Hebrew month, Torah study sessions and webinars organised by NSTE's Jews for Social Action.

It has been a longstanding ethos of NSTE to understand that our members engage with our community in many ways, not only through our religious services. In one of Rabbi Nicole's High Holy Days sermons, she encouraged the forming of small groups, known as "Tribes", based on a common interest, such as a shared hobby or passion, location or other possible commonalities. These Temple Tribes are now connecting people of all ages and locations with six tribes created since January 2023, including the Water Tribe, Inner West, Gen X, Crafts, Rummy O Games and Single & Social tribes.

Our new Growing Souls Shabbat dinners once a month for children aged up to eight years are bringing a sense of community to our youngest members and their parents. Our inspiring quarterly Hands-Free services for older children brings that group together as a community.

Since joining our community in June 2022, Rabbi Moshe Givental has provided leadership to our Meah Hebrew and Religion School, engaging with the families of pre-b'mitzvah age children.

Having resumed face-to-face High Holy Days services in 2022, people were delighted to come together again for the High Holy Days services in 2023. Some people, who had been reluctant to participate face to face in 2022, had the confidence to attend in person in 2023 and there was a real sense of community and commitment throughout the High Holy Days period and into Sukkot and Simchat Torah.

Thanks to a NSW Government Community Building Partnership Grant, we were able to install hearing augmentation with a hearing loop in time to provide improved audibility for the High Holy Days in 2022.

In May 2023, through our Project Shemesh, we installed solar panels, funded by donations across the community.

At our annual general meeting in May 2023, Vice-President Geoffrey Wolf and Director Jennifer Ruskin retired from the board, both having served since 2017. Peter Landis also left the board at the annual general meeting, having served on the board since 2021. Simon Covill, Jonathan Goldberg, Josh Keller and Karen Wagner joined the board.

We are very grateful to all our volunteers who contribute so much to all aspects of our community.



## **Emanuel Synagogue – Woollahra, New South Wales**

Grant McCorquodale, President

Reported submitted by Rabbi Rafi Kaiserblueth



2023 marks a year of change and transition. We have welcomed Kate Shkurko as our new executive director and Grant McCorquodale as our president, replacing Alex Lehrer who served nine years on board, the previous six as president. Sam Weiss and Karen Hirst also have stepped down from the board, Sam having served for nine years as well.

We have completed the restoration of our Heritage Sanctuary, and therefore were able to hold services for the first time in four years in both sanctuaries. There was in excess of 1,500 people on our campus over the High Holy Days. It was an incredible celebration and time to come together.

Additionally, our online offering has been steadily increasing and we reached more than 500 people over the High Holy Days period, many of whom were unable to attend services in person.

Our staff continues to evolve, as we have added Chloe Murphy as our Head of Youth Education and Melba Proestos as our Head of Marketing and Digital.

We have seen significant events in our clergy team. Rabbi Ninio celebrated 25 years of service to Emanuel Synagogue. Rabbi Kaiserblueth was appointed as the first Jewish Chaplain in the History of the Royal Australian Navy, and Rabbi Zwarenstein was ordained as a rabbi in December 2022.

## **Beit Or v'Shalom – Brisbane, Queensland**

Alvin Maradeen, President



During the past year, our congregation has been fortunate and blessed to have not suffered the loss of the passing of any Beit Or v'Shalom members. There have however 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".

After five-and-a-half years as president of Beit Or v'Shalom, it is with great pleasure and pride that I present my final President's Annual Report, for the year 2022/2023.

We are a relatively small congregation, who have been operating for a long time with thanks to many volunteers within our community. We have not had the luxury of being able to employ a rabbi or other trained service leaders for our Shabbat and chagim services, but still we have managed to continue providing what I hope are seen as quality services every single week and for as many festivals throughout the year as we could manage.

Our Cheder continues to grow and educate our young children, with thanks to our amazing Cheder Director, Dr Andrew Cohen, and a number of parents who assist in the supervision and teaching of the students.

In the past year, we have established a reinvigorated Guild, who under the leadership of Gael Levy have ensured that we have excellent kiddushim every week, as well as wonderful catering for festivals such as Pesach Seder, Purim, Shavuot and the High Holy Days, and of course special celebrations such as baby naming ceremonies and b'nei mitzvot.

We also rely on volunteers for regular duties, such as the live-streaming of our services, gate security, cleaning, gardening and building maintenance.

In this past year we celebrated the bar mitzvah of Jonah Edelman. We celebrated a baby naming ceremony with the Bogan family. We celebrated the bat mitzvah of Talia Segal and at the time of writing, we are preparing to celebrate the bat mitzvah of Zara Shafferman. I would like to wish a hearty mazel tov to all of these families!

Our Community Care Program continues to be generously supported by many members and has been able to provide some much-needed items to those who have found themselves in need. It is a great mitzvah to be able to help those who need it.

Our Shabbat morning services have continued each week and I am so very pleased that we have added more people to our service leadership team, The children of our Cheder once again made everyone very proud, with their participation at the Yom HaShoah ceremony held at Mt Gravatt Cemetery.

We introduced an adult b'nei mitzvah group class which has been well received. Those who have persevered with the program have been doing very well and I am looking forward to seeing these students achieve the b'nei mitzvah goals in the near future.

I thank all the volunteers who have contributed in so many different ways to the shul throughout the past 12 months. My thanks of course to the outgoing Board, who have worked so harmoniously and have achieved great outcomes for the Shul. On behalf of the community, a massive thank you to Andy Cohen in his role of Cheder Director, whose tireless efforts working with the children of this community are vital for the future growth of Progressive Judaism in Brisbane.

I have been a proud member of this shul for 12 years. I have served on the Board of Management for most of that time, led hundreds of Shabbat and Festival services over the last 11 years, including at least 15 b'nei mitzvah and five baby naming ceremonies. I have been privileged to be trusted to teach many students, both children and adults. I have proudly represented our congregation at various community functions, both Jewish and secular. I am very thankful for the many friendships and the support that I have received from people in our community. I am extremely proud of the congregation that we have built as Beit Or v'Shalom and the positive way in which we are regarded in the wider community.

It has been a great honour to serve the community as president. I will still be playing an active role on the Board as Past President and I will continue, for now, to lead the Rituals team. I encourage everyone to support the incoming Board of Management in every way possible and to continue making the world aware that we are a warm, welcoming and inclusive Progressive congregation.

## Temple Shalom – Gold Coast, Queensland

Louise Ward, President



We are very pleased to report we have had growth of just over 30 per cent in membership since Rabbi Cohen arrived two years ago, as well as substantial growth in attendance at functions and events, by both members and visitors. The hard work we have put into our events and functions is clearly paying off. Increasing engagement with the wider Jewish community has been very successful in translating visitors into new members.

Rabbi Cohen and the Board have worked hard together to raise our profile by making connections in the Jewish community, and also wider afield. We have become much more involved with the multi-faith (MAAG) organisation on the Gold Coast.

We have reached out and formed collaborations and associations with local government, Queensland Parliamentary Friends of Israel, the Gold Coast Police, the Gold Coast Hospital Chaplains Association, and the Gold Coast City Mayor. We have started to work with local charities, Friends With Dignity and Serving Our People.

We now have a growing class of students in our Introduction to Judaism course, with a number of them following the path to conversion.

We also have a number of members engaged in adult b'nei mitzvah study.

Our finances are better than last year, but we still need to raise more to meet our expected outgoings. Building the town houses has proved to be the best investment we could ever have made, as it has allowed us to retain the services of a rabbi. This is the biggest factor in our growth. However, with our ageing building and the depletion of our reserves to build our town houses, we now find ourselves needing to raise our income substantially.

To this end, we have changed the way we ask people to support Temple Shalom with membership contributions. We have been quite frank with members about the situation regarding finances and introduced a new membership contribution structure.

Knowing that we needed to increase what we had asked members to pay in previous years substantially, we asked people to pay whatever they could afford over a minimum amount. We have also introduced monthly and six-monthly payment plans. We were very pleasantly surprised by the overwhelmingly positive response to the changes we have made regarding membership contributions. We believe that being completely open about our financial situation and asking people to pay what they could afford, rather than setting a fixed amount, and also giving everyone the choice to be able to make smaller regular payments, has made membership much more attractive and attainable for many. Being as inclusive as possible without asking people to prove their financial situation to obtain a reduction in membership contributions has also meant we have done away with that embarrassing discussion. Members feel welcomed regardless of their ability to pay. It has also meant a large increase in funds from people who share the vision of growing an inclusive community regardless of ability to pay.

## **Beit Shalom Synagogue – Adelaide, South Australia**

Ruth Gilbert, President



With the worst of the Covid period now behind us, Beit Shalom has been able to conduct services and celebrate festivals once more face-to-face and with its usual gusto. We have retained our hybrid services, with Friday night and Saturday morning services still also on Zoom. Though technology occasionally presents some challenges, we have members who regularly tune in, and it provides a useful option for those who find it difficult to leave the house and travel to the synagogue – for whatever reason.

Festivals returned to normal with a Purim carnival and spiel – this year the theme was “Hollywood.” We held our communal Seder and were rewarded with a return to pre-Covid numbers and with only a few small alterations to table service, in order to reduce the number of shared dishes. We celebrated Shavuot with an oneg and our traditional and fiercely-competed cheesecake competition.

February saw our first Yetsirah – an art exhibition featuring work from across the Adelaide Jewish community and beyond. This was an immensely successful event, with over 200 visitors over only a period of two days. The art – fine arts, photography, ceramics, craft, music, spoken word and more – was of a very high quality, and the “café” proved a wonderful opportunity for people to linger, engage and reconnect. The exhibition was opened by Zoe Bettison MP, Minister for Tourism and Multicultural Affairs in the South Australian Government.

March gave Beit Shalom a new rabbi, as Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky had a three-month “rabbi swap” with Rabbi Margaret Jacobi from the Birmingham Liberal Synagogue. As Rabbi Kaminsky ministered to the Brummie flock, we hosted Margaret Jacobi, who conducted services and adult education and enjoyed the delights of an Adelaide spring (and our arts festivals in Mad March). Rabbi Jacobi left us at the end of May, and Beit Shalom had to fend for itself for two months, as Rabbi Kaminsky took a well-deserved break. This allowed the “Bimah Associates” to hone their service-leading skills, and many members commented on how much they had enjoyed the variety of services on offer.

The synagogue celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, and in August we had a special 60<sup>th</sup> service which was attended by six previous Beit Shalom rabbis (on Zoom) and a number of South Australian dignitaries, including the Governor of South Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson, and the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Jane Lomax Smith. Plans are well underway for a 60<sup>th</sup> gala to be held in November.

The Abraham Institute falls under the auspices of Beit Shalom Synagogue in South Australia and provides both interfaith and intercultural understanding, dialogue and education, mostly in SA schools. It is funded by Together for Humanity through the federal Department of Education.

The staff/volunteers currently consist of a Director, a Communications Officer, and three Jewish, two Christian and four Muslim educators.

School programs that the Abraham Institute provides are short presentations on Social Justice and Diversity and Inclusion, both of which can be delivered either secularly or religiously, Studies of Religion (SACE) Spiritualities, Religion and Meaning and Society and Culture. They also provide six-week high-impact workshops to small groups of students from

culturally diverse backgrounds, including Believe, Belong and Blossom for girls and The “I”s Have It for all genders. The short programs are suitable for students from Reception to Year 12, with the exception of SACE subjects and the longer programs for students in Years 9 - 12.

In the past year, the Abraham Institute delivered 23 short presentations and four long workshops, reaching nearly 2000 SA school students to help increase their interfaith and intercultural understanding.

## **Hobart Hebrew Congregation – Hobart, Tasmania**

Jeff Schneider, President



The Hobart Hebrew Congregation continues to sustain an active and positive presence for the diverse and small Tasmanian Jewish community.

