



SEPTEMBER 2021

B'NAI B'RITH

# COMMUNICATOR

Jewish Unity · Diversity · Continuity



*Sydney Unit  
1546*

*AVIV  
Lodge*



*Syd Einfeld  
Unit*

**Darren Bark**  
CEO of the Jewish Board of Deputies

*North Shore  
Kadimah*

will discuss the important work it does for the Community  
and his plans for future projects

**Sunday 19th September 2021 @ 2.30pm**

*BBYO*

*Womanpower*

**Zoom login details:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481445376?pwd=RmhPMHZnT2Z0ZktaK043NzBNME5xQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 8144 5376  
Passcode: 248204

*Members  
at Large*

*Alfred Dreyfus  
Unit*

**Virtual Tea, Scones & Honey Cake**

**TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER**



## Anna Marks OAM

### President

Lockdown, Lockdown and more  
Lockdown, we'll meet again one  
day as Vera Lynn sang...

In the meantime, zoom meetings and planning goes on at both BBNSW Executive level, Council and unit levels which is very encouraging. At our last NSW Executive meeting a draft Strategic plan was tabled. I want to especially acknowledge and thank Janine Zimblar for the work she has done on the Strategic Plan and its numerous versions until all parties were satisfied with it.

One recommendation which has already been approved is to reduce fees to members of units from \$66.00 per person to \$50.00 per person. Of this \$50.00 Council remits \$23.00 to BBANZ. The Units are free to set the membership fees as they see fit to their members, as long as it is clearly stated on the invoice that only \$50.00 is remitted to Council and District.

The \$23.00 pays towards membership of BB International, travel and per diem costs for visiting International Presidents, offsetting costs for Triennial Conventions and in the past has helped the Click and Connect project that was started in Melbourne

The proposed priorities for the Strategic Plan will be the creation of new projects supporting and developing existing projects, creating special interest groups and promoting the B'nai B'rith Centre in Kensington. We envisage and will support transforming our B'nai B'rith Centre for the Jewish Community to a vibrant hub for Jewish art and culture. All participants (not existing members) who use the Centre will be asked to at least become Friends of BBNSW at a nominal cost of \$30.00 annually.

Syd Einfeld Unit had its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and AGM on the 15<sup>th</sup> August. I was delighted that I could invite Chuck Kaufman, B'nai B'rith International President, and Dan Mariaschin, CEO of B'nai B'rith International to be guest speakers via zoom for this special AGM.

Although late for them, 11.30pm and 12.30am respectively, as Chuck lives in Dallas, Texas and Dan in Washington DC, they both accepted with alacrity. Chuck spoke movingly about the very significant work done by members of SEU for B'nai B'rith in NSW for the last 25 years, and Dan spoke of the rise of antisemitism and anti-Semitic attacks in the world and the attempts at UN level to fight public opinion.

Our other guest speaker was Eitan Neishlos, Chairman of Courage to Care who also re-iterated the need to fight ignorance and racism through education within the school system.

Congratulations to David Samuels for taking on the Presidency of Syd Einfeld Unit as well as being our District President. To view the speeches click:

Charles Kaufman [https://youtu.be/LVr71\\_tOpM](https://youtu.be/LVr71_tOpM)

Dan Mariaschin <https://youtu.be/P544f9HWcxE>

Eitan Neishlos <https://youtu.be/2MRLHdVTVUA>

Aviv also had their regular monthly meeting via zoom, and North Shore Kadimah had their AGM on zoom. Congratulations to Guta Frydman and her team for the sterling work they did during this difficult year and congratulations to David Laufer for stepping up and taking the Presidency again. Wishing you and your team every success in the coming year. Ivan Kaplan has been kept busy doing Installations for both SEU and NSK. Thank you Ivan.

Our guest speaker, Ass. Prof. Langdale who was scheduled to speak on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> September has had to cancel for the combined Units meeting. However we are fortunate to have Darren Bark, the new CEO of the Jewish Board of Deputies keen to meet B'nai B'rith members and to talk to us about the work of the JBOD.

To join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481445376?pwd=RmhPMHZnT2Z0ZktaK043NzBNME5xQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 8144 5376

Passcode: 248204

I am so sad Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur will no doubt be spent by all of us at home as the Synagogues won't be open. However I have read that Rabbis are trying to get permission from Councils to blow the Shofar in several parks. So keep an eye out for announcements about this.

Wishing all our members and friends Shana Tova and Well over the Fast in this strange year of Covid 19, 2021.

Anna



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

## August 2021

### Sunday 29th August @ 2.30pm

Owen Fisher will present Music Aviv Live on Zoom. Please see AVIV page for zoom details. For a sneak peek <https://youtu.be/fpOdNWKZ6XI>.

### Tuesday 31st August @ 7.30pm

Rosh Hashanah cook off with Rabbanit Judy Levitan. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85676342717?pwd=UDRFaGJTb0lqRmthTDdKcHFzQmpDZz09>

Meeting ID: 856 7634 2717 Passcode: 193927

## September 2021

Erev Rosh Hashanah	Monday 6th
Rosh Hashanah	Tue 7th & Wed 8th
Fast of Gedalia	Thursday 9th
Erev Yom Kippur	Wednesday 15th
Yom Kippur (Yizkor)	Thursday 16th
Erev Succot	Monday 20th
Succot	Tue 21st & Wed 22nd
Hoshana Raba	Monday 27th
Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor)	Tuesday 28th
Simchat Torah	Wednesday 29th

### Sunday 19th September @ 2.30pm

Combined BBNSW Function - talk by Darren Bark CEO of Jewish Board of Deputies. He will be speaking about the work of JBOD." Zoom details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481445376?pwd=RmhPMHZnT2Z0ZktaK043NzBNME5xQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 8144 5376 Passcode: 248204

