



MARCH 2022



B'NAI B'RITH

# COMMUNICATOR

Jewish Unity · Diversity · Continuity

## THE KABBALAH EXHIBITION

13 MARCH – 3 APRIL 2022

B'NAI B'RITH CENTRE

17 BARKER ST KENSINGTON NSW 2033

The Kabbalah Exhibition held at the B'nai B'rith Centre will be the first of its kind in Australia, offering the Sydney Jewish community a unique overview of the 2,000-year social history of Jewish mysticism and Kabbalah.

The exhibition provides a multi-faceted view of Jewish mysticism, emphasising its various developments and impact on Jewish life throughout history. The exhibition will include rich and engaging displays and will include educational programming in the form of public lectures, meditation classes, and other workshops to help explore this world of Jewish history, teaching, and practice.

*B'nai B'rith NSW is proud to offer the Sydney Jewish community regular exhibition viewings and other community programs which promote and advance community engagement in Jewish history, culture, and heritage. Exhibitions at B'nai B'rith provide a positive and engaging educational experience for community members of all ages, backgrounds, and affiliations.*



KABBALAH  
EXHIBITION



B'NAI  
B'RITH



## Introducing Janine Zimbler President of BBNSW

I hope this brief introduction will give you a glimpse into my life and enable you all to know me a

little bit better:

For those of you who saw the recent exhibition on Muizenberg, South Africa, well that is where I grew up! I spent an idyllic childhood there (though all those years in the sun without sunscreen has subsequently paid havoc with my skin!). After I got married, some 40 years ago now, my husband, Jeff, and I migrated to Sydney. We have two lovely adult daughters, Lianne and Carla. Lianne is married to Dave, and they have a delightful little daughter named Drew.

Prior to the merger of Womanpower into B'nai B'rith, I was a long-time member of Womanpower serving as President and on the executive team for much of that time. Since the merger 4 years ago, I have served on the B'nai B'rith NSW Council and on the Executive for the past 3 years. Last year I spearheaded the development of our new strategic plan.

Truth be told I am not entirely new to B'nai B'rith! Indeed, my first job as a university student in Durban, South Africa was to set up a BBYO group. This was a successful venture, and I took a group of young people to the US to participate in the BBYO summer camp in the Catskills, NY, in 1980. After the camp I travelled to Washington D.C. and was invited to BB headquarters to meet the then President. He generously offered me a job in the US with BBYO, and I seriously considered the offer, however as I had family in Sydney, Australia ultimately was the preferred destination.

Neither is B'nai B'rith new to my husband! His father, Hillel (Harry) Zimbler was a member of Bloemfontein B'nai B'rith unit number: 2445. He served as President and then secretary for many years.

Throughout my professional career, now spanning over 40 years, I have worked as a Marital and Family Therapist. In this capacity I have supported children, young people and adults, individuals and groups, couples, and families through some of life's most painful and challenging situations and helped them emerge from their experiences stronger and more resilient.

Reflecting on some of the highlights of my career, there are a number which stand out and of which I am immensely proud. These include leading

the therapy team at Boys' Town for 13 years and transforming Boys' Town into a modern adolescent treatment unit. There was also a two-year appointment as a Community Visitor for the Community Services Commission, providing feedback to the then Minister of Community Services on the care of young people by the State. In the late '90's I was part of the team who established the STAR school counselling service for the Catholic Education Office in Sydney. At Learning Links where I provided therapeutic services to the parents of children with disabilities for 7 years, I set-up a much-needed Paediatric Developmental Assessment clinic. This valuable service was delivered for more than a decade by our Womanpower Unit member, Dr Karen Knoll. Another landmark in my career on which I reflect fondly, is serving as the school counsellor at Mount Sinai College for 7 years where I developed the Two Connect Project which was supported by qualified B'nai B'rith volunteers who made an outstanding contribution to the healing of several troubled children.

In 2018 I was most grateful to be sponsored by the B'nai B'rith Bargain Bazaar to attend a training course in NY to teach a new workshop to the public entitled Safe Conversations. This workshop teaches participants relationship and communication skills before they experience relationship crisis. Before Covid 19 disrupted plans, I was lucky enough to run 3 workshops for 50 people at the B'nai B'rith centre, teach two marriage preparation classes at Maroubra shul and conduct some communication training with our teen members of BBYO.

