



B'NAI B'RITH

JUNE 2020

COMMUNICATOR

Jewish Unity · Diversity · Continuity

**An illustrated Zoom Presentation
outlining the experience of
22 B'nai B'rith United Kingdom members
on their 2019 mission from Kiev to Odessa**

**An insight into the traumatic history and
re-emergence of a community in a country
which was the cradle of early Zionism**

Presented by



**Alan Miller (President of BBUK)
and
Edna Miller (President of BBUK Radlett Lodge)**

Tuesday 9 June 2020

5.30pm – 7.30pm

**To join please contact Vivienne Radomsky on
vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au or click on the link**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84782853907?pwd=RkJha2xpTDJTNXA5ZzdOWml1amY5UT09>



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK
Anna Marks OAM

The Zoom Feature

I have attended a number of meetings this month, all via Zoom, and all incredibly well-attended, much more so than for meetings held in person. It's an interesting phenomenon. I don't believe it's only because we have 'nothing else to do' but because remote attendance has a lot of advantages, namely, no need to dress up, no need to drive, no need to park, no side conversations, an orderly question time and a quiet little snooze with the video off if the need arises...

The JCA meeting discussed the serious problems they will have in raising anywhere near the sums that are needed for the ongoing survival of institutions dependent on JCA funding, the changed economic landscape and the donors' changed financial circumstances being the most obvious problems. Institutions will just have to tighten their belts and use funds from their foundations for support until the economy revives. On a brighter side, there seems to have been no reported fatalities from Covid-19 in our community so far.

I attended a Lag B'Omer celebration originating from Melbourne, where they had a lovely program of music and very brief greetings from Chief Rabbis the world over, from Frank Lowy in Israel and from young people with messages. They hoped to attract 18,000 people and 40,000 logged on to watch! How amazing is that?

The Jewish Board of Deputies had a luncheon meeting with the Mayor of Randwick Danny Said (Lunch was Manna) a great supporter of our community and from a migrant background himself.

I have been attending the Australia Israel Jewish Affairs Council briefings, always interesting presentations from diplomats, writers and academics discussing situations in the Middle East. Again people logging on in much greater numbers than would have attended in person.

B'nai B'rith, North Shore Kadima and SEU have taken to Zoom with alacrity and been successful

in attracting much better audience participation than they would normally, and miracle of miracles, units actually participating in not only 'their' own functions. Bargain Bazaar committee has also held several Zoom meetings to consider when and how to re-open the two shops.

Of course our new BBYO group has zoomed ahead with a number of wonderful functions they've organised online. Please see their detailed report.

A big combined Zoom event, (Sydney, Melbourne and New Zealand) has been organised by District President David Samuels and I for Tuesday, 9th June, 5.30 pm. Our guest speaker will be the President of BBUK, Alan Miller. Please see details in the flyer. This is indeed a first, so please log on to attend.

Ben Adler, a young Sydney-based Jewish violinist, has asked us to promote his brand new arrangement of the song "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav" (Jerusalem of Gold) in honour of Yom Yerushalayim 2020. Ben has impeccable B'nai B'rith credentials. His grandparents, Mr & Mrs Aramaty, were members of Monash Lodge and organised great fundraisers at the B'nai B'rith Parents Home in Rose Bay and when Ben and his sister were old enough, they would perform at afternoon teas for the residents. Ben's mother, Rachel Adler, is a member of ADU and C2C and Ben has graciously performed at SEU and C2C fundraisers in recent years. His Youtube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjGmnguvPds>

The Centre has opened with caution and many precautions on a part-time basis and we hope for a full opening, welcoming our members back in person as soon as safe and possible.

Chag Shavout Sameach

Anna





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

Recently Sue and I attended a combined B'nai B'rith function held in Melbourne. Three of the Melbourne Units, Hatikvah, Melbourne Mitzvah and Raoul Wallenberg got together to hold this function which had a number of interesting items on the agenda. This function was attended by a large number of its members and was a huge success.

Here in Sydney we are having more and more functions by way of Zoom. Last weekend prior to writing this report well over 60 people tuned into Zoom at a Syd Einfeld function to hear Ricardo Bosi, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Australian Special Forces, give an inspiring talk about his time in the Middle East.

That same evening Womanpower presented a talk by Judy Levitan which was also extremely interesting. I am aware other Units are about to or have held meetings via Zoom.

It was because of the above and after discussions with Anna Marks OAM, that we decided to invite the President of BBUK, Alan Miller, to present a talk to all the Sydney BB Units.

Both Sue and I, together with Anna and Steve, have met Alan and his wife Edna and we are sure you will find his talk very entertaining. We urge as many of you as possible to attend.

In the meantime we hope you are all keeping well and one of these days let's hope we can all get together again physically, like the 'good old days'.