The year saw productive engagement with both state and federal governments for a variety of important initiatives.

The Tasmanian State Government passed landmark legislation to prohibit Nazi symbols and became the first Australia state to ban Nazi gestures. The Jewish community provided consultation to the government during the crafting of the legislation. Aided by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry's Peter Wertheim, we provided advice to Attorney General Elise Archer's office that was well received. It was a pleasure to contribute to this important bill.

Reflecting a joint federal and state government project, we are excited that the federal grant for a Hobart Holocaust Centre will be implemented as part of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Given our community's small size, we trust that this is an ideal arrangement to deliver an impactful educational experience about the Shoah.

In September, our new CCTV cameras were installed at the Hobart Synagogue as a result of the Federal Government's Safer Communities Fund. We appreciate the ongoing assistance we receive from CSG Sydney on this project and their ongoing security support.

During the year, there were a few isolated antisemitic incidents; however, in general fortunately it was rather quiet with few disturbances.

After a few lonely years due to the pandemic, we no longer take for granted being able to host visitors for services and tours. It was again our pleasure to host a variety of interstate, international and local guests. We continue to share our historic synagogue and speak to several local school groups about Judaism and the Shoah.

In December, a special Chanukah candle-lighting ceremony was held with His Excellency Amir Maimon, Israeli Ambassador to Australia, and Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, along with many state politicians and interfaith representatives. This was an excellent opportunity for our community to gather and engage with local dignitaries.

We look forward to another eventful and productive year ahead.

## Kehillat David Hamelech (Kedem) – Armadale, Victoria

Deb Absler, President



The past 12 months have made for a busy and exciting year. We welcomed a new President, Deborah Absler, and a new Vice-President, Julian Rood. We welcomed new members to our board alongside existing members. It has been lively and stimulating to have a board which spans members in their twenties to a recently turned 80-year-old!

We launched a new website and a new Facebook Group. A monthly President's column was introduced alongside our regular newsletter and PEN (Personal Email News). We have a congregation-wide WhatsApp group to ensure we are in immediate contact when necessary.

We successfully trialed holding a monthly Minchah service on Saturday afternoons alongside our regular Shabbat morning services. This attracted a different group of members who appreciated the later starting time and different style of service. We ensured that as many services and other activities as possible were offered as hybrid (in-person and on-line), enabling increasing access to attendance from people located outside metropolitan Melbourne and also Victoria, as well as for those unable to attend in-person services for other reasons.

We introduced a new membership payment structure which consisted of different tiers and the option to become a supporter or patron (the latter included all generational family levels), and this was enthusiastically embraced by members.

We welcomed new groups and activities, some initiated by the Relational Judaism Committee, for example an Exploring Inter-faith Families Group and some informal get-togethers for members, continued with existing activities such as our Text Study Group. We offered two new series: our inspirational and stimulating Ancient Synagogues discussion group and our Living Calm Gentle Jewish Yoga group, which offered a Zoom-based Breathe in the New Year with Living Calm meditation and gentle movement class.

We ran two successful Stand-Up events. We had a stimulating presentation from Rabbi Dr Danny Schiff and from our own Raphael Morris on *Why Science Fiction is Jewish and Fantasy is Goyish*, which attracted an international Zoom attendance. We celebrated all the chagim, taking a slightly different creative emphasis than we have in the past.

We offered wonderfully joyous and well attended High Holy Days services, including welcoming new members to our cantorial team. Our Tikkun Olam Committee ensured that we remained active and relevant across a range of social justice issues.

We made it a priority to participate in PJV and UPJ committees and activities and appreciate the good will and partnership that exists at this level between congregations and has been further strengthened.

We look forward to further consolidation in 2024.



## Etz Chayim Progressive Synagogue – Bentleigh, Victoria

Pam Spiegel, President



At the onset of the new year, our shule embarked on a transformation journey, navigating the aftermath of finally having a year with no Covid restrictions. What that meant for us was to engage our community to make the transition from the Zoom concept to feeling safe enough to return to shule in person. Bolstered by our newly elected board in February, in which there are now two new additional members, we embraced this post-Covid phase with a positive outlook for a more promising future.

In the collaborative spirit once again, our child safety community of practice group, comprising both Orthodox and Progressive representatives, have worked together to formulate comprehensive policy aimed at ensuring the wellbeing of the children in our communities. This group has continued to meet monthly during the year.

Our ninth annual Women's Seder was held at our shule, gratitude goes to our Rabbi Allison and Vered Harel for running a wonderful evening with prayer, song and laughter bringing together women from the Progressive movement in our community. Thanks also goes to Frank Moore and Max Freilich and their band of merry men, who cooked and served the meal during the seder.

Rabbi Allison and Pam Spiegel represented our Etz Chayim community at the WUPJ connections conference in Jerusalem. UPJ communities were represented by a large contingent of Australian, New Zealand and Asian members.

Our b'nei mitzvah numbers have continued to increase classes running weekly with Rabbi Allison. Our collaboration with Temple Beth Israel running our Beit Sefer is still running on both sites each week and numbers are increasing.

The High Holy Days festivities at our shule this year were marked by a sense of spiritual reflection and community engagement. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Rosh Hashanah, the Progressive Jewish community of Melbourne joined together to create a memorable service both in person and on Zoom. This service created a sense of unity and shared purpose. The success of our High Holy Days services was due to the numerous amounts of volunteers. We grateful to our Rabbi, Rabbi Dr Allison Conyer.



## Leo Baeck Centre for Progressive Judaism – East Kew, Victoria

Michael Taft, President

This year the Management Committee has continued to run our community with the appreciated assistance of Rabbis Fred Morgan AM and Aviva Kipen. They provide us with pastoral care, service leadership, articles for our magazine and assistance with our beit mitzvah students.

Rabbi Morgan has officiated at the services for our beit mitzvah students.

Two members were honoured in the King's Birthday Honours list this year: Emeritus Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black OAM and Rita Erlich AM.

The Rabbinic Search Committee has been communicating with applicants for our vacancy. We have had the privilege to host Rabbi Jeremy Morrison and Rabbi Dr Esther Jilovsky for visits and engaging education sessions.

A meeting was held to discuss LBC's future. This takes into account the ageing membership, falling income and continually rising costs. We are lucky to be in a spacious and valuable site. The information session was very well attended. The Management Committee is now engaged in reviewing all feedback received.

Our High Holy Days services were led by Rabbi Morgan, with lay leadership assistance. The community appreciated the services and remarked on how meaningful and inspirational they were.

The Yom Ha'atzmaut dinner was held at LBC with a French focus. The speaker was Danielle Schilling, who was born in Lyon during the war. She spoke on the Jewish history of France.

Purim was celebrated with much joy and fun. Jon Taft led our service dressed as a circus ringmaster.

Participants at Seder led by Rabbi Morgan doubled to 80 persons, with a dozen kids looking for the afikomen.

We have begun to hold many sponsored kiddushim after Saturday services, with an active Kitchen Group catering the events, and members taking advantage of this to mark special occasions. This makes good use of our newly renovated kitchen.

The AGM attracted a good attendance. No election was necessary, all nominated positions were filled. Cast members from "Fiddler on the Roof", a local group, entertained us.

Rabbi Morgan led an inspiring Shavuot service.

We have been gifted with the plans of the original silk screen images that originally were on the glass windows of the shul. They came from the shul architect Mr. David Pincus. The beautiful biblical symbols peeled off with age. The Arts Committee are considering how to best preserve and display them.

All in all, there is a lot going on at LBC!

## Temple Beth Israel – St Kilda, Victoria

Michael Lawrence OAM, President



Over the past 12 months, Temple Beth Israel has undergone a remarkable transformation, achieving significant progress in multiple areas. From strengthening community bonds to embracing modern technology, this summary captures the highlights of TBI's journey towards growth and unity. Our intentions and mission have always and will continue to come from a place of care and dedication, and in 5784 we continue to strive to build a warm, inclusive, vibrant, and dynamic community and place of worship.

Engagement, education, and empowerment of our youth is amongst our top priorities. Through innovative programs, including our Beit Sefer Chayim after school program shared with Etz Chayim and our B'nei Mitzvah and Binah programs, we sought to instill Jewish values and traditions in the younger generation. This investment in the future aims to ensure that our shul will thrive for generations to come.

TBI continued its commitment to social justice and community outreach. The congregation rallied behind various Tikkun Olam causes, such as supporting refugees through Project Dignity, and our Nourish program feeding the needy. These efforts not only strengthened the synagogue's connection to the broader community but also exemplified the Jewish principle of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world).

We are proud of the work we have achieved in 5783 and humbled by the support of our community and volunteers who have made this possible. A snapshot of the things we as a congregation have achieved:

- An active rabbinic search campaign;
- Filling our place of worship with music and song with services such as Shabbat Unplugged, family and Netzer services;
- Robust budgeting by our treasurer and Finance Committee, grant applications and plans for upcoming fundraising events;
- Invaluable pro bono legal advice provided by Arnold Bloch Leibler and HR Legal;
- Incredible pro-bono work on our ageing sound system by Sound & Music; pro-bono HR consultancy from your HR and pro-bono tech support from Priority IT;
- Implemented coaching for our senior leadership team, office staff, rabbi and cantor;
- Strengthening relationships with PJV, King David School and Netzer, which has led to several joint events;
- Wonderful religious, spiritual, educational and community building events throughout the year thanks to our religious life, communal life and lifelong learning committees;
- Many meaningful life-cycle events and programs for our conversion students;
- Thousands of meals prepared by our Nourish volunteers and refugee support provided by Project Dignity.

We look forward to turning a new leaf and we are excited by the opportunities that 5784 will bring. We are thrilled that we will have a new senior rabbi starting with TBI in March 2023: Rabbi Allison Conyer. Rabbi Conyer's appointment brings with it a promise of renewal within our congregation. Rabbi Conyer is poised to bring her expertise and warmth, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.

She is committed to preparing our congregation for the challenges of the future and nurturing the next generation. We look forward to continuing our wonderful educational and community events, as well as more alternative minyanim, especially focused on young people and families.

It is our hope that we can continue to bring new life to our congregation and together build a spiritual, educational and community centre for future generations.

We thank Rabbi Gary Robuck, Cantor Michel Laloum, Executive Manager Neil Crompton, songleader Ido Sagir, our musicians, and sessional staff, as well as our wonderful team in the office. Their hard work and care for our congregation is greatly appreciated.

## Kehillat S'dot Zahav – Goldfields, Victoria

David Kram, President



### COMMITTEE

Dr David Kram AM remained President. Ms Sandra Joffe joined as Public Officer/Honorary Secretary. Sarah Austin remained Vice-President, Dr Bruce Sokel remained Treasurer. Leah Mow-Yoffee remained Committee Member.

### THANKS TO

- ARZA, PJV and UPJ, and for their publicity and communications – these organisations are very important to help present a unified voice to the world.
- The Hon. Howard Nathan AM QC, for his continuing vigorous support of KSZ and a Jewish voice in the region, especially for enabling the chanukiah installation in the Great Stupa Peace Garden;
- The Bendigo Interfaith Council, for their support – it is important to know that we are part of a wider community keeping religious faith alive in the Goldfields;
- Cantor Michel Laloum, our designated consulting rabbi, for continued advice and support;
- Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black OAM, for leading the annual nature interfaith service;
- Rabbi Gary Robuck, for leading a Sukkot celebration and shiur;
- Rabbi Fred Morgan AM, for leading a Torah service and workshop and speaking at the unveiling of the Great Stupa Peace Park chanukiah installation;
- Leah Mow-Yoffee, for continuing to encourage the social aspect of KSZ;
- Temple Beth Israel, for loan of Sukkot items;
- Linda Stern, for service leading on Shavuot;
- Jerome Winston, for leading education workshop at Shavuot;
- Ailsa Jean, for support to Jerome and the congregation;
- Fran Sokel, for assisting with financial oversight;
- Members who donated extra funds to sustain KSZ;
- Members and visitors who made long journeys to attend our live events;
- Members and visitors who donated and prepared food for our gatherings.

