



OCTOBER 2021

B'NAI B'RITH

COMMUNICATOR

Jewish Unity · Diversity · Continuity

Crisis for Afghan Women



IN DISCUSSION WITH

DR. IDA LICHTER

AUTHOR OF

'MUSLIM WOMEN REFORMERS - INSPIRING
VOICES AGAINST OPPRESSION'

Thursday 30 September 2021

7.30pm on zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85304399710?pwd=a0dZQUxoM0dHYllNVmp-waEZZdjhjUT09>

Meeting ID: 853 0439 9710

Passcode: 576300

Bring your questions to the talk.

Womanpower supporters feel a connection with these women in distress.





Anna Marks OAM

President

Better Covid numbers today, Sunday, 19th September. I hope by now we are all double vaccinated.

Now it is just a question of waiting for our third shot. It's hard to not be downhearted, but let's hope one day soon life will return to some semblance of normality.

Darren Bark, CEO of the Jewish Board of Deputies was the guest speaker on Zoom to the combined BBNSW units this afternoon. I am pleased to say we had a respectable number of screens on, with probably around 75 people attending.

He spoke about the work of the JBOD. One action specifically that was very obvious recently was their lobbying of the State Government to permit the Shofar being blown in parks safely all over Sydney on Rosh Hashana and an outdoor service on Yom Kippur by the Rabbonim.

In Rushcutters Bay, there were 4 uniformed policemen in attendance and two guys looking very casual in shorts, who looked to me like undercover policemen but it may have been my fevered imagination.

Darren spoke of the work they do for interfaith communities, embracing youth to re-engage and participate in the community, to create secure social media interactions, to have strategies in place to fight anti-semitism wherever it appears and to re-establish partnerships with Jewish community organisations.

Gary Samowitz who is working on the membership campaign for Hakoah contacted us to spread the word that membership applications are available already. Plans are ready for a 2023 opening of Hakoah at White City. This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together again and support this project after a 10 year hiatus.

Yet another postponement of SEU 25th Anniversary function. It's been pushed back to February 2022. It's almost like the 2020 Tokyo Olympics we had recently. We should be awarding silver medals to all the original SEU foundation members!

BBYO under the guidance of Vivienne Radomsky is absolutely thriving, with more and more kids attending Zoom meetings and joining meetings with BBY groups all over the world. I am desperately hoping that we will be able to send some of our older kids to the Pearlman Camp in the USA in 2022.

The Bargain Bazaar was given notice to vacate their premises in late August, but as fortune would have it, Robert Kohn managed to find a vacant shop around the corner, the old Westpac bank, so everything has now been moved to the new premises. We now only have to wait for restrictions to lift so that the goods can be unpacked and the shop can re-open.

Joanne Fedler, a bestselling author, ran a writing workshop for Womanpower members on '7 Tricks to Writing Your Story'. It's been a fascinating journey for some of us. I met a woman who had come to Australia on the same ship and at the same time as I did. She was only a little girl like me at the time, of course. Our families knew each other, so we've had a lovely time going down memory lane.

I'd like to thank and congratulate Ann Milch on magnificently restoring the portrait of Yitzhak Rabin. It was damaged unfortunately during the exhibition to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Rabin's assassination. How lucky are we to have such a multitalented artist as one of our members.



Keep well, and hoping we will have more freedoms by this time next month.

Anna

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

* N.B. MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME TO ANY AND ALL FUNCTIONS LISTED BELOW

September 2021

Hoshana Raba	Sunset Monday 27th
Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor)	Tuesday 28th
Simchat Torah	Wednesday 29th

Thursday 30th September

5.00pm BBYO will be making homemade pizza with a side of a mug cake. To sign up for this event click <https://forms.gle/ypW8tRmycW5H2iwm7>

7.30pm "Crisis for Afghan Women" by Dr Ida Lichter to join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85304399710?pwd=a0dZQUxoM0dHYlINVmpwaEZZdjhjUT09>
Meeting ID: 853 0439 9710 Passcode: 576300

October 2021

Sunday 10th October @ 2.30pm
'TRIVIA QUIZ 'via Zoom'
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81006383845?pwd=a3R5Y09jUVJvUjN2ZWx1VmVNa1YzZz09>
Meeting ID: 810 0638 3845 Passcode: 461994