David Samuels

President BBANZ

I cannot wait for the day that
I can walk down the aisle and
hear those magical words:

"This is your pilot speaking."



ALFRED DREYFUS UNIT (ADU)

President Ernie Friedlander OAM

First of all congratulations to Jenny and her team for the May newsletter. In my opinion it is the best we have ever had. It had a wonderful, positive spin, incorporating humour so badly needed today.

Well done also to the Syd Einfeld Unit and North Shore Kadimah for their excellent ZOOM programs, along with the challah baking from the newest addition, B'nai B'rith Youth. It was wonderful to see Vivienne's efforts paying off so well. They displayed a lot of enthusiasm, vitality and passion.

Our Unit

At this stage we have stagnated to a degree, not being complacent but realistic. We had to take a step back with the Change Makers program and our STOP RACISM campaign due to COVID-19. We will most likely postpone them for a little while. We were even contacted by the government re our request for a grant for the proactive Anti Racism program. It sounds like it will be approved.

SBS

I was contacted to write an article about my memories of D-Day. The original request was for around 600 words then also suggesting I include my impressions of the current situation so it turned into 1100 words. They even added some photos from my Insight presentation. I would like to share some of the highlights with B'nai B'rith:

I was born in Vienna and in 1938 we moved to Hungary, my father's place of birth, trying to escape from the ardent anti-Semitism in Austria.

Fast forward to 1945 □ D-Day. I was 9 ½ years old in Budapest. We were all jubilant to read of the end of the war in Europe. We celebrated in the streets and at home. Crowds were dancing and hugging each other, including the Russian soldiers.

Yet despite the happiness, for my mother and me there was a lot of uncertainty and sadness. The Russians had occupied Hungary and most people didn't know what would happen

next. We had no news of my father, who was taken away as a FORCED WORKER with the Hungarian army. We had also not heard from any of our other family members in Hungary or Austria.

We heard later that most of them perished for no other reason than being Jewish. Every time there was a knock on the door we were hoping that they would turn up – unfortunately it didn't happen.

There was a lot of anger against the German and the Hungarian Nazis. In my case I didn't generalise - I had a slightly different picture. I had a wonderful memory of a German soldier 7 months earlier. This soldier risked his life, letting my mother and me escape from deportation during the war.

We were doing some shopping when we were arrested. We were kept in a unit with probably 100 others. The next morning we were taken to a school yard filled with at least 200 others. The guards threw some bread at us and marched us all into the unknown.

We were guarded by German soldiers and Hungarian Nazis (the Arrow Cross) known to be worse than the Germans. One of the German soldiers , overhearing my mother talk to me in German as her Hungarian was very poor, expressed sympathy. He said they were under strict orders. We kept on walking for over 5 hours, some people just collapsed – they were thrown on a truck – I don't know what happened to them.

It started to get dark when the German soldier approached my mother – quietly talking to her. I didn't hear what he said to her. Shortly afterwards we came to a bend in the road, which had a downward slope. My mother asked me to fix her shoe laces – as I bent down , she put her hand on my mouth and dragged me down the slope. My mother did exactly what the soldier advised her to do, while he looked the other way.

Then we waited until all people passed – luckily we were not noticed. We took off our yellow stars and exhausted, slowly made the long walk home. We found out later that the railway stations in Budapest were bombed out by the Allies and we were to be deported. Two weeks later we were taken into the ghetto, where we stayed for 7 weeks until being liberated by the Russian army mid January 1945.

continued on next page

The German soldier's act of humanity taught me at a very early age not to discriminate, but to consider people on their merit regardless of colour, race, religion or nationality.

My good fortune continued

I eventually came to settle in Australia, managing to overcome the grief, loss of family and childhood by applying a positive attitude and moving on.

I found a wonderful wife, Lea and we have 3 healthy children and 7 grandchildren

I am incredibly grateful to Australia for giving me the opportunity to find purpose in this country- being able to put the terrible memories of my childhood behind.

The world today

As a child during World War 2, I had to live under dreadful conditions. We had very little food, lived in air shelters and in the ghetto.

The current lockdown and restrictions we are experiencing due to the COVID -19 are not easy. On the one hand I see the comparison to the wartime and it's easier for me to cope – viewing some empty shelves in some stores. Also being forced to stay indoors has triggered some bad memories.

The worst part for my wife and me is not seeing the children and grandchildren however we fully realise that the government has acted responsibly and with wisdom having applied these restrictions.

Looking ahead

In the last 5 months we have gone through a wild ride – many sacrifices had to be made. But as uncertainty lingers, what will happen next with the COVID-19? I believe that we need to have a positive attitude and appreciate what we have, especially when compared to how other countries have fared.

This year we may have to face further challenges, but with concerted efforts we may even become stronger and wiser. Each one of us can make a difference – showing empathy and cooperation- as well as the willingness to make the best of the challenges we face.