In addition to direct service provision, I have also served on board and advisory groups and provided training, supervision and consultation to non-profit organizations, schools, professional staff and young people across the State. Alongside all these I have published several articles on parenting.

On a personal level, I am most definitely a people person and love nothing more than catching up with friends over coffee, playing make-believe games with my granddaughter, reading widely, writing and splashing about with paint!

Lastly, having witnessed life's many vicissitudes, including joy, loss, grief and pain, I am acutely aware that what has delivered me and others to the other side has been the warm embrace of community, a positive forward-looking attitude and the desire to make the world a better, more equitable place for all. Womanpower and B'nai B'rith does this for me!

I am immensely proud to be able to play my small part in the continuing legacy of B'nai B'rith in Sydney.

## Janine Zimbler

### President's Report

I am delighted to submit my first report for the Communicator as President of BBNSW. Despite our Covid-19 restrictions and disruptions, BB is striving to be as innovative, flexible, and adaptable as it can be while remaining in sync with prevailing cautious attitudes and government legislation.

In December 2021, our Immediate Past President, Anna Marks OAM, organised several excellent functions which were all great successes and extremely well attended. Our AGM was very well supported - 60 people in person and 16 on zoom. This was followed by a Chanukah afternoon tea, an evening cruise around our harbour and a staff end of year thank you lunch. Viv and the BBYO Executive hosted a memorable Shabbat dinner attended by 70 people which was planned and led entirely by the young people. It was a terrific affair and hopefully the first of many! By the time you read this report, three members of BBYO will have just returned from the US having participated in the BBYO International Leadership Convention in Baltimore together with 3000 young people from around the world! Once their feet are planted firmly on the ground, I will ask them to address Council and to write up their experiences in the next edition of the Communicator for you to enjoy. They are certainly giving us a huge amount of "nachas"!!

I attended my first function in my official capacity in December. This was the state funeral of Eddie Jaku and was a most memorable affair. The audience and I cried from beginning to end! It was a glowing tribute to the man and his legacy and wonderful PR for the Jewish community.

Since the centre opened mid-January, I have been busy settling into my new role. There has been lots to attend to and get my head around! Our strategic plan serves as our guide this year so you will be noticing some small differences in how BB operates this year as the exec and staff work towards our goals. If you haven't read it yet - I urge you to get a copy from our office.

Last year we started by reducing the cost of membership and already several new members have taken up our new "Friend" category of membership.

This year we have begun trialling our weekly newsletter. The newsletter is meant to be an informal reminder of what's on offer at BB and an open invitation to all members and friends to attend any of the events or activities being presented by any unit or entity. Creating a sense of unity is vital for our future.

Something else that is very dear to our hearts is honouring our legacy members, acknowledging their pioneering work, and recognising their contribution to our history. To formalise this, Ori Golan who is a well-known journalist and a BB Member at Large will be writing an article for each of our Communicators this year entitled 'This is my legacy'.

Look out for his first article on Jean Lederer in this edition. In the same vein, we were thrilled to hear that James Altman has been appointed as Senior Vice President of BB International and closer to home that Alan Joffe received an Australia Day award this year. Kol Hakavod! Recognition most deserved!

Our first exhibition for you to diarise and book into this year is our Kabbalah Exhibition which has been written by C2C's own Dovi Seldowitz for BB. Please come support this unique event and its associated workshops. It is the first of it's kind.

Something else you might like to book in for now is the dramatised play reading of "Letters from a Troubled Past" coming up next month which B'nai B'rith helped to sponsor. This performance is made up of two acts - Act 1 is Vic Alhadeff's family story called "Torn apart by war" and the second is called, "Letters of Loss and Refuge" which is based on the exhibition you might remember that was held at our Centre in April 2019. If you would like to join us, our BB Theatre lovers' group will be going on Fri 18 March 2022 to see the production at the Monkey Baa theatre at 11am. We have been given a special rate of \$10. Please book through Jenny by Wed 9th March. We will meet outside the theatre at 10.30am and we can all go out for lunch afterwards.