## Upcoming Events 2021 SAVE THE DATE

### Sunday 3rd October

Vivid Cruise cancelled

### Sunday 24th October @ 2.30pm

Debate between Emanuel School and Moriah College. Topic "That social justice has never been a realistic objective"

### Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> Oct – Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov

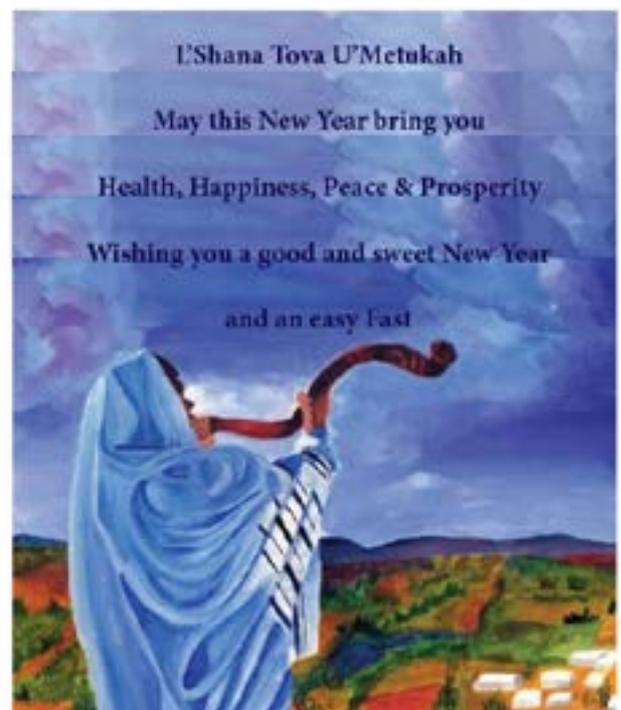
SEU holiday at Leura Gardens

### Sunday 14th November @12.30pm

The SEU Gala Lunch Event at the BB Centre. Please see flyer on pg 19 for details.

### Wednesday 17th Nov- Sunday 21st Nov

AVIV holiday at Leura Gardens





## David Samuels President of Australia/New Zealand

When I was in my 20's I was always worried that I would lose my hair and go bald. Now, at 74 and my hair getting out of control due to our lockdown, going bald doesn't sound so bad.

Now that I have your attention let me get onto more serious stuff. I realise that we are all affected by this lengthy lockdown and I ask all of you to phone some of those friends and acquaintances, especially those living by themselves and check on how they are bearing up. We all need that little bit of help.

Recently I read in the Victorian BB Magazine 'Preview' that "to attract the next generation, people must be convinced that involvement with BB has meaning and purpose". If we are to remain viable into the foreseeable future we MUST continue to aim for BB having 'meaning and purpose'.

In this regard at our recent Board of Governors meeting, held over Zoom with members from NSW, Victoria and New Zealand, issues were discussed in the hope of continuing to have meaning and purpose.

This included modernising the BB Website, advising the general Jewish Community of the small but positive acts that are carried out in our name and continue to look for new projects which are beneficial to the community at large.

Any thoughts or ideas you may have in this regard please don't hesitate to let me know.

With Covid and lockdown becoming part of our lives, I once again encourage you all to get involved where possible with the many functions held over Zoom.

When you pay your membership fees each year, \$23 of that goes to BB District. Almost half of that gets sent to BB International based in Washington DC who represent us in the United Nations and also represent us in any situation where Anti-Semitism raises its ugly head. The balance of these fees pays for our membership rights to organisations such as The Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ), our Triennial Conference, assisting in projects such as Click and Connect and many other administrative costs.

I know that for many of you up here in Sydney we won't be celebrating the High Holydays in the usual way but Sue and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you Shana Tova and well over the Fast.

David Samuels





## ALFRED DREYFUS UNIT (ADU)

**President Ernie Friedlander OAM**

Dear Members

First of all, on behalf of the Executive, I would like to wish you all the very best for Rosh Hashanah and well over the fast. Let us hope that the new year will provide less stress than this one we are having.

Putting it in perspective though, for most of us, it is restrictive and damaging, but compared to what other countries are experiencing, we are much better off.

For example in Australia, at the time of writing this newsletter, we had 41,000 cases of the virus with 980 deaths, in NSW 14,400 with 115 deaths. In Israel with only 9 million people compared to Australia's 25 million, there were 954,000 cases with 6700 deaths.

Now looking at what our Unit is up to. We had to slow down with taking our STOP RACISM NOW campaign to stage 2. Having such a successful launch, the pandemic has sidelined our drive considerably with the lockdown. We are pressing on slowly and hope by October to be back in full swing.

### **The Jewish Changemakers Awards:**

This project is progressing very well. Having the Australian Jewish News on board has been an enormous help. This year we have added the \$5000 Josh Levi Professional Award as a further boost. We now have 2 previous winners on the committee and Rabbi Alon from Shalom College. The JNF have now a young Marketing Manager and along with Etty Ayalon, this has made my role much easier. To nominate a Changemaker <https://www.australianjewishnews.com/changemakers/>

### **The Without Prejudice – Towards a Harmonious Society Book:**

We now have a draft of 6 exercises of the updated book. The focus is to add current issues and have it in 2 sections; one for Primary and one for Secondary school students. We hope to have it completed by end of October and that it will fit into the curriculum. The book will be mostly online – printing only 100.

### **WORDS:**

The Claims Conference has initiated a program called "It all started with words". I was interviewed for it and they made a video. My version along with that of other survivors can be seen on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The emphasis is how we used words. They can be an expression of good or hatred.