### KSZ EVENTS

- August 21, 2022: AGM at the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion, Myers Flat near Bendigo, followed by a lunch in the café and a tour of the Stupa, including the site of the pending chanukiah (see December 3)
- October 1: Shabbat Shuvah service, morning and afternoon at West End Hall, Castlemaine. Led as before by Dr David Kram. The music video clips were a salient feature again. There was a morning service, lunch and an afternoon service. The morning service alluded to Rosh Hashanah; the afternoon service was a condensed version of a Yom Kippur afternoon and Yizkor service.

- November 13: Sukkot-themed event, hosted by KSZ Treasurer Dr Bruce Sokel and his wife Fran, complete with sukkah, with loan of lulav from Temple Beth Israel. Rabbi Gary Robuck was a welcome service leader, delivering the gathering a well thought-out and delivered shiur on the meaning of Sukkot.
- December 3: A shiur at Kangaroo Flat Rotary Function Centre led by Rabbi Fred Morgan AM on the topic of interfaith, followed by a Shabbat service led by Rabbi Morgan. After Kiddush, the attendees proceeded to the Great Stupa for an official unveiling of KSZ's contribution to a number of faith group installations in the Peace Garden, notably next to the site of the Islamic installation, with the Garden of Five Species, common to Judaism and Islam. The Hon. Howard Nathan AM QC had organised the fundraising and the design and construction of the chanukiah, which can be illuminated. Rabbi Morgan led prayers. Dignitaries spoke. Press was present. An important day for KSZ and the Interfaith community.
- December 21: Chanukah was celebrated with a communal meal in a Bendigo venue. The congregation then went to the Peace Garden chanukiah, which was illuminated for the occasion. Chanukah prayers and songs resonated around the space.
- January 28 2023: Interfaith open-air nature service in Malmsbury Botanical Gardens, led by Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black OAM. We had guests from PJV and other congregations. With the communal lunch, this is now a popular annual way to start the year, with pleasant weather and setting. It was a special occasion, as Rabbi Keren-Black had just concluded 20 years of service as rabbi of the Leo Baeck Centre and was travelling Australia-wide with Sue before settling into an eco-village on the Central Coast of New South Wales. After lunch there was a video tribute to the rabbi and a special presentation, courtesy of KSZ Vice-President Sarah Austin.
- March 11: Open-air Purim celebration, Kangaroo Flat. Leah Mow-Yoffe organised megillah storytelling, as well as dancing, with costumes.
- April 8: Model seder at West End Hall, Castlemaine, led by David Kram. This afternoon event was based on TBI's haggadah, with traditional items and customs, but with a simpler meal. Thanks to our committee for much associated work.
- May 21: Shavuot study session and service. Kangaroo Flat. Jerome Winston led a workshop on decision-making in Judaism, Christianity, Australia at large and Australia's indigenous community. Linda led a Shavuot service, which she had compiled, including a kiddush and meal.

PJV (Progressive Judaism Victoria) and UPJ (Union of Progressive Judaism)

KSZ President Dr David Kram attended the UPJ conference in Sydney in November 2022. KSZ nominated Bruce Sokel as KSZ's representative to PJV.

## Temple David – Perth, Western Australia

Ari Antonovsky, President



Rabbi Kim Ettlinger will complete her second year at TD. She has been well-accepted by the congregation and continues to improve our offerings to current members and potential members. She is also developing new programs to add to existing offerings. Her contracted hours have been extended to compensate for all the time that she devotes to ministering to the TD congregation.

We have added two new categories to our community: Affiliates and Friends of Temple David. Affiliates covers the non-Jewish partners of members. While this does not materially change the benefits they receive from TD, it does give them status in the community that they deserve. Becoming an Affiliate is optional, and there is no cost at this stage. Friends of Temple David is a category for supporters of TD, who cannot or are very unlikely to become members. This is mainly for our friends in the non-Jewish community but can also apply to Orthodox Jews who have a special connection to TD. The cost of becoming a Friend entitles the person to a HHD ticket.

High Holy Days were well-attended, with the number of attendees being much higher than we have seen in recent years. This is partly due to the welcoming of many new members to TD this year. We have seen an influx of new members from diverse sources, including people recently settling in Perth, gay people, and Jews by Choice.

Numerous weekly programs were successfully run by volunteers at TD, including Yiddish classes, Israeli dance, and adult education for new and existing Jews. Plans are developing for a Jewish cultural centre to be based at TD. The intention is to offer lectures, seminars and classes related to Judaism in a variety of areas, including philosophy, history, music, art and literature. The idea is to cater for the demand for knowledge that appears to be coming from the non-Jewish, as well as Jewish communities.

After the retirement of Helen Bryant as coordinator of the Temple David Religion School, TDRS appointed a new coordinator, Ms Desiree Franco. She brings a wealth of teaching experience to the role, and her contribution has been greatly appreciated by the students and parents.

Extensive work has been done this year to improve the TD buildings and grounds. The roof, windows and exterior columns of the main building have been renovated to correct the water leakage that has caused extensive damage. The exterior walls were painted and the grounds around the building have been landscaped to improve the aesthetic appearance of the synagogue. In addition, with the untimely passing of our caretaker, the caretaker's cottage adjacent to the synagogue has been extensively renovated and is now ready for renting. This, along with the Station After-School Care facility on our premises, provides a valuable source of income for TD.

Our function centre has had many events this year. It is a very attractive facility with disabled access, fully equipped kitchen, and city views. It has been available to members, friends and the wider community for events, including the visit of the Israeli Ambassador, our Pesach Seder for 100 people, and a successful quiz night fundraiser.

TD held its AGM on 29 October. All the Executive positions were vacated and the following individuals were elected: Rick Wolozny (President), Clive Cass (Snr Vice-President), Robert Ellis (Jnr Vice-President), Charmaine Ryan (Honorary Secretary), Les Wilson (Honorary Treasurer) and Franklin Tate (Assistant Treasurer).

## **Beth Shalom – Auckland, New Zealand**

Michelle Wise, President

Rabbi Dean Shapiro, appointed last year as part-time rabbi, has brought added vitality to the congregation in his first full year in this capacity. A special focus this year has been on re-establishing the Hebrew School with a mix of innovative programs and with a focus on involvement of parents in the program. This has seen our Hebrew School numbers grow, and our families are delighted with the learning opportunities for children and families alike.

We continue to participate in KiwiPJ and enjoyed hosting our fellow congregations from around New Zealand, who were in Auckland during late August for Limmud NZ.

For the past several years, Beth Shalom has been undertaking due diligence on a proposal to move the congregation to the new Auckland Jewish Community Centre where the site would be shared with the Orthodox congregation and Jewish day school, among other organisations. After huge effort on the part of the Acquisition Team, it finally became evident that the physical and resourcing constraints of the proposed site would prevent us building a suitable synagogue there. The relevant reports were provided to the community, and at a Special General Meeting it was resolved to discontinue negotiations with the site governing committee. The community will now focus on renewal and re-invigoration of the current shul and associated property.

The board has had a further retreat focusing on long-term visions for the congregation, and now that it is clear that the congregation will not be moving premises, a further retreat will be held in November. The community has been surveyed over the High Holy Days regarding priorities for the immediate future, and we have identified volunteer skills available to help with the refurbishment program.

In August, we welcomed a visit by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, our rabbi in the late 1980s, who was in Auckland for Limmud. Rabbi Rosenthal spoke of his Tikkun Hayam program, now established in Jewish communities around the world, and on 10 September we participated in our second Reverse Tashlich, collaborating again with our young adults from Habonim Dror and Moshe House. Once again, we hauled heaps of rubbish, this time from Wairau Creek, which had been deluged with household waste during severe Auckland floods that had occurred earlier in the year.



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



## **Dunedin Jewish Congregation – Dunedin, New Zealand**

Lynnette Taylor, President

For too long, the uncertainties of the Covid-19 pandemic put constraints upon functioning as a cohesive community. It took some time for us to overcome our post-Covid torpor and rediscover our purpose. Events could once more be planned with confidence. As the new economy emerged, people were busier than ever, and there has not always been enough volunteers available to assist in conducting events. Yet despite these draw-backs we have been able to celebrate our major festivals.

In January of this year, the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand hosted the United Nations International Holocaust Remembrance Day at the Toitū Otago Settlers Museum here in Dunedin. As well as the Jewish community, local dignitaries and other invited guests attended. The organiser, Kris Clancy, from the Holocaust Centre, had assembled a variety of Jewish and non-Jewish speakers who each had a special story to tell of their family's involvement during the Nazi occupation of Europe in World War II. There were moments of quiet surprise and respect for the bravery and enterprise of families and individuals who risked their lives to save other people at that extraordinary time. Special prayers and poems were read by members of our congregation, with Jamin Halberstadt saying Kaddish to end the evening.

Shavuot was celebrated with a special service led by Abby Harris and Ro Rushton-Green – both were trained to lead the service by Rabbi JoEllen Duckor from Temple Sinai, Wellington, and led the service beautifully. A pot-luck dinner followed and it was pleasant to once again spend a convivial evening with our fellow members and friends.

For the past couple of years Pesach has been a home event, we had not held a communal Seder for some time and after some initial hesitation we went ahead and held a pot-luck seder, which to our surprise was quite a success. About 40 people attended, many were visitors from overseas, there was plenty of food and everyone had a great time. Next year we hope to repeat our success, but we will aim to get a caterer to provide the food.

As always, the High Holy Days holds first place in the DJC events calendar and extra effort is made to ensure that our celebrations are special. Rabbi Duckor came down from Wellington to conduct both the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. This time Chazzan Dave Moskovitz also came to lead the singing. Our congregation is notably reluctant to sing, but with some encouragement from Dave, whose natural enthusiasm for song is infectious, the whole congregation was soon singing along. It was a joy to have both of them celebrating with us.

In our previous report we were awaiting the return of our Torah that had been sent to Auckland to be repaired and which had been delayed by Covid. The Torah duly returned safely in its specially constructed box and on Yom Kippur was proudly displayed along with all our Torot, large and small.

Every year, the Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group holds its Annual Peace Lecture. This year's lecture also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Abrahamic Interfaith Group, which was founded in the aftermath of the September 11 attack in New York when leaders from the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths came together to express solidarity between the three faiths. Ruth Groffman has been the Jewish representative since the group's inception and has often worked alone in that capacity. The Board thanks Ruth for her work on our behalf and to congratulate her and her fellow founders for reaching 20 years celebrating diversity and cohesion between cultures.

At last year's AGM several board members gave notice that they would be retiring at the end of 2023. At that same meeting four new members were elected onto the Board. Throughout the year the new board members have been very active in assisting and participating in our events. Their motivation and commitment to ensure the continuity and activity of our congregation has been highly appreciated and encourages the retiring members with the knowledge that the DJC board remains in good heart and hands.

## Temple Sinai – Wellington, New Zealand

Abigail Buchhalter, Board Chair



This has been an exciting year for Temple Sinai. As we look back on 5783, we welcomed Rabbi Esther Jilovsky, under whose leadership we have seen a tremendous revitalisation of involvement of children and teens in our synagogue's life. Wellington has a very small Jewish Community, but our temple's religious school enrolment has blossomed from 10 to 26 students this year. We now have three teachers to assist Rabbi Jilovsky and a volunteer school director, Gillian Openstein. We are also seeing increased attendance at our Shabbat services, had great attendance over the High Holy Days, and have welcomed many new members over the past several months.