Next is our combined Pesach Picnic on the 18 April at Centennial Park. I would really love members of all units to attend, get to know each other and just enjoy being together.

In conclusion, I wish everyone a very happy new BB year - Let's declare 2022 our best yet!

Janine

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

If you would like to access the online Calendar please go to the B'nai B'rith Website <https://www.bnaibrith.org.au> select NSW, scroll down to the Calendar

Schedule of meetings: SEU meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month, AVIV meet on the 3rd Monday of each month and NSK meet on the 4th Sunday of each month.

Please click on the highlighted email address to book for events!

## February 2022

### Sunday 27th February

NSK brunch at the Tasting Deck restaurant, in Terrey Hills. RSVP Sharon Dobson 0419 990 503

## March 2022

### Friday 4th March 10.30am

C2C Heather Morris will be talking about her new book "Three Sisters" at the BB Centre. RSVP Anna Woolf [anna@couragetocare.com.au](mailto:anna@couragetocare.com.au) by 24/2/2022. See flyer page 19

### Sunday 6th March 7.30pm

WPU International Women's Day Event at BB Centre. Guest speaker is CEO of Bayside Women's Shelter, Sallianne Faulkner. RSVP to Nina [pnnb@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pnnb@optusnet.com.au). See flyer pg20

### Sunday 13th March 11am - 12pm

Opening of the Kabbalah Exhibition with panel discussion. See flyer pg21. RSVP Vivienne 9321-6307 [vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au](mailto:vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au)

### Tuesday 15th March 5pm

Kabbalah Exhibition Event: International Lecture "Seekers of the 21st Century"  
Zoom link to follow

### Sunday 20th March

11am Kabbalah Exhibition Event: Guided Tour of the Exhibition with Dovi Seldowitz. Tickets \$10  
RSVP Vivienne 9321-6307 [vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au](mailto:vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au)

SEU Pot luck dinner- details to follow

## March 2022 (contd)

### Sunday 20th March (contd)

NSK 2.45pm Talk via Zoom by Dr Larry Vogelnest, Senior Veterinarian at Taronga Zoo. RSVP by: Thursday, 17 March 2022 to Marsha Lake 0417 249 701  
See flyer on page 21

### Monday 21st March 5pm

AVIV AGM at BB Centre installation of new Co-Presidents PP Lea Friedlander and PP Dorrit Mahemoff as Co-Presidents

### Tuesday 22nd March 6pm

Kabbalah Exhibition Event: Meditation Workshop with Rabbi Michael Gourarie. Tickets \$10 RSVP Vivienne 9321-6307 [vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au](mailto:vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au)

### Thursday 24th March 6pm

Kabbalah Exhibition Event: Meditation Workshop with Rabbi Dr Orna Triguboff. Tickets \$10 RSVP Vivienne 9321-6307 [vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au](mailto:vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au)

### Saturday 26th March 8pm

Kabbalah Exhibition Event: Teens Musical Havdalah Ceremony with BBYO, Rabbi Zalman Goldstein & Maroubra Synagogue. Tickets \$10  
RSVP Vivienne 9321-6307  
[vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au](mailto:vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au)

### Sunday 27th March 11am

Kabbalah Exhibition Event: Yoga Workshop with Rabbi Dr Orna Triguboff. Tickets \$10  
RSVP Vivienne 9321-6307  
[vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au](mailto:vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au)



**David Samuels President  
(BBANZ)  
Australia/New Zealand**

Since my last report I am pleased to announce that Mr Seth Riklin, from the USA, has become the new President for BB International. I am also pleased to announce that Mr James Altman OAM has been appointed as a Senior Vice President for BB International. James' areas of jurisdiction include Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and Israel. On behalf of everyone we wish James every success in his new role.

To show his interest in Australia Mr Riklin has already attended via Zoom a function held by the Raoul Wallenberg Unit in Melbourne despite the lateness of the hour for him. Mr Riklin has also indicated a strong desire to visit Australia in September when our triennial conference is being held. We look forward to his visit.

Shortly, in the next month, as in New South Wales, there will be a changing of the guard in Victoria with Assoc Prof Peter Schattner taking on the role of President BB Victoria from Dr Benny Monheit who is also Vice President of BBANZ.

