



# AJN Watch



AJN WATCH - the on-line voice of Australian Orthodox Jewry observes and comments on matters of interest to that community. We particularly monitor prejudice and monopolistic abuse of influence in the pages of the Australian Jewish News - the main source of information to and about Australian Jewry. We spotlight errors, expose misrepresentations and vigorously advocate our community's positions.

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011

## Gays, Reform clergy and the AJN - but where are our Rabbis?



The following post was received last week from "Jacob" (with some editing and reworking by us). We apologise for the delay in posting - but AJNWatch too has been busy over the past weeks with Yomtov and cheesecake as well as one of our stalwarts away overseas. We'll try to catch up on the backlog of posts in the next few days.

Hi AJN Watch,

Following your recent advice, I checked out the free online edition of the AJN. (Personally, I decided a year ago that I would no longer financially support the rag.)

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[Anonymous wrote...](#)

The RCV has a long standing policy of total non engagement with the Progressives. They do not respond to anything the progressives say or do as this simply, neither to them directly or in the public arena. Responding means that their views and...

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[harold wrote...](#)

Rabbi Ingram - the conscience of Australian Jewry

What hit me was seeing it has reverted with a vengeance to its role as the [Australian Gayish News](#) - with its front page, page 3, editorial and Kron's cartoon all featuring and promoting the nauseating call by Australia's Reform clergypersons to the Federal government to legalise homosexual marriages.



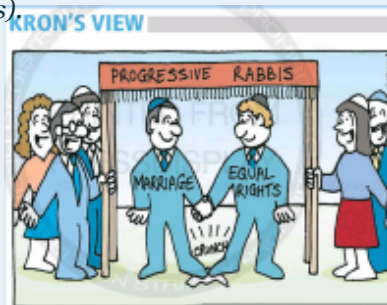
As I understand it, the current owner of the AJN, Robert Magid is a member of the Reform and obviously approves (and presumably encourages) his newspaper's campaign.

I can't remember any recent issue that the AJN supported to heavily, having said that, I don't think too many of us are surprised or shocked at the behaviour of these reform 'rabbis' and rabbiettes. After all, if **they can accept** a homosexual living with his boyfriend (would he have to be Jewish?) and woman who is 100% not Jewish as their 'rabbis', nothing is beyond the pale.

That the AJN supports such perversion of Torah and basic decency also comes as no surprise (especially when taking into consideration the publisher's Reform ties)

However what would have shocked most traditional and religious Jews was the almost craven and gutless response of the president of the Orthodox Rabbis of Australasia, Rabbi Dovid Freilich: "...that they (the Reform) were entitled to their stance... Our view (that "the sanctity of a marriage was between a man and a woman")...is based on the Torah and our heritage..."

What? Rabbi Freilich has to JUSTIFY not supporting such a Toeva? Is this really the best that the representative of the Australian Orthodox rabbinate can do? Is this not almost as great a Chilul Hashem as the statement by his Reform "colleagues"? I hope you will publish my words which are written in both sadness and anger.



Jacob

Meanwhile we have received the following email which has been doing

[Anonymous wrote...](#)  
Thanks, what took you so long?

[ggg wrote...](#)  
A different peirush for 'shelo asani goy'!

[Heski wrote...](#)  
From Rabbi Ralph: "I have a problem with those Chareidim who are so obsessed with the depiction of women that they minimise essential Jewish and Halachik concepts like "kavod habriyut" (respect for humanity created in G-d's image)" So...  
[Continue >>](#)

[SW wrote...](#)  
Yep it works!

[Anonymous wrote...](#)  
very cool

[Anonymous wrote...](#)  
Thanks dovber for that interesting article. I think the true Chabad views about zionism and israel have at least in Australia always been kept under wrpas so as no to harm relationships with donors and for our rabbis to live 'comfortably'...  
[Continue >>](#)

[Anonymous wrote...](#)  
Bar mitzvahs have also become ridiculous with every type of theme be presented - except aone with any connection to Judaism

[city worker wrote...](#)  
I have been a state library member for years and didn't know of this. Thanksajnwatch - keep up the good work

[Steven wrote...](#)  
Is it true that our Charedi friends want to edit out all the women featured in the Chumash?