We continue with our strong community involvement. In September, we had a great turnout for our reverse Tashlich. Our very active Environmental Group was behind the Board's recent endorsement of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. We are supporting our local women's refuge, are participating in Wellington Interfaith Council, and are active in the work of the Downtown City Ministry. Our Board just reaffirmed our commitment to being a living wage employer.

We have countless ongoing activities including, among others, Shabbat morning Torah study with Rabbi Jilovsky, regular Tot Shabbats, our Men's and Rosh Chodesh Groups, "Shabbat Kid-dish" services, ongoing support of our membership through our Keshet volunteers, activities for our Rainbow community, and weekly Ma'ariv services.

The congregation elected nine board members in May, seven of whom are new to the board, including myself as chair and Saskia Cameron and Richard Stein as co-deputy chairs. The board's dedication, commitment, and hard work have been amazing. We have been lucky to have Jeremy Smith and Yuval Zalk-Neale returning to the board, lending us a wealth of experience. Board member Emma Levy, alongside previous board member Matthew Smith, was instrumental in the launching of our new website this past month. Nigel Dunlop is leading a subcommittee to set up our new Endowment Fund, our Deputy Chair Saskia Cameron is managing the ongoing work on our sanctuary, and we are fortunate to have Jenny Livschitz's expertise as our new treasurer to ensure our financial sustainability. We are also really pleased with the work being done in the Security portfolio by Sarah Cole and Ruth Van Seventer.

We are all looking forward to 5784. I would especially like to thank our rabbi, our outgoing board for their incredible work, and Kathy Kerry, whose behind-the-scenes admin support has been invaluable.



## Kehilat Beijing – Beijing, China

Scott Kronick, President, Roberta Lipson, Chairperson and Jennifer Holstein, Community Coordinator

Scott Kronick, President, Roberta Lipson, Chairperson, Community Coordinator, Jennifer Holstein

Kehillat Beijing has been serving the liberal Jewish Community of North China since the 1980's. Although there was a large turnover of the expat community in 2020 when many were caught outside of China at the beginning of the COVID outbreak, we have seen quite a resurgence in our numbers ever since. The Capital Club of Beijing which has been the home to our Shabbat activities since the early 1990's closed to public events starting in February of 2020. By the end of March, it became possible to have small gatherings at home and so Roberta Lipson and Ted Plafker began having services and Shabbat meal in their home for the few of us who were in town and those that started returning. Since the complete reopening of China borders in early 2023 Friday night services are held either at the Capital Club or at the Lipson-Plafker home. For those looking for the location of our Shabbat celebration, please contact Roberta Lipson +86-13901367354 or Jennifer Holstein at +86- 1324196868686.

In addition to the spiritual celebration, the cuisine varies each week themed to coincide with the most current ethnic or national celebration from countries around the world. Some long-term residents and newcomers to Beijing who were previously unaffiliated have become stalwart members of our community, finding that tradition and community are more important than ever in these troubled times. For the 2023 High Holidays we invited Rabbi Peretz Rodman, an old friend of our community to once again officiate and lead our high holiday spiritual journey. This year we also celebrated a bar mitzvah, as well as the wedding of three couples from our community. We also gathered together to offer support to each other during this time of world turmoil, disaster and suffering.

Founded in 1979, Kehillat Beijing is an egalitarian, unaffiliated, lay-led Jewish community organization devoted to sustaining and enriching Jewish life in Beijing, China. Our diverse, international membership gathers regularly for Shabbat and holiday services, special programming, and life- cycle events. In addition to services, Kehillat Beijing provides Jewish education and Torah study for members of all ages.

Our values include inclusiveness, participation, tzedakah and tikkun olam.

China's borders are now completely open, and visas have become easier for visitors, as relations with the West continue to improve, and the vibrancy in our cities have returned. We are looking forward to again welcoming Jewish visitors from around the world to celebrate Shabbat and holidays with us.

## Kehilat Shanghai – Shanghai, China

Kitty Potter, Community Volunteer



Kehilat Shanghai has been serving the city's Progressive Jewish community for the past 12 years. We are a diverse, welcoming, multi-faceted community for Jews living in and visiting Shanghai. Our purpose is to ensure that Jewish people from all backgrounds feel at home in Shanghai today and for generations to come, and to celebrate Jewish culture and traditions in a progressive spirit.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and extensive lock-downs in Shanghai last year, our community shrank, but we have been rebuilding slowly in 2023, and are pleased to see new families and community members joining us.

Highlights from this year include our Kehilat Community Passover, our Purim party, the continuation of our lay-led monthly Community Shabbats, the ever-popular KS Trivia nights at Tacolicious, and quarterly BBYO get-togethers for the teens. Our teens helped our younger community members on a Chanukah cookie fund-raising project, which raised over 14,000 RMB (approximately USD2,000) to support a local Chinese kid in need receive heart surgery. And thanks to PJ Library and the efforts of community member, Bec Kanthor, our younger community members get to enjoy regular deliveries of Jewish themed books and activities.

High Holy Days this year were very special for Kehilat Shanghai, as it was the first time in four years that we have had a rabbi lead our services! We are grateful to Rabbi Alexis Pinsky from NYC for coming all the way to Shanghai to share her music, laughter, and thoughtful reflections, and for creating meaningful and memorable services. Rabbi Pinsky spent a lot of time with KS members, visiting those in need, taking a trip to the Shanghai Jewish Refugee Museum, and enjoying some of the sights, sounds, and great food experiences in this wonderful city.

Our community is starting to meet more regularly again for social occasions, and just last week in the Sukkah of one of our local families for BBQ and celebrations. We are thrilled our teens will be joining their peers at the BBYO conference in Singapore; and we are looking forward to the resumption of our annual Shabbatukah Hanukah Party, which is always popular with kids and adults alike.

We would like to thank former Executive Committee members, Dr Jesse Golden-Marx, Alex Pearlman and John Degory for everything they did to lead and support our community, and wish them all our love and best wishes for their next chapters beyond China. They will always be part of Kehilat Shanghai!

[www.kehilatshanghai.org](http://www.kehilatshanghai.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/KehilatShanghai>

Kehilat Shanghai and Kehillat Beijing are working together to raise monies for Natal. You can learn more about NATAL here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3ktGKsAofM>. This organisation was selected in consultation with the local community and based on recommendations from Israeli Embassy/Consulate list of orgs to donate to and BBYO. To date we have raised over USD30K.

## United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong

Elyse Silverberg, President



The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong (UJC) successfully navigated yet another challenging year in Hong Kong. We continued to serve the religious needs of our congregation and engage with our members through robust and comprehensive programming. The UJC continued to offer Shabbat and holiday services, educational sessions including Shorashim, and other programming via Zoom and livestream to enable greater access to members irrespective of personal circumstances. We are mindful that these have been unstable and often stressful times for our members, and we are keen to listen and ensure that we are attuned to the physical and spiritual experiences of our members, whether they were in Hong Kong, in quarantine, or elsewhere in the world.

Reflective of the broader Hong Kong landscape with expat arrivals slowing significantly, there was a reduction of 4 per cent in membership of the same period in 2021. Membership totaled 128 units, including a considerable number of non-resident members who have returned to their home countries, but still remained engaged with the UJC.

The UJC holds weekly Friday night Shabbat services in its permanent sanctuary in the auditorium of the Jewish Community Centre and via Zoom. On Saturday mornings, Torah study sessions are held in the rabbi's apartment in Robinson Place and via Zoom. Shabbat B'yachad (an early Shabbat Service for families with young children), is held at least once quarterly. The UJC again organised an active and diversified schedule of holiday and festival events during the past year.

Shorashim, the congregation's religious school, began its 21st year. Under the leadership of the Education and Programming Director, Shorashim continues to provide quality liberal religious and Hebrew language education to primary- and middle school-age children and their families. On average, 30 students were enrolled during the year and nine teens served as madrichim.

We were fortunate that eased Covid restrictions allowed us to hold our full program of religious, educational and social events in person, albeit with government regulations and limitations in place. Adult education included three reading and study programs, with Zoom teaching sessions by authors including Professor David Kramer and Professor Robert Alter. Additionally, we enjoyed talks by international and local speakers on various topics including Hazzanit Rabbah Shani Ben Or, Matthew Kwan, Michael Valihora, Dr. Sarah Borwein, Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, and Adelia Namagembe and Edwina Antonio. Our popular Tikkun Olam outreach project NETT Service Learning Project (Native English Teen Tutor) completed its 10th year and more than 100 UJC members of all ages came together for the 11th Annual UJC Make a Miracle Mitzvah Day to do some hands-on Tikkun Olam and give back to Hong Kong. In addition to our traditional community activities, the UJC debuted a very well-attended off-site visit to Kadoorie Farm and Hong Kong's first ever locally made kosher mooncakes at its observance of the local Mid-Autumn Festival holiday at a family Chinese lunch celebration at the Jewish Community Center.

An Annual General Meeting on 14 June 2022 elected the following UJC members to the Executive Committee:

Priscilla Adams, Charles Allard, Sarah Borwein, Sergio Fernandes de Lima, Jonathan Isaacs, Joshua Lavin, Gahl Leddel, Aaron Liebling, Robin Roschke, Alan Schiffman, Elyse Silverberg, Stuart Spencer and Barbara Thomas. The Executive

Committee chose the following officers: Elyse Silverberg (President), Alan Schiffman (Vice President), Priscilla Adams (Treasurer) and Joshua Lavin (Secretary).

Rabbi Stanton Zamek, Education and Programming Director Rabbi Martha Bergadine, and Cantorial Soloist Ayal Ben Or provided spiritual leadership and developed and expanded programs for the congregation and the greater Hong Kong community. Nancy Lui, Executive Administrator, and Charlene Hsia, Assistant Administrator, continued to make outstanding contributions to the operations and spirit of the UJC.

## United Indonesian Jewish Community

Rabbi Benjamin Meijer Verbrugge

Indonesia's economic situation remains precarious because of the sluggish agricultural export market. Entrepreneurs from the middle class and lower must shift their focus to domestic micro businesses. Naturally, this requires time. There have been several layoffs of UIJC members who work in the private sector, and it is still challenging to obtain new employment. Members who work for the government are not confronted by money issues.

Rabbis and other community leaders from the Indonesian Jewish community who lost their careers and business possibilities made the decision to work any job in order to provide for their families. Although it was challenging, they managed to survive. Some members are trying their luck in political parties; others are attempting to run mining businesses; others work as private teachers. Others are using side businesses like online car or motorcycle taxis, property construction services, opening small grocery shops in their homes, selling mobile phone credit, and real estate rentals, etc. to make money.

Since 2014, our UIJC strategy has employed a system of volunteers and independence to carry out our community leadership in eight areas of Indonesia, as establishing a Jewish community in Indonesia has been rather difficult. This policy was made due to two factors:

1. Group uniqueness

There are several tribes, languages, and cultural divergences throughout Indonesia. Jewish customs (shomer Shabbat, kashrut, and mitzvot) can be reclaimed by the Indonesian Jewish community, who can also adapt to them. The distinctive aspects of music, melodies, foods, and social interaction patterns must be respected. A leader's ability to comprehend distinctive attitudes and behaviors of their members in order to obtain distinctive and respected service will be based on their study of the social connection patterns of each group in each village. For the benefit of its members, the UIJC boards made the decision to choose and train regional leaders.

