

## Commemoration of Kristallnacht

Over 200 gathered at Perth Synagogue on Wednesday 9 November, the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Night of Broken Glass”, 1938. The event, coordinated by the Council of Christians and Jews WA, was held in the presence of their Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia. CCJWA Chair, the Revd Marie Wilson, acted as MC, and Rabbi Dovid Freilich gave the Welcome Speech. As guest speaker, Shirley Atlas, who teaches Jewish History at Carmel School, gave an enlightening presentation on “Spiritual resistance during the Shoah.” Her topic illustrated in particular the importance of music in lifting the spirits, and reinforcing the faith, of those enduring extreme hardship and trauma during the Holocaust. The music selected for the evening reflected this, with a sombre tone being set initially by violinist Ronniet Orlando playing *Eili Eili* (Sandler), reinforced by soloist Rachel Benn who sang *Sh’ma Yisrael* by Sarit Hadad. One of the highlights in the occasional address was the story of how Reb Azriel David wrote the melody for *Ani ma’amin*, and the remarkable way in which it was preserved. This heartfelt expression of faith was then sung by Carmel School Boys Choir, directed by Marcia Fisher.

The proceedings included excerpts from Elie Wiesel, *Night*, the lighting of memorial candles, and a time of remembrance for the victims of the Shoah, before attendees wished each other “Shalom”. The spirit of reconciliation between Jews and Christians was poignantly symbolised in the lighting of the Candle of Hope by Liron Koren of Carmel School, and Hayley Clarke of Presbyterian Ladies’ College. The choir then sang *Shema Yisrael*, and Fr Michael Moore gave the Exhortation, before Rabbi Freilich led the *Kaddish*. The Commemoration concluded with David Zehavi’s haunting melody *Eili Eili* played by Ronniet Orlando.



Mary J. Marshall  
Honorary Secretary, CCJWA