

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA



ADVOCACY

COLLABORATION WITH AFFILIATES

SAFEGUARDING THE VULNERABLE

JEWISH EDUCATION REVIEW

JEWISH IMMERSION PROGRAMS

COVID-19 TASKFORCE

YOM HASHOAH



OUR MISSION

To be the recognised and responsible peak body and voice of Victorian Jewry through advocacy, representation, networking and collaboration, both within the Jewish and wider communities.



OUR VALUES

To be inclusive and representative of the diversity of the Jewish community:

- To be independent and objective;
- To support Jewish continuity and the Jewish way of life; and
- To support Israel.



OUR VISION

A society in which members of the Victorian Jewish community are able to live as Jews in peace and security, participating fully and without prejudice.

Every voice matters to us!

TRIUMPH of SURVIVAL YOM HASHOAH 2021

WEDNESDAY 7 APRIL at 7.30pm
on ZOOM - BOOKINGS: <http://bit.ly/jccv-yh2021>

CLICK HERE
BOOK NOW

A Guide for Creating a Child Safe Organisation

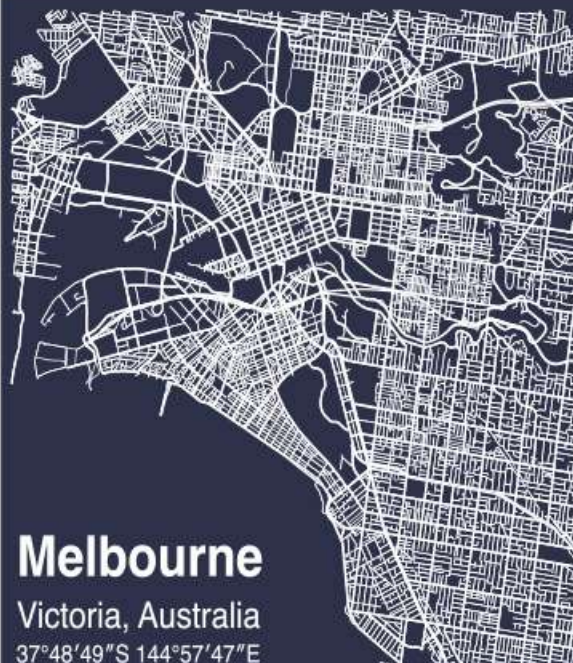


JCCV
JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
OF VICTORIA INC

YOUTH ALCOHOL PROJECT

AN EDUCATIONAL PREVENTION

SEINCE 2009

Melbourne
Victoria, Australia
37°48'49" S 144°57'47" E




2021
ANNUAL
REPORT




JCCV PEOPLE 2021

JCCV Executive 2021

Office Bearers

President

Dr Andre Oboler
Frank Greenstein 
Daniel Aghion

Vice President

Doron Abramovici

Honorary Treasurer

Hannah Greenberg

Portfolios

Affiliate Familiarisation
Anti-semitism
Marketing
Multicultural & Multifaith
Safeguarding the Vulnerable
Security
Schools
Special Interest Groups

Frank Greenstein
Rabbi Gabi Kaltmann
Sam Strunin
Frances Prince
Michelle Meyer
Greg Kirshon
Howard Sachs
Doron Abramovici

Member of Executive – Ex Officio

Zionism Victoria

Yossi Goldfarb

Professional Staff

Executive Director
Business Manager
Project Manager

Judy Fetter
Hilary McMahon
Josh Goodman

Community Security Group

Chief Executive Officer

Justin Kagan

ECAJ COUNCILLORS

Anton Block
Daniel Aghion
Miriam Bass
Sharene Hambur
Jennifer Huppert
Daniel Nash

Dean Sherr
Ricci Steckoll
Joel Silver

PAST PRESIDENTS

PRESIDENTS OF THE VICTORIAN JEWISH ADVISORY BOARD THE VICTORIAN JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES and the JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

As at 2021 thirty people have served as President of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria and its predecessor bodies, the Victorian Advisory Board and the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies, since its beginnings in 1938. Maurice Ashkanasy served three non-consecutive terms as President, for a total of eight years at the helm, the longest of any President. Robert Zablud served for six and a half years and Isi Leibler AO CBE for four and a half years. The average term as President has, however, been two or three years.