The Harmony Day Poster & Song Writing competitions

We are unsure as to how we will have the Prize Giving. Our booking for NSW Parliament 17 June had to be postponed along with the Harmony Walks.

On behalf of your Executive – keep well and safe

Ernie Friedlander

You wanna travel so bad you didn't notice it was a cake



Husband and I went grocery shopping with masks. Got home, took off masks, brought home wrong husband! Stay alert people!





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

*In Life, you'll realize that there is a purpose
for every person you meet.*

*Some are there to test you, some will use you,
some will teach you
and some will bring out the best in you.*

It looks like we are finally reaching the end of many weeks secluded in our homes. Oh, the freedom, the liberty to go out! But we have been fortunate and at this time, we ask you all to continue your vigilance.

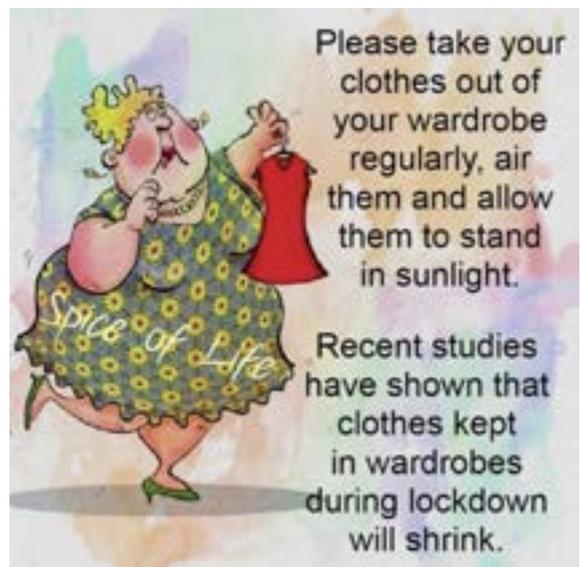
We are organising a special guest speaker from the UK and this will occur on Tuesday the 9th June. The time is confirmed for 5.30pm.

Ann was one of three judges for the Harmony Poster competition. Over 3,000 entries were received from all areas of NSW. They were, in the main, excellent contributions.

Regards,

John Roozendaal and Ann Milch

New Yiddish Word!
"Oysgezoozt" =
Over-exposed to,
fatigued by,
exhausted from,
bored by, had it
with...Zoom!"
"Ich bin azoy
'oysgezoozt"! (I'm
so done with Zoom!)





BARGAIN BAZAAR

Report by Linda Reitzin

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Our Vice-President Judy has been sending out regular emails to keep in touch. We have such a great bunch of dedicated volunteers, they miss the action and are keen to return to “work”. Thankfully none of them have fallen ill with the virus. Here are some of their replies:

“Thanks for your email. It is good to hear what everybody is doing and that they are well. My life has not changed much either except have not been seeing friends only hearing from them. We live just near Rushcutters Bay Park so walk almost every day and in the evening we watch Netflix which is an absolute treat. My niece and children live very nearby and we saw them last weekend outdoors only and will probably see them soon. The weather is beautiful and am sure people are beginning to think about a different kind of life although it definitely presents enormous challenges to everybody. Hopefully from this, we will learn a lot. Maybe the shop will recommence trading in the not too distant future so it can assist so many needy people that come in and buy clothes and nick nacks.”

“Thank you again for your lovely update. Hopefully slowly but surely we are climbing out of this pandemic. My biggest joy will be getting back to “Grandma’s Uber”, that is, driving my grandchildren around and seeing my good friends two at a time. Continue to keep well and safe.”

“Lovely reading your email and so happy that you are doing all right, albeit a little bored, but we are all in the same way. Just relieved that everyone i know is well. Also relieved that the weather has been kind to us most of the time, so we can go out and get fresh air. It is amazing how good one feels when out of our homes, be it just sitting enjoying the garden or balcony or going for walks around the area in which one lives. Makes all the difference breathing in the fresh air.

I have read so many books. It has been terrific. Only naughty thing I am doing is eating more chocolate than normal, but heck, we are going through a completely different time at the moment, so I don’t care and anyway, chocolate makes me so happy and that is important, particularly in these times. Agreed???”

“Thank you for your message. It’s good to hear that you and many others are coping well. You deserve the rest! There are spare rooms at the Monte. You won’t have

to shop and cook and clean and polish. You’ll be able to play Scrabble or rummy or chess. Think about it!”

“Thanks for your thoughts. We will come out of this better cooks, cleaners and philosophers. I miss the shop and its quirky and weird clientele. Keep well, healthy and your sanity intact.”

“Happy to hear everyone is keeping well and safe. In the end, we will all have hair down to our knees and will struggle to fit through the door but who cares as long as we all stay healthy. Stay safe!

At the time of writing this report, it has been seven weeks since both of our shops closed and more recently, the committee has held several Zoom meetings to discuss when and how to get back to business.