Sunday 17th October
2.30pm Gary Samowitz, Engagement Director of Hakoah, will give a presentation on the development and future plans for the Community Hub. Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81658399660?pwd=M0o4OHBNY3M0cllYTWNjc2pBVDZsdz09>
Meeting ID: 816 5839 9660 Passcode: 432820

5.30pm "How I reduced 5 dress sizes" by Elizabeth Christie via zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87244145484?pwd=eFZCRG80Z1k3Y0NBSDB6ZXJoZDRpQT09>
Meeting ID: 872 4414 5484 Passcode: 658613

Monday 18th October @ 7.30pm
Hamdi Amrizal from the Macular Degeneration Foundation
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83020920644?pwd=R1pGeWx9SGtjZEpkaUJ2elpVMHRiUT09>
Meeting ID 830 2092 0644 Passcode 170681

October 2021

Sunday 31st October 3-4pm

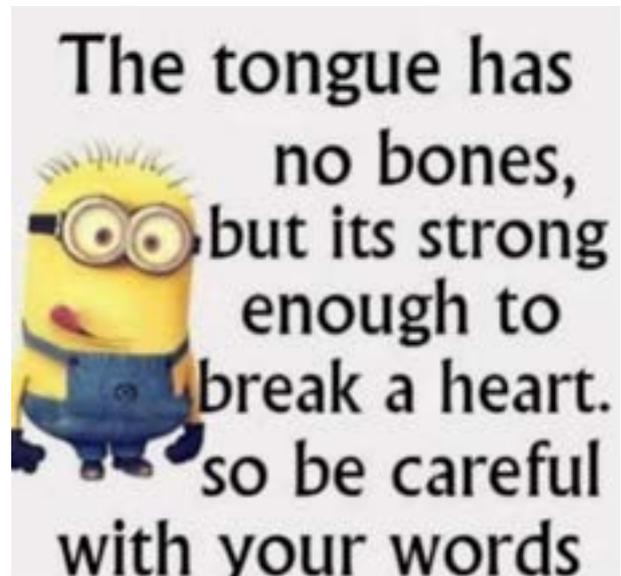
BBYO invites all B'nai B'rith units to join us to play games such as 'wordles' and trivia! Please see flyer on page 9.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81676829396?pwd=MThMY2hxTmY4ZFZvRmRkaGYvd0RCZz09>
Meeting ID: 816 7682 9396 Passcode: 542227

Sunday, 31st Oct – Wednesday, 3rd Nov
SEU holiday at Leura Gardens

Upcoming Events 2021/2022 SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday 17th Nov- Sunday 21st Nov
AVIV holiday at Leura Gardens

February 2022
The SEU 25th Anniversary Gala Luncheon at the BB Centre.





**David Samuels President
of
Australia/New Zealand**

Since my last report very little has changed, except my hair is getting longer and I can't wait for the day when I can get a haircut.

I hope also since my last report that many of you have managed to contact friends and relatives, especially those living by themselves, and check on how they were coping. As I said in my last report we all need a little bit of help and encouragement. As I read in a self help book some time ago, the major human factor we all crave is a little appreciation.

With Covid there hasn't been much to report in the last few weeks. At the time of writing this report we have just had our first major virtual combined function for our Sydney Units with Darren Bark, CEO of the Jewish Board of Deputies as our guest speaker. I am happy to say that all the New South Wales Units supported this function and Darrren gave a very informative talk on where he sees the role of the Board of Deputies in the foreseeable future.

As restrictions on where and what we can do starts to ease when New South Wales reaches the 70% fully vaccinated mark, there will be new issues that will confront us.

For a while there may well be a limit on the number of fully vaccinated people that can get together physically for a function or meeting. The other issue will be whether or not people are fully vaccinated to help determine whether non vaccinated will be allowed to physically attend these functions or meetings. To overcome this issue I ask all members to get fully vaccinated as soon as possible. Of course if you have any concerns please speak to a medical professional.

David Samuels





**ALFRED DREYFUS UNIT
(ADU)**

President Ernie Friedlander OAM

Dear Members

I hope you have moved well into our Jewish New Year.

There seems to be light emerging at the end of the tunnel from lockdown, which will be a welcome relief. Still, putting it in perspective, being beside the financial fallout, Australia has managed the worst of the situation.

We have, despite the slowdown, kept punching on:

The Change Makers:

We have already received very good nominations, including from our B'nai B'rith Youth. We don't as yet know about the prize giving, which may still be online in December.

The "Without Prejudice - Towards a Harmonious Society" Book:

Dr Ari Lander has been busy working on it - he has written probably 40%. We still need to look at illustrations & videos and it being online.