Benny is also the force behind the next triennial convention which is to be held in Melbourne. At that time Benny will be taking over from me in the role of President BBANZ.

David Samuels  
President B'nai B'rith Australia/New Zealand



## ALFRED DREYFUS UNIT (ADU)

President Ernie Friedlander OAM

Dear Members

2021 was a very mixed year for most of us – but it has also taught us to consider and appreciate the positives more. **Welcome to 2022.**

### **The 2021 Changemaker Awards:**

For the first time out of over 130 entries– thanks to Vivienne we had 4 nominations from BBYO. They were Devan Bloch, Ruby Borer & Meital Gertel for Contribution to the Jewish Community and Amy Forman for Contribution to Australian Society.



### **The winners in the Youth section were:**

Benjy Orwin & Edward Schamschula - Contribution to Australian Society  
Yuli Segev - Contribution to the State of Israel  
Ben Lonstein & Eden Gelfand - Contribution to the Jewish Community.

### **The winners for Young Adults were:**

Gabrielle Stricker–Phelps & Edward Lichtig jointly - Contribution to Australian Society  
Speedy Shatari - Contribution to State of Israel  
Alissa Foster & Raelle Freinkel jointly received Contribution to the Jewish Community  
Gabrielle Agosin & Shayna Slotar for Leadership.

Cassandra Barrett was named winner of the inaugural Joshua Levi Young Professional Award.

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

It is now being edited – there will be an online version and it will also be on our website. It is focused to the curriculum for teachers to refer to. It was reviewed by the Dept of Education, the Catholic Education and the Association of Independent schools.

We are looking to launch it end of this month.

### **The Stop Racism Now campaign:**

We had a lot of delays due to the pandemic. Everyone was naturally pre-occupied with it. But we are starting to make inroads and have received very good support.

On 1 May we are organizing the Harmony Walk and the roll out of our Vision Statement. The Walk will be either at NSW University or in Coogee, where we had one 10 years ago.

### **The AGM**

We welcomed 3 new members – Paul Blanket, Ron Bowen & Dovi Seldowitz. I was installed as President with Edith Brutman as Vice President, Agnes Heffernan as Treasurer, Yona Cass as Secretary and the Committee members, Julia Golding OAM & Michelle Hilton.

Let us appreciate the positives as well as the possibilities and thereby coping with some negatives that hopefully will not occur.

All the best

Ernie



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

Hello Lodge Aviv members,

After a break of a couple of months, we are now in business, soon, to hand over the reins to PP Lea Friedlander and PP Dorrit Mahemoff. We have had a successful three years running Lodge Aviv, and have no doubt, Lea and Dorrit, will come up with new and fresh ideas.

In the meantime, we need to send Nancy Hakim our congratulations on behalf of her son living in Israel, being honoured with the Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's honours.

Mazeltov also to Evelynne Cherny, who enjoyed a special event when her granddaughter Gila, was married in Israel a mere few weeks' ago.

Please note that our monthly meeting which will be our AGM takes place at the BB Centre on **Monday 21st March at 5pm** when we will be installing PP Lea Friedlander and PP Dorrit Mahemoff as Co-Presidents. Installation Officer will be Janine Zimbler, President of B'nai B'rith NSW.

A light supper will be served at the end of evening. Kindly RSVP to Ann Milch for catering purposes. If anyone needs transport, please let us know.

With BB greetings,

John Roozendaal and Ann Milch





## BARGAIN BAZAAR Anna Marks OAM

The AGM for the Bargain Bazaar was held in December, and long standing Chair, Robert Kohn, decided to retire from the position. The shop faced closure but most fortuitously, Jane Lurie stepped up and asked me to join her in managing the shop. Several members of the Committee also decided to step down at the same time. I want to thank them for their hard work and devotion to making the Bargain Bazaar so successful over the recent years.

To add to the changes, the owners of the shop in Cleveland St, asked us to vacate the premises with 2 weeks' notice in October 2021. Fortunately Robert managed to find a pop up shop, the closed Westpac site in Crown St, virtually around the corner from where we used to be. The owner did not want rent which is a great boost for us of course.

Unfortunately with the rise of the pandemic, the shop was closed from Christmas to early February as obviously our volunteers were reluctant to work. However, now the shop is open again and is booming. Donations are flowing in and our volunteers are happy to be coming in again.