CLEVELAND ST OP SHOP

We have decided to delay the opening of the op shop until we can formulate a plan for how many people can be in the shop at the one time, how to introduce physical distancing both for customers and volunteers and whether or not we can safely use the change rooms. In the meantime, the summer stock has been replaced with winter clothing in preparation for when we open again. Our lease does not expire till September 2021 so rent still has to be paid.

VILLAGE POP-UP FURNITURE SHOP

We have had some good news – our lease has been extended to the end of the year so that means the shopping centre and the car park will stay open for another six months. We can only guess that the owners of the property have delayed the commencement of building works due to the financial effects of the pandemic. So we are planning to re-open this shop on the 1st June starting with three days per week. Several volunteers have agreed to go on the roster and others are willing to be on standby. Robert and Shaun will start to collect furniture again and build up the stock in the next few weeks. Our weekly AJN advertisement will be reinstated.

AUSTRALIA POST in the time of COVID-19

Strange things have been happening with the delivery of our donation cheques – one arrived five weeks after it was posted but not before we arranged for a direct deposit and paid \$12 to cancel the cheque. Another has not arrived at all after being posted in mid March! We have resorted to the same response for this one as well. Perhaps in the future, direct deposit is the way to go.



COURAGE TO CARE
Chairman James Alman OAM

Report by Kathy Sharp
Vice Chair

Another month has passed under restrictions due to COVID-19 but Courage to Care has not been idle.

Our Education Committee, professionally led by Faye Radom and Annie Friedlander, and supported by our staff, Dovi and Ariella, spent the last 6 weeks developing and completing our first on-line 30 minute program.

This program presents a “taste” of our classroom program since we are now unable, for the foreseeable future, to present in person to schools. I am very excited to announce that during the last week of May we will be forwarding this innovative program to 20 different schools for them to present to their students.



Pictured above are 4 survivors that participate in the on-line program

Today’s technology is amazing and provides new and exciting opportunities to reach a far wider audience. This new program has the capacity to capture student and teacher reactions, responses and feedback that will prove valuable in assessing the success of this presentation.

I believe that with developing further on-line products Courage to Care will be able to reach more Australians, especially those students who would never have the opportunity to take part in either Courage to Care in the Classroom or attend an exhibition. For example, for students living in remote areas and taking part in long-distance learning, or to students and teachers in Tasmania. Courage to Care can now future proof its relevance.

During these challenging times many in our communities are being subjected to racist incidents. Courage to Care continues to be committed to challenging stereotyping and bystander behaviour so that our future is one that is free from prejudice, discrimination and bullying.

Courage to Care was successful in being accepted onto the JobKeeper support which provides reassurance and stability for our valuable staff of Hezie, Dovi, Anna and Ariella. They continue to work tirelessly to ensure that we will be able to “hit the ground running” with programs and exhibitions in a post-virus world.

We were unable to hold our annual fundraiser event in April but Courage to Care is again launching its End of Financial Year mail-out fundraising campaign. It is not an easy time for all not-for-profits at present but Courage to Care appreciates any donation that supporters are able give.

Many of our volunteers are enjoying taking part in our C2C WhatsApp. This has provided people with many laughs and the opportunity to feel connected to each other.

Keep well and hopefully we can get back to a “new” normal sooner rather than later.

Kathy Sharp



NORTH SHORE KADIMAH (NSK)

President Guta Frydman

Another month has passed and we are still in semi-lockdown, but the future is looking brighter with some of our activities, ever so gradually, returning to normal. As a result of our recent phone survey, we are pleased to report you are all keeping well.

We did it! On 3 May, we had our Unit's first Zoom meeting with Peter Allen talking about Jewish ANZACs who were more than mates - the 15 sets of brothers named on the Australian Jewish War Memorial in Canberra. Our members and friends had the opportunity to join in at home and participate in the discussion.

A lot of background preparation was involved in setting up this meeting. As Hilary and Hylton said: "We all enjoyed today's event. The talk by Peter Allen on Jewish ANZACs was most enlightening. Grateful thanks to Marsha for helping us all connect with each other and for running such a smooth meeting." Congratulations to our President Guta for chairing this successful meeting.

Our second Zoom meeting is scheduled on 24 May with Peter Kahn OAM, talking about "A Brief History of Trams in Sydney"

Calling all Knitters

If you have time on your hands, North Shore Temple Emanuel's Jews for Social Action (JSA) is involved in a project, "Kids in the Outback Beanies". Hand-knitted beanies will be sent to remote, outback, indigenous schools for distribution to their pupils. Please contact Dot Theeboom on 0409 030 984 if you would like to contribute to this cause. Dot will issue you with details, including patterns supplied by Vicky Israel.

It is with great sadness we acknowledge the passing of Sarah Teichner, Vera Cranston's mother. Unfortunately we were unable to attend her funeral, due to Covid-19 restrictions. We wish Vera, Peter and family long life.