At the August plenum of the Jewish Board of Deputies, the huge rise of anti-semitism was again emphasised along with anti-Israel propaganda. We seem to be targeted by the Far Right and the Far Left. That is why our STOP Racism Now campaign is so important. The current difficulties give these groups air. We need to discredit them as much as possible. We all can make a difference in this.

Please keep well & safe

Ernie



Honouring young people making a difference in our community  
**Nominate a Changemaker today**



**NOMINATIONS OPEN:**  
[www.australianjewishnews.com/changemakers](http://www.australianjewishnews.com/changemakers)

**AWARDS CEREMONY**  
**6 DECEMBER 2021**

#### **YOUTH CATEGORIES** (UNDER 18)

\$700 prize money for each category

- Contribution to the Jewish Community
- Contribution to Australian Society
- Support the State of Israel

#### **YOUNG ADULT CATEGORIES** (AGES 18 TO 36)

\$1000 prize money for each category

- Contribution to the Jewish Community
- Contribution to Australian Society
- Support the State of Israel
- Leadership

**THE JOSHUA LEVI AWARD FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS\***  
\* \$5,000 awarded for professional or communal development.

**NOMINATION FORMS ALSO AVAILABLE FROM:**

**B'NAI B'RITH:** 02 9321 6300 or [ernie.friedlander@bnsww.org.au](mailto:ernie.friedlander@bnsww.org.au) **JNF:** 02 9389 9559 or [etty@jnf.org.au](mailto:etty@jnf.org.au)





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

Hello Lodge Aviv members,

It looks like we shall be in lockdown until end of August. Hopefully, there will be no further deaths and we shall be able to live normally. That is, able to meet friends, leave our homes, and meet up with family members. In the meantime, we ask you all to be vigilant, take care and stay safe.

The zoom meeting with Chana Kavka from Friendship Circle on Monday the 16th August, was most enjoyable and inspiring. Please vote for her as a finalist for Westfield Local Heroes Program.

There will be no committee meeting 13th September, and no general meeting on Monday 20th September, 2021 it being Erev Succot.

Owen Fisher will present Music Aviv on Zoom. Sunday 29th August @ 7:30pm. For a sneak peek <https://youtu.be/fpOdNWKZ6XI>. Zoom login <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6166665875?pwd=UFRiSDIsNERPemRHMmlyN0tOeVRBZz09>  
Meeting ID: 616 666 5875 Passcode: 526652

Again, due to Covid restrictions, the consecrations of George Groznowski z'l and Shanie Stern z'l will be held at a later date.

**Dates for your September diary:**

Erev Rosh Hashanah	Monday 6th
Rosh Hashanah	Tue 7th & Wed 8th
Fast of Gedalia	Thursday 9th
Erev Yom Kippur	Wednesday 15th
Yom Kippur (Yizkor)	Thursday 16th
Erev Succot	Monday 20th
Succot	Tue 21st & Wed 22nd
Hoshana Raba	Monday 27th
Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor)	Tuesday 28th
Simchat Torah	Wednesday 29th

Shana Tova U'Metukah  
A happy Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Ann Milch and John Roozendaal



Chana Kavka launched the **Sydney Friendship Circle** 15 years ago and galvanises hundreds of young people with disabilities to engage with each other and society. She offers regular Sunday activities and other opportunities for children, teenagers and young adults, with and without disabilities. A crucial element is the connection fostered between volunteers and the families they help.

Westfield Local Heroes are nominated and voted for by their communities, with the three top finalists per Westfield centre each awarded a \$10,000 grant for their affiliated organisation. If Chana is successful, Sydney Friendship Circle will use its funds to engage a pastry chef and head trainer for the non-profit's new bakery in Vacluse.

To vote

<https://www.westfield.com.au/bondi/news/1JjSXFGy9tBwANqNB9OSGk/local-heroes-2021>

**Scroll down and look for Chana Kavka and vote for her!**



**COURAGE TO CARE**  
**Eitan Neishlos**  
**Chairman**

**Report by Kathy Sharp**  
**First Vice Chair**

I hope everyone is keeping well and safe during these most uncertain times. I am now fully vaccinated. I live in hope that when “the powers that be” decide that enough of us are fully covered that life will become a “new normal” whatever that may be. We had to cancel planned trips to Murrumbidgee, Canberra and Newcastle, where we were booked to deliver our classroom program to many hundreds of students but all schools have rebooked for either later this year or early in 2022.

Here at Courage to Care we continue to work behind the scenes to improve the programs. I am now leading a reinvigorated Curatorial Committee to seriously look at our Exhibition and how to make it better in the future that will effect changes that are vital for its continuing relevance.

Our invaluable staff of Anna, Ariella and Dovi continue to work from home but even so are extremely busy. Hezie Lazarov has now left Courage to Care after 3<sup>1/2</sup> years and we wish him well in whatever direction he takes.

We are planning our AGM for November and hopefully we can hold this in-person.

Wishing all Chag Sameach and well over the fast. Let's hope the next year will be healthy, happy and Covid-free.

