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# MESSIANIC JEWISH ALLIANCE OF AUSTRALIA

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## Newsletter June 2023



### 2022-2023 Update

Shalom!

Over the past 12 months we have been pleased to see an increase in growth and activities in the MJAA. We've seen the start of new regular events as well as more connections made with the wider Messianic movement locally and overseas.

In particular, the weekly prayer meetings and the art forum have generated a high level of communication between local members and friends, as well as strong support from contacts in the UK and Israel.

Our membership is currently around the 30 mark, with over 300 connections on our mailing list. Our newsletter has been irregular, but with more happening we plan to have a monthly issue to keep you up to date about developments.

It has been exciting to connect with Messianic congregations in WA and Qld and NSW. While distance puts a barrier between us, there is clearly a growing and thriving Messianic community of congregations and believers in Australia. It is our prayer to see the current number of congregations we are aware of (estimated at seven, with a planned new development in Melbourne) grow in the coming year as new Jewish outreach initiatives are implemented. As the Apostle Paul said in Romans 1:16: "For I am not

ashamed of the gospel, because it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek." The Apostle Paul prioritized sharing the gospel to the Jewish community, but this does not imply excluding others. It points to the imperative of not neglecting to share the message of salvation through Messiah Yeshua with the Jewish community as part of the Great Commission given by Yeshua.

As Jewish believers in Yeshua, we know that there is nothing more Jewish than believing in the Jewish Messiah who came as a suffering servant to identify with humankind and pay the price for reconciliation with God through his sacrificial and atoning death. It is His blood - not the blood of bulls and goats as under the Mosaic covenant - that was shed to atone for our sins. The requirement of a blood sacrifice for atonement was never abolished, but Yeshua fulfilled it once and for all by his sacrifice (Heb. 10:4).



Art by Helen Burman: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

Sharing the truth of the gospel is a key task of communities New Covenant (Brit Chadashah), as well as a driver of growth of Messianic communities, but sadly one that often is given less than the priority expressed by Yeshua. We hope that all congregations will be both in prayer and activity related to reaching out to the Jewish community with the message of the gospel in the coming year.

*Shalom, David Isaacson, Secretary MJAA*

## How was your Passover and Shavuot Season?

After the season of Passover and Shavuot it is a good time to reflect on core of the Messianic significance of these festivals. What questions did these festivals raise for you?

The Passover seder, or order of service, is famous for including the four traditional questions, framed as “Why is this night different from all other nights?” typically asked by the youngest person seated at the seder table. However, many more questions are asked about it when it has a Messianic focus. For example:

- What is the prophetic significance and connection between (Yeshua) Jesus and the Passover?
- What is the Biblical basis for Christians to celebrate Passover?
- Is Easter the same as Passover?
- When did Jesus celebrate Passover with His disciples?
- What does the tri-unity of the Matza Tash (pouch) represent and how did this extra-Biblical artefact become part of the seder?

How can you deepen your understanding of Yeshua and your love for Him by delving into the Hebrew Scriptures and Brit Chadashah for these answers?

In the next few months, we’re looking forward to starting an online Messianic educational channel with teaching by Dr Ashley Crane and others. We’ll announce the start of it in the newsletter, so watch this space!

## Weekly Prayer Meeting

Our regular online prayer meeting continues Tuesdays to pray for Israel, Messianic groups and outreach. It has been great to meet with others in diverse places yet coming together in unity in prayer. If you are interested in joining us, please email [secretary@mjaa.org.au](mailto:secretary@mjaa.org.au) for the link.

## MJAA Website

There are some great articles, and info on our website, as well as a newly added Messianic Art section. Check it out at [mjaa.org.au](http://mjaa.org.au). Also connect with us on Facebook for news and articles.

## IMJA

The International Messianic Jewish Alliance (IMJA) meets online to pray together and hear updates about the Messianic work that is being done around the world. Messianic congregations in Israel now number around 300, compared with just 12 in 1989. The IMJA committee meeting will be held in Israel in October, and we will have MJAA representatives attending.