Details of upcoming functions will be sent to you in the near future.

I look forward to "seeing" you all, relaxed and happy, at our future Zoom meetings.

Stay safe and healthy and watch your alcohol consumption!

Kind regards,
Guta Frydman



Screen shot of our 'First Executive Zoom Meeting'



PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

Vivienne Radomsky

After almost 6 weeks of lockdown and staying at home, I finally realized the reason I love going in to the office. Who would have thought that there is so much work to do around the home? In 6 weeks, I have done everything I failed to do in the last 20 years. I have even mastered the art of baking challah and cupcakes, much to the amusement of my husband who is wondering if lockdown can be extended.

Maintaining a home can also be dangerous, as I found out after I had spent a day hacking the bougainvillea hedge that protects our property with its huge thorns. I woke up the next day unable to move my very swollen hand and had to tele-conference my doctor. Rest was what he ordered. It's very hard to twiddle a swollen thumb.

When the call came from Anna, announcing that the office might be opening up a few days a week and to a specified number of people, I was relieved. Finally I can rest up from that dreaded housework.

On the B'nai B'rith front, there have been a few things happening. On Sunday 17 May, Judith Levitan spoke to the Womanpower Unit via Zoom about her journey to becoming an Orthodox Rabbi.

Judith told how her interest started with a visit to New York to attend the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance where she met a group of women who encouraged her take on this mammoth 3-year task. She outlined her study curriculum with classes taking place online at 3pm New York time (5.30am Sydney time) and that would not have been possible without the support of her family and friends.

Possibly the key note of her talk was the idea of "women raising women" to be communal leaders, providing a new source to engage more deeply in our Jewish tradition.

BBYO has not let the lockdown slow them down one bit. They attend the weekly Havdalah sessions run by BBYO Melbourne (on Zoom) every week and are in contact with BBYO Chapters around the world. Many of the overseas teens join in with the Australian activities in spite of the time differences and I have noticed a few USA teens in pajamas with ruffled hair at Havdalah, having woken up at 5am to join in. Our BBYO has recently been contacted by a BBYO teen in Odessa, Ukraine who wants to organise an event with them.

They have run a few games events via Zoom for their peers which have been a lot of fun. I never knew what the game "Wordles" was before now. I believe Ruby has included a few examples in her BBYO report for your enjoyment.

On Thursday 7 May, an intergenerational Challah Chat and Plait was run by Amy Forman (BBYO Social Media and Liaison Officer). Amy took us straight to the intricate art of plaiting challah with 6 strands and then demonstrated how to plait a round challah.

They also created a short video highlighting Lag B'Omer and posted it on the BBYO Instagram page which is gaining followers. If you would like to see this video please click on link below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dE1boCtOsrdwG9L2bJjTajoElyjym2F/view?ts=5eb9f534>

The next event (held for teens) will be a Cheesecake bake on Zoom run by the BBYO treasurer, Miriam Iztokowitz.

Wishing everyone a safe transition to finally opening up our society, slowly and virus free.

Vivienne Radomsky





B'NAI B'RITH YOUTH ORGANISATION (BBYO)

President Devan Bloch

**Report by Ruby Borer
Vice President**

This month has been a whirlwind of activities and planning for BBYO NSW.

We started with 2 incredible virtual game nights! Game night 1 was an online Scavenger Hunt, where participants raced to see who could get the different items usually found around the house and back to their computer first. Game night 2 was an Online Wordles Challenge, where participants' brains were challenged by trying to be the first one to correctly guess the wordles puzzles. Try some for yourself:

1. Side Side	2. Allworld
3. Weekkkkk	4. HIJKLMNO
5. H/E/A/D	6. Copi Copsy Copy
7. Bjackox	8. Gesg
9. XQQQME	10. _____it

We continued this amazing month of activities with a Challah Plait and Chat with B'nai B'rith NSW & BBYO NSW. It was really special to mix with all the different generations. We enjoyed learning new challah-plaiting techniques and loved seeing the beautiful finished products.

Here are some photos from the night:



We enjoyed our challah bake so much that we are planning a Cheesecake bake with BBYO NSW in a few weeks' time to celebrate Shavuot and are super excited about another fun baking experience.

We have loved getting to know BBYO teens from all around the world, whether they be from America or Melbourne - they are all so nice and welcoming to us as a new chapter. We are also in the middle of an international collaboration with 2 BBYO chapters in America and can't wait for our joint program.

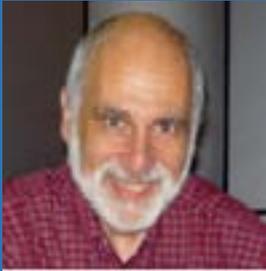
The BBYO NSW Instagram page has around 154 followers and is looking for many more. Our virtual events have about 15-20 participants and we are hoping to keep on increasing that number.