Kathy

**Get in a Rosh Hashanah mood**

with  
 Rabbanit Judy Levitan

"Pivoting Your Prayers"



**A message and cook off in one**

**TUESDAY 31 AUGUST**  
**7.30PM**

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/85676342717?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85676342717?pwd=UDRFAGJTB0LQRMTHTDKCHFZQMPDZZ09)  
[PWD=UDRFAGJTB0LQRMTHTDKCHFZQMPDZZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85676342717?pwd=UDRFAGJTB0LQRMTHTDKCHFZQMPDZZ09)

MEETING ID: 856 7634 2717  
 PASSCODE: 193927

**Honey Cake**

- INGREDIENTS:  
 2 EGGS  
 ¾ CUP SUGAR  
 ¾ CUP HONEY  
 1 TSP MIXED SPICE  
 1 TSP BICARBONATE OF SODA  
 1 DESSERT SPOON COCOA  
 ½ CUP OIL  
 1 CUP REGULAR FLOUR  
 1 CUP SELF-RAISING FLOUR  
 1 CUP BOILING WATER

**Moroccan Carrot and Date Salad**

- 1/2 CUP DATES CHOPPED  
 2 TBL SPOONS LEMON JUICE  
 4 TBL SPOONS ORANGE JUICE  
 500G GRATED CARROTS  
 1 CLOVE GARLIC CHOPPED  
 1/4 TSP CINNAMON  
 1/2 TSP CUMIN  
 1/2 TSP CORRIANDER  
 1/4 SWEET PAPRIKA  
 SALT  
 2TBLSP OLIVE OIL  
 2 TBLSP MINT  
 1 TBLSP PARSLEY



Make the recipe with the demonstration



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

### **Co-Presidents**

#### **Ruby Borer & Amy Forman**

The past month in BBYO has brought much excitement for the growth and improvement of our unit.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> July, we ran an incredible escape room, with the best turnout we have had at any event to date.

All who attended enjoyed every moment and the feedback we have received has only been positive.

For the evening to run smoothly, we separated into 3 breakout rooms to play, “Would you rather” and then complete the actual escape room. The first team to use their critical thinking and teamwork skills won and were given a discount to our first in-person event. With the escape room ending before the committee had anticipated, we worked collaboratively and quickly to run “Kahoots” and “Scribbl.io” games to keep everyone interested.

Our virtual escape room has been a huge stepping stone in our journey to growing and improving as a chapter.

The committee then had a highly successful meeting on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August to discuss many things that we are looking forward to doing and creating.

We have decided to create a logo and start sending Shabbat messages weekly, to create a welcoming environment around BBYO NSW.

After the success of our virtual escape room, we decided to hold a virtual scavenger hunt on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2021. The scavenger hunt combined speed and creativity so that all participants had some fun and were in the running for a prize at the end of the night.

Overall, despite the postponement of many of our events planned for this term, BBYO has had a very successful start back to term 3 and are looking forward to getting back to being in-person.

Ruby Borer





## BBYO: up and coming youth organisation

As a new youth organization, only recently restarting in Sydney, BBYO NSW is moving in the right direction and becoming an “up and coming” youth organisation in Sydney.

### Generation builders

B’nai B’rith Youth Organisation is an international pluralistic Jewish youth organisation with over 80,000 teens in over 55 different countries. It offers teenagers opportunities they do not find anywhere else and BBYO is run by teens for teens. It’s a place where we are encouraged to have fun, connect with other Jewish teens in our community and around the world, develop leadership skills and Jewish Identities. It is a place where we are inspired to learn, grow, give to our community and most importantly be ourselves. BBYO NSW allows us the chance to run the events we want to, and accomplish incredible things. We are growing at immense rates with an incredible board, consisting of, Amy Forman, Devan Bloch, Meital Gertel, Sam Raichman, Caitlin Gordon, and myself, Ruby Borer all aged between 13 and 15.

With BBYO NSW starting mere weeks before the 2020 lockdown, we have been privileged to have run many events in person and online. We have been lucky enough to spend time on zoom running programs within our chapter and with chapters around the globe. As a chapter, we have run games nights, bake-offs, and most recently an escape room, over zoom, with great turnouts that exceeded our wildest dreams. We have also had the immense honour of pairing up with teens around the world, in places like South Africa, New York, Russia and closer to home, in Melbourne to run incredible programs. In the privileged position that NSW has been regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, we were lucky enough to have run many in-person events as well, with Havdallah and Shabbat services, visits to the Shalom College Adamama Farm and Laser Tag games. All in person events have been huge hits and we are all excited to get back to doing our thing in person.

BBYO NSW would not have been possible without our parent organisation, B’nai B’rith. B’nai B’rith has not only given us a home here in Sydney and allowed us to lead the B’nai B’rith holiday kids club, but it has also given us our advisor. Vivienne Radomsky, the project Manager of B’nai B’rith NSW who has been our incredible advisor since the beginning, guiding us in everything we do. She is the best that we could have asked for and never fails to inspire, help and support us. As crazy as some of our ideas may be, she always helps us find a way to successfully pull them off with her own fun and unique ideas along the way. She has taught us so much and encouraged us to continually grow. She is always at our events and her incredible photography skills produce some of the best photos we have ever seen. We are so thankful for everything she has done and continues to do for us and could not imagine BBYO without her.

We as the board are looking forward to the opportunities that BBYO will bring to us. We are looking forward to growing as a chapter, further developing our bonds with each other, and learning new leadership skills. As well as having the opportunities to take part in the international opportunities that BBYO offers including the International Leadership Network and, hopefully in a post COVID world, travelling to America to take part in the International Convention or incredible Summer Opportunities. BBYO NSW has changed the lives of the people who have had the opportunity to be on the board so far and we are looking forward to the opportunity to continue growing as individuals and as a chapter.

This article was written by 15-yr-old Ruby Borer



## PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

**Vivienne Radomsky**

Dear members and friends

I am sad to report that the Rosh Hashana Parcel deliveries this year will not be going ahead as it is too risky with the Delta variant circulating in Sydney. I have been informed though that all recipients will be receiving a \$50 voucher.

As frustrating as our situation is, I am sure we are still better off than most countries. We have a solid infrastructure with free testing, vaccinations, contact tracing and financial support.