2. Low economy standard

Because the UIJC community cannot afford to pay a full-time rabbi's salary due to the economic gap between the Indonesian Jewish community and the global Jewish community, we decided to educate and train local community leaders who can conduct rituals and comprehend halacha. These trained leaders are local leaders who are aware of the economic, social, cultural, and ideological context of their community, as well as its degree of education and political, social, and cultural development. Twenty-one UIJC members have received education and training necessary to conduct rituals in their areas, including regional and kehila leaders. They are individuals who voluntarily assist and serve communities in which they live. Money isn't always the answer, it turns out. The Jewish faith and traditions are preserved by an individual's love of Torah, loyalty, and sacrifice to their Jewish community.

In summary: Even the Indonesian Jewish community is now struggling with a shortage of employment and economic prospects, but we have no issues finding local leaders who are willing to serve our community. May HaShem bless this local voluntary team.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Following are our work reports:

1. As of now, there are 182 members of the UIJC (certified Jews) and 80 per cent of them attend Shabbat gatherings at their kehillot, virtual Shabbats, and High Holy Days.
2. There are about 18 conversion class participants at UIJC, the majority of whom are from Maluku, Papua, and one is from Jakarta. Hopefully, they will successfully complete their coursework and conversion.
3. Thirty-eight members of the UIJC Amboina community in Ambon Maluku excel in singing and musical performance. We are pleased to share their first song on YouTube "From Ambon to Jerusalem," which was written by Moshe Lemuel (Herry Frans), the leader of the UIJC Amboina Kehila, and music arrangement by Eliyahu Levi : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9OBBHV4Btg> – the initial conception of the Jewish Moluccan of UIJC!
4. Every month, the UIJC has a virtual national Shabbat meeting. However, virtual Shabbat can't be held every week as UIJC respects numerous traditional leaders who prefer to keep Shabbat fully and encourages its members to exercise in their individual homes and kehila. Members and representatives of the UIJC from Central Java, East Java, Bali, Manado, Papua, Ambon, Jakarta, Lampung, Tarakan (Borneo), and Sanger Talaud participate in this meeting. They have the chance to lead Shabbat rituals and prayers, chanting the Torah scroll and haftarah, in addition to being able to convene anywhere in the country.
5. Eight of the 19 members of the UIJC who sang Torah on the virtual Shabbat are youths, and they also serve as Shabbat prayer leaders. They will hopefully come to love the Torah and Jewish customs in this way.
6. Thank you for my loyal voluntary team Tziva Batya and Ferry Avigor (Jakarta) Moshe Lemuel and Shmuel David (Ambon), Ferry Avigor (Jakarta), Rachel and Yitzhak Binyamin (Lampung), Avshalom, Fonny/Rivkah, Yishai (Manado), Ariela Elisheva Korwa, Yokhanan Rumbiak, Jeff Tomaso Rumbiak (Papua), Daniel Susanto (Tarakan), Sarah Louis (Bali) for their support in our leadership.
7. Many thanks to Rabbi David Kunin for leading Talmud berachot study sessions via Zoom for 24 sessions, in addition to the teachings of Pirkei Avot. May HaShem bless and protect our David and Shelly Kunin for their good efforts in spreading Torah in the Republic of Indonesia.
8. Thank you also to Rabbi Jeffrey Cohen who always provides reference guides for study materials and recommendations for taking part in virtual study scholar streams of Conservative Yeshiva (sponsored by Jeffrey Cohen), shiurs, Cantorial Assembly virtual training, and Zoom classes for me. May HaShem bless and keep him.
9. Thank you to our colleague Chaim Ben Gendel (Manhattan, New York), who was with us for more than three months in Indonesia, assisting us in community development and connections to other rabbis and organisations.
10. We thank our Israeli contact, Shlomo Roiter, who helped supply mevushal wine from Israel for our last Pesach in Jakarta. Also, our gratitude goes to Sarah Louis, our member in Bali, who sourced a lulav set from Chabad Bali for Rosh Hashanah this year. Thank you, Chabad Bali for doing a great mitzvah!



11. This Rosh Hashanah was a blessed time for UIJC. Thanks to Rabbi Julie Gordon and her husband Jeremy Epstein from Virginia, USA, who volunteered to help UIJC Jakarta celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Sukkot 5784 in Jakarta. It is an honor for several American Embassy staff in Jakarta, namely Adam Michael Rosenberg and his team, for to take part in our simple Rosh HaShanah. Thank you for the donations, shofar, and mezuzot gifts. Enjoy below videos of past Rosh Hashanah and Sukkot 5784 of Jakarta:
  - a. Greetings from UIJC and Rabbi Julie Gordon and team: <https://youtube.com/shorts/MLZ-BBCAf3U>
  - b. Simanin Seder: <https://youtu.be/XJ003iiWRtl?si=MxSISmfAB43FXYqV>
  - c. Sukkot in Jakarta 5784: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SI9hVIFBPo>
  
12. Hoping to have a budget to invite Rabbi Shohana Kaminsky and Rabbi David Kunin next year (2024). B'ezrat HaShem, Insya Allah!

### NEXT PROJECTS

1. I have to finalise Hebrew School materials in Indonesian this year to be donated to the community. The project costs USD 6,000.
  
2. As Papua, Manado, and Ambon Maluku are open to building synagogues, we hope any fundraising effort will donate USD 8,000 for each kehillah (total USD 24,000) to buy a piece of land, build the foundation, and build the bricks and roofs. Need sponsors!
  
3. For time being, UIJC cannot build a synagogue in Jakarta due to high costs (estimated USD 150,000 for a house shop). It is difficult to obtain a building permit plus there is the external matter of security. We expect to rent a space for Jakarta meeting and gatherings. Therefore, we need operational funds for national UIJC office expenses (USD 18,000) for a two-year period.

## United Hebrew Congregation – Singapore

Adam Neale, President



This past year has been a challenging one for the UHC. With the loss of our administrative assistant, we are in dire need of volunteer help. Please review the information on volunteer needs and see where you might be able to lend a hand.

We have seen this need for volunteers in the low turnout we have for many of our events and services. Volunteers to help get the message out, along with helping to coordinate the events, would be a great help. We had good turnout for events around the holidays, and we finished strong with our Love is Love Shabbat hosted by Guillaume at his Gallery. However, we saw the numbers for our regular services fall considerably as the year progressed.

As they announced in June, the rabbis have decided not to renew their contract when it ends on June 30, 2024. We are pleased that Rabbi Beni has successfully found a new congregation in Hamilton, Ontario. Both Rabbi Beni and Rabbi Miriam will therefore be leaving us in December. Rabbi Miriam will continue to serve as our spiritual leader through June, although primarily from a distance. Rabbi Miriam will return to Singapore in March, April and May to support the b'nei mitzvah and run the communal seder with Dan Kohane. Starting this month, Dan will be joining us, flying in from Bali for our Friday night services on a monthly basis. A search committee has been working diligently since the summer to find us a new rabbi.

A major initiative for the Management Committee this year was a listening campaign, designed to get feedback from as many of you as possible and gain a better understanding of our community. The campaign was a great success with 90 conversations, reaching over 85 per cent of UHC households. What became clear from the campaign was that "community" was the primary reason you decide to come to services, attend programs, and celebrate holidays together. The campaign also elucidated a number of areas for improvement and elicited some wonderful suggestions. We are already acting on some of these comments and suggestions.

Our membership numbers stayed mostly flat during the year. Between the new membership tiers and fundraising, the UHC was better off financially this past year by around \$50k compared to the previous year. We still had a loss of around \$17k, but that is a significant improvement compared to around \$70k last year. The new membership structure helped us cover 75 per cent of operational costs via membership compared to only 55 per cent the previous year.

Our year started with the bar mitzvah of Ron Gilboa in August, this was followed by a further three more b'nei mitzvah during the year. The rabbis worked closely with Cantor Faith Steinsnyder and Dan Kohane to deliver meaningful High Holy Days services at the Hollandse Club. We celebrated Sukkot in the UHC Sukkah hosted at the Glickfeld's home, had over 125 members come to celebrate Purim, and hosted 120 community members at our annual communal Seder.

Rabbi Miriam worked closely with Jeremy Silverman to continue to evolve the curriculum for our Sunday School. Rabbi Miriam again took the lead in running the UHC's Intro to Judaism program, and the two rabbis split the teaching of the intro program to give those taking the class a wider view on Judaism. Rabbi Miriam's Women and Wisdom (formally called Wine & Wisdom) continued to be held on a monthly basis, Rabbi Miriam continues to serve as the rabbis' liaison with the Management Committee. Rabbi Beni continues to teach our b'nei mitzvah students. Rabbi Beni ran Beni's Tisch during the year and in May started weekly Talmud classes after the Thursday morning Minyan.

I would like to thank the Management Committee for their hard and dedicated work over the past year, with each of them chairing a committee. I would particularly like to thank Jeremy Silverman, Deborah Fripp, Matt Shapiro, Cory Gelmon, and Hagar Palgi Hacker, who are all stepping down from the Management Committee, for all their hard work and dedication to the UHC. I would like to thank the Sunday School co-chairs Jeremy Silverman and Audrey Katz, the Financial Oversight Committee, and the Tikkun Olam Committee, Fred Stein for managing UHC security and Tammar Stein and Kristen Dweck for managing the PJ Library.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

There are several areas that I would like to highlight from this past year.

### **Membership**

Membership through the end of the financial year was up to 140 members, an increase of eight from October 2022.

Last year was the first year of our new membership structure with four tiers for members to choose from to support the community:

- Congregant, with subsidised dues based on the previous membership cost with an inflation rate increase;
- Partner, a level which would fund UHC to 100 per cent of operating costs if everyone chose it;
- Sustainer, support over our operating level with a fixed price per household;
- Builder, doubling the Sustainer commitment of support.

We found due to unclear messaging that most members did not understand the difference between the tiers. When we went out to the community in May for this year's renewals we simplified the messaging. We saw an increase in members renewing at the Partner level.

As of October 30th, we currently have 114 members, this is made up for two builders, 11 Sustainers, 40 Partners, 75 Congregants, five Asia Regional members, and one student. We have a further nine membership units who have completed their renewal form but not made payment. We have seen 20 families upgrade their membership from last year and six families downgrade their membership. We have 18 new families. 32 families left the UHC for a number of reasons.

The Management Committee plans to extend the trial of the new tiers for the current fiscal year. With the improved communication, we hope to see if we can meet our goal of covering the UHC operational costs through membership, leaving fundraising to focus on specific needs and long-term future planning.

### **Fundraising**

We took a different approach to fundraising this year as we wanted to see how well the new membership structure would work. When we saw there was still a gap, we did have a couple of fundraising drives. Laurian Harry spent most of the year working on bringing in outside support for the UHC, talking to organisations in Australia, the US, and Europe. We have also been consulting with governmental bodies here in Singapore, as we are looking at ways to secure our long-term future with a permanent home where we can bring services, Sunday school, the office, and other programs all under one roof.

### **High Holy Days Services**

Our High Holy Days services were back at the Hollandse Club. The Rabbis were supported by Cantor Faith Steinsnyder coming in from the USA and Dan Kohane coming in from Bali.

All of the services over the High Holy Days period had well over 100 attendees. Over 50 children attended the Rosh Hashanah morning children's service.

## **Shabbat & Festival**

We started the year with a plan for two Friday night services per month: Shabbat Kulanu, monthly Friday night services at the Dutch Club and Sababa Shabbat, monthly home-hosted Friday night services. Shabbat Kulanu services happened on the first Friday night of most months. Sababa Shabbat was less successful, only happening once in a home-hosted environment and twice at the Dutch Club.

We celebrated Sukkot in the UHC Sukkah hosted by the Glickfeld family, kicked off with a family sukkah decoration event attended by more than 60 UHC Members. Simchat Torah was hosted at the Neale's household with more than 40 UHC members. The Herman family hosted our Chanukah party. Purim was at the Dutch Club with more than 120 members, and our communal Seder led by the Rabbis and Dan Kohane at the Dutch cCub had more than 120 members.