The Stop Racism Now campaign:

With most people being occupied with the pandemic, we had to take a backseat, which is fully understandable yet we still have made progress. We hope in the next newsletter to be able to give you exciting news. In the meantime our social media has had a lot of buy-ins.

The video below below was created as a promotional tool for our STOP RACISM NOW campaign by Paul Blanket our Marketing consultant. We put it on our website and on Social Media as well as a further introduction to new contacts. If you are unable to open it and view this video it will be added as an attachment to the email.



Keep well and safe in these uncertain times.

Ernie





**AVIV LODGE
Co-Presidents
Ann Milch &
John Roozendaal**

Hello Lodge Aviv members,

Once again we were obliged to celebrate Rosh Hashanah and the solemn Yom Kippur service at home due to lockdown. We are resilient. Hopefully, sooner rather than later, it will be history and we shall once again be able to participate in activities. Take stock of your days in lockdown and practise simple exercises; tidy your bookshelf - you may find a book you wish to read once again; tidy the linen cupboard or even more beneficial, go for a walk in the open air.

Covid has meant a cessation of our face-to-face monthly meetings as well as Music Aviv. However we continue our meetings via Zoom and Owen Fisher again through Zoom, gave us a splendiferous evening of music. We keep in contact via telephone calls and by text and emails. Lodge Aviv is formidable and for this, we ask, **R U OK?** If you are at the end of your tether, or even well before, don't hesitate to contact any of the agencies available, such as Black Dog or give an Aviv member a call. We are family. Together we can get through this.

GENERAL MEETING: 18th October 7.30pm on Zoom.

Our guest speaker will be Hamdi Amrizal from the Macular Degeneration Foundation. This will be an interesting talk.

Click on the following and follow the prompts:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83020920644?pwd=R1pGeWx9SGtJZEpkajU2elpVMHRiUT09>

Meeting ID 830 2092 0644 Passcode 170681

AMD presentation: 1 in 7 Australians over the age of 50 are diagnosed with age-related macular degeneration (AMD.) AMD is the leading cause of blindness in Australia. The Macular Disease Foundation Australia will teach you strategies as to how to preserve your sight through some simple techniques. The main focus of the presentation is to encourage positive lifestyle changes.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn:

- What is AMD
- Who is at risk

- How risk factors can be controlled
- What symptoms to be aware of
- Lifestyle and nutritional changes to reduce risk and slow progression

Hamdy Amrizal

Hamdy is a Health Promotion Officer at the Macular Disease Foundation Australia. He graduated from the University of New South Wales in 2013 with a Bachelor of Optometry/ Bachelor of Science and is currently completing his Masters in Public Health at the University of New South Wales. He has worked in various environments including private practice, clinical research and outreach work with rural and remote Indigenous communities.



Macular Disease Foundation Australia is a charity committed to reducing the incidence and impact of macular disease, the leading cause of blindness and severe vision loss in Australia.

Weekend Away: All going well, there is no reason why our weekend away to Leura will not go ahead.

Labour Day holiday 4th October: Hopefully we may be able to enjoy a picnic or get together in someone's home.

A Jewish mum says before Yom Kippur, "To all I have offended, berated, insulted, THINK why I did it. You still have time to apologize".

It took "click it or ticket" to get people to wear a seatbelt. I wonder if "mask it or casket" might work?

A wise man doesn't say every single thing he thinks, but thinks every single thing he says.

Take care and stay safe.

Ann Milch and John Roozendaal



BARGAIN BAZAAR

Report by Linda Reitzin

The Bargain Bazaar has closed its doors at 434 Cleveland Street for the last time.

Our lease was due to expire in early September and we were in negotiations with the landlord via the real estate agent from early August regarding the terms of the new lease, giving consideration to lockdown restrictions, not being able to trade and requiring rent relief for the current and any future lockdowns.

Unfortunately the negotiations were not successful and much to our shock, in mid-August, we received a Notice to Quit that required us to vacate the premises before 12th September. And in the middle of a pandemic!

We weren't even sure if the restrictions would allow it. But we confirmed that dealing with legal matters was a reasonable excuse to leave home. A team of volunteers was hastily put together and over four days, we packed up the whole shop. It was a great effort!