The dates of the earliest Presidents of the Advisory Board are tentative and have been pieced together from the fragmentary surviving records of the Advisory Board and Jewish newspaper accounts. If they were ever kept at all, neither Minutes Books nor Annual Reports of the Advisory Board could be traced. Prior to its reform in 1943 the Advisory Board acted with considerable secrecy, and was mentioned in the Jewish Press of the time only rarely. It met only when its Executive had something to discuss, and only about a dozen persons were entitled to attend its meetings. The Council's monthly meetings, attended by over 100 delegates, only became a reality at the end of the Second world war.

Post nominals following the names of Presidents include honours gained after their term of office. The Victorian Jewish Advisory Board officially changed its names to the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies on 7 May 1947. It had become an affiliate of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry when the body was formed in 1944. On 10 October 1989 the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies officially changed its name to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria.

Victorian Jewish Advisory Board – Presidents

Isaac Herbert Boas	1938-39
Archie Michaelis (late Sir Archie Michaelis Kt)	1939-40
Dr Jacob Jona	1940-Dec 1942
Alex Masel	Dec 1942-Nov 1946
Maurice Ashkanasy	Dec 1946-7 May 1947

Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies

Maurice Ashkanasy	7 May 1947-Oct 1950
Ben Green	Oct 1950-Aug 1951
Bernard Cowen	Aug 1951-Dec 1951
Maurice Ashkanasy	Dec 1951-Dec 1954

PAST PRESIDENTS Cont.

Abraham Samuel Leibler	Dec 1954-Dec 1956
Trevor Rapke	Dec 1956-Oct 1958
Nathan Jacobson	Nov 1958-Dec 1961
Maurice Ashkanasy	Dec 1961-Dec 1962
Leon Lasky	Dec 1962-Dec 1966
Nathan Hirsch Beller OBE	Dec 1966-Dec 1969
Walter M Lippmann MBE AM	Dec 1969-Dec 1972
Isi Joseph Leibler AO CBE	Dec 1972-Mar 1977
Arnold Bloch AM	Mar 1977-Feb 1980
Phil Symons OAM	Feb-Apr 1980
Robert Zablud	Apr 1980-Dec 1986
Phil Symons OAM	Dec 1986-Dec 1987
Shmuel Rosenkranz	Dec 1987-Oct 1988

Jewish Community Council of Victoria

Shmuel Rosenkranz	Oct 1988-Dec 1990
Joe Gersh AM	Dec 1990-March 1993
Leon Rosen	Mar 1993-Aug 1994
Geoffrey Green OAM	Sep 1994-Dec 1996
Nina Bassat AM	Dec 1996-Dec 1998
Dr Philip Bliss OAM	Dec 1998-Nov 2000
David Klein	Nov 2000-March 2001
Grahame Leonard OAM	Mar 2001-Mar 2003
Michael Lipshutz OAM	Mar 2003-Nov 2005
Anton Block	Nov 2005-Nov 2008
John Searle	Nov 2008-Nov 2011
Nina Bassat AM	Nov 2011-Nov 2014
Jennifer Huppert	Nov 2014-Nov 2020



COMMUNITY AWARDS

JCCV COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

General Sir John Monash Award for Outstanding Service to the Jewish Community

2006	Shmuel Rosenkranz
2007	Ann Zablud OAM
2008	Rabbi John Levi AM
2009	Nina Bassat AM
2010	Phil Symons OAM
2011	Sylvia Gelman AM OBE
2012	Anton Block
2013	Joey Borensztajn AM
2014	Professor Louis Waller AO
2015	Tony Levy OAM
2016	Susi Ivany OAM
2017	Johnny Baker OAM
2018	Danielle Charak OAM
2019	Dr Helen Light AM
2020	Grahame Leonard AM

Sylvia Gelman Young Leader Award

2014	Josh Back
2015	Lauren Mandel
2016	Jemima Hoffman
2017	Shira Appelbloom
2018	Co Founders of The Jam Project -NCJWA Vic Alexandra Davis, Morgan Lincoln and Jainie Mills
2019	Joel Kuperholz
2020	Elana Forbes





The Hon Daniel Andrews MP

Premier of Victoria

1 Treasury Place
Melbourne, Victoria 3002 Australia
Telephone: +613 9651 5000

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

These last 20 months have asked more of us, as Victorians, than any other time in recent memory.