All in all, this month has been a crazy time for BBYO NSW and we can't wait for what next month holds.



Answers to Wordles

1	Side by side
2	It's a small world after all
3	Long Weekend
4	H2O
5	Headquarters
6	Copyright
7	Jack in the Box
8	Scrambled Eggs
9	Excuse Me
10	Blanket



**SYD EINFELD UNIT
(SEU)
President Robert Erdos**

Hi Everyone,

I hope all of you are well and despite the easing of the Covid-19 rules you are still playing it safe.

Last Sunday we were really ZOOMING along with ZOOM. We held our monthly meeting, which featured Riccardo Bosi as our guest speaker, a former Lieutenant Colonel in the Australian Army relating his experience in the United Arab Emirates, Dubai and Afghanistan.

It was a riveting talk to our members and guests, comprising 38 zoom screens, or approximately 70 people, including one tuning in from Israel.



From the feedback I received, it was one of the most interesting presentations. If you missed it, and are interested in viewing the recording, then follow the link below.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13VSBof1QkAteTspFMH18k3ctnZghyT5L/view?usp=drive_web

We also had a successful “Shmooze” get together on ZOOM and are planning many more such meetings until we are able to meet again in person.

Our SEU next monthly meeting will be at 2.30pm on Sunday, 21st June featuring Emeritus Professor Les Copeland, from the University of Sydney, on the topic – “Can we feed the world’s population?”

In the meantime, there are countless activities online that I can recommend, if you are interested in talks, books, arts entertainment etc., see: dunera.org.au

Hope you all stay in good health,

Unitil next time,

Robert Erdos





SYDNEY UNIT

President Eli Tal

Unfortunately our meetings have been suspended for the immediate future as the Retirement Village's Andy Freeman Hall is closed due to the pandemic. As soon as I hear that they are open for business, we'll organise a meeting.

Nurit and I are spending our time at home, with limited visiting by the family.

We can now visit our kids which is wonderful, and we go for daily walks to Lyne Park in Rose Bay.

Twice a week they have Zoom exercise classes organised in-house and we can participate in that. Using Zoom is a bit of a challenge for me, but only because I was born too early!

We are really looking forward to our freedom and back to a "normal" lifestyle and our meetings at Princess Gardens as before.

Blossom Silver has been on respite at Morans, but has now gone home.

Vale

Liane Sebel z'l was a long standing member of Sydney Masada. She worked loyally in the Bargain Bazaar for many years and was a very tough negotiator with the customers. She always expressed her opinions very clearly and succinctly. Liane had a great eye for silver and was always looking for special pieces in the shop to add to her collection. We wish her family long life.

In the meantime, keep well, and I look forward to seeing you all as soon as possible.

Eli

Lockdown can only go 4-ways. You'll come out a monk, a hunk, a chunk or a drunk. Choose wisely. 🤔

The relaxation of isolation rules doesn't mean the pandemic is over. It means they currently have room for you in the ICU. Make good choices.



**WOMANPOWER UNIT (WPU)
President Nina Blair**

**Report by Belinda Levy
Treasurer**

We trust that all BB members are doing well under these stressful conditions that we are currently experiencing due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As with most groups, we have not been particularly active.

On Sunday night, we were privileged to have a wonderful guest speaker and had 20 people attend our meeting via Zoom.

Viv Radomsky introduced our guest speaker, Judith Levitan and she addressed us on the incredible journey she has taken over the past three years – studying online and attending lectures in New York to become a fully ordained Orthodox Rabbi! Wow what an achievement!

We were all so interested to hear her story and how she got there under the difficult circumstances of being so far away from the Rabbinic College. She was first made aware of this opportunity when she attended a conference held by the Jewish Order of Orthodox Feminist Alliance New York.

This alliance expands the spiritual, ritual, intellectual and political opportunities for women within the framework of Halachah. It does this by advocating meaningful participation and equality for women in family life, Synagogues, houses of learning and Jewish communal organisations to the full extent possible within Halachah.

During the three years, she studied subjects like classical Pedagogy, Jewish law and skills, Gemorra which is the oral codified law written in Aramaic and Pastoral Torah which is about real life situations in Jewish Law to do with human issues, innovation and leadership.

With regards to Womanpower, Judith enlightened us on studies such as women supporting other women and “lifting them up”. Judith was willing to answer any questions and did so very confidently.

The evening ended with a vote of thanks from Womanpower President, Nina Blair.

Wishing everyone Chag Sameach for Shavuot.