My family in South Africa tell me that a Covid test costs R8,500 (\$85) and they don't test unless you have symptoms. On some days, case numbers have reached 24000 and that's only counting people who can afford to be tested. The Jewish community there has seen their fair share of Covid cases and as would be expected from such a close community, support for each other in this terrible time is remarkable. Hatzolah in Johannesburg is currently looking after all the community Covid cases, monitoring people twice a day and attending to their needs. With such numbers, hospital beds are limited and it falls to community to look after their own.

At a recent Womanpower writing course Zoom meeting, the discussion centred around the topic of home. So many of our community have come from somewhere else and it takes time to feel at home in a place.

One of the participants mentioned that wherever they travelled, they always find the shul and attend the Shabbat service. Perhaps this constitutes home, an ability to find comfort and affinity among your own people. May we all stay healthy and safe.

Womanpower has also been active lately. The "Write Your Own Story" online writing course, which started in July meets up on Zoom fortnightly and is proving to be inspiring and stimulating.

A call to support the Bayside Women's Shelter for domestic violence was heeded by our Womanpower presidents. In a short time, aided by contributions generously donated by the WP community we were able to organise much needed supplies to the shelter.

On Saturday 14th August, after Shabbat, Nina Blair demonstrated how to make Vietnamese rice paper rolls and we chatted over a glass of wine and enjoyed dinner together.

In the last month BBYO has been keeping me busy with a number of meetings leading to Zoom events. On 31 July, the teens held an escape room event with 25 participants. Yes, we are growing.

Their event on Saturday 21 August, again after shabbat and was a Zoom scavenger hunt. I am in awe of these teens - they are committed, smart, innovative, and dedicated to growing their BBYO group and be part of the B'nai B'rith community. They also keep me on my toes.

I am again reminded of an old Afrikaans saying from childhood which goes, "A boer maak a plan", which means, "a farmer makes a plan". As difficult as these times are, we still manage to connect, support and have a little bit of fun.

I wish you all health and safety for the New Year and well over the fast.

Vivienne





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

**Report by Past President Guta  
Frydman**

Unfortunately restrictions have not eased as we had hoped. Please try to be positive! Things will improve!

This is my last report in the Communicator as your President, as at the AGM on 22nd August a new President and Committee were elected and installed. David Laufer will be next President of North Shore Kadimah Unit, Hylton Bernstein will be Vice President.

I would like to thank all the members on my committee for supporting me during my presidency for the last two years. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Our sincere condolences to Frank and Pam Budai and Jane and Leon Lurie on the passing of Tom Budai, brother of Frank and brother-in-law of Jane. We wish them and their extended families long life.

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

Best wishes to all our members and friends for a happy and sweet New Year and well over the fast. Let us hope that in 5782 we return to some sort of normality.

Stay well and safe!

Kind regards,

Guta Frydman



**'A proud B'nai B'rith member'**

**Happy 100th, Gerda** J-Wire

Gerda Buckwalter, a long-standing stalwart of the Sydney Jewish community celebrates her 100th birthday on Wednesday.



Forced to leave Germany in 1937 and unable to take up her place in the Berlin Higher School of Fashion, Gerda made a new life for herself in Australia. She established a dress-making business in Sydney and became part of the Sydney Jewish community.

She was the Sydney administrator for the Friends of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, raising money to open the first bone-marrow unit at the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

Gerda was an early member of North Shore Temple Emanuel in Chatswood, including as a teacher in its Wednesday Religion School in the 1960s.

She volunteered over many years supporting the community through the Sydney Jewish Museum, Montefiore Home and B'nai Brith. Gerda was the chair of the Einstein B'nai B'rith chapter and volunteered in the B'nai B'rith Shop in Surry Hills until age 93.



Gerda Buckwalter as a newly arrived immigrant from Europe in 1937.

North Shore Temple Emanuel's Rabbi Nicole Roberts says, "Gerda is a living representative of a generation who, in spite of the impact of war, built a life for themselves and their community. Gerda's strength, determination, love for family, keen intellect, and positivity are an inspiration to all who meet her."

Gerda was married to Henry Buckwalter in Sydney during the war. Henry was also born in Breslau, Germany. They had two children but eventually separated. David was born in 1945 and Janet in 1949. The family today comprises 2 children, 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

In later years, Gerda was a partner for an extended period of Eric Dreikurs, a well-known contributor to the Jewish community.



## SYD EINFELD UNIT (SEU)

### President David Samuels

My first official task, within 24 hours of taking my new position, is to write a report for the our newsletter and the Communicator.

Firstly I would sincerely like to thank outgoing President, Robbie Erdos for taking on this job over that last two years in what turned out to be an extremely difficult period with Covid 19. Robbie, together with his Executive, has managed to keep our Unit viable and strong during that time.

Our AGM was very well attended and it was really nice to see Charles (Chuck) Kaufman, President of B'nai B'rith International and Dan Mariaschin, CEO of B'nai B'rith International, not only attend our AGM, but also give us very insightful talks.

It was truly wonderful to see so many members from so many Units also in attendance and my



thanks go out to all of you for supporting us. And as an added bonus, Eitan Neishlos, Chair of Courage to Care (NSW) was our guest speaker who gave us the background to his passion for the work of C2C.



Also my thanks go to Ivan Kaplan, former President of BBNSW for installing our new Executive and also all of you who have volunteered to join or remain on our Executive for this coming year. A big welcome back to Anna Marks for rejoining our Executive and to Jack Klarnet who volunteered over Zoom to become our Benevolence Officer. A big welcome goes to our new members of our Unit, Melanie Bernstein, Sam Blechman and affiliate member, Susan Levy.

We have planned a number of interesting activities over the coming months but of course with Covid we can't guarantee they will all go ahead. On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September, SEU will be hosting over Zoom a combined function with other B'nai B'rith International Units. Please show your support by attending this function.