It's reflected in the extra work that the JCCV has had to take on to support the community in ways we've never anticipated doing before.

Last year, in partnership with Jewish Care, Our Village Kitchen spent months preparing fresh kosher food packs for the most vulnerable in our community.

From a free lunch to a Shabbat dinner – JCCV has embodied the very best of Jewish tradition, and provided nourishment, solidarity and support to countless Victorians.

And at a time when so many have chosen to cultivate fear and foster division, it's organisations like JCCV who've instead chosen care, compassion and service to those in need.

The work you do, the relationships you build, and the voice you give every day to Jewish Victorians will always be valued.

JCCV is integral to the strength of Victoria's Jewish community.

And we're proud to support you, now and always.

Dan Andrews
Premier of Victoria

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I am delighted to extend my best wishes to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) as it reflects on its highlights and achievements over the past year.

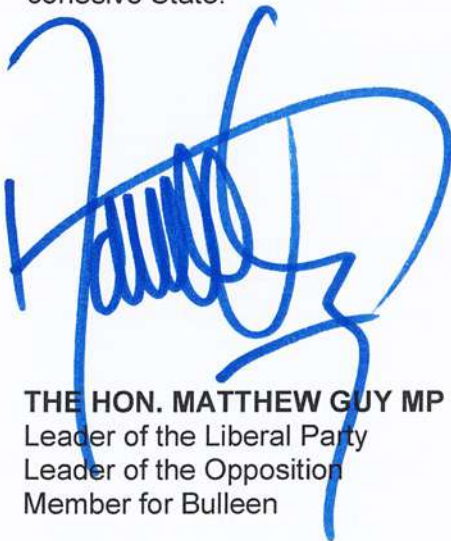
This year has again proven to be a challenging year for all of us. Yet even during these difficult times, the JCCV continues to show strength, leadership, and support to those in need, especially to the most vulnerable members of our community.

We recognise the exceptional work the JCCV does through its numerous services and programs within our State's Jewish and the broader Victorian community and its partnerships with government, business, and other faith groups.

Our incredible diversity of cultures, languages, and beliefs enriches our way of life here in Victoria. Community organisations such as the JCCV help foster greater understanding and acceptance of this diversity.

Together with other Victorian culturally and linguistically diverse organisations, the JCCV helps to promote Victoria's reputation as a model of multicultural harmony.

I thank and congratulate the JCCV for the remarkable work you do, the strength and guidance you have shown and continue to show in building upon our harmonious and cohesive State.



THE HON. MATTHEW GUY MP
Leader of the Liberal Party
Leader of the Opposition
Member for Bulleen



Executive Council of Australian Jewry Inc.

הוועד הפועל של
יהודי אוסטרליה

The Representative Organisation of Australian Jewry

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Sydney NSW 2000

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PRESIDENT
Jillian Segal AO

DEPUTY PRESIDENT
Robert M Goot AO, SC

HON. TREASURER
Peter Wise AM

HON. SECRETARY
Daniel Aghion

Co-CEOs
Peter Wertheim AM
Alex Rychin

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Daniel Aghion (VIC)
Geoff Midalia (WA)
Paul Myers (QLD)
Annetay Henderson-Sapir (SA)
Jeff Schneider (TAS)
Veronica Leydman (ACT)

IMM. PAST PRESIDENT
Anton Block

CONSTITUENTS
NSW Jewish Board of Deputies
Jewish Community Council
of Victoria Inc
Jewish Community Council of
Western Australia Inc
Queensland Jewish Board of
Deputies
Jewish Community Council
of South Australia
Hobart Hebrew Congregation
ACT Jewish Community Inc

AFFILIATES
Australasian Union of Jewish
Students
Australian Federation of WIZO
Union for Progressive Judaism
Federation of Jewish Aged
Care Services
Maccabi Australia Inc
National Council of Jewish Women
B'nai B'rith of Australia/ NZ
Jewish National Fund of Australia
Joint Distribution Committee Australia

OBSERVERS
Council of Progressive Rabbis
Federation of Australian Jewish
Ex-Service Associations
New Zealand Jewish Council
Zionist Federation of Australia
Council of Orthodox Synagogues of
Australia



30 September 2021

Daniel Aghion
President
Jewish Community Council of Victoria
306 Hawthorn Road
Caulfield South VIC 3162

Dear Daniel

On behalf of the ECAJ councillors, observers, advisers and staff, I thank you and all your colleagues and staff at the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) for your dedicated service to the Victorian Jewish community.