Belinda Levy





BARGAIN BAZAAR CHARITY SHOP

**is back in business
- post COVID-19**

**SHOP REOPENING ON MONDAY 1 JUNE
2020**

**NOW COLLECTING FURNITURE AND
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT JEWISH AND
LOCAL CHARITIES**

RING ROBERT ON 0413 676 963



B'nai B'rith Victoria

President Benny Monheit

Mazal Tov to P/P Emeritus Prof. Ronald Taft AM(100 years) and B'nai B'rith Victoria (75 years)

B'nai B'rith Victoria was inaugurated on 20th May, 75 years ago and Professor Ronald Taft from Raoul Wallenberg Unit is turning 100 in June 2020. So much history during those years.

Ron was born into an established Jewish Australian family and he became an influential psychology and education academic and a respected community leader. He was Foundation Chair of the National Committee for Psychology in the Australian Academy of Science and his special interest was in multiculturalism and the adjustment and adaption of immigrant children and adults. At the age of 26, he joined his father in becoming a member of the 'Order of B'nai B'rith' and a year later he was asked to address the Lodge meeting in Melbourne on what B'nai B'rith meant to him.

His handwritten notes from that speech in 1947 were recently found by his family and were passed on to me. In these notes the young Ron wrote that BB gave him hope for the future and he analysed the aims of the new organisation. He was impressed with the aims of promoting human dignity and unity and that it promoted community service and philanthropy. The international links in BB, he wrote, gave opportunities for harmonious links with overseas Lodges. These points still sound familiar and are relevant today.

However, Ron went on to advise new Lodge members from overseas on integration and discipline matters, saying "I think that the overseas brothers should make every positive endeavour to obtain the opinions of the Australian members before insisting that this or that way is the right way to do things". He also advised all members against lax behaviour: "... such as smoking in the Lodge room before meetings, talking during Lodge sessions and not keeping your right hand on your lapel during debate and so on".

Remember this was 1947. What is glaring is that there was no mention in the speech of the Holocaust, or of the need to house the desperate survivors in the displaced person camps or supporting those souls who managed to make it to Australia. Nor was there any mention of the tensions in British ruled Palestine or the possible

role of B'nai B'rith in all these momentous developments. B'nai B'rith seemed so insular here.

From my reading source material such the text book 'The Jews in Australia', Vol 2, by W.D. Rubinstein and from talking to others, it is clear that attitudes among Australian Jews were so different in 1947 to mainstream views now. There were only about 36,000 Jews in Australia at that time and the leadership came predominantly from those with Anglo background, many of whom were non Zionists and they were worried about rising antisemitism if too many foreign Jews were let in. In 1946, only 700 were let in; during 1947, this rose to 2000 and to 3000 in 1949. (These figures exclude British Jews migrating here).

Did the Jewish community at that time, and those in BB, do enough for their brothers and sisters waiting overseas? This has been a very controversial question among leaders and historians. The immigration situation in Australia eased when Arthur Caldwell became Immigration Minister in 1945 and after Israel was established in 1948.

This is all part of our history - some parts are more comfortable than others. But all the more to reflect and celebrate with Ron Taft on his birthday and our 75th anniversary. Mazal Tov.

Benny Monheit

A different perspective....

On behalf of the Australian Jewish Historical Society, I did a whole series of interviews with 3rd and 4th generation Australian Jews some years ago. The questionnaire was formatted by Sophie Gelski, who has a passionate interest in Holocaust history. Apart from asking about their growing up in Sydney, or even some instances in the country, their response was uniform that they were halcyon days. The response to awareness to racism, anti-semitism, and knowledge of the Holocaust was uniformly ignorance and indifference. Not in a mean way, it just wasn't on their horizon. The only comment I had from several of the respondents regarding the new refugees and immigrants is that they looked 'so different' in their heavy dark coats carrying briefcases.

The attitude to these new migrants was if anything, anxiety, that they would impact on their comfortable and integrated Anglo Jewish lives in the general community.

Anna Marks

B'NAI B'RITH WORLD CENTER-JERUSALEM ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2020 DIASPORA REPORTING AWARD

(Jerusalem, May 6, 2020)—B'nai B'rith International has announced the winners of the 2020 B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem Award for Journalism Recognizing Excellence in Diaspora Reportage: Branu Tegene and Danny Kushmaro of Channel 12 News and Haaretz correspondent Dina Kraft.

Tegene, a correspondent for Channel 12 news, and news anchor Kushmaro will receive the award in the broadcast media category in memory of Wolf and Hilda Matsdorf (**Wolf and Hilda were members of B'nai B'rith Sydney before they went on Alyah to Israel**) for a 5-part series entitled “Mefotzalim” (Split Up: The Story of the Ethiopian Jewish Community)

B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem Chairman Haim Katz and Director Alan Schneider noted that “Even in the trying times when Israel and Jewish communities around the world are focused on facing the medical, social and economic fallout of the coronavirus epidemic, efforts must continue to maintain and strengthen the relationship between Israel and Diaspora communities around the world. The B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem remains dedicated to that mission through the Award for Journalism and other significant programs that have been adapted to fit our new reality”.