[Dovber wrote...](#)  
-3- RebbeThe Rebbe responded sharply: "Ischalta dGeula"? Chas V'Shalom! It was not the ischalta d'Geula! The brothers began arguing: Nu, fine, it wasn't the beginning of the complete Geula, but it was still a day of salvation...  
[Continue >>](#)

[Dovber wrote...](#)  
-2- Rebbe..However, they were "farbrente tziyonim" (ardent Zionists), and as such, they did not manage to absorb the pnimiyus of the closeness they enjoyed with the Rebbeim, which led to the following incident. One day when I arrived at the...  
[Continue >>](#)

[Dovber wrote...](#)  
Regarding DBB's emails re Chabad and Zionism, here's an interesting story which has been doing the rounds on the net which clearly shows that the rebbe was no zionist, far, far from it. Rabbis Wolf and Gutnick may sing their hearts out at...  
[Continue >>](#)

[Anonymous wrote...](#)

the rounds in both Melbourne and Sydney and adds to the above sentiments:

Subject: IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM RABBI INGRAM

..who seems to be the only rabbi in Australia who is upset by the Reform to'eva (and its promotion by the Jewish News in both Melb and Sydney editions).

See attachments for the front page [sponsored by Glicks (!) - though I have no doubt that they are unhappy about this] and the page 2 report where the president of Organisation of Rabbis of Australia gives some unbelievable p-weak response. What has become of the leadership of our communities? It seems that since the passing of Rabbis Groner and Chaim Gutnick the 'mainstream' rabbinate have given up on stating the genuine Torah viewpoint. (And I have no doubt that if Rabbi Zaichyk was still here, he too would have fearlessly and in his style socked it to all.)

These days, it seems that only Rabbi Ingram has the Yiras Shomayim and guts to get up and say the Torah truth (as witnessed by his repeated letters in the AJN - for which he often gets criticised and attacked in response).

(Can anyone explain why the other rabbis and Orthodox organisations, eg, COSV, RCV, ORA the Melb and Sydney Beth Dins are so passive and relaxed about this Chazerai?

Forwarded message -----

From: Rabbi Chaim Ingram [judaim@bigpond.net.au](mailto:judaim@bigpond.net.au)

Date: Thu, Jun 2, 2011 at 9:55 PM

Subject: Fw: Progressive Judaism backs marriage Star Online

The AJN has fallen to a new abyss of irreponsibility by giving this story such promotion.

Note that the self-styled rabbinic council of progressive rabbis purports to speak on behalf of us all! ("..the Jewish people are all too familiar with discrimination and worse and we reject it ....") not to mention that they equate opposition to gay marriage with antisemitism, cholilo.

This is dangerous stuff. Not only because of the push towards gay union but because the whole Jewish community will be implicated. No other group purporting to represent a religion has come out in Australia to lobby in this way. Please post this out to anyone on your group who can help counteract. Write to your MPs. Write to the AJN and general press. The AJN has a poll asking if same-sex marriage should be legalised. Get online and vote NO!

Let the voice of the sane silent majority be heard.

<http://www.starobserver.com.au/news/2011/05/26/progressive-judaism-backs-marriage-equality/53046>

Rabbi Chaim Ingram

41, Llandaff Street, Bondi Junction, 2022

MOB: 0423-831845

And another [relevant comment](#) from an AJNWatch reader: Heski said...

From Rabbi Ralph: "I have a problem with those Chareidim who are so obsessed with the depiction of women that they minimise essential Jewish and Halachik concepts like "kavod habriyut" (respect for humanity created in G-d's image)" So Rabbi Ralph seems to be using the same argument that the Chareidim must have photographs of Ladies in their papers as our Reform Clergy are using to claim that we need same sex marriages! Seems that Rabbi Ralph hasn't taken an interest in this preverted claim re same sex marriages. He must ne too busy worrying what the Brooklyn Chassidim are doing.

Meanwhile we are pleased to report that Rabbi Ingram's plea has not been in vain and has elicited [this response](#) to the AJN from the president of the NSW Rabbinical Council, Rabbi Yossi Feldman.

TO MR. ANONYMOUS, I did not say that Rabbi Genende was too busy to learn Gemarra. He in fact learns and gives excellent shiurim regularly. What I obviously didn't get across to you is that if has not managed to complete an entire mesechta by...