After you were elected as President earlier this year, I note that the JCCV welcomed new members to its Executive offering areas of expertise to strengthen the reach and focus of the JCCV with support of the Executive Director and staff, and you have worked diligently to reposition the JCCV to work more closely with Affiliates and on key government issues.

In a second year that has been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns, curfews and restrictions on movement, you and your team have managed to achieve some significant outcomes:

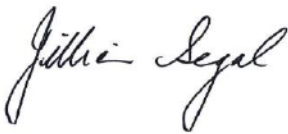
- Advocacy and consultations with the Victorian government in respect of the establishment of the Anti-Racism Taskforce, reform of Victoria's anti-vilification legislation and the Conversion Therapy Act.
- Successfully hosting a Yom HaShoah webinar bringing survivors, their families, youth and community together, which attracted a large audience locally and internationally.
- Advocacy for the Jewish community with the Department of Health during challenging Covid lockdowns to encourage communal unity and support for those in need in the community.
- Liaison with the Victorian government to share updates on Covid responses, restrictions and lockdowns and raising awareness across the Jewish community.
- Managing the media in several difficult situations in which the focus was on the Jewish community.
- Enabling the Jewish Schools Project to reach intergenerational groups across community and encourage discussion.

- Overseeing significant allocations from the Victorian Jewish Bushfire Relief Appeal

You and your team have raised the profile of the JCCV in safeguarding our most vulnerable members and in Jewish Education, multi-faith work, combatting antisemitism and collaborating with specialist affiliates. In the process you have enhanced the relevance of the JCCV, increased interest in its work and attracted and new affiliation members to the organisation.

Finally I thank you for your contributions to the work of the ECAJ as a Councillor and as ECAJ Honorary Secretary.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jillian Segal".

Jillian Segal AO
President

Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre
306 Hawthorn Road
South Caulfield, VIC 3162

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President
Yossi Goldfarb
Vice Presidents
Dave Michelson
John Searle
Hon. Treasurer
Greg Blashki
Executive Director
Jean Katzen



ZIONISM VICTORIA

2021 has been a year of dual realities. Commencing our year with a limited return to pre-COVID normality in stark contrast to the eventual re-introduction of lockdown restrictions. But like our response in 2020, adaptability became key, and the entire team at Zionism Victoria, from the staff, volunteers, Board and Executive turned 2021 into a year of opportunity.

We began our year with a diverse range of virtual cultural events, including our Tu B'shvat virtual morning-tea, a tour of Ben Gurion's house in Sde Boker and a panel discussion with the author of Spies of No Country.

Moving into April, we were proud to deliver to our community a touching Yom Hazikaron Commemoration Ceremony at Robert Blackwood Hall to 1,000 live attendees and many thousands more via live stream. The ceremony was marked by heartbreaking tributes, beautiful music and prayer, honouring the sacrifice of so many IDF personnel and victims of terror in both Hebrew and English.

Only a day later, in what proved to be the largest event in the Melbourne Jewish community for nearly two years, more than 5,000 people packed the walkways of Caulfield Racecourse for a fun-filled Yom Ha'atzmaut Community Festival. Delicious food, incredible rides and activities and the best music and entertainment our Israeli and Jewish community have to offer. Those unable to attend in person were able to join the excitement, with our concert being streamed live yet again, to be enjoyed by many thousands across the globe.

2021 has also seen many developments in Israel. In March, we witnessed the 4th Knesset general election since April 2019, and in May, we found out that Naftali Bennet was to become Israel's 13th Prime Minister. It gave me immense pride to watch our staff and volunteers mobilise in the lead-up to, and following the election, with multiple events being facilitated, as well as an online "Israel ElectionSpace" on our website. This gave our community access to up-to-date news and polling data, as well as party and candidate information.

2021 also saw the tragic resurgence of the conflict with Hamas in the Gaza Strip. In response, thousands from throughout our community joined Zionism Victoria and our partners – the Zionist Federation of Australia, the UIA, AUJS and the AZYC –, for a Rally for Peace, to support Israel's right to defend itself, and to call for peace throughout the region. About 2,500 people attended including federal and state MPs from both major parties.