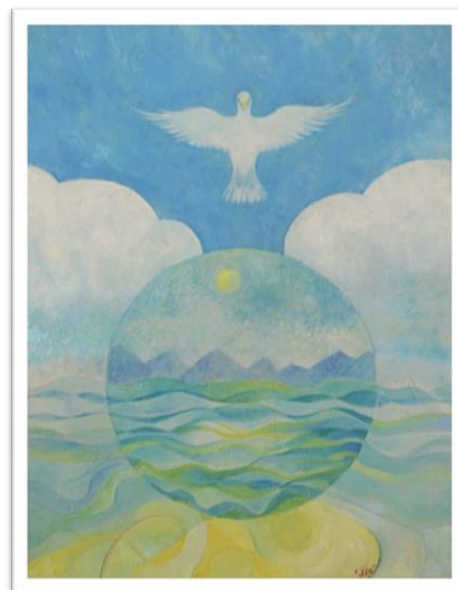
## Messianic Jewish Art Forum

This exciting new project has been gathering Messianic artists across Australia and from different countries to discuss the nature and impact of Messianic art, as well as it’s potential to engage the Jewish community in dialogue about the life and work of Messiah Yeshua. Messianic Jewish art workshops, as well as local and online exhibitions are being planned for the near future.

We have added an art gallery to our website which will continue to expand. If you are an artist or know someone who might be interested in participating in discussions and activities around Messianic Art, we’d love you to join us. See the website for details: [mjaa.org.au/arts](http://mjaa.org.au/arts)

## Exciting New Book!

Elisheva and Roni Mechanic, members of our Art Forum, who experienced in leadership in the Messianic movement internationally, have authored a new book on the topic of Jewish and Messianic Jewish Art. It includes the art of some contemporary Messianic artists and explores the idea of Messianic art as a genre in its own right. Link to the book on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com.au/Messianic-Jewish-Art-New-Perspective/dp/B0BK7YCS7D>



Art by Roni Mechanic.

## Membership



We are a member-based organisation which aims to unite Jewish and Gentile believers in Australia in fellowship, from all locations and congregations. We are affiliated with the International Messianic Jewish Alliance, which has chapters from 17 nations. If you would like to join with us, go to [mjaa.org.au/membership](https://mjaa.org.au/membership) for more info.

It is that time of year again when MJAA membership renewals are due. If you joined before March 31, 2023, please renew your membership by visiting [mjaa.org.au/payments/](https://mjaa.org.au/payments/)

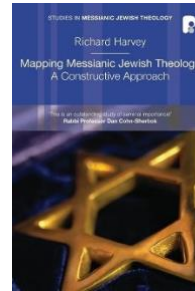
### What does it mean to be Messianic?

The term “Messianic” has come to mean many things to different people. Richard Harvey, a Messianic scholar, researcher and writer has identified eight “strands” of Messianic belief and practice. Harvey’s highly recommended book, **Mapping Messianic Jewish Theology** maps the diverse theological terrain of this young movement. He makes an original and innovative contribution by clarifying, affirming and constructively critiquing the present state of its theology. The book examines five topics of theological concern:

1. God's nature, activity and attributes (can the one God of Israel and the Christian Trinity be the same?)
2. The Messiah (Messianic Jewish Christologies)
3. Torah in theory (the meaning and interpretation of the Torah in the light of Jesus)
4. Torah in practice (Messianic practice of Sabbath, food laws and Passover)
5. Eschatology (the diverse models employed within the movement to describe the future of Israel).

Within each topic Harvey explores the range of Messianic Jewish views and their roots in both Jewish and Christian theological traditions. The author

proposes a typology of eight theological tendencies within Messianic Judaism and identifies issues where further theological development is required.



If you are within the Messianic movement and would like to deepen your understanding of its history and current issues, this book is highly recommended.