[Continue >>](#)

[Harry the tiger wrote...](#)

No doubt the rabbi by criticising everyone except his own membership, makes them feel great about themselves - without the need for too much genuine "jewishness" in their lives. This problem (of lack of "jewishness") exists in...

[Continue >>](#)

[Anonymous wrote...](#)

CHC executive member, you are not doing your rabbi any favours by saying that he is too busy to learn gemarrah. Limud haTorah - especially for a rabbi should be his first priority - or at least high rup on the ladder than sermonising to the outside...

[Continue >>](#)

[Anonymous wrote...](#)

Rabbi Genende may have "hit the nail on the head". His media is full of Strauss-Kahan, Bernie Madoff and President Katzav, whilst the charedi media amply covers "major" world events, and, as an added bonus there is...

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[Anonymous wrote...](#)

Let me set the record straight for all you self-righteous misinformed, blinkered charedi spreaders of hatred. CHC does not advertise for a charedi person for the Erev Pesach siyum. Fortunately we manage to obtain the services of normal people for...

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[Anonymous wrote...](#)

This week rabbi Ralph is preaching to Straus-Kahan, Katzav and Madoff. Is everything is his own shul and community really so perfect that he can take time off to improve the rest of the world? Or as an alternative to study a mesechta gemara?...

[Continue >>](#)

[Anonymous wrote...](#)

Dover bay boy, can you get us the further emails?

[chaya m wrote...](#)

I wouldn't read that paper - even for free.

[Dan wrote...](#)

Gee thanks Ajnwatch. Save myself \$3.50 a week - just to read the hatches matches and despatches. The rest of the stuff there is all available on the net - and much more of it. And teh Sydney edition is also something I like to check out every now...

[Continue >>](#)

[David wrote...](#)

Suzanne-Why don't you educate yourself prior to making comments.

[Ilana wrote...](#)

B&H Dear G-D I must be so out of touch

## Orthodox rabbis reject same-sex union call

*WE, the executive and members of the Rabbinical Council of NSW (RCNSW) totally reject the statement of the Rabbinic Council for Progressive Rabbis on same-sex union (AJN 03/06).*

*The Torah, basis of all Judaism, explicitly prohibits homosexuality. Therefore the rabbinate cannot condone a homosexual lifestyle. Moreover Judaism believes in the promotion in the wider society of the basic moral and ethical principles enshrined in the Noachide Code one of which is the proscription of homosexual relations.*

*No Torah-abiding Jew can ever make peace with the notion of legalising or validating homosexual union in any society of which he or she is a part.*

### **Rabbi Yosef Feldman**

President, RCNSW

Would it be too much to expect that the Rabbinical Council of Victoria issue a similarly worded statement? Or would it be unfair to expect Rabbi Glasman risking the ire of his new employers - who may not be all that enamored by their rabbi being 'politically incorrect'?

On the other hand, how will he and the other nervous rabbis explain to their flock the Torah reading for Yom Kippur Mincha (reproduced above)?

at [4:33 PM](#)

#### 4 comments:

Anonymous said...

Thanks, what took you so long?

[Monday, June 13, 2011 4:55:00 PM](#)

harold said...

Rabbi Ingram - the conscience of Australian Jewry

[Monday, June 13, 2011 5:14:00 PM](#)

Anonymous said...

The RCV has a long standing policy of total non engagement with the Progressives. They do not respond to anything the progressives say or do as this simply, neither to them directly or in the public arena. Responding means that their views and ideologies warrant such response which they do not. Any response implies this is a debate within a Jewish framework which it is not. Responding to the Reforms is equivalent to responding to Atheists, Seventh Day Adventists and any other whackos that open their mouths. Well done RCV!

[Monday, June 13, 2011 11:05:00 PM](#)

Benny said...

I actually agree with the RCV's approach on this one. Those (Orthodox) rabbis who responded have turned this into an Orthodox vs Reform debate thereby legitimizing the second side of the debate. This is not about Orthodox Judaism vs Reform "Judaism". This is actually a Yiddishkeit vs Goyishkeit debate and the RCV has done well to ignore the Reform "Goyim" as though their words are chaff in the wind.