## **Gabbai and Music**

This year, we trialed a new davening team led by Ilan Openhiam with support from Eli Loh, Dan Hartig, Matthew Shapiro, Cary Horenfeldt, and Stephanie Adams to fill our services with song and music.

The Gabbai Team was once again headed up by Dina Coppel with support from Matthew Shapiro, Cary Horenfeldt, Yoni Garbourg, Tammar Stein, and Lauren Sorkin.

## **Torah Repair**

At the start of the year, we noticed that some of the stitching was coming loose on the Torahs. Rabbi Beni inspected both Torahs. He discovered that the smaller of the two Torahs could no longer be deemed kosher as there were breaks in the lettering. Thanks to the generous donations of the Goldstein family, we were able to fly Rabbi Rachel Salston over from New Jersey in March to repair the Torahs. During the repair it became apparent that the smaller Torah was in much poorer condition than originally anticipated. The work could not be completed in a single week. Thanks to the continued support of the Goldsteins, Rabbi Rachel took the second Torah back to New Jersey to finish the repairs. The second Torah came back to Singapore in June, thanks to Eli Loh, giving us two kosher Torahs in time for the holidays.

## **Social & Education**

Throughout the year there were plenty of social and educational events. The UHC are fortunate to have Deborah and Michael Fripp as part of the community as they led us in shofar making, menorah making, a chocolate seder, and a Yom HaShoah ritual of remembrance in conjunction with Teach the Shoah. On the social side, we had a Passover pizza party, and an end-of-year party, to name only a few of the events.

## Taiwan Jewish Community

Ben Schwall, President

Taiwanjewishcommunity.org



The Taiwan Jewish Community (TJC) is a non-denominational egalitarian congregation that serves Jewish people from all backgrounds. Our services contain elements prevalent in Conservative, Orthodox, and Reform (Progressive) congregations.

The TJC is currently experiencing a resurgence. After losing our long-time leader, Rabbi Ephraim Ferdinand Einhorn – who passed away at the age of 103 – in 2021, we were steered by Leon Fenster, an artist who filled the role of Chazzan and educator. In July of 2023, Rabbi Dr Cody R Bahir became our first full-time rabbi when he and his wife Sonia moved back to Taiwan. Rabbi Cody is an American who lived in Taiwan from 2011-2017 conducting doctoral research into Taiwanese religion. Sonia, who is a member of Taiwan’s aboriginal Paiwan tribe, returned to Taiwan after completing a college degree in cosmetology in the United States.

The board has been working closely with Rabbi Cody to both resurrect and create new community-building initiatives. Hebrew school, which educates children between the ages of 5-12, began the fall semester in September. Each session is two hours long, which includes one hour of Hebrew and one hour of Judaics. A number of pre-teens have started training for their bat/bar mitzvah, and the TJC will be sending a number of teens to the first-ever BBYO Asia-Pacific Regional Convention in Singapore this November. It is additionally our goal to establish Taiwan’s first local BBYO chapter! In terms of adult education, there is a new weekly Torah discussion, which is focused on rabbinic interpretations of the parshah or upcoming holidays. We also have a fledgling choir which grew out of our weekly tefilah practice.

The synagogue’s core function continues to be our Friday “Shabbat with Friends,” which consists of a short class followed by Kabbalat Shabbat and then a very elaborate communal meal arranged by our board members. Typically, 30-50 people attend, and it is not unusual for some members to linger to chat until midnight or beyond. After the current round of major Jewish holidays have passed, we will also begin holding Shabbat morning services once a month as well as a monthly Sunday lunch-and-learn featuring scholars on a variety of subjects, such as politics, current events, and other hot topics.

Currently, we have almost 200 attendees signed up for our annual Rosh Hashanah event at the American Clun in Taipei, which consists of services followed by a communal meal. As the first day of Rosh Hashanah falls on Shabbat, our Shofar and Tashlich service will be held on Sunday at a riverside park. For Sukkot, we are doing interfaith collaboration to build a public Sukkah across the street from Taipei 101 – the world’s tallest building from March 2004-March 2010. The Sukkah’s theme is universal peace and is being designed by a Taiwanese aboriginal artist to celebrate Rabbi Cody and Sonia’s arrival.

As there are no membership fees, the TJC draws its financial support primarily from the board, donations by regularly attending members, and private donors. A number of large donations have made it possible for us to employ a full-time rabbi, keep our Friday communal meals free of charge, and implement the programming that we have.

Our membership is quite diverse. At any given event you can see Jews from all over the world, as well as our local non-Jewish identifying regulars. The majority of our members are long-term expatriates, but we also draw a very large transient crowd consisting of students, engineers, businesspeople, and visiting scholars.

## ARZA Australia

Helen Shardey OAM, President, UPJ Vice-President,  
World Union for Progressive Judaism Regional Representative



It feels incongruous that I should sit to write this report sharing ARZA's achievements over the past year while Israel is facing some of her very darkest days.

As we continue to reel from the unspeakable events of October 7, ARZA stands in solidarity with our Australian Progressive movement, and our colleagues abroad, in demanding the urgent and safe release of the 220 innocents violently kidnapped and held hostage by Hamas.

Prior to the devastation wrought on Simchat Torah, we had also seen ongoing civil unrest throughout the country and an unprecedented erosion of the rights of our Progressive movement. As we navigate the ongoing crisis and uncertain days ahead, we remain committed to our mission to support a pluralistic and egalitarian Israel.

We are pleased to share a number of key achievements this past year.

- A comprehensive communication strategy, distributed directly to ARZA members as well as via social media and the UPJ News and Drash, has supported a consistent narrative around various key issues in Israel, including gender equality, religious pluralism, antisemitism and foreign policy. This near-weekly strategy has supported stronger engagement with our members and we welcome and appreciate the dialogue in response to these important topics.
- The Leo Baeck Centre paired with Tefilat Haadam shul (Hof Ha'Carmel) and together they undertook the Beit Ha'am program, which uses Israeli cinema to support dialogue with diaspora communities. This is the first time an Australian shul has been involved in the program – kol hakavod to all involved, in particular ARZA board member Ayal Marek who spearheaded the initiative. We are currently in planning regarding the continuation of the program, as well as exploring further opportunities for synagogue twinning between our Australian and Israeli communities.
- In an unprecedented move, ARZA partnered with Taglit Birthright to lead the first-ever Progressive bus. We were overwhelmed by the interest in the program, and in December, 28 young people departed for Israel for the 10-day trip. This was a fantastic outcome for young people in our community, who previously were unable to access a Progressive-specific Birthright experience. We hope this experience engages a new generation of leaders in the growth and advancement of our Progressive community.
- We continue to enjoy strong relationships with Progressive colleagues around the world. This is particularly pertinent as we approach the next meeting of the World Zionist Congress in 2025, where we hope to maintain our position as the largest Zionist organisation in Australia. We are also pleased to support the attendance of delegates from our community to the WUPJ Connections Conference in Jerusalem in May.
- Finally, at our AGM in December, following a Constitutional amendment to enable Executive representation beyond Sydney and Melbourne, Ben James (Adelaide) was appointed as Co-Vice President. Pleasingly, our board continues to demonstrate strong youth leadership, with a significant proportion aged under 35. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Vice-President Dr Sue Silberberg, who departed her post earlier in the year, and extend my sincere thanks for her contribution to ARZA. We were delighted that board member Ayal Marek agreed to take up the post of Co-Vice-President in early 2023.

As we turn our sights to the upcoming World Zionist Congress, we urgently need our community's support. Membership of ARZA directly influences the strength of our Progressive voice at the Congress – and in Israel more broadly.

If you are already a member of ARZA, we extend our sincere thanks for your support. If you are not yet a member: please consider joining. Membership is simple, inexpensive (\$18/single; \$36/family) and one of the most effective ways to support an inclusive and egalitarian Israel at this crucial time. For further information, visit <https://arza.org.au/get-involved/>.

## **Emanuel School – Randwick, NSW**

Andrew Watt, Principal



Reflecting on the 2022 school year, we have many reasons to celebrate. We have successfully emerged from the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and have returned to a sense of normality. The pandemic no longer dominates our thoughts, and we have welcomed parents and visitors back to our campus.

This year marked the return of various activities that were sorely missed. Following the lifting of lockdown restrictions, our students were able to actively participate in a wide range of Jewish Life activities. They enjoyed running camps, celebrating chagim and engaging in our spirited weekly Kabbalat Shabbat.

We also resumed our students' involvement in the community, enabling them to embrace and internalise important Jewish values. They embarked on visits to the Sydney Jewish Museum, as well as organisations like Rough Edges, which supports the homeless population, among others.

With the addition of our new Head of Jewish Life, Adina Roth, this year, we have already begun planning for an even brighter future.

Our continued success in sports is a testament to both the depth of talent among our students and the outstanding work of our coaching team and Director of Sport. Notably, a record-breaking 15 teams emerged victorious in their respective competitions this year. Our debaters have excelled this year, achieving numerous victories against prominent independent schools, while our Music Department has continued to thrive, nurturing the individual and group performance skills of over 280 students. Our Gifted and Talented and Extension programs offered more than 20 opportunities for our students to further enhance their skills and knowledge.

What sets us apart and makes us unique is our unwavering commitment to tikkun olam and our emphasis on deep, authentic learning with a focus on innovation. Our ultimate goal is for our students to graduate as "menches," individuals who embody various qualities, including adaptability, innovation, tenacity in problem-solving, and the courage to take action. These attributes are highly valued in today's ever-changing, volatile, and often chaotic workplace.

Our commitment to fostering innovation is significant and ongoing. From an early age, our students are encouraged to work both collaboratively and independently, engaging in activities such as brainstorming ideas, problem-solving, generating solutions, conducting research on existing knowledge, and exploring diverse perspectives.

We have introduced a highly successful Business Creator's Course tailored for aspiring entrepreneurs in Years 9 and 10. Additionally, we hold an annual Innovation Festival and a design showcase event in the Primary School, providing platforms for students to showcase their innovative ideas and projects. Furthermore, Project-Based Learning has been introduced in the High School, allowing students to delve deeply into their passion projects over an extended period. Our purpose-built facilities, including the Imaginarium, Design Lab, and Food Lab, have been specifically designed to promote and facilitate innovative practices.

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the outstanding work of our Emanuel Board, whose wisdom, energy, and strong commitment behind the scenes have greatly contributed to our financial stability, strong enrolments, and our clearly defined strategy for the future. Their guidance and support, particularly through our board sub-committees, has been



sincerely valued during another challenging year. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Board President David New, who has demonstrated exemplary leadership in navigating the complex governance challenges and diverse demands on his time. We owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

I cannot praise our team of teachers highly enough. They have demonstrated unwavering dedication, care, creativity, and humour in addressing the challenges they have faced post-COVID. They are the true heroes of 2022. Furthermore, I would like to acknowledge the exceptional work of our administration team, whose efforts in the background are essential to the smooth functioning of the school.

As the year comes to a close, I look to 2023 and our 40th year with much anticipation.



## Netzer Australia Progressive Zionist Youth Movement

Avishai Conyer, Federal Mazkir (Chairperson)

Netzer began 2023 with the creation and adoption of a strategic plan for our growth and development for the next five years. As part of this vision, five priorities and goals were identified and adopted by movement:

1. Equitable federal development: To strengthen our branches uniquely according to their needs with a united vision;
2. Strong and consistent chinuch (education): To increase the quality and quantity of our chinuch on and in between camps;
3. Political movement identity: To foster an activist movement identity with a culture of actualising our own ideological, ethical, religious, and political beliefs;
4. Hagshama frameworks: To develop a pathway for continued engagement with Progressive Judaism both in Australia and Israel beyond our time in Netzer;
5. Community belonging: To deeply root ourselves in the community as a voice of Progressive Jewish youth.