Sue and I hope to talk to many of you over the coming weeks and we would like to take this opportunity to wish you Shana Tova and Well Over the Fast.

### David Samuels





**SYDNEY UNIT 1546  
(SU)**

**President Eli Tal**

**Do It Yourself Rosh Hashanah  
this year with a little help from your  
friends.**

CommunityConnect is a project devised by the Rabbinical Council of NSW to reproduce the spirit of Rosh Hashanah normally experienced in shul within COVID-bound Jewish homes

A website has been designed to bring together all Jewish communities in Australia in lockdown.

Keep up-to-date with the many learning opportunities offered by the various communities. All classes and events, from all the shuls, advertised in one place.

To keep informed about how to make Rosh Hashanah a spiritual experience at home, visit: <https://www.communityconnectsydney.com/community-notice-board>

**SYDNEY JEWRY UNITES  
IN PREPARATION FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS**

*A NEW YEAR  
A NEW YOU*

**SUNDAY, 29 AUGUST 2021**  
8:45 PM FOR 7:00 PM | LIVE @ [RCNSW.ORG.AU/ZOOM](https://www.rcnsw.org.au/zoom)

**NEW YEAR MESSAGE**  
CHIEF RABBI OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
**RABBI EPHRAIM MIRVIS**

**LIVING INSPIRED  
IN A CYNICAL WORLD**  
INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED  
SCHOLAR & MENTOR  
**RABBI MOSHE BRYSKI**

**THE HEALING POWER  
OF FORGIVENESS**  
INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED  
SCHOLAR & TEACHER  
**RAY DORON PEREZ**

**UPLIFTING MUSICAL  
HIGH HOLIDAY MELODIES  
BY OUR LOCAL  
CHAZANIM & CHOIRS**

**Shofar & Inspiration**

**An uplifting & enlightening  
WhatsApp group  
for the month of Elul**

*Elul begins on Monday 9 August*

To view Rabbi Elton blowing the Shofar and be uplifted by High Holiday inspiration each weekday during Elul, please send your mobile number to [rabbielton@greatsynagogue.org.au](mailto:rabbielton@greatsynagogue.org.au)



**WOMANPOWER UNIT  
(WPU)  
Co-Presidents  
Nina Blair & Belinda Levy**

We are pleased to report that Womanpower has had a very productive month, despite the worsening Covid lockdown.

The executive committee has been meeting on a WhatsApp group call every fortnight to keep in touch.

Our Writer's Course participants are continuing to meet fortnightly on Zoom to connect and discuss the progression of their family stories, the subject that most people have chosen to write about.

As reported last month, Womanpower has committed to the project to raise funds and support women's shelters this year.

Our call out to our database asking for donations has been successful, and we are pleased to report that on Friday 13 August, we organised a large delivery of goods from Coles online to the Bayside women's shelter.

They are thrilled with the goods and very grateful for our generosity. I have assured them that this will be ongoing. It is not too late for anyone who is interested, to be part of this most important

project.  
Our bank account details are:  
Commonwealth Bank: BSB 062 -236  
Bank Account name: Womanpower.  
Account number: 10038397.

On Saturday night, we joined with several households via Zoom and enjoyed, with a glass of wine and Benny Goodman music (as this was a "date night event"), a demonstration on how to prepare delicious Vietnamese vegetarian rice paper rolls. We were all in our kitchens at home and were making them as Nina led us through the procedure. All agreed that they were delicious and some of them were already eaten by the end of the demonstration! A very successful "lockdown" function.

Join us next week Tuesday 31st August for a Rosh Hashanah cook off and message with Rabbanit Judy Levitan.

Grab your ingredients and make a Honey Cake and Moroccan Carrot and Date Salad.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85676342717?pwd=URFaGjTb0lqRmthTDdKcHFzQmpDZz09>  
Meeting ID: 856 7634 2717 Passcode: 193927

Nina Blair and Belinda Levy

**HELP US SUPPORT WOMEN IN CRISIS  
AT THE  
BAYSIDE WOMEN'S SHELTER**



In support of women in crisis as a result of domestic violence, Bayside Women's Shelter has reached out with a list of goods they urgently require.

The current Covid lockdown prevents us from personally delivering products to the Shelter.

We are asking for donations to help them.

Please deposit your donation into the Womanpower account. We will purchase the products and have them delivered directly to the shelter.

Womanpower Bank Account details:-  
BSB: 062 236  
Account name: Womanpower  
Account number: 10038397  
(Please include Bayside in the provider box)



**We are grateful for your support – these are the items we are in need of please.**



<p><b>Everyday items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dishwasher tablets</li> <li>- Paper towel</li> <li>- Hand wash</li> <li>- Tissues</li> <li>- Dish brushes</li> <li>- Dish cloths</li> <li>- Large black garbage bin bags</li> <li>- Glad wrap, foil &amp; baking paper</li> <li>- Insect spray</li> <li>- Children's lunch box snacks</li> <li>- Long life milk</li> <li>- Long grain rice</li> <li>- Tinned fruit/ fruit cups</li> <li>- Notebooks for women</li> </ul> <p><b>New Kitchen Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saucepans</li> <li>- Utensils</li> <li>- Cutlery</li> <li>- Chopping boards</li> <li>- Baking trays</li> <li>- Baking tins</li> <li>- Mixing bowls</li> <li>- Rice cooker</li> <li>- Sandwich press</li> </ul>	<p><b>Other useful items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Umbrellas</li> <li>- Raincoats for women and children</li> </ul> <p><b>Gift vouchers for families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opal cards</li> <li>- Movie tickets</li> <li>- Taronga Zoo</li> <li>- Aquarium</li> </ul> <p><b>Gift Vouchers that are always welcomed for the women</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Myer/ David Jones</li> <li>- JB Hi Fi</li> <li>- iTunes</li> <li>- Dymocks</li> <li>- Woolworths</li> <li>- Coles</li> <li>- Baby Bunting</li> </ul> 
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**B'nai B'rith Victoria**  
**President**  
**Benny Monheit**

**The News from the Front Line**

The news from the Front is not good. Climate Change is going to be the end of all of us on Earth. So what do our little problems in B'nai B'rith matter?

