



ק"ק עץ חיים  
ETZ CHAYIM  
PROGRESSIVE SYNAGOGUE

*Learning from the past Living in the present Looking to the future*

Wednesday, June 05, 2013

Dear friends,

It is with great pleasure that on behalf of the Etz Chayim Board of Management, I am able to announce the appointment of Rabbi Allison Conyer as our Rabbi.

As all of you are aware we have completed an exhaustive search and employment process to ensure we named the best person for this position and one that met the requirements of this very vibrant community.

Since Rabbi Conyer's Ordination from Hebrew Union College in 1998, Rabbi Conyer has held a number of roles including as an Associate Rabbi at North Shore Temple Emanuel, Sydney; Executive Director at Santa Barbara Hillel at the University of California, Santa Barbara; and currently works with the Jewish Studies Faculty at Emanuel School, Sydney.

As a congregational Rabbi, she focused her energy on young adults and young families as well as being instrumental in developing a social action group and worked with the local community organisations to represent the Jewish community. At Santa Barbara Hillel she worked on programs to engage university students and worked with the broader Jewish community to ensure the financial sustainability and growth for the organisation. These roles also included activities that involved the creation and delivery of Adult education programmes. Since her ordination, Rabbi Conyer has forged many relationships with people from all ages from toddlers to seniors.

As you can see, Rabbi Conyer brings with her a great amount of experience to our community, which we know will benefit our continued growth.

Many of you had a chance to meet Rabbi Conyer when she assisted in the running of our High Holy Days services in 2012. As well as her great expertise in teaching and organisational management, she brings a passion and love for Progressive Judaism, as we discovered through her interesting and thought provoking sermons.

After completing our interviews with Rabbi, we felt that she was the exact fit required to continue building our community and to be a strong representative of Progressive Judaism in the Southern Suburbs of Melbourne.

At this time, I would also like to thank the King David School who has worked closely with us during this journey.

The King David School has agreed to provide a part time role for Rabbi Conyer until such time as our community is large enough to require her services full time.

Rabbi Conyer will commence during January 2014 initially for 2.5 days per week.

During 2013, Rabbi Conyer will be coming to Melbourne to meet with the community on selected weekends (still to be finalised) and special occasions. Rabbi Conyer will also lead the community at this year's High Holy Day services.

Rabbi Conyer is married to Bryan and has four children between the ages of 11 and 3, who are currently being enrolled at King David School and who are looking forward to becoming part of our warm and loving community.

Over the next few weeks I hope to be able to finalise the weekends when Rabbi Conyer will join us. Keep an eye out for these dates, so you can meet and welcome Rabbi Conyer to Etz Chayim Progressive Synagogue.

This is an exciting time for Etz Chayim and it is great that we are going to be lead by such a passionate and strong leader.

B'Shalom

Frank Moore  
President