I am proud to say that with 40 passionate madrichim/ot (leaders) this year, we are one huge step closer to making this vision a reality. Here are some of the projects we have worked on this year:

**Machanot (camps):** Netzer began this year with our summer camps, including our first federal camp since before Covid-19. Reaching 265 chanichimot (participants) from across Australia, we started the year with great excitement from everyone. On our camps, chanichim/ot had the chance to delve deeper into their Jewish and Zionist identity, understand contemporary social justice issues, celebrate Shabbat and build meaningful connections with Jews across the country.

**Seminars:** Netzer's madrichim/ot (leaders) had the opportunity to participate in three seminars throughout the year, focusing on ideas of hagshama (actualising our values) and intentional Jewish and Zionist practice. The seminars also served to upskill our madrichim/ot to enable them to become stronger leaders and more informed educators, while creating meaningful time to effectively plan for the year. Additionally, the Year 12s had a fantastic time away in April to bond as a federal kvutseh (group) and discuss the possibility of Shnat next year and their future in Netzer. Finally, chanichim/ot in year 10 and 11 enjoyed participating in Netzer's annual hadrachah (leadership) seminar as they prepared to become madatzim/ot (junior leaders) for the first time.

**Small community engagement:** Netzer actively seeks to include Australia's smaller Jewish communities in our programming. Over the first half of this year, Netzer's madrichim/ot in Perth began running monthly programs. With support from the UPJ, we were also able to send madrichim/ot for outreaches in Perth, Adelaide, and for the very first time, Hobart!

**Hashoresh:** Despite fundraising challenges, Netzer Melbourne's first full year in their Netzer house, Hashoresh, has proved a great success as Netzerniks of all ages feel truly at home in the space and agency over their Jewish identity.

Torah exchange: With gratitude to Rabbi Karen Compane (a founding member of Netzer Melbourne) and Temple Beth-El, Netzer celebrated the donation of two sifrei Torah.

Increasing professionalism around child safety and risk management: Netzer has implemented a new set of operational guidelines to govern our internal operations. We have also been working very closely with the Australasian Zionist Youth Council and Australian Childhood Foundation to review and strengthen our safeguarding children practices.

Shnat: This year, Netzer Australia sent nine Shnatties to Israel to participate in our Shnat program. The program included an intensive Jewish and Zionist education at machon l'madrichei chol, volunteering in the youth community of Nitzana, practicing to lead at URJ summer camps in the US, and becoming part of the Kibbutz Harduf community. They have had a magical year and we cannot wait to welcome Shnat Ramah into our madrichim/ot body. Meanwhile, we have been working hard to prepare for next year as we hope to send 15-20 Shnatties to Israel.

Hagshama frameworks: A lot of time has been spent envisioning what communal engagement after Netzer looks like for our madrichim/ot. The madrichim/ot body has excitedly endorsed setting up a continued educational framework for themselves which will give the option for Netzerim to make aliyah with Netzer or establish TaMaR in Australia. My sincere appreciation to ARZA for supporting my attendance at an international TaMaR seminar in Israel.

Netzer's shlichim/ot: Sadly, we farewelled our shaliach, Sefi Shalam, at the beginning of the year, and are very grateful for his years of service to our community. However, we have now celebrated the arrival of Naama Yeruham and Hadar Lev-Tzori, who we are very excited to have on our team. Our deepest thanks to the UPJ, PJV, Emanuel Synagogue and North Shore Temple Emanuel for their support in bringing our new shlichot to Australia.

I am so grateful for Netzer's generous donors, dedicated and passionate madrichim/ot, supportive community, eager parents and enthusiastic chanichim/ot for making all that we do happen. Netzer is truly a magical, vibrant, values-driven community of which I am extremely proud to be part.

## Progressive Judaism Victoria

Maureen Barten, President



The past 12 months have been full of challenge, change and rewards.

Our community is hugely grateful and extends a warm and sincere vote of thanks to Dr Philip Bliss OAM who completed his second term as PJV president in May this year. Under his leadership, PJV was steered in the direction of unity and collaboration following several tough years, now behind us. He has worked tirelessly across several areas including:

- Involvement with Lesley Sacks for the UIA Progressive appeal and promotion including outreach to the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) extending our commitment to growing stronger interfaith relations
- Speaking several times at the Pro-Israel Democracy rallies in North Caulfield, supported by many from our community on Sunday mornings. Busha!
- Progressing our Interfaith Art Program, together with the CCJ, with our last “Paint Brush to Understanding” welcoming 35 guests to the Iskon Centre, hosted by the artist and centre director, Bhakta Dasa. The full day event inspired conversations, artwork and new connections.
- Constant promotion of PJV at the JCCV, ZV and other organisations on many issues and events, that has lifted the profile of the PJV and paved a welcome path for our continued engagement.
- Initiating one of the earliest informational Voice events, together with the CCJ and hosted at TBI, “Everything you need to know about the Voice” with guest speaker The Rev. Canon Associate Professor Glenn Loughrey.

PJV made the difficult decision to restructure the Bet Olam funeral service Board and Executive, implementing an interim executive body. With the support of the PJV Executive, our committee, the remaining directors, and all our affiliates, our Progressive Jewish funeral service in Victoria, is whole and complete once again.

This year has been marked with discussions around restructuring PJV for the future and on my election as PJV President in May, I committed to continuing the journey to determine the way forward for PJV. We were thrilled to finally welcome Naama Yeruham, our shlichah for the Victorian community. Naama brings a wealth of experience, passion for her work and an eagerness to make a difference here in Australia.

We have been active in raising the profile of PJV, exploring new ways to engage our community and organising and facilitating several initiatives:

- Launching new branding, work that was begun 4 years ago but side-tracked. The new branding featuring a shofar and the Hebrew words Hakol Shalenu expresses who and what we are – the Voice of Progressive Judaism in Victoria
- Participation in "Voice of the People": President Herzog's Initiative for Worldwide Jewish Dialogue, including 17 strategy labs hosting leaders and professionals around the world. In October I will be attending the presentation of insights /findings.
- Attending the Women Leadership Breakfast sponsored by NCJWA and JCCV: I was the only representative for Progressive Judaism in attendance – something I hope to change.

- A blood drive community event – with thanks Max Gross for championing the event.
- Continuing our climate awareness programs, proudly sponsored by Glen Eira City Council, to host an online event, supported by the Jewish Climate Network, with guest speaker Andrew Reddaway, discussing practical ways to save energy providing information and resources to our community. This was the first of what we hope will be an ongoing climate education program with JCN. We also continue presenting young native saplings to PJV b'nei mitzvah.
- Proudly hosted a book launch for Rabbi Danny Schiff at the King David School with a full house where we sold out of his book, *Judaism in a Digital Age*.
- Thank you to Brian Samuel OAM and the Mens' Shed, who transformed an ordinary cabinet into a beautiful ark for Netzer to house their Torah.
- Sponsored Kol Halev / Voice to Parliament with three speakers: Noel Pearson, Melissa Casta and Mark Leibler. Thank you to Philip Bliss for championing this event and to KDS for hosting the fully booked out event!

Financially PJV continues to be healthy, thanks to our funeral service and support for our shlichut costs from the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

I extend my deepest thanks and appreciation for the hard-working members of my board who are all heavy weightlifters: Kathy Kaplan OAM, for accepting the role of vice-president and for holding down the secretary's role while Sue was overseas – truly a lifesaver (!); Sue Zablud for saying “yes” to being our secretary, and for coming home (!); Alan Samuel OAM JP, our treasurer who gives tirelessly; the members of our PJV committee, who lend their expertise and passion for supporting our vibrant community: Ashira Chait, Ashleigh Harris, Julian Rood, Peter Levi, Bruce Sokel, Jonathan Barnett, Neil Cowen, Geoff Sussman OAM and Zohar Dromi; and Brian Samuel OAM, representing the UPJ.

Together, our team is very strong and committed to communication, collaboration, and cooperation.

## The King David School – Armadale, Victoria

Marc Light, Principal



5783 was a wonderful year at King David as we cherished being back together face-to-face after being separated throughout 5782.

Besides the crucial learning that occurred throughout our school, a few of our many academic highlights included: Year 1 students learning about matter, energy, sound and light as part of their 'Bedrock Thinking' unit of enquiry. Select Year 10 students attended the Secondary Schools Parliamentary Convention at Parliament House, learning about the rules of the legislative chamber and speaking passionately during the mock debate of a proposed bill. Year 5 students worked in small teams to write a book in a day, incorporating seemingly random nouns and verbs. Year 8 Food and Society worked with David Tornier, cultural adviser from the Boon Wurrong Land and Sea Council, to develop a 'bush tucker' garden at our Magid campus. Another highlight was the 'Battle of the Drones' competition whereby our Years 6-8 students competed in challenges utilising physics, maths and software development.

As well as complex classroom learning, we were also able to return to offering our rich outdoor education program starting with our VCE surf camp in January and culminating with our Year 11 sailing camp in December. Our Year 2 students had their traditional sleepover at the Dandenong Rd campus, our Year 3 students experienced Wombat Corner for the first time, and our Year 8 students experienced Uluru and Australia's red centre. Our Shabbatot were particular highlights, especially in the older years where these are student-led. It is wonderful watching our students becoming Jewish adults, choosing their observance from a place knowledge.

The pinnacle of our outdoor education program was our Yesh trip, the first since 2019. We took almost 90 students from Years 10 and 11 to Israel for four weeks, allowing them to experience the sites, smells and tastes of Israel, and apply their classroom learning about Medinat and Eretz Yisrael to their real-life experiences.

Our Year 9 Nitzan program continued to go from strength to strength. Highlights included learning life skills such as sewing and unblocking toilets, the students' mural for peace (focusing on the Ukraine-Russia conflict), and volunteering with St Kilda Mums, C-Care, and TBI's Nourish program.

King David moves to the rhythm of the Jewish calendar. Each Rosh Chodesh, Chag and commemoration day presents excellent opportunities to enhance our formal Jewish classroom learning with experiential programming. Our team of Tzev Lev (Jewish Life) educators worked closely with our Hanhagah (Year 12 student leaders) to ensure that our students marked each day appropriately. Most notably, we had extraordinary whole-day celebrations at school for Purim and Yom HaAtzmaut, creating memorable moments of Jewish joy for our students to remember in years to come.

We were also fortunate to be able to host two different sets of Israeli madrichim for a term each. From the ELC to Year 12, Avital, Aviv and Gavriel, and Ron, Shahaf and Noya shared their knowledge, enthusiasm for Israel, and stories from their lives with our students.

We marked Reconciliation Week in June with a week of learning and conversations about ways to progress reconciliation in Australia. We held a 'Wear it Yellow' Day raising money for Children's Ground, a First Nations-led education initiative based in Arrernte.

Our Performing Arts Program returned at full volume, with our Years 9-12 musical *The Addams Family*; our Years 9-12 production of *The Next Chapter* was a hit, as was our Years 6-8 musical, *Frozen Jnr*.

We had a combined visual and musical showcase at our Dandenong campus. Families walked through an exhibition of artworks by our Prep to Year 5 students while they were serenaded by our newly formed junior choir. Our Magid campus also hosted a showcase of art, design, media, photography, and theatre by our Years 6-12 students.

Our VCE cohort excelled, with our results placing King David in the top 20 schools in the state. 100 per cent of our students received a first round University offer, with 71 per cent receiving their first preference.

Threaded throughout our exciting school activities is our innovative wellbeing program, which ensures students are able to thrive at school. This program is delivered through in-class curriculum and through a series of specially arranged guest speakers. We also continued to provide our parents with wellbeing education, including on vaping and on dealing with anxiety.