Thanks go to Ilana Cohen, Robert Emanuel, Helen Lewin, Mary Maraschio, Wendy Rosenthal, Agi Somlai, Gabor Somlai, Kathy Spencer, Ruthie Spicer, David Spicer, Rosemary Stafford, Garry Stafford and Judy Gyenes.

We were fortunate to be given access to vacant premises around the corner in Crown Street on a temporary basis to store our stock and eventually open a pop-up store. Our carrier Shaun, together with his team of helpers, moved the fixtures and fittings, boxes, bags, plastic tubs and other assorted paraphernalia and then disposed of the mountain of rubbish that filled up the back courtyard. The cleaners came in to do their bit at the end before the final inspection.

Unfortunately, being in a rush to pack up, we did not make a plan for the new premises instructing the carriers where to leave everything. Not all the boxes or bags were labelled either. As a result, the stock was dumped in random locations.

To create some order out of the chaos, a small group of volunteers and friends were recruited to move the stock into designated areas. This process was so efficient that it took only one hour to sort everything. Now it is up to the committee to create a plan for how and when to unpack the stock and set up in order to be ready for re-opening as a pop-up shop when the restrictions allow us to do so. Volunteers will be notified at the appropriate time.

The Bargain Bazaar has been in business at the Cleveland St address for more than 20 years and over that time, has donated more than a million dollars to the Jewish and wider community. The long-term future of the shop is still to be decided but we are happy that we can continue to trade in the temporary premises until such time as it no longer is available.



Clothing and shoes waiting to be unpacked at the new Crown Street pop up shop.



**B'NAI B'RITH
YOUTH
ORGANISATION
(BBYO)**

Co-Presidents

Ruby Borer & Amy Forman

On the 9th of September, we ran a fun and creative meme mission event. We had 10 participants altogether who we split into 2 breakout rooms.

In these rooms each team went head to head to see who could come up with the most creative memes. They were given topics ranging from Rosh Hashanah to lockdown and other fun ideas. We based our concept for this event on a zoom meeting on the 14th of August that myself and 2 other board members participated in.

This event was run by our partner chapter in Melbourne. The other board members and I had so much fun. After attending their event we knew this was the perfect opportunity do a similar event. Sadly, this was our last event of Term 3. We look forward to planning some amazing events in Term 4.

Since starting our BBYO weekly Shabbat messages, the board and I have felt true connections with our Jewish identities as well as other teens.

Through these messages we have engaged other teens and allowed them to see the true insight into the welcoming environment BBYO always portrays.

This is an Invitation to all the B'nai B'rith members. BBYO NSW would love you all to join us on zoom for a fun-filled afternoon on the 31st October 3pm - 4pm, where you test your knowledge by playing productive team games such as 'wordles' and trivia! We hope to see you all there.

Zoom details: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81676829396?pwd=MThMY2hxTmY4ZFZvRmRkaGYvd0RCZz09>

Meeting ID: 816 7682 9396 Passcode: 542227

We want to wish everyone a Sweet New Year and look forward to the many challenges and successes this year holds for each and everyone of us.

Amy Forman

**HOMEMADE PIZZA
WITH
A SIDE OF A MUG CAKE**

30TH OF SEPTEMBER, 5PM

LINK TO SIGN UP:
<https://forms.gle/ypW8tRmycW5H2iwm7>

Confirmation email will be sent once you have signed up.
(If not received be sure to check your junk mail)

ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT:
BBYO@BBNSW.ORG.AU





INGREDIENTS LIST:
NO RISE/ NO YEAST DOUGH

3 cups of flour (400g) plus extra for dusting
1 cup warm water (240ml)
1 tbsp olive oil (20ml)
½ tsp salt
- ADD ANY TOPPING YOU LIKE

Cook Time: 15 minutes
Servings: 4 servings
MUG CAKE

¼ cup all-purpose flour
¼ cup white sugar
2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons milk
2 tablespoons canola oil
1 tablespoon water
½ teaspoon vanilla extract

Cook Time: 2 mins
Servings: 1

CALLING ALL BB UNITS!

Join BBYO NSW on zoom for a fun-filled afternoon where you test your knowledge by playing productive team games such as 'wordles' and trivia!

Date & time:

31st October 2021

3pm - 4pm

RSVP:

vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au

Zoom Link:

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81676829396?pwd=MThMY2hxTmY4ZFZvRmRkaGYvd0RCZz09>

[Meeting ID: 816 7682 9396](#)

[Passcode: 542227](#)



B'NAI B'RITH



COURAGE TO CARE

Eitan Neishlos

Chairman

Report by Kathy Sharp

First Vice Chair

Although Courage to Care has been unable to deliver our Classroom program to schools during third term, everyone has been busy behind the scenes. We are starting to implement our new Strategic Plan and have put together an impressive Business Plan that will cover the next 3 years.