Since its establishment in 1992, the B'nai B'rith World Center Award for Journalism has recognized excellence in reporting on contemporary Diaspora Jewish communities and on the state of Israel-Diaspora relations in the Israeli print, broadcast and online media. The award is widely recognized as the most prestigious prize in the Israeli media industry for Diaspora reportage and was established to help strengthen the relationship between Israel and the Diaspora. The award highlights the important contributions the media can make toward strengthening the relationship between Israel and world Jewry by encouraging quality reporting on Diaspora communities and Israel-Diaspora relations.

The Awards are presented in memory of the late Wolf Matsdorf, editor of the World Center-Jerusalem's journal “Leadership Briefing” and a journalist in Israel and Australia, and his wife Hilda, a pioneer in social work in both Australia and Israel, and in memory of Luis and Trudi Schydrowsky. The award is made possible through donations from the Matsdorf family and B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem board member Daniel Schydrowsky.

B'nai B'rith International has advocated for global Jewry and championed the cause of human rights since 1843. B'nai B'rith is recognized as a vital voice in promoting Jewish unity and continuity, a staunch defender of the State of Israel, a tireless advocate on behalf of senior citizens and a leader in disaster relief. With a presence around the world, we are the Global Voice of the Jewish Community. Visit www.bnaibrith.org

COMMUNITY VACCINATION SERVICE

Flu, Pneumonia and Shingles



Dear Friend,

We are concerned that some members of our community may not yet have had a chance to get their flu shots. We know some GPs are only providing tele-health, and some of our community are reluctant to attend a doctor's surgery during regular hours so we are offering you some alternatives to ensure all our community members are protected. This is important given the current pandemic and the approach of winter, and particularly so for the older members of our community or those with existing chronic health conditions.

The COVID-19 test may be requested with your flu shot if appropriate however please advise that you would like this test when booking to ensure that you are allocated to the appropriate venue.

CHARGE: the flu vaccine is free for those aged 65 years and over, or under 65 years of age with chronic medical conditions. The pneumonia vaccine is free for those aged over 65 and the shingles vaccine is free for those aged 70 years and over. For all other persons the charge is \$20 for the flu vaccine and \$50 for the pneumonia vaccine if required (payable on the day by credit/debit card).

Feel free to onforward this invitation to a friend or family member.

Dates and venues are as follows (but please book first by emailing info@wolper.com.au and we will call you to schedule a time, or alternatively call Renee on 0437 948 813):

Sunday 24th May: 1pm – 5pm

Address: Premier Medicine (beside Westfield). Suite 302, 3 Waverley Street, Bondi Junction

Wednesday 27th May: 1pm – 5pm

Address: NCJWA (NSW), 111 Queen St, Woollahra (entrance via Dorhauer Lane)

Please note the following: MEDICARE CARD: please bring it with you.

INFORMATION FORM: will be emailed to you at the time of booking and is to be completed prior to arrival if possible or at the venue.

ASSISTED TRANSPORT: we expect people will arrange their own transport however should this not be possible and you require pick up and return transport on Wednesday please advise when booking.

VACCINATIONS ONLY: this service is not for general medical appointments. If you are unwell please see your GP or local hospital. If you are not able to access a GP please advise Renee on 0437 948 813 and we will do our best to help you.

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 000.

This is a joint initiative of the Jewish Emergency Management Plan's (JEMP) Medical Sub-Committee, Wolper Jewish Hospital and the Australasian Jewish Medical Foundation.



B'nai B'rith Syd Einfeld Unit 3385

June SEU Meeting

Guest speaker Emeritus Professor Les Copeland



Can we feed the world's population?

Les Copeland is an agricultural chemist whose academic interests are at the interface between food science and agricultural production. He has published extensively on food starches, grain science, and plant biochemistry. Les is Editor-in-Chief of the journals *Cereal Chemistry* (Wiley) and *Agriculture* (MDPI), a Director of the Australian Government Cotton Research and Development Corporation, and a member of the Research Advisory Committee of the Australian Farm Institute. He is a former Deon of Agriculture, and was the Foundation President of the Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture. He graduated as a BSc and PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Sydney and held research appointments at Yale University, the University of Buffalo and the University of California, Davis in the USA, and at the Australian National University. He is a Fulbright Alumnus and the recipient of an Excellence in Teaching Award from the American Association of Cereal Chemists-International. Les was awarded a Membership of the Order of Australia (AM) for "for significant service to agricultural science as an academic and researcher" in the Queen's Birthday 2019 Honours.

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/science/about/our-people/academic-staff/les-copeland.html>

**Sunday, 21st June, 2020 at 2.15pm for 2.30pm start
Via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82856002125?pwd=bnBqVEErYkFhaVpjZWNDdGVYTIRqZz09>

Meeting ID: 828 5600 2125
Password: 079883



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