The new era in the history of the Bargain Bazaar is slowly unfolding, we are hoping to secure a new site in Hall St Bondi over the coming weeks. I want to thank John Roozendaal for finding these premises, he has been the unofficial and volunteer Real Estate Agent for B'nai B'rith for many years. It is significantly larger than Cleveland St was, but in need of some upgrading.

There have been some silly rumours doing the rounds about the shop. The current terms are that we will have 6 months' rent free, the Annual rent is \$92,000. There are 1 and 2 hr meter parking spaces around the streets adjoining the shop, and 1 hr free across the road at Harris Farm. There is a loading zone outside the shop, so that we can take deliveries. Public Transport is of course easily available from Bondi Junction. The shop is one space away from Vinnies.

I have just come back from Melbourne. Josies, the B'nai B'rith Op shop has been closed for some years, however, my friend took me to Caulfield, and lo and behold, there is Vinnies, a Posh Op shop, (run by a Jewish family, and all proceeds going to charity) a Wizo Op shop and another Op shop sitting right next to each other! Who knows we might be starting a trend.

Of course we would be delighted to welcome new volunteers to man/woman the shop, and also some people willing to do pickups of donations.

Jane and I are very excited and looking forward to carrying on the work of the Bargain Bazaar raising money for B'nai B'rith and the many other charities it has supported in the past.

Anna Marks OAM



New shop in Hall Street, Bondi



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

### Co-Presidents

### Ruby Borer & Amy Forman

The end of last year and the beginning of this one has provided much excitement for BBYO NSW, while giving us a much needed break.

At the end of last year on the 10 December, BBYO held a very successful Family Shabbat Dinner with over 70 people in attendance.

We held this dinner as part of BBYO International, Global Shabbat celebrations. Last years, global shabbat had the theme Hand in Hand (Yad b Yad). To celebrate this, BBYO NSW included parents and grandparents to celebrate an intergenerational shabbat and hosted a holocaust survivor, so that we can help to ensure that her story is never forgotten.

This was also the perfect opportunity for us to say a huge and public thank you to Viv for absolutely everything she is consistently doing for us. Overall, this was a great last event for 2021 and we can't wait to start running more events in March.

After believing that IC 2022 was an unattainable goal for much of the summer holidays, due to the unpredictable COVID situation, I am so glad to report that Caitlin, Ruby and I will be embarking on the journey of a lifetime and joining BBYO Melbourne on their trip to Baltimore for IC on Thursday.

We are so thankful that Hannah and BBYO Melbourne, have offered to take us on this incredible journey and are so excited to be able to bring back everything we learn to BBYO NSW. This is also a great opportunity for us to start an ongoing relationship with BBYO Melbourne.

While in America, we will have the opportunity to learn more about BBYO and how it is run, leadership and Judaism while also seeing some incredible things in America such as the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

We will have the opportunity to go to programs that dive into BBYO Chapter Identity, Calendering, Programing, Peer Management, Recruitment, Tikkun Olam, Anti-Semitism and Israel amongst many other things.

We also want to extend our biggest thank you to all the units at B'nai B'rith for donating money to support us in going on this journey.

We have also started thinking about our board for this year and have made the tentative positions of:

**Ruby/Amy-** Co-Presidents

**Meital-** Vice President

**Devan-** Social Media Liaison

**Sam-** Jewish Enrichment

**Caitlin-** Secretary

These positions will be confirmed after we have returned from the International Convention. We will also add new people to our board at this point, in the positions of treasurer, and recruiter amongst other things.

We are so excited to be back for 2022, and can't wait for an even bigger and better year.





**COURAGE TO CARE**  
**CEO**  
**Ed St John**

As the world slowly begins to return to normal after two years of COVID restrictions, Courage to Care is returning to a full schedule of activities. We have plenty going on over the coming months.

Whilst many restrictions remain in place within the education system, we have a full calendar of classroom bookings in both NSW and Queensland from now to the end of May. This includes a four-day trip to Newcastle in February visiting four schools, a three day visit to Lucas Heights and a four-day visit to Murwillumbah in May.

We'll also be mounting two major exhibitions in 2022. We're due to spend seven weeks at the fabulous Glasshouse at Port Macquarie in July and August, followed by a visit to Canberra in October/November. We're looking forward to achieving great outreach into these communities - and as always, we'll be looking for volunteers who are interested in working with us on these major projects.

Courage to Care will be holding a fundraising lunch on May 4 at the QVB tea rooms. Our guest speaker will be Dr Simon Longstaff, Executive Director of The Ethics Centre and tickets will be sold for \$125 per head. Simon always has some wonderful insights into the state of the world, so we hope you'll be able to join us for what promises to be a great event. Invitations to the lunch will be sent out shortly.

Finally, we need to let you know that we'll be holding volunteer training sessions soon for our classroom education program. If you're interested in volunteering for us in this capacity, the events will be held at B'nai B'rith Centre on Sunday 27th February 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, and Monday 7th March 10:00am - 12:00 pm. To register for this training or for further information, please contact Anna Woolf at [anna@couragetocare.com.au](mailto:anna@couragetocare.com.au).



## PROJECT MANAGER

### Vivienne Radomsky

Dear members and friends,

Another year has come along and we are, as the saying goes, “flat out like a lizard running”, not sure if I have the correct terminology. So much has been happening and our last Communicator in December feels like so long ago. I will try fill you in on all the news.

#### Click & Connect

We finally managed to get up and going at the end of October after a prolonged period of postponement due to Covid. We met throughout the December/January period and will continue until the June Summer break in Israel. Our school is Rimon School in Kfar Yona and we meet once a week on a Thursday at 6pm. We have 5 volunteers working with 10 children. Volunteers work from home and their delightful teacher Shira watches over the them. This is the ultimate ‘feel good’ project, enjoyed by everyone. We are looking for 6 more volunteers as Shira has permission to run another group on a Monday at 7pm and has children wanting to get onto the project. Please contact me at the office 9321 6307 vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au

#### BBYO

**Shabbat with families December 2021:** attended by about 70 people and was a great success. The Shabbat program was run completely by the teens and was a wonderful way to end off the year.

**International Convention:** At the time of writing three of our BBYO teens are in Baltimore at the BBYO International Convention. They joined up with BBYO Vic (UJEB, BJE in Victoria) to make up BBYO Australia. This is a huge learning experience and they will be part of a huge convention with 5000 teens from all over the world. They will report back to the Council upon their return.

Thank you to all B’nai B’rith Units and the Sydney Charitable Trust who contributed funds at the end of 2021 to make this possible.

**New Board positions and new kids coming in:** positions for the BBYO board for 2022 have been allocated as we needed to formalize this before Amy, Ruby and Caitlyn travelled to convention.  
Co-Presidents - Amy Forman and Ruby Borer  
Vice - President - Meital Gertel  
Social Media – Devan Bloch  
Jewish Enrichment – Samuel Raichman  
Secretary – Caitlyn Gordon

**New people:** We have a few teens who have indicated that they are keen to join the BBYO board and this will be addressed once the girls get back from IC at the end of February.

#### Survey in development

To be sent out to all BB members as well as prospective people on database, to determine how we can better meet their needs, become more cohesive and grow our organisation.

**Kabbalah Exhibition** written and designed by Dovi Seldowitz at BB Centre 13 March to 3 April 2022

The Kabbalah exhibition is the first of its kind in Australia and will be on at the B’nai B’rith Centre.

Please take note of all the interesting events planned around the exhibition.

#### Opening hours are:

**Monday to Thursday 10am – 4pm and Sunday 10am – 4pm.**

Please call the office and let us know that you will be coming as we have to adhere to strict Covid protocol.

[To view all Kabbalah Exhibition events, please visit the B’nai B’rith website \(CLICK HERE\).](#)



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

Dear Members,

There were highs and lows for our Unit over the recent summer months.

Among the highs was the annual end-of-year dinner at the Piemonte Restaurant in Terrey Hills on 8 December when over 30 Members and some friends enjoyed a convivial evening together.

During the dinner the significant efforts by Marsha Lake, Sharon Dobson and Miriam Kluger for our Unit were acknowledged. It was nice to see our new members Vernon and Anita Amler participating.

That was preceded a few days earlier when our members participated in the Chanukah afternoon tea sponsored by B'nai B'rith NSW Council. Council also subsidised the mini-bus used to transport some members from the North Shore.

Another high was the election of our member James Altman to a position of Senior Vice President of B'nai B'rith International. Congratulations Jim.

Sadly there were lows with the passing of two of our members. One was Dr Emily Matters OAM who had only a few weeks earlier given us a talk on

the impact of Ancient Greece on modern society.

The other was Lawrence Lake who had been our Unit's Treasurer since the merger of Kadimah Unit and North Shore Unit. He had been a stalwart on our executive committee.

You will already have received a flyer advising our next outing which is a brunch at the Tasting Deck restaurant, also in Terrey Hills, on 27 February. It would be nice to see many of you there, subject to any health regulations that may arise. Please notify Sharon if you are coming.

On Sunday the 20th March at 2.45pm, we will have a talk via Zoom by Dr Larry Vogelnest, Senior Veterinarian at Taronga Zoo. RSVP by: Thursday, 17 March 2022 to Marsha Lake 0417 249 701  
Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82889510406?pwd=QmkxN08xNTBMLU9LWkUvTVFyYjJMUT09>  
Meeting ID: 828 8951 0406 Passcode: 744050  
See flyer on page 21.

I wish Leon Lurie success in his ongoing treatment, and to Henry Roberts a speedy recovery following his recent operation.

Congratulations to Leonie and David Lipa on the birth of a grandson in December.

Yours sincerely

David Laufer



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

Just to let everyone know that we will be up and running again in April and holding our meetings once again at BBRV Rose Bay. Details will follow.

Eli



## SYD EINFELD UNIT (SEU)

### President David Samuels

What was to be one of the highlights of 2022 for our Unit, our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon, had to be postponed for the third time due to Covid rearing its ugly head again. Our Executive is now trying to work out a suitable date when this function can be held but at the moment who knows.

We had our first Executive meeting last Thursday night and a number of events have been planned over the coming months.

Our first “Sussing Out Sydney” walk was the 16<sup>th</sup> February between Green Square and Zetland. This is a must do excursion if you missed it. Beautiful blue skies and a light cooling breeze complemented the amazing new architecture along with the old historical buildings and parks, and even a few mini boab trees.

The walking is leisurely, plenty of shade and seating and opportunities for coffee and bathrooms along the way. And at the end of the walk, we had lunch at a Japanese restaurant – who could ask for more?

There are many interesting sights on this easy walk and all members and friends are invited to attend. There is a free app from either the Apple App Store or Google Play which gives you an easy to follow route and an excellent commentary which is just right in length.

Our first regular meeting for the year was held on 20<sup>th</sup> February. Our guest speaker Doron Lazarus, spoke on the magnificent project “Save a Childs Heart”. Which was held in person at Barker Street and was also over Zoom.

All being well we hope to have a Pot Luck Dinner in March, a Trivia Quiz in April along with a combined Pesach Picnic in Centennial Park during April, a School Debate in May amongst others. Further details of all these events will shortly be published in our Newsletter.

David Samuels





## WOMANPOWER UNIT (WPU)

**Co-Presidents**  
**Nina Blair & Belinda Levy**

We have met many times during the holiday period to brainstorm ideas for activities for Womanpower. We have come up with some novel events planned for 2022.

We held a North Shore Dinner for 13 Ladies at Lane Cove on a Sunday night in early February. We were proud to include 4 North Shore ladies who enjoyed telling us about The Canopy group of new restaurants at Lane Cove. Despite the heavy downpour of rain we enjoyed catching up with each other. We hope to continue our Sunday night dinners at a variety of restaurants in some 'unfamiliar' suburbs including Newtown.

**Helping the plight of Afghani Women**  
Womanpower has always been committed to the plight of Women in countries where they have not been given equal opportunity, education and freedom.

For many years, we have had the privilege of having had Dr Ida Lichter address many of our Womanpower gatherings. Ida educated and informed us about the plight of Afghani Women.

We have seen movies of the tragic life they have had to endure.

Fast forward to 2022 and we find ourselves in the same situation as the Taliban once more took over the running of Afghanistan and the harsh restrictions returned.

When the Taliban took over the ruling of Afghanistan for the second time and we heard about the difficult situation for Women, some of our members said that we need to do something to help.

Nina contacted Linda Ben Menashe at the Board of Deputies and she was able to put us in touch with an Afghan Women's movement here in Sydney called "Afghan Women on the Move." After many Zoom meetings we finally arranged a bus trip out to Blacktown to see their Art exhibition, "My Life My Story" – a bold and confronting exhibition. We were privileged to see the displayed works and for them to be explained to us by Maryam Zahid who heads the organisation.

International Womens Day Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 7.30 pm at BB Centre

In 2021, Womanpower supported the Bayside Women's Shelter. This year we would like to continue to do this and have managed to get the General Manager of the Shelter, Sallianne Faulkner to be our guest speaker. Please join us to hear about the remarkable success of the Women's Shelter.

Belinda Levy and Nina Blair





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

**Save The Date**

The triannual B'nai B'rith Convention will be held this year in Melbourne from Friday afternoon 9<sup>th</sup> September to Tuesday morning 13<sup>th</sup> September, which is two weeks before Rosh Hashanah. A full social and informative program is being organised, with one highlight being the visit by the new International President of B'nai B'rith Seth Reklin to update us on international activities and to install the new Board of Governors team. We'd love to see you there, so please save the date.

In Victoria we are working on the following issues:

- A new website. Our current website is looking old and is hard to navigate. Under the umbrella of BBANZ a totally modern version is being built.
- Restarting regular meetings of our five Units - COVID permitting.
- Implementing our strategic plan which focuses on strengthening and supporting the activities and projects we are working on and ensuring that the community has a greater awareness of who B'nai B'rith is and our importance in the fabric of the Victorian Jewish and wider community
- Setting up a Scholarship and Cultural Fund
- Exploring opportunities for partnerships with other community organisations

The world we live in is rapidly changing in front of our eyes. The communist States of Russia and China are becoming more nationalistic and assertive, whilst our ally the USA is struggling with internal divisions.

Israel too is transforming rapidly. Contrary to predictions from pundits, Israel has increasingly become the centre of global Jewish life. With a rising Jewish population and a growing economy its per capita GDP today is on a par with advanced economies of Europe and SE Asia. Pockets of poverty still exist, but Israel's dependence on Diaspora Jews is diminishing. This has many flow on effects, but one local one for us is the work of our Israel Commission.

This project is being ably run by Danielle Schilling who has steered it for the past six years, taking over from Anna Marks OAM. Anna took it over from the late Sonia Kempler. Story has it that when Sonia started (and Israel was a small agricultural country), transfer of funds to Israel was not so easy, so she smuggled the dollar bills in her underwear on her frequent trips to visit our projects. Danielle now rightly feels that the Israel Commission would benefit from working with other organisations in Melbourne to continue our support of Israel and learn with and from them.

My term as President of BBVic finishes next month, so I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our staff and volunteers, with special thanks to Anna Marks and Jenny Mandel who fostered better links between our Victoria and NSW members.

Benny Monheit

President BBVic

# This is my Legacy

Jean Lederer by Ori Golan



*It started off with 24 little units for elderly people.*

*Now there are 129 residents living in 114 units. Jean Lederer was the secretary of B'nai B'rith Parents' Home, and then its treasurer. She reflects on a lifetime involvement with the organisation.*

Jean Lederer is a warm, gracious and charming nonagenarian, greeting me into her home on the North Shore – the place she has lived in for over 7 decades. “I came here as a young bride,” she announces. We sit in a sunlit room with a beautiful garden in the background. “It’s no fun being old,” she warns me, “there are hiccups, here and there, health and mental. I have just lost my driving licence and my gardener who has been with me for 40 years has fallen sick, so it has been a bad year 2021, but – still – I manage to step over each hurdle and land on my feet. This is a my ‘pick me up’ approach,” she says, breaking into a good-natured laugh.

In spite of her 90 years, Lederer is still as sharp as a tack and able to evoke names, times and anecdotes from her younger years with ease and clarity. Last year, she recalls, the maritime museum called for anyone in possession of ships’ tickets from the 1940s to donate them. “Now, my husband came from Vienna and he had a cardboard