Our Education team are fine-tuning our school presentations so that when we are able to present in person, the program will be even more professional than it has been up to date. There is always room for improvement with everything that we do. It is probably unlikely that schools will allow incursions on to their campuses during term four but some are willing for us to provide a zoom program.

Michal Levy has again contracted with Courage to Care to deliver our next exhibition which is scheduled for Port Macquarie in July and August next year. She is already thinking of introducing some innovative content for that exhibition.

Both and Michal I are meeting with the Whitlam Institute at the University of Western Sydney shortly. An exhibition had been booked for November last year, which due to Covid restrictions, was unfortunately cancelled. I am hoping that we can now present our exhibition program at that site sometime during 2023.

Our valuable staff of Anna, Ariella and Dovi continue to productively work from home. I thank them for their diligence during these uncertain times.

Last month the Board was pleased to announce and welcome David Taylor as our Secretary. Thank you David for joining the Board.

Wishing everyone Lshana Tova. Keep well and safe.

Kathy





PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

Vivienne Radomsky

Dear members and friends

Wishing you all Shana Tova. It was a very different experience this year, not being able to sit around the table with family and friends. We had a family Zoom and my cousin blew the shofar for us. Under the circumstances it sufficed. Hopefully we will be able to get together soon.

Co-President of Aviv Unit and artist Ann Milch has offered her talented teaching skills for a 9-week art challenge. Each week Ann will email a new art task for people to do, they then take a photo of their work and send it to Ann who provides feedback. Needless to say, this workshop filled up within a few days, however if anyone is interested in joining, please email me.

During the past month, I have been meeting with the BBYO teens and working with them on the Zoom events they have been running for their peers. They have built up a core group of teens who regularly attend.

I am so impressed with the way the BBYO exec manage their planning meetings. There is always a prearranged agenda to which everyone contributes and every meeting starts with a game that serves as an ice breaker.

I am learning heaps about playing games on the internet. Every aspect of an event is planned out and all members have a role to play - no one is ever left out. At the beginning of 2020 we all sat together and made a set of group rules. One of the first rules was to "respect each other and listen actively when someone speaks". I can clearly say I know of a few high-powered members of our society who could learn from our young group.

The teens have 3 events planned for the near future.

In the September school holidays they will be running a morning of art and game activities for our Kids Club (children aged 8 - 12). As you may realise, some of our teens have attended the photography workshops from when they were very young and have been volunteering

and helping me at the Kids Club for the past few years. Now they get to run a morning program for the little ones.

Before lockdown, we had planned a Pizza and Movies night to be held at the Centre in the September holidays, so instead, our wonderful cooks will be holding a "Pizza and Mug Cake Bake" for their peers. If it's anything like the recent Shortbread Bake it will be a mouth-watering experience.

And now for the big news.

BBYO invites all members of all B'nai B'rith Units to an afternoon of fun and games on Zoom. What better way to come and meet our youngest unit and see what they can do?

Date: Sunday 31 October 2021

Time: 3pm - 4pm

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81676829396?pwd=MThMY2hxTmY4ZFZvRmRkaGYvd0RCZz09>
Meeting ID: 816 7682 9396 Passcode: 542227

Please contact me to let me know if you would like to join. vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au

Wishing you all the best, stay safe and stay home

Vivienne

Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for a short time and come out wrinkle free



and two sizes smaller



**NORTH SHORE
KADIMAH
(NSK)
President
David Laufer**

Dear Members and Friends,

As your newly installed President, I firstly pay tribute to our Past-President, Guta Frydman and her Executive, particularly over the last 15 months when we faced many restrictions due to the pandemic. They were able to introduce many Zoom meetings, which enabled us to be face-to-face with our fellow members. I look forward to working with the new Executive and welcome Myra Kaplan who has joined in the role of Counsellor.

The Executive met via 'Zoom' on 8 September and took steps to implement decisions made at the AGM:-

1. We asked if you had no objection to the distribution of a Contact List to all members, including your telephone number and email addresses. A list has now been distributed.
2. We undertook a review of our finances and decided to allocate up to \$4,000 this coming year towards charities.

As you are aware, our planned speaker in August and the weekend away in September were cancelled due to the lockdown. Planning for future activities involves continued reliance on 'Zoom' in the short-term. Several ideas were floated at the Executive meeting and are being pursued by the Social Committee. We would welcome your ideas for speakers, topics and activities of interest to you for both online and in-person meetings in the future. Please consider joining the Social Committee, chaired by Sharon Dobson.

Activities already planned are a 'Zoom' Trivia Quiz on Sunday, 10 October (see flyer) and our member, Emily Matters will talk on the topic 'It's all Greek to us', on Sunday the 7th November.

When we can gather again we will hold a Memorial Service, deferred from our AGM, for Maree Tofler and Charlotte Lowenstein and include Leon Tofler who had since departed. At that time, we will invite the families to join us.

We will then formally install three new members, Joyce Rosen and Anita and Vernon Ambler.

As advised at the AGM our Unit's membership fee for this financial year is \$80 per person, and our Treasurer has previously sent an invoice to you.

If you require any support or assistance during these unprecedented times, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Executives.

We hope that you had a good Yomtov and you fasted well and that it will not be too long before we return to some sort of normality.

Stay well and safe!

Kind regards,

David Laufer



NORTH SHORE KADIMAH UNIT 3501 Inc.

Welcome Members, Family and Friends of B'nai B'rith
to join us for our

'TRIVIA QUIZ 'via Zoom'



on
SUNDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2021

at
2.30pm

Fantastic Prizes to be won !!!!

**RSVP by: Wednesday, 6 October 2021 to:
Marsha Lake - email: marsha@mlss.com.au or mobile: 0417 249 701**

LINK:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81006383845?pwd=a3R5Y09jUVJvUjN2ZWx1VmVNa1YzZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 0638 3845

Passcode: 461994

Looking forward to 'seeing you' there!!!

BENEVOLENCE

FRIENDSHIP

HARMONY

TRUTH

PEACE

JUSTICE

LIGHT

President: David Laufer M: 0409 077 093



SYD EINFELD UNIT (SEU)

President David Samuels

Whilst I am writing this report in the middle of September I do hope all our members had a good Rosh Hashana and kept well over the fast. Unfortunately there was no going to the Synagogue over these High Holydays. Of course I am beginning to look like Albert Einstein (in hair only) so please don't laugh when you see me.



Our next zoom meeting on the 17th October @ 2.30pm, Gary Samowitz, Engagement Director of Hakoah, will give a presentation on the development and future plans for the Community Hub. Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81658399660?pwd=M0o4OHBNY3M0cllYTWNjc2pBVDZsdz09> Meeting ID: 816 5839 9660 Passcode: 432820

With restrictions potentially easing in a month or so time there are a number of issues we have to face. It looks like our delayed 25th Anniversary luncheon is going to be postponed to sometime in February next year. I am sure you will all be understanding of this and show your support for the function early next year.

Our time away in Leura in late October/early November is, also at the time of writing, in some doubt but we are hoping it will still proceed at the set time. Again, by the time you read my report in the Communicator, this issue may have been resolved. One thing is fairly certain, you will have to have been fully vaccinated to attend that function and other forthcoming face to face events. Whilst this may be a touchy issue for some, we will, for health and safety reasons may have to enquire into your status.

Don't forget, our membership fees have been reduced to \$90 per person for this year, so if you haven't already done so, could you kindly make your payment to Yvonne our treasurer upon reading this report.

Sue and I look forward to seeing more of you face to face in the not too distant future.

David Samuels





**SYDNEY UNIT 1546
(SU)
President Eli Tal**

Well known and much loved English Poet Pam Ayres, writing about Covid 19. Enjoy...

**The wonderful Pam Ayres
now 73 years old has penned her latest 'Ode to Coronavirus'.**

I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates
You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died
They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told
We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s -
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts
Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full

But to bury us before we're dead
Is like a red rag to a bull!
So here you find me stuck inside
For four weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no flaming flour!
Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer

At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!
So let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this awful virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth

We'll all get through the crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide
To fit through the flaming gates!



WOMANPOWER UNIT

(WPU)

Co-Presidents

Nina Blair & Belinda Levy

Pre Rosh-Hashanah Cooking evening

A few weeks ago, we held a successful zoom cooking evening preparing for Rosh Hashanah. Belinda Levy began the evening with measuring the dry ingredients for a honey cake. She said that she would set a record for demonstrating from the tiniest kitchen in Sydney! Adding the wet ingredients, the cake was cooked and was a yummy treat. Some of us made the cake at the same time as Belinda did, others watched and salivated planning to make the honey cake in a few days' time. We were delighted to welcome some 'old' Womanpower members to the cook off and enjoyed chatting to them from the comfort of their own home.

Nina Blair demonstrated making Moroccan carrot and date salad which was equally yummy.

Rabbanit Judith Levitan spoke to us about Rosh Hashanah and wished us all Chag Sameach as we prepared to spend yet another Yom Tov in lock down and alone without our immediate families. Certainly not something that most of us are used to!

Writer's zoom meeting

The Writer's group continues to meet fortnightly on Zoom to discuss the progress of their work. Many new friendships have been forged and a dinner at a Hungarian restaurant is even on the agenda once lockdown is over!

Upcoming Dr Ida Lichter talk

We welcome back Dr Ida Lichter to talk about the plight of Afghani women on Zoom on Thursday 30 September. Please see flyer for Zoom details.

Resilience Zoom Talk

We have asked International motivational speaker Michelle Ray to talk about being resilient during tough times. We have been privileged over the years to have Michelle address us on her visits to Australia and have learnt a great deal from her and her experience as a highly regarded speaker. Michelle is an Aussie and lives in Vancouver, Canada. Our tentative date is Sunday 24 October at 1pm. We will send out Zoom details when the date is confirmed.



How I reduced 5 dress sizes

Join us on zoom in discussion with

Elizabeth Christie

A passionate foodie who discovered easy, sustainable weight loss while creating new delicious cooking / baking ideas and recipes.

SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER 2021
5.30PM

Zoom link:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87244145484?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87244145484?pwd=eFZCRG80Z1k3Y0NBSDY6ZjJ0ZDRpQT09)
[pwd=eFZCRG80Z1k3Y0NBSDY6ZjJ0ZDRpQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87244145484?pwd=eFZCRG80Z1k3Y0NBSDY6ZjJ0ZDRpQT09)

Meeting ID: 872 4414 5484
Passcode: 658613





**B'nai B'rith Victoria
President
Benny Monheit**

The Plague

It's hard to write a column on our B'nai B'rith activities in Melbourne when we are all in hard lockdown at home, like you are in Sydney. We have of course had various Zoom meetings during the past month, but they all seem to blur into each other after a while.

The COVID situation encouraged me to read the famous book "The Plague" written by Nobel prize winner Albert Camus and published in 1947. (The book is currently having a worldwide revival in sales). In this fiction story Camus writes about the people of a small coastal city in Algeria which is suddenly hit by an infestation of rats who start dying in the street. Then people start dying and a plague breaks out. Initially nearly everyone in the city is in denial regarding the seriousness of the epidemic, but once a complete lockdown is instituted over the city different people react in different ways.

There is panic buying, profiteering by some, a questioning of the existence of God and sin by others. Some citizens become active and organise sanitary squads to collect and burn the dead rats and bury the dead people. Others support the sick, or try to escape from the town or do nothing. The plague eventually dies out and people go back to their normal lives. But the message from Camus makes it clear that plagues will recur.

There is a deeper message in the story as it is also an allegory of the Nazi occupied France during WW2- where the rats symbolise a totalitarian ideology that can infect populations. In those difficult times Camus seems to ask the reader: What is the meaning of life? He seems to suggest that meaning can come from resisting injustice, helping your community and alleviating human suffering. That also happens to be what we try to do in B'nai Brith!

In spite of our own modern pandemic in Victoria we have achieved some notable things over the past month. We have established a new Project following on from our successful Human Rights Oration on the Uluru Statement of the Heart. The project on the First Nation People will aim to work collaboratively with other Jewish groups to advocate for the Uluru statement to be acted on by parliament.

We also want to educate ourselves on the history of this amazing group and help them where we can. The committee chair is Jack Aghion and his group has become very active. Kol Hakavod.

Our governing B'nai B'rith Council has approved our strategic plan for the coming two years and we will be running workshops on how to implement the necessary changes to BBVic.

Shalom and Chag Sameach,

Benny



Ron Weiser AM

Prime Minister Bennett has now been in office for three months and the sky has not fallen.

In fact what is remarkable is that in the macro, regarding many of the continuing challenges, the modalities for dealing with them also remain plus/minus the same. Other than in tone. Almost, but not entirely, regardless of who leads Israel.

Changes, when they occur, are mostly in style, but not substance.

For but one example, delivering economic aid into Gaza, but trying to do so by bypassing Hamas, is proving to be a very difficult task.

The more Israel and the United States try to prop up the Palestinian Authority, the more the Palestinian street despises them and Hamas becomes even more popular.

The money from Qatar is/was available, but Bennett is trying to avoid the spectre of repeating Netanyahu's delivery of cash in suitcases to Hamas.

Whilst it is a preferable theoretical idea to get aid to people in Gaza via the Palestinian Authority and by going around Hamas, the question remains of how to actually do so.

So far Lapid's "*economy in return for security*" remains just a slogan.

The longer no solution to this pressing matter is found, the hotter the border with Gaza becomes.

The big issue for Bennett vis a vis the Palestinians, and a self-made one at that, has become his publically declared refusal to meet with Mahmoud Abbas.

Wanting to prop the Palestinian Authority up, but refusing to meet with its leader presents its own complexities.

No-one really thinks anything much can come from such a meeting, but has Bennett painted himself into a corner? Will he ultimately be able to resist the pressure to meet with Abbas?

Instead of outcomes or results, holding the meeting itself has now become the issue.

Generally, on the world stage Prime Minister Bennett and Foreign Minister Lapid are doing well.

Israel's most critical relationship is with the United States. In the current times of a democratic president in the United States, the case can be made that an antagonistic relationship such as existed between Netanyahu and Obama is less beneficial than a friendly one.

Indeed, Bennett had a very successful visit to the United States.

Under Bennett and Lapid the relationship with the US is currently friendly, strongly supportive and most importantly, almost devoid of public criticism.

The quid pro quo appears to be that likewise, Bennett and Lapid will also keep any criticism of US policy on Iran for example, behind closed doors.

Obama constantly criticised Netanyahu and his policies. However, in his meeting with Bennett, President Biden made little mention of the Palestinians or settlement building and Sheik Jarrah was relegated to its true level of overall relevance.

Importantly, one needs to remember that when it comes to this democratic president of the USA, Bennett has one very big advantage over Netanyahu.

Biden wants Bennett and this coalition to succeed – whereas Obama wanted Netanyahu to fail.

Obama openly wished for and sometimes worked towards toppling Netanyahu in his belief that any of the then successive opposition leaders such as Livni, Herzog et al would be more compliant with Obama's world view.

On the other hand, Biden knows that if he is unsupportive of Bennett and his coalition and if it should fall apart, then he might have to deal with Netanyahu and an Israeli government more clearly made up of right wing parties, rather than an Israeli coalition constrained by its own makeup.

More widely Bennett and Lapid are also scoring other diplomatic advances, such as Bennett's meeting with the very important Egyptian President al-Sisi in Egypt. The first such public meeting in a decade.

The meeting was held in a positive atmosphere and Egypt is key to many of Israel's security and diplomatic issues.

Finance Minister Avigdor Lieberman is the most experienced politician in the coalition leadership.

He is also one of the toughest negotiators in the Knesset.

Lieberman has remained completely and uncharacteristically quiet on almost every issue and well away from the public eye.

The building and passage of the budget is his primary focus. As we have discussed before, the passing of the budget in November is critical to this government's survival.

Lieberman, with his experience and skill has now not only got the budget passed by the Cabinet, but also through its first reading in the Knesset.

There are two more readings to go and much can happen, but so far Lieberman is proving to be the government's most effective operator.

Presumably he will demand something for this down the track.

Mansour Abbas and his Ra'am party negotiated their price for joining the coalition and have, for the moment, taken a step back to wait and see what the government actually delivers.

There are many potential trigger issues that can bring them to the fore again and only time will tell where this might lead.

Abbas even praised Bennett for his "*courage*" on taking his party formally into the government when he was recognised *erev yom tov*, by making the Time 100 list.

One of the four Ra'am MK's – Said al-Harumi – died of a heart attack last month at the age of 49. There were no suspicious circumstances.

As per the parliamentary norm, he was replaced by the next person on the Ra'am list, Iman Khatib-Yasin. Interestingly enough for a chauvinistic conservative party, Iman is female.

It was Al-Harumi who abstained in June's confidence vote to establish the government. Meaning only 3 of Ra'am's 4 MK's initially supported the new government. It did not affect the outcome, but made the margin as slim as it was.

Now it would appear that Mansour Abbas will have a greater ability to control his full party in votes on future legislation – for or against.



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