Link to book on The Nile:  
<https://shorturl.at/gsuCN>

### Messianic Blog and Podcasts

Tune into Shalom Radio UK, hosted by Roni Mechanic, for in-depth studies and interviews that will challenge and enrich your Messianic understanding. <https://hotrodronisblog.com/>

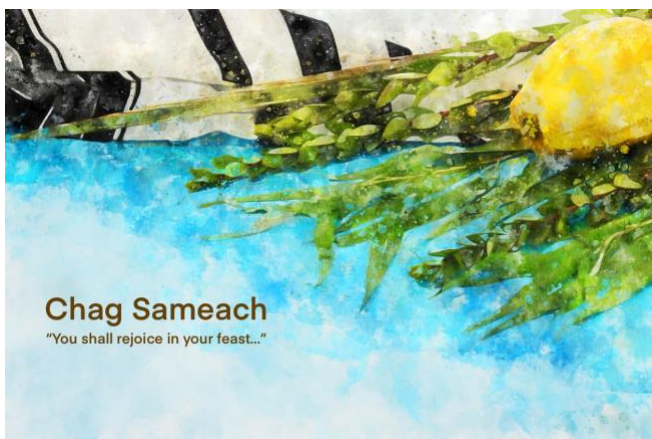
### A Yiddish Word! Fariebeldick!

By guest writer Roni Mechanic, Shalom Radio, UK

In Yiddish my late mother Annie used to warn us about individuals to avoid, because she said that they were “fariebeldick” – that is someone who causes trouble and bears grudges. As human beings we are so apt to fall out with each other. Sometimes disputes last for years and even a lifetime, never getting healed and reconciled. No one is immune, impervious to getting hurt, or taking offence and there are multitudes of reasons for things going wrong in relationships.

For example, I asked a friend from the congregation that I attend, “Why does your wife not join us for worship?” Graham replied, “Oh, she fell out with so, and so over the flower arranging roster and she has never been back since.” I asked, “Can’t they get over it?” “No, the other woman is dead,” he replied. It is so sad that there is now no way back, and the window of opportunity and possibility for healing that broken relationship is now closed forever.

In the Messianic movement it is not any different. If folk can fall out over a disagreement of flower arranging, and never get reconciled, then how are we to deal with much larger issues? Let us seek peace and not strife – Yeshua calls us to be ‘salt,’ and ‘light.’ ‘Salt’ helps prevent decay and preserves, and ‘light’ helps dispel darkness and illuminate the way. Shalom.



## Passover in Melbourne

The Melbourne Messianic Havdalah Group hosted a Pesach Meal and teaching event by Dr Ashley Crane on 8 April 2023. If you are looking for a Messianic fellowship in Melbourne, please email us for details. We meet fortnightly in the Bentleigh East area.

To join Ashley's tour to Israel in November 2023, email your enquiry to: [ashley.crane@gmail.com](mailto:ashley.crane@gmail.com)

One of the discussion points raised at the Passover meal was, "Surely being a Messianic Jew is the same as being a Christian?" Jews who accept Jesus as their Messiah do not change from believing in the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Israel. They accept God's way for both Jews and gentiles to receive forgiveness of sins and be restored to fellowship with Him through the sacrificial, atoning death of Jesus.

Messianic Passover events convey the message that just as the blood of the spotless Passover lamb applied to the lintel and doorposts caused death to pass over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, so the blood of Jesus applied to our hearts by faith brings forgiveness of sins and the free gift of eternal life to all who believe.

Ephesian 2: 14-16 sums this up: "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility." (NIV)

## Upcoming Jewish holidays 2023

### Rosh Hashanah

Begins sunset Friday, September 15, 2023

Ends evening Sunday, September 17, 2023

According to traditional Jewish law, no work is permitted.

### Yom Kippur

Begins sunset Sunday, September 24, 2023

Ends evening Monday, September 25, 2023

### Sukkot

Begins sunset Friday, September 29, 2023

Ends evening Friday, October 6, 2023

### Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah

Begins sunset Friday, October 6, 2023

Ends evening Sunday, October 8, 2023

### Hanukkah

Begins sunset Thursday, December 7, 2023

Ends evening Friday, December 15, 2023

(Ref: <https://jewishunpacked.com/the-jewish-holidays-in-2023/>)