Unfortunately, the conflict in Gaza and our rally highlighted the extent of anti-Zionist and antisemitic hate in our community. Jewish community organisations were targeted both prior to and after the event. In response Zionism Victoria has met with Victorian government ministers and senior officers from Victoria Police to discuss the strength of our multiculturalism and explore the protections available to the Jewish community under Victorian statutes. This advocacy work is ongoing.

As we look forward to 2022, I would like to acknowledge the strong working relationship between Zionism Victorian and the JCCV. In particular, I would like to congratulate Daniel Aghion on his first months in the role – his energy, commitment and leadership has been exemplary, and I am confident that the JCCV will only flourish with him at the helm. We have a shared goal of supporting Israel through connection, and providing our community with an important link to our homeland, and we look forward to continuing this dynamic relationship into the future.

I wish the JCCV and its leadership a successful AGM and *hatzlacha raba* for all of its endeavours over the coming year.

B'virkat Tzion,

Yossi Goldfarb
PRESIDENT



JCCV FIRST NATIONS RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

save the date

5 DECEMBER

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC

WALKING Together

Jewish Community Stands with First Nations

JCCV invites you to a very special Chanukah event. Join us on the evening of Sunday 5th December 2021 at Fed Square, to celebrate the Eighth Night of Chanukah, with a smoking ceremony and the lighting of the Ark Centre's 'Pillars of Light' Grand Menorah.

Get active and Walk Together in support of the wishes of the First Nations community to establish a Voice to Parliament as called for by the Uluru Statement from the Heart. JCCV, B'nai B'rith Victoria, together with other Jewish organisations, are coordinating a number of community walks leading to the Fed Square, Eighth Night, Chanukah celebrations.

Please Save The Date, More information to Follow

Subject to Covid Regulations



JCCV acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures, to the Elders, past, present and emerging.



Former teacher sentenced PAGE 3

In One Voice PAGES 8-9

Israel votes PAGE 12

THE Australian Jewish News

Midweek edition 4438, \$3.80 (including GST) Friday, March 26, 2021 - Issue 13, 5781

HISTORIC CONSECRATION HONOURING DUNERA BOY

PETER KORN

KEYSTONE OF THE life and times of Earl Kitchener has been an extraordinary man who personifies the spirit of the Jewish people in the 20th century. His story is a testament to the Jewish people's resilience and courage.



Earl Kitchener's grave site at Earl Kitchener's grave, watched by Michael Cohen.

Earl Kitchener was a British soldier and statesman who served in the British Army during the First World War. He was a member of the Jewish community and was known for his leadership and courage.

His story is a testament to the Jewish people's resilience and courage. He was a member of the Jewish community and was known for his leadership and courage. His story is a testament to the Jewish people's resilience and courage.



GUDINSKIMEMORIAL Rabbi joins pop legends

DEBORAH LAMBERT

AS GUDINSKI's 100th birthday was celebrated, a group of pop legends joined Rabbi Michael Cohen for a special service.

The service was held at the Earl Kitchener Memorial Synagogue and was attended by a large number of community members.



THURSDAY 13 APRIL 7:30PM

Robert Machedon Hall, Menachem Center

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

THE GREAT 1000 FOODS ROOM

CAULFIELD RACECOURSE

1000+ FOODS ROOM

1000+ FOODS ROOM

2021 JCCV PLENUM

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria will be held on:

MONDAY 03 MAY 8PM Start

VENUE: King David School Multipurpose Hall, 517 Ormond Road, Armadale

QR Code registration at event

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Daniel Aghion, JCCV President

TOPIC: Valuing Connections

Light refreshments following the Plenum meeting. An opportunity to personally meet Daniel Aghion.

www.jccv.org.au

2021 JCCV PLENUM

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria will be held on:

MONDAY 04 OCT 8PM Start

VENUE: LIVE ON ZOOM

REGISTER: www.jccv.org.au

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Nicole Brady, Deputy Secretary, COVID-19 Public Health Policy & Strategy, COVID-19 Response, Victorian Department of Health

TOPIC: The Covid Roadmap for Victoria

www.jccv.org.au

HEALTHY GAMING & DIGITAL NUTRITION

8 NOVEMBER 7.30PM LIVE ON ZOOM

Guest Speakers:

- JOCELYN BREWER** is a Sydney based psychologist, teacher and human, with expertise in cyberpsychology, digital wellbeing and mental health.
- ANDREW KINCH** Founder of Gamemasters, 30 years competitive and casual gamer, a teacher of health and wellbeing for 15 years and a parent of 3. Andrew's skillset is geared to tackle these issues.