Throughout the year, students holistically developed through the rich range of teaching and learning, Jewish life and student wellbeing experiences that King David is renowned for. Looking back on 5783, I am immensely proud of the hard work of our accomplished staff, evidenced through our creative, collaborative and highly engaged students.



## **UPJ Awards**

The 2023 award recipients will be announced at the UPJ AGM on 26 November in the Gold Coast.

**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.

### **Vatik Award recipients through 2022:**

Merrilyn Ades, Edwin Argy, Ken Arkwright, Arthur Berman, Philip Bliss, David Bloom, 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, Ron Hoenig, Hans Jensen, Peter Kolliner, Michael Lawrence, Kate Lesser, Tony Leverton, Joe Lewit, Larry Lockshin, Peter Marks, Stephanie Markson, Philip Mayers, Roger Mendelson, Frank Moore, Howard Nathan, Lynette Ninio, Eva Popper, Kelvin Ratnam, David Robinson, Jerry Rosenberg, Brian Samuel, John Schinasi, Sam Sharman, Jonathan Taft, Michael Taft, Ted Waxman, Paul Wilton

**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.

### **Ner Tamid Award recipients through 2022:**

Tony Abo, Fred Albert, Dr Libby Appelboom, Judith Arkwright, John Balint, Stan Benjamin, Albert Bentata, Rosie Block, Heinz Bohm, Garry and Nola Braude, Eric Briskman, Nicole Brown, Margaret Capkin, Sally Castle, Zvi Civins, Judi Cohen, Marlis Cohen, Arnold Cohn, Beatrice Coleman, Nathan Companez, Rachel Dennyss, Anthony and Diane Deutsch, Dr George Deutsch, Suzie Eisfelder, Noreen Elijah, David and Sue Esterman, Norma Survana Esther, Mick Fettmann, Judy Firestone, Jo Fletcher, Ellen Frajman, Ted Friedlander, Andrew Gelbart, Bev Gelbart, Rachel Gillespie, Mark Ginsburg, Sydney Goldstein, Leon and Sue Goldwater, Katherine Goode, Liz Goodman, Sandy Graetzer, Dorothy Graff, Sidney Grant, Brian Green, Jennifer Green, Noel Hall, Rhondda Hall, Janet Henrie, Rae Hesling, Fred Hirsch, Albert Isaacs, Vicki Israel, Elijah Jacob, Lorraine Jacobs, Ailsa Jean, Naomi Johnson, Rebecca Kanthor, Barbara Karet, Devorah Komesaroff, Robyn Ann Levi, Harvey Livschitz, Alison Marcus, Charles Monat, Sue Morgan, Betty Mortimer, Myra Mortlock, Fred Mote, Joan Motta, Judy Myers, Dorothy (Dot) Nathan, Rhonda Nirens, Alan Obrart, Teresa Petrzalka, Eva Phillips, Amelia Rauner, Gena Reiss, Marsha Rosenberg, Peter Rosenfeld, Mavis Rudd, Mervyn Rudd, Ian Samuel, David Sharp, Chris Schiller, Nat Sharpe, Val Silberberg, Fred Silberstein, Harry Smith, Dr Leon Sterling, Linda Stern, Joe Stupel, Lisa Sylvan, Geoff Sussman, Michael Taft, Ruth Taft, Joan Taylor, Dorothea Tropp-Boas, Reuben Urban, Robbie Ventura, Tanya Warms, Betty Watkins, Betty Waxman, Jerome Winston, Peter Wise, Peter Woolf, Sandy Zaccar

### **President’s Award previous recipients through 2022:**

Judy Campbell, Sharon Davis, Phyllis, Dorey, Stephen Freeman, Sharene Hambur, Penny Jakobovits, Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black, Peter Kohn, Michael Lawrence, Roger Mendelson, Joel Oseran, David Robinson, Michael Shnukal, Neil Samuel, Carole Sterling, Dr Rob Sward





# **Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**

## **Financial Statements**

**For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

**Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**  
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**For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

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Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.

## **Auditors Independence Declaration to the Members of the Committee of Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, as lead auditor for the review of Union for Progressive Judaism Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

LOWE LIPPMANN  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
Level 7, 616 St Kilda Road.  
Melbourne, Victoria 3004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Loren Datt".

LÖREN DATT  
Audit Partner

Signed on 24 November 2023

**Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**  
**Surplus and Deficit Statement**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue	2	<b>347,158</b>	251,564
Accounting fees		<b>(8,536)</b>	(8,544)
Administrative expenses		<b>(148,927)</b>	(20,037)
Depreciation		<b>(191)</b>	-
Employee benefits expenses		<b>(107,161)</b>	(96,316)
Grants and scholarships		<b>(5,676)</b>	(28,915)
Marketing expenses		<b>(22,278)</b>	(16,168)
Netzer		<b>(30,000)</b>	(40,000)
Travelling and meeting expenses		<b>(16,405)</b>	(9,107)
Other expenses		<b>(2,889)</b>	(1,787)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b><u>5,095</u></b>	<b><u>30,690</u></b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.

**Balance Sheet**

As At 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	374,119	336,235
Trade and other receivables	4	136,834	128,538
Other assets	6	-	24,780
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>510,953</b>	<b>489,553</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Trade and other receivables	4	10,000	10,000
Property, plant and equipment	5	2,100	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>12,100</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>523,053</b>	<b>499,553</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	7	48,296	27,732
Employee benefits	9	29,884	28,063
Other financial liabilities	8	-	3,980
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>78,180</b>	<b>59,775</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>78,180</b>	<b>59,775</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>444,873</b>	<b>439,778</b>
<b>MEMBERS FUNDS</b>			
Retained Earning/profit		444,873	439,778
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</b>		<b>444,873</b>	<b>439,778</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**  
**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

**2023**

	<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2022</b>	<b>439,778</b>	<b>439,778</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<b>5,095</b>	<b>5,095</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>444,873</b>	<b>444,873</b>

**2022**

	<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2021</b>	409,088	409,088
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	30,690	30,690
<b>Balance at 30 June 2022</b>	<b>439,778</b>	<b>439,778</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023	2022
Note	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Receipts from affiliation fees and members	254,114	135,085
Payments to suppliers and employees	(321,051)	(217,595)
Interest received	136	127
Receipt from grants and outreach	106,977	128,733
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	10 <u>40,176</u>	<u>46,350</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	<u>(2,292)</u>	-
Net cash used by investing activities	<u>(2,292)</u>	-
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	37,884	46,350
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>336,235</u>	<u>289,885</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	3 <u><u>374,119</u></u>	<u><u>336,235</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

**1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**(a) Basis of Preparation**

These financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

These financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

**(b) Income Tax**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

**(c) Property, Plant and Equipment**

Plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

**(d) Impairment of Assets**

At the end of each reporting period, the committee reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the surplus and deficit statement.

**(e) Employee Provisions**

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been shown as current liabilities.

**(f) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments.

**(g) Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors**

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.



**Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

**1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**(h) Revenue and other income**

The incorporated association recognises revenue as follows:

*Affiliation Fees*

Affiliation fees are revenue are recognised over time, when performance obligations have been satisfied to members.

*Donations and bequests*

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when the right to receive them is established and amounts can be measured reliably. Donation Income is recognised in accordance with AASB 15, if the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations. Donation Income without specific performance obligations is recognised under AASB 1058.

*Grants*

Grants on the condition that specified services are delivered, or conditions are fulfilled, are considered reciprocal. Such grants are initially recognised as a liability and revenue is recognised as services are provided or conditions fulfilled. Revenue from non-reciprocal grants is recognised when the association obtains control of the funds.

Other revenue is recognised when the right to receive the revenue has been established.

**(i) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

**(j) Accounts Payable and Other Payables**

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services rendered by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

**Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>2 Revenue</b>		
Revenue		
- Affiliation fees	134,988	134,864
- Donations	16,263	2,026
- UIA Progressive Trust annual contribution	17,500	7,500
- Grants and outreach	124,512	104,256
- Interest received	136	127
- Other revenue	44,858	2,791
- Shir Chadash Conference	8,901	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>347,158</b>	<b>251,564</b>
<b>3 Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Cash at bank	<u>374,119</u>	<u>336,235</u>
<b>4 Trade and other receivables</b>		
CURRENT		
Trade receivables	19,773	31,706
Provision for impairment	(369)	-
	<u>19,404</u>	<u>31,706</u>
GST receivable	5,914	2,851
Receivable - World Union Progressive Judasim	111,516	81,794
Other receivables	-	12,187
	<u>136,834</u>	<u>128,538</u>
NON-CURRENT		
Other receivables	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
<b>5 Property, plant and equipment</b>		
Office equipment		
At cost	9,949	7,659
Accumulated depreciation	(7,849)	(7,659)
	<u>2,100</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>6 Other assets</b>		
CURRENT		
Prepayments	<u>-</u>	<u>24,780</u>

**Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>7 Trade and other payables</b>		
CURRENT		
Unsecured liabilities		
Other payables	48,296	27,731
	<u>48,296</u>	<u>27,731</u>
<b>8 Other Financial Liabilities</b>		
CURRENT		
Deferred income	-	3,980
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,980</u>
<b>9 Employee Benefits</b>		
CURRENT		
Long service leave	23,568	20,803
Provision for employee benefits	6,316	7,260
	<u>29,884</u>	<u>28,063</u>
<b>10 Cash Flow Information</b>		
<b>(a) Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities</b>		
Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Profit for the year	5,095	30,690
Cash flows excluded from surplus/(deficit) attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in surplus/(deficit):		
- depreciation	191	-
- impairment of receivables	369	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(8,665)	13,205
- (increase)/decrease in prepayments	24,780	(82)
- increase/(decrease) in income in advance	(3,980)	3,980
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	20,565	1,194
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	1,821	(2,638)
Cashflow from operations	<u>40,176</u>	<u>46,349</u>

**11 Commitment Note**

Rabbinic study loans will be forgiven by UPJ in accordance with the study loan agreements after eligibility criteria have been met.

**12 Association Details**

The registered office of the company is:  
76-82 Alma Road  
St. Kilda Victoria 3182

**Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

**12 Association Details**

The Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ) is an association incorporated in Victoria on 5 March 2002 with organisation number A0042291F. The UPJ operates in Australia, New Zealand and Asia. The operational office is in Sydney and maintains a public officer resident in Victoria.

**Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**  
**Statement by Members of the Committee**

In accordance with a resolution of the committee of Union for Progressive Judaism Inc., the members of the committee declare that the financial statements as set out on pages 2 to 9:

1. presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Union for Progressive Judaism Inc. as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*; and
2. at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Union for Progressive Judaism Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Co-President.....  
David Knoll

Honorary Treasurer .....  
Sally Castle

Dated 24 November 2023

**Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**

## **Independent Auditor's Review Report to the members of Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**

We have reviewed the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Union for Progressive Judaism Inc., which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2023, and the surplus and deficit statement, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of accounting policies, other explanatory information, and statement by members of the committee.

### *Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The committee of the association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements *ASRE2415 Review of a Financial Report*, under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, we have become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the financial report does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date, and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*. ASRE 2415 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review the financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

### *Independence*

In conducting our review, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* which has been given to the members of the committee of Union for Progressive Judaism Inc. would be on the same terms if given to the members of the committee as at the time of this auditors report.

**Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**

## **Independent Auditor's Review Report to the members of Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.**

### *Conclusion*

Based on our review, which is not an audit, we have become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the financial report of Union for Progressive Judaism Inc. does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* including

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Union for Progressive Judaism Inc.'s financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

### *Basis of Accounting*

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

LOWE LIPPMANN  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
Level 7, 616 St Kilda Road.  
Melbourne, Victoria 3004



LOREN DATT  
Audit Partner

Signed on 24 November 2023

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation