

2023/2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



PJV

הקול שלנו

THE VOICE OF PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM VICTORIA



In the words of Emeritus Rabbi Dr John Levi AC:

“Our Jewish religious civilisation has been shaped in a number of different ways. Progressive Judaism is the response made to the ideas and style of the modern Western world. Such cross-fertilisation is by no means unique in the Jewish experience. Where we have lived it has always occurred and, in each historical era, has revitalised Judaism.

Progressive Judaism starts with the people where they are, and works in partnership with them, encouraging a fuller and more dynamic expression of their Judaism.”

Levi AC, 2004, Our Place in the World\

About PJV

Progressive Judaism Victoria (PJV) is the roof body of the Progressive movement in Victoria, providing representation and advocacy for our affiliates. We are accessible, inclusive and welcoming. Guided by the richness of our historic texts, our Movement encourages continued questioning and interpretation, leading to the application of Jewish traditions, teachings, culture and values to contemporary life.

Our Affiliates:



We Are Proud Affiliates Of:



PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM VICTORIA, INC.

My God **אלי**

In this sacred moment, give us hope for Israel and her future. Renew our wonder at the miracle of the Jewish State.

אלי

אלי

In the name of the pioneers who made the deserts bloom - give us the tools to cultivate a diversity of Jewish expression in Israel.

In the name of our fallen soldiers - give us courage to stand up to the words and ways of zealots. Those in our own midst and those among our neighbours.

In the name of Israeli inventors who have amazed the world with their innovations - help us apply the same ingenuity to finding a path to peace.

In the name of all these individuals - grant us the strength to conquer doubt and despair in Israel.

*Replacing doubt with action.
Replacing despair with hope.*

*And let us say: **Amen.***

אלי

<https://www.reformjudaism.org/beliefs-practices/prayers-blessings/prayer-israel>

**WHY IS THIS YEAR
DIFFERENT FROM
ALL OTHER TIMES?**

**BRING THEM
HOME NOW!**

The Australian Jewish News
Thugs perform Nazi salutes on the st...

'I won't shut up': Conway blasts anti-Israel activists

THE AUSTRALIAN



Uni shows dangerous Jewish Sydney



PRE-PESACH IN PARLIAMENT

FREEDOM'S FOOTSTEPS: TRACING EXODUS IN TODAY'S STRUGGLES

Presented by
Rabbi Dr Allison RH Conyer
Senior Rabbi, Temple Beth Israel
Chair, Assembly of Rabbis and Cantors of the Union of Progressive Judaism

Sponsored by
Progressive Judaism Victoria



2023/2024 Overview

Report by: Maureen Barten, President

I began my presidency last year sharing my vision – stating that “**my Vision starts with MOVEMENT. My Vision starts with MOVEMENT. A movement, at its core, which is a convergence of vibrant verbs that are filled with purpose and ignite change.** It gathers individuals driven by a collective vision, **fuelled by communication, collaboration, and cooperation.** A symphony of actions, these verbs intertwine, harmonising their efforts creating a powerful **momentum that drives the movement forward. These are all action words!**

Here is the overview of our action and advocacy of the last 12 months.

First up for the year was the PJV Brand refresh. Working committees across different areas including marketing and branding were in place and with a fresh collective inspiration and brainstorming, work was completed at the end of May 2023.

Fuelled by the commitment to communicate, collaborate, and cooperate, we initiated **Presidents and Treasurers Meetings**, providing the time and space for our leadership teams to share ideas, create opportunities and help address challenges.

As a result of these meetings, we were asked to make a shift and **focus on ADVOCACY and STRATEGIC INITIATIVES for the Progressive community.** This was the beginning of increased communication, collaboration and cooperation amongst our affiliates – who have been working beautifully together.

In June, community organisation presidents were invited to attend the **President Herzog President’s Initiative Strategy Lab.** This was a consultation day here in Melbourne, one of 15 sessions held globally as part of Kol Ha’am – Voice of the People, an initiative by President Isaac Herzog to create a collaborative form for Jewish representatives from around the world.

In August, **PJV hosted an online event sponsored by Glen Eira City Council and supported by the Jewish Climate Network** – with guest speaker Andrew Reddaway – PRACTICAL WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY.

We welcomed **Rabbi Danny Schiff and hosted a book signing** for him at KDS which was very well attended and brilliantly moderated by the Melbourne Netzer Mazkira.

The Men’s Shed transformed an old cabinet into a beautiful ark which was dedicated and gifted to NETZER for their new Torah.

In September, the **PJV community showed up with their feet** – and delivered “bums on seats” for the **Kol Halev/Voice to Parliament** event welcoming 3 FABULOUS speakers: Noel Pearson, Melissa Castan and Mark Leibler.

Our community came together for a combined Second Day Rosh Hashanah Community Service which provided a beautiful opportunity for many of us to see those we don’t normally see – due to them being spread out across different shuls.

And then it was Shemini Atzeret. A time of celebration and the start to our Torah reading for 5784. Only, we could not celebrate. It was 7/10. In this horrible time, devastation sadly showed us the importance of standing together as ONE.
עם ישראל חי!

Our community rallied together providing comfort and togetherness most of us cannot remember ever needing like this before. The **PJV Solidarity Gathering**, hosted at TBI provided the space to Hug...Connect...Comfort...Sing...and Be. Shortly after that evening, **PJV hosted a Community Yoga & Medication** class guided by a Yoga and Trauma informed facilitator of somatic stress and emotional release which was very well attended. Each of our affiliate shuls have hosted a myriad of programs and sessions providing community care in abundance for which we are all grateful.

JCCV/ZV held a **Briefing with Israel Ambassador Amir Maimon**, who came to speak with community leaders about the current situation and to share whatever information that he could. We all found a degree of comfort in being together – across all streams of Judaism – and simply hearing from one another and the Ambassador.

Shloshim. 30 Days passed. 7/11/23. PJV hosted WE REMEMBER a zoom event with more than 150 attending. Rabbi Allison put together a beautiful service engaging members of our community from all parts of the region which was inclusive and very moving. Photos were sent and we made a poster which was widely shared.

Since the beginning of November, we have had regular meetings with Matthew McKenzie, Community Liaison Officer of the Victoria Immigration Group, Department of Home Affairs, and Social Cohesion in the Jewish Community. We've met with Matt several times expressing our concerns for the tolerance of hate speech and antisemitism and how to better support our community.

The **UPJ Gathering in the Gold Coast** was a warm and much needed opportunity for all of us to be together and discuss the daily changes in our social and political landscape. Tremendous resources were provided, friendships strengthened and a success all around.

In December, we met with **David Southwick MP to discuss a PJV event in Parliament** and work began to bring our **Pre-Pesach Lunch** to life for the purpose of **sharing culture and making the MPs aware of Progressive Judaism, and very importantly, addressing the issues currently facing our community since 7/10.** View Rabbi Allison's presentation by [clicking here](#). Over 60 people attended, and the feedback was outstanding.

Planning is well underway for an **Under 25 Community event with the purpose of building a unified Jewish community on campus** and providing a place for Jewish students to feel supported during these unbelievable times.

Over the last few months, we have had the privilege to meet with the **Premier Jacinta Allan, the Chief Commissioner of Police, and Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah MP, Federal Member for Higgins.** Our focus has been: raising the profile of Progressive Judaism Victoria; addressing our deep concerns that perception is different to reality; that Islamophobia cannot be equivocated to antisemitism; a call for action by our Government and Police to speak out about the violence and hatred towards the Jewish people perpetrated by protesters who are violating our Australian values and our Victorian laws.

Advocacy is at the heart of what is needed now. This is not only for Progressive Jews, but for all Jews. **PJV is committed to the belief that we can only be stronger by working together.**

The year came full circle with our **AGM in May 2024** with **Vivienne Nguyen, Chairperson Victorian Multicultural Commission** introducing our AGM and **Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah MP, Federal Member for Higgins, our featured guest speaker**, addressing the community, including MPs and Councillors.

May the year in front of us bring peace and hope for greater understanding, and kindness for all.



**OH THE PLACES WE GO
AND THE PEOPLE WE MEET!**





MEN AT WORK

RABBI ALLISON CONYER STANDING STRONG AT MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY





בית עולם

Bet-Olam

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peace, safety and freedom
for all the people of Israel.

Am Yisrael Chai



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Etz Chayim & TBI Women's Seder



Annual Interfaith Shabbat with Rabbi Jonathan Keren Black



Chag Purim Sameach



Photos Courtesy Joe Lewit, TBI Purim Shpiel



LETTER TO MY FELLOW ZIONIST YOUTH

The future rests on our shoulders!

JEWISH history has taught us that the future of our people rests on the shoulders of its youth.

As kids, we were taught of our people's story – the tragedy of our displacement and the miracle of our survival and cultural prosperity. We were inspired to care about the world and to question ourselves.

As we grew up, many of us became leaders in our youth movements and continued to take it upon ourselves to guide the next generation of young Jews to take pride in their Jewish and Zionist identity and to ensure that we were making this world a better place for all.

Many of us have been blessed to have mentors and role models who have inspired us to be better people and to care about the world. We have been taught that a human being is not just a person, but a person with a soul, and that we have a responsibility to care for each other and for the world.



AVISHAI CENTER

With love up to the traditions we have inherited from the Zionist youth who came before us!

I do not pretend to have the answer but I hope to remind you of our own radical history with hope that, together, we can create again with a dream into a reality.

It is, after all, our historic role as young people to look ideologically towards the future when the rest of society is caught up in the past and present. Like always, we must begin by building conviction in our beliefs and values, expressing them loudly as a symbol of pride and commitment to our people and our culture. It is not just a change, we must also work to change the way we think and learn to be better people.

Let us remember that we are not just a generation, we are a people. We are the future of our people and our culture. It is not just a change, we must also work to change the way we think and learn to be better people.



BEING SEEN & HEARD



STUDENTS STAND UP AGAINST HATE
SAFETY DIES WHEN HATE SPEECH THRIVES
AUJS

THIS PROUD JEW SAYS NO TO ANTI-SEMITISM

HATRED and ANTI-SEMITISM IS AUSTRALIA

NO PLACE FOR ANTI-SEMITISM AND PRO-HAMAS AT MELBUNI

KNAPPED
by Hamas
SOMEONE'S MOTHER, FATHER, DAUGHTER, SON, BROTHER, SISTER, NEIGHBOR, ALONE, UNCLE, COUSIN, FRIEND.

CARLTON BLUES

רשימת התעבורה

OUR VOICES TOGETHER



PJV

הקול שלנו

THE VOICE OF PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM VICTORIA



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we've got something for everyone

COMMUNITY • CONNECTION • BELONGING