But hold on. The scientists tell us that if we act now we can ameliorate some of the disastrous climate changes. None of us want to see Australia burn and Israel sizzle.

So, should Climate Change Issues become a major Project of B'nai Brith Victoria? This was suggested to us last week. Unfortunately, at the same time other members want us to take a greater role in dealing with Aboriginal human rights issues whilst others also want B'nai B'rith to become involved in the community debate we are having on future funding of Jewish schools in view of declining enrolment numbers.

How do we deal with this? – all are worthy and important issues for some of our members and for the wider community.

I mentioned in my article last month that B'nai B'rith is undergoing structural and management changes with the aim of becoming a more modern organisation able to cope with community issues as well as the interests of current and potential members. Six months ago we appointed Ellana Aarons as our first Chief Executive Officer to help us deal with these existential issues and to develop and implement a Strategic Plan that will steer all our projects and activities for the next 2-3 years.

To develop this Strategic Plan we are gathering our Unit Presidents and project leaders and asking them, via a series of workshops, to give us feedback on a draft plan developed by the Executive and by Ellana. We hope to be able to answer the long running question: Who is B'nai B'rith Victoria and what do we want to stand for?

The workshops, run by our CEO will see in what areas there is consensus and where there is disagreement. B'nai B'rith in New Zealand has recently gone through a similar exercise.

Another task we have given our CEO is to work with us to improve our management structure and decision-making process. We have a very decentralised BB organisation in Victoria. Units and Projects leaders often work in isolation from other parts of BB and at times even compete with each other when functions clash. In the past the central office was there merely as a facilitator, not in any overseeing or in a coordinating role. That old model is no longer effective for our organisation.

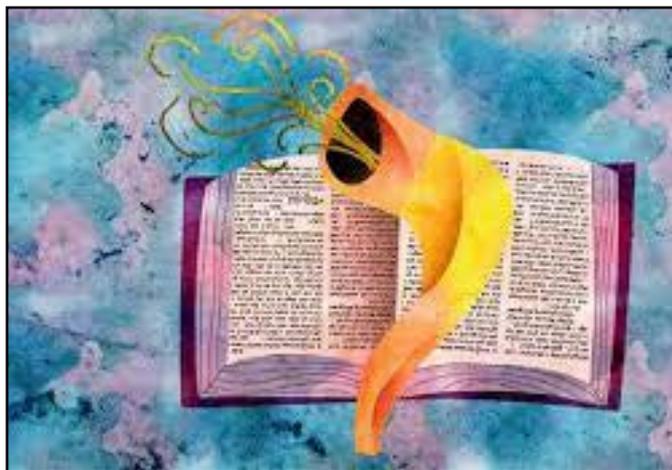
Once the plan is finalised, it will be our CEO's task to get the plan implemented. In line with business practices, this is one of a number of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for assessing her performance. We already decided last year that this is not a job for a well meaning volunteer – this is the job of a trained Executive Manager such as a good CEO. Not all CEOs are successful – so there is risk for the organisation in this change process. But if we don't try, B'nai Brith Victoria will not survive.

“We are all in this together” our Prime Minister keeps reminding us regarding COVID. But he does not include Climate Change in his battle cry. B'nai B'rith members however can do more than one thing at a time. I think we can walk and chew chullah at the same time.

(President Lyndon Johnson is reported to have said that Gerald Ford—then a congressman, was ‘so dumb that he can't walk and chew gum at the same time’. What Johnson actually said was somewhat cruder, but his message was the same: the **inability** to perform **two tasks simultaneously** is a sign of limited intelligence. ) Reference: [eLife](#). 2014; 3: e03235

Shana Tova umetukah,

Benny Monheit



# So far, so good

Ron Weiser AM



The Israeli government coalition of eight parties, where not only can any one party bring the government down, but even a disaffected individual MK is able to do so, has survived its first two months.

The glue holding it together in one very real way is Benjamin Netanyahu – who they unanimously agree on keeping out of the prime ministerial office and in opposition.

The longer this coalition can survive, the more tenuous Netanyahu's grip on the Likud leadership. His party has at least four or five self-declared contenders to replace him 'at the right time'. The anger in Likud about being in opposition is rising and Netanyahu is increasingly publically being held responsible for this, by senior members of his own party.

Should he be replaced as head of Likud, the political calculus could change dramatically.

In the meantime, the coalition has already demonstrated a remarkable degree of internal cooperation and ability to govern.

Perhaps nothing demonstrates this more than the budget.

Israel has not been able to pass a budget for almost three years and yet this coalition of seemingly disparate parties has been able, at least to date, to agree on a remarkable budget – possibly the most ambitious and transformative in a decade or two.

And they did so with little visible disagreement or the usual heated debates.

It was approved by the cabinet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August and now needs to be passed by the Knesset by the 4<sup>th</sup> of November – or the government will fall and elections will be held once again.

The fact that cabinet has passed it, means that the various party leaders have been able to agree. The budget's next test will be for the Knesset to pass it – i.e. that all MK's within the coalition follow their respective leaders and also support it.