[Monday, June 13, 2011 11:22:00 PM](#)

with what is happening out in the mainstream society.(?????) And would I really want to be in touch with this sort of meshugas?? Sounds vile and so disrespectful as to what a Bat Mitzva entails, which is...

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### [New Zealand researchers invent Goy](#)

Jun 13, 2011

Next they'll discover a Yid! From here:[\[click image to enlarge\]](#)

### [Gays, Reform clergy and the AJN - but where are our Rabbis?](#)

Jun 13, 2011

The following post was received last week from "Jacob" (with some editing and reworking by us). We apologise for the delay in posting - but AJNWatch too has been busy over the past weeks with...

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### [Read the AJN - FREE!](#)

May 19, 2011

Now here's some info that you won't get elsewhere. Most people wouldn't know it, but in addition to its website (which compares most unfavorably with almost any other Jewish newspaper -...

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### [Belly dancer at Bat Mitzvah: Some Mitzvah!](#)

May 19, 2011

From this week's AJN Sydney edition: We wonder if the rabbis who criticized the NY Yiddish newspaper's erasure of Ms Clinton, will have the fortitude to censure this outrageous meshugaas? And what...

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### [Ari responds to Rabbi Genende](#)

May 17, 2011

Guest post from Ari - who states that his parents and grandparents were/are CHC members. (AJN Watch has edited this post slightly.) Caulfield Shul members would've...

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### [NY Yiddish paper deletes Hillary's image and the world goes crazy!](#)

May 16, 2011

Almost as big news story as the execution on Osama bin Laden. Here's a missive we received from one of our favourite letter-writers, Rabbi Mordy Katz (aka Robert Weil): From: Robert Weil Date: Wed, May...

[Continue >>](#)

### [Hawaii - Oy Vey! What a mishmash!](#)

May 09, 2011

Some pure gold in the Honolulu Yellow Pages! (Hat tip - DJ) Have a look at the "Featured Advertisers". What...

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### [AJN - smut peddler?](#)

Apr 28, 2011

Hat tip to an anonymous reader from the AJN website: Why are we not shocked? No

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doubt we can look forward to the  
AJN's authority on all matters related  
to dreck and the dreckerati,...

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### [Exaggeration creates mockery](#)

Apr 26, 2011

Guest post by Chosid-Maskil Like most of my fellow Chabad chassidim I highly respect Rabbi Heschel Greenberg. He is one of the most prominent names in Chabad. Thus I was somewhat disappointed reading...

[Continue >>](#)

### [Wall Street Journal reports on the business of Kashrut](#)

Apr 22, 2011

Possibly the most interesting fact in this article is the following sentence: "These days, more than 1,000 agencies world-wide vie with one another to bestow on products an alphabet soup of kosher..."

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### [Apologists of J-wire's Chilul Shabbat - please note](#)

Apr 20, 2011

To all those comment-writers who denied/defended the Chilul Shabbat e-mails sent regularly by J-Wire with justifications and excuses like: Milhouse said... If, as you say, this is a daily mailing that...

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### [Hamodia recalls Stalin-loving Mapamniks](#)

Apr 17, 2011

The Pesach edition of the Hamodia will for many bring back unpleasant memories of the appalling Mapam party. Mapam was created by a marriage of the Hashomer Hatzair and the Poalei Zion groups. In a...

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### [The Matzah Wars](#)

Apr 11, 2011

If our readers think that it is only here in Australia that the rabbis are squabbling over the Kashrut of Matza, let us assure them that there are far bigger battles going on in other parts of the...

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### [J-Wire - Mechalel Shabbat with Rabbi's Message!](#)

Apr 02, 2011

We have previously commented that the J-Wire daily email is often Mechalel Shabbat. (See here and here.) But a new low has been reached by today's publishing/forwarding the weekly...

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Mar 27, 2011

From Melb AJN reader: How does the editor of the AJN expect his Melbourne readers to understand letters he publishes that refer entirely to issues that were raised only in the Sydney edition?...

[Continue >>](#)

### [Mesirah - a plague in our midst](#)

Mar 20, 2011

Klal Yisrael always viewed, not only actual mosrim, but even those who only threatened to inform on others to the police or authorities with loathing and revulsion. The most



[Vos Iz Neias](#)

[Yeshiva World News](#)



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**[AJN WATCH](#)**

Melbourne, Australia

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