



Netzer leaders at the 2018 UPJ Biennial in Melbourne.

Photo: Joe Lewitt

● UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Focusing on young adults

An important priority over the next three years for the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ) has been set: increase the number of people within its communities who self-identify being Jewish as central to their lives.

Together with the Assembly of Rabbis and Cantors, the UPJ is designing seminars on how to build knowledge about its Jewish values, how to answer tough questions, how to have difficult conversations, and how to see Jewish values at work in our lives. It intends to deepen understanding of hot-button topics which distinguish, in a positive way, Progressive Jewish values.

Inspired by the example of Rabbi Dan Moskowitz of Temple Shalom in Vancouver, who successfully engages his community using Relational Judaism techniques, UPJ leaders will ask not how often people show up at the synagogue, but how often the synagogue shows up for the people.

The Progressive Jewish outlook on the

world focuses primarily on people, recognising that every human being is created in the image of God (b'tzelem Elohim).

The focus of the UPJ in the upcoming years centres strongly on young adults. Young adults want to feel proud about being Progressive Jews. They engage with issues such as climate change and social equality and wish to validate their positions through Jewish values.

To further these aims, the UPJ is working on empowering young adults to lead the community on climate change action, and will work further to educate the whole community to create support for their actions.

On October 15-17, 2021, the UPJ will present its biennial conference, focusing on these goals. The conference will be held both in person in Sydney, and host sessions via Zoom, open to all members of the Jewish community who wish to attend.

For more information visit upj.org.au.

● LEIBLER YAVNEH COLLEGE

Flourishing Jewish life

LEIBLER Yavneh College (LYC) has launched the school year by welcoming a large cohort of new students across its early learning centre (ELC), primary and secondary school.

The new format of its Jewish Life team has led to a strong focus on school spirit this year. The team has launched as a whole school theme for 2021: Yavneh Beyachad, which will encourage staff, students and families coming together and being connected. This theme provides further purpose, direction and context to help all students and their families thrive in 2021.

The ELC continues to offer a myriad of extracurricular activities and programs each day, with its youngest learners in the creche rooms right through to the senior kinder students the beneficiaries of these amazing activities, including yoga, music with Bev and sportsbuzz.

The primary school continues to refine its Initialit program, which has been implemented in prep, year 1 and year 2 and is an evidence-based, whole-class literacy program providing all children with the essential core knowledge and strong foundations to become successful readers and writers.

2021 has also seen the implementation of the CARS and STARS programs in years 3 to 6. CARS (Comprehensive Assessment of Reading Strategies) and STARS (Strategies To Achieve Reading Success) are also evidenced based, whole-class reading and comprehension programs which provide targeted instruction in 12 core reading strategies. Complementing this, is the CAMS (Comprehensive Assessment

of Mathematics Strategies) and STAMS (Strategies to Achieve Mathematics Success) programs, which give students the practice they need to master the 16 fundamental maths concepts and skills, focusing on conceptual understanding and computational fluency.

Further to this, the primary school has also introduced a new peer mediation program which aims to contribute to a caring and positive school environment, and trains students to support their peers in resolving low-level conflict on the playground.

The secondary school is very excited to offer students in years 7-10 an array of new electives as well as a new STEAM subject for year 11 students. The STEAM club activities and First Lego League robotics club have captured the imagination of LYC students from primary to secondary, and harnessed their curiosity and creativity which will be further ignited in the array of STEAM subjects on offer in 2021.

For more information, visit yavneh.vic.edu.au.



LYC prep students (from left) Pia Wermut, Abigail Burnie and Yoni Amar.

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At the heart of Perth's thriving Jewish community is Carmel, a unique K-12 day school offering an outstanding learning environment that focuses on individual achievement and connects students with their faith and identity. Carmel is known for its strong sense of community and belonging, just two of the reasons many parents choose Carmel for their families.

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Assignments Editor and US News Editor for *Ha'aretz*

Society, culture and elections
- the future for Progressive Jewish values in Israel

7pm Monday 15 March 2021 (Melb/Syd time)

The event will be held both in person at Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne and Emanuel Synagogue in Sydney and via Zoom. Both venues have COVID-safe policies and practices in place.

Register before 8 March to avoid disappointment
upj.org.au/progressive-appeal/campaign-events
or upj@upj.org.au or 0416 700 613