Moderated by:

- DAN GOODHARDT** Manager, Forensic Intelligence, Victoria Police

Learn how to bridge the gap between gamers, parents and professionals through education and intelligent gaming strategies and create a healthy, balanced relationship with technology for the whole family.

[jocelynbrewer.com](http://www.jocelynbrewer.com)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Scan QR to register or go to <https://maccabi.com.au/healthy-gaming>



NEW FUNDING - MAY 2021

THANK YOU! TODAY WE RAISED \$200,000

ENABLING SOCIAL COUNSELLOR & WELLNESS SUPPORT AT MALLACOOTA P-12 COLLEGE

Victorian Jewish Bushfire Relief Appeal

Making a difference together.

www.jccv.org.au

JCCV COMMUNITY FORUM

RETHINKING THE FUTURE OF OUR JEWISH SCHOOLS

Please join the community discussion with:

- Daniel Aghion, President, JCCV
- Alan Schwartz AM, Working Group Convenor

TUESDAY 17 AUG 8PM Start

LIVE ON ZOOM

REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/JCCV-forum-jewish-schools-project>

2021 JCCV PLENUM

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria will be held on:

MONDAY 07 JUNE 8PM Start

Join the JCCV ZOOM event at: <http://bit.ly/JCCV-Plenum-June>

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: JUSTIN KAGAN, CEO; Yael Steel, CSG Head of Crisis and Emergency Management

TOPIC: CSG Structure, Scope & Emergency Management

www.jccv.org.au

Message from the Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission

I would like to thank the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) for their efforts and accomplishments over the last year.

Since the pandemic was declared in March 2020, multicultural and multifaith communities in Victoria have faced many challenges. The confluence of political upheaval abroad and the devastating public health and social impacts of COVID-19 has given rise to much uncertainty and fear.

Fortunately, there have been several community groups that have stepped up to lead us through these testing times. The JCCV is one of them.

On behalf of the Victorian Multicultural Commission, I commend the JCCV for its continued efforts supporting the COVID-19 response in the Jewish community. The council has promoted vital COVID-19 public health messaging, denounced the actions of a small few whose choices have placed other Victorians in danger, and found ways to keep community members connected when we have been forced apart.

The council has also rallied against racism and encouraged critical conversations around mental health.

These actions matter, this leadership matters. It has saved lives. Thank you.

I would also like to personally acknowledge the work of the council's executive director, Judy Fetter, and the new president, Daniel Aghion. As a team, you have hit the ground running and overcome so many obstacles. Please keep it up.

We look forward to another year working alongside the JCCV.

Yours Sincerely



Vivienne Nguyen, AM
Chairperson, Victorian Multicultural Commission
14 October 2021



Like Comment





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Daniel Aghion

Redefining the JCCV

This has been a year of two distinct halves for the JCCV.

At its AGM in November 2020, Andre Oboler was elected as President. For reasons I do not propose to discuss here, that did not work out and Frank Greenstein acted as interim President until April 2021. This disrupted some of the JCCV's activities for the first half of the year.

From late April 2021 however, the JCCV has turned itself around. The executive committee has applied itself diligently and arduously to the task at hand, and we have produced significant results.

The first question we asked ourself was what the JCCV should be. The Victorian Jewish community has many diverse interests, which have developed organically and without a centralised structure. That in turn begs the question: what role should the JCCV play? We have proceeded on the basis that the JCCV is not all-encompassing, but rather is "greater than the sum of its parts" in the sense that it should seek out those matters which are of common interest to the community as a whole, and seek to advance those matters.

At my first Plenum in May 2021, I said the following:

So what do I wish to achieve for the JCCV over the balance of the term of this executive? To remain true to its purpose, as defined in its Constitution, of being:

- the official spokesperson and central authority of the Jewish community of Victoria;

- to foster the unity of the Jewish community and strive for the fulfilment of its aspirations; and
- to ensure the continuity and development of its religious, spiritual, cultural and social heritage

In practical terms, that requires a number of things:

First, to restore the credibility of the JCCV

Second, a JCCV which leads the community by example

Third, a sound financial footing

Fourth, the identification of matters which meet the common aspirations of the community as a whole. It is in those matters where unity can be found.

The intent behind those words continue to guide the executive as we conclude the first year of our three-year term.

1. Restoring the credibility of the JCCV

Much work has been done on putting the JCCV at the core of the present-day issues facing the Melbourne Jewish community. This has included the following:

- taking the lead on COVID matters, including discussions with the Department of Health about the impact upon the Victorian Jewish community and our response to it;

PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- acting as the focal point for media enquiries regarding COVID compliance by the community;
- redeveloping our social and electronic media communications;
- rebuilding and restructuring our relationship with the CSG;
- liaising with Government on proposed legislation to ban Nazi symbols;
- acting as co-host, with Zionism Victoria, of the annual Yom Ha'atzmaut cocktail function with politicians and dignitaries; and
- continuing to manage the disbursement of funds for the Bushfire appeal, which raised \$3million for victims of the 2020 fires in Gippsland, Victoria.

There is no specific measuring device by which we can assess ourselves against this metric. Nonetheless, I believe that the JCCV has proven its worth community time and again over the last six months, and that we have made the case in Victoria and nationally for a strong JCCV.

2. Leading the community by example

Safeguarding project

Our core issue has been working towards the development of a safeguarding program together with Shmirah (formerly Tzedek). The thinking is that child protection policies are insufficient by themselves, if they are not monitored and implemented. Our aim is to build a safeguarding unit, which provides

communal training and education in the implementation of best practices in child protection.

While there are existing professional organisations which provide such training services, they are either commercial in nature or attached to other faith groups. There are very few which offer specialist training for Jewish organisations, and which understand the unique issues that our community faces. A needs analysis is significantly advanced, which we anticipate will demonstrate the need for a safeguarding program conducted from within the community and which will assist in defining its scope.

Better funding of Jewish dayschools

We have also led the Victorian community's response to the Jewish School's Working Project. This is a project developed by Alan Schwartz AM, to discuss options for better funding of the Jewish dayschools in Victoria. One of the matters that came out of that response, has been consideration of the important role that UJEB plays in the provision of Jewish education in Victoria.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

Crisis management

We led the Victorian community's response to several crises arising out of the COVID pandemic. While we worked well on an ad hoc basis, it became clear that our crisis planning was inadequate and more work needs to be done in this area. The Victorian crisis response needs to be rebuilt. Together with the CSG (see below), we will take the lead in doing so.

3. A sound financial footing

This remains an ongoing exercise. The JCCV operates with the generous support of its major donors – Gandel Philanthropy, the Estate of Jacob Frankiel and the Estate of Sylvia Gelman. We have also been far more active in applying for and obtaining Government grants.

We are currently preparing for a major appeal which will be held in November 2021. In respect of the ECAJ, our current affiliation fees are up to date which is a significant improvement on previous years. Nonetheless, there is a component of arrears which remains on the ECAJ books and which needs to be the subject of further discussion between the ECAJ and the JCCV.

We are hopeful of significantly improving the financial status of the JCCV. But this will be an ongoing project which will occupy much of the efforts of the current executive throughout their 3-year term.

May I remind all JCCV affiliates to pay their affiliation fees promptly. Some are late payers. Some have claimed financial difficulty, and we will be tolerant to the extent that we are able. Curiously, one organisation

one organisation has simply refused to pay. This financial year, we will be chasing up late and non-payers and, where appropriate, bringing them to the attention of the Plenum.

4. Identifying matters which meet the common aspirations of the community as a whole

Yom HaShoah

Each year in April, the JCCV holds a major public event to commemorate the Holocaust. This year, the presentation was necessarily conducted as an online webcast. This gave us a chance to redevelop the presentation away from a static list of speakers, into a more dynamic presentation in a 'story-telling' style.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

Book Launch

In August, together with the ECAJ we were honoured to launch the memoir of Nina Bassat AM, *Take the Child and Disappear*. A delightful afternoon was held in Zoom conversation between Nina and respected novelist Bram Presser. Nina is one of our community treasures, and we were delighted that she asked us to launch her personal history.



Multicultural and interfaith

We have continued to develop our relationships with other faith and cultural communities. One specific issue is a proposal to replace the recitation in Victorian Parliament of the Lord's Prayer with a more agnostic call to "pray or reflect in silence". The JCCV's position, shared with other faith communities, is that prayer is important and should remain part of the Parliamentary formalities.

Another issue is how the proposed ban on Nazi symbols will affect users of the swastika (eg Buddhists) as a symbol of prosperity and good fortune. Our solution is to propose an exemption where the swastika is used for genuine religious or cultural purposes.



JCCV First Nations Program

A number of community groups and individuals have expressed interest in improving relations with the indigenous community. We have brought them together under the title of the "JCCV First Nations Program" and are excited to see what will be developed in this space.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

Jewish Immersion Programs

We have revised our online presentations and extended our reach across local council staff, to raise awareness on Jewish life, practices and passive antisemitism. Presentations will be delivered to the Cities of Glen Eira, Melbourne, Port Philip and Stonnington. We have also received support for our work from the Local Communities Anti Racism Grant.

Community Security Group (CSG)

The CSG is a subsidiary of the JCCV and answerable to it. Organisationally, the CSG operates its own office and works independently of the JCCV office. The CSG provides protection, training and security advice to schools, shules and communal organisations. The CSG keeps the community informed on the latest threats facing our community.

I thank all of the CSG employees, led by Justin Kagan, and all volunteers for their hard work and effort throughout the year. Even though a large part of the year was spent in lockdown, with many schools and shules either operating remotely or not operating at all, the CSG has still played a vital role.

The final works for stage 1 of Project Fortify were completed successfully.

COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of crisis management. CSG has played an invaluable role in assisting schools and crèches that were faced with COVID and non COVID events this year. CSG along with JCCV were instrumental in leading the community when it faced heightened media

attention in the lead up to and during the High Holy Days. Yael Steel has been brought in to lead the crisis management side of the CSG and has done an excellent job.

The CSG continues to maintain close relationships with both state and federal police, sharing vital intelligence with them.

The CSG advisory board continues to ensure that the CSG is sufficiently funded to meet the needs of the community. I thank and congratulate Jeremy Lanzer and the entire Board for their work.

A proposal to restructure the CSG, to better reflect its relationship with the JCCV and the community, was passed at a plenum earlier this year. The implementation of that proposal is pending.

The CSG, together with Hatzolah, introduced the new JEAP app. This allows the community to communicate directly with both organisation. It has received a very positive response from the community.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

Trude Weiss Foundation

The Trude Weiss Foundation has been in existence since 1968. Its purpose is to enable or assist worthy Jewish children and young adults between the ages of 15 and 25, to receive funding for secondary and tertiary education. The Foundation is administered by its trustees, with certain express powers given to the President of the JCCV and to the JCCV as a whole.

The trustees of the Foundation, led by Nina Bassat AM, have requested an amendment to the trust deed, to permit advertisements calling for applications for grants by electronic communication in lieu of circulating non-Jewish daily newspapers. The details of the request, and the proposed amendment, are contained in the attached papers. I seek the support of the JCCV to the amendment, which must be passed unanimously by those present and voting.

Executive, office and ECAJ support

The simple fact is that the JCCV has done an enormous amount of work over the last 6 months. It has not had sufficient resources to do so, but it has performed that work nonetheless. This is due to the efforts of our executive:

I thank them all for their continued hard work and dedication. You can read about their efforts in the accompanying portfolio reports. The office staff have been extraordinary. Led by our executive director Judy Fetter, together with stalwart Hilary McMahon and newcomer Josh Goodman (part-time), they have produced "something from nothing" and have done so many times over and always with good grace. I treasure their efforts and thank them profusely.



Doron Abramovici
Vice-president and special interest groups



Hannah Greenberg
Treasurer



Frances Prince
Multicultural and interfaith



Rabbi Gabi Kaltmann
Antisemitism



Michelle Meyer
Protection of the vulnerable



Howard Sachs
Schools



Frank Greenstein
Affiliate familiarisation



Samuel Strunin
Marketing



Greg Kirshon
Security chair (ex officio)



Yossi Goldfarb
Zionism Victoria (ex officio)

Daniel Aghion
President

November 2021