Key points in the budget include:

- lowering the cost of living – with agricultural reforms, making importing easier, removing the kashrut monopoly (also weakening the Chief Rabbinate's powers), et al.
- massive infrastructure spending planned on transport, building a new airport and new hospitals.
- a housing plan to convert tens of millions of square metres of unused office space into residences.
- amongst many more initiatives are to reduce Haredi stipends, increase taxes on disposable plastic, increase taxes on sugary drinks and to raise the retirement age for woman to 65.
- a doubling of the previous allocations to Israel's minorities, on top of which it proposes to spend a billion AUD\$ to fight organised Arab crime, dealing with one of the key demands of Mansour Abbas in joining the government.

If it is passed and implemented, it will indeed be a very big achievement.

As Haviv Rettig Gur astutely noted: *“At the government’s swearing-in, pundits suggested that hovering permanently at the edge of a political precipice would make the new ministers timid and the government unassertive. If anything life on the edge has had the opposite effect.”*

With a new president in the White House and a new prime minister and foreign minister in Israel – the circumstances are different, the relationship is different and the management of policy is different.

We are in the process of seeing just how these different times pan out.

And it’s all about Iran – which affects how other policy is managed.

Under Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Trump, settlement growth was modest.

However, even though the Trump Plan envisioned Israel giving up half of Area C, the tone on settlement building was positive.

Indeed, Trump backed the legality of Jewish growth in Area C.

In the written and published coalition agreement between Bennett and Lapid regarding Judea & Samaria/ West Bank – prior to entering government – it said: *“Ensuring Israel’s national interests in Area C of the West Bank is under full Israeli security and civil control, allocating resources to the Defence Ministry to beef up enforcement against illegal Palestinian construction in Area C”*.

Now in government, PM Bennett has proposed the building of some 2,200 Jewish homes in Area C – a relatively large number by previous Netanyahu standards – albeit down from Bennett’s original intention to approve of 3,200 homes.

But at the same time and in perhaps another watershed moment – the government has also proposed to increase the Palestinian footprint in Area C by between 800 and 1,000 homes. Many of these Palestinian homes have already been built illegally.

Such approval, if it eventuates, is rare. Netanyahu had announced similar plans every few years – such as 2016 and 2019.

Bennett is understood to have proposed the Palestinian building approvals to make the new Jewish homes more palatable to Biden and to avoid spoiling their upcoming first formal meeting.

As every Israeli prime minister has said once sitting in the actual chair – ‘things look different from here’.

Biden for his part has delayed the reopening of the US Consulate in Jerusalem (which deals directly with the Palestinians and which Trump had closed), until after his forthcoming meeting with Bennett.

So, at this point in time, and with the positive support provided to Israel by Biden during the May war with Hamas, one can say that whilst the relationship is different, there is a large degree of cooperation and coordination between the Israeli and US administrations to date.

With Israel however, now needing to be far more careful and restricted in certain areas as Biden is looked upon as friendly, but also willing to be more assertively critical.

When it comes to Iran, Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmad al Khalifa, Bahrain's Undersecretary for International Relations did not mince words during his visit to Jerusalem last week.

He said that the Obama JCPOA 2015 Iran nuclear deal had *"fuelled violence and unrest across the region and caused the death of innocents. What result did we get out of the JCPOA, remind me? Was there any good result that came out of it? I do not think so. For us, we haven't seen it."*

Just as Israeli leaders have warned, Khalifa said that the JCPOA was flawed because it focused only on Iran's nuclear program: *"It disregarded two other prime issues that the region is facing, namely [Tehran's] ballistic missile program and the malign behaviour of Iran... from what we have seen, the malign activities of Iran in the region are continuing. If you look into the crises across the Middle East, you will find one red thread that would go across all those crises. You would find an Iranian finger"*.

Will Biden heed these warnings when negotiating with Iran this time around?

The jury is still out.

Another Biden issue is tied up with the whole perception of American power and her will to use that power.

And make no mistake about it, Israel's strength and deterrence lies in large part with the support it gains physically, emotionally and morally from a strong America.

When America looks weak, Israel is weaker.

No doubt, it was a centrepiece of Trump's foreign policy to get out of Afghanistan.

However, notwithstanding the rights and wrongs of the policy to exit – and what it leaves behind in terms of radical Islam – once that had been decided, then the question was how to do so?

The way that America (and her allies) are in the process of leaving Afghanistan undermines American credibility, calls into question American military ability and creates doubt about her political will.

Many commentators are comparing it to the debacle on leaving Saigon, but it perhaps has similar or more parallels with Israel's departure from Lebanon in 2000.

And the naïve in the extreme, assessment of what would happen after US forces left Afghanistan, leaves a big question mark over how realistically the Biden administration will be able to understand the big picture, when it comes to Iran.

The Israeli government has done more than just merely survive its first two months, but there are almost daily challenges which will test this coalition at every turn – and that's difficult when having to deal with Iran; her proxies in Lebanon, Gaza and elsewhere; the new US administration; the big rise in Covid cases internally; and whatever new challenges will come along.

So far however, this government is surprising most people on the upside.

Dr Ron Weiser AM



# **25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA LUNCHEON**

The President & Executive of  
B'nai B'rith Syd Einfeld Unit 3385  
are delighted to invite  
Members & Friends of B'nai B'rith  
to celebrate

The Silver Anniversary of the Institution of our Unit  
**On Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 at 12.30pm**  
at the  
B'nai B'rith Centre, Barker Street, Kensington

Entertainment : “The Swinging Sixties Band”  
Dress: Black/White/Silver

\$55pp BB Members \$60pp non members  
RSVP with Prepayment essential

B'nai B'rith Syd Einfeld Unit/ BSB: 062 236 / A/c 1004 0382  
Please enter your name as a reference

Yvonne Shapiro [ymshapiro100@gmail.com](mailto:ymshapiro100@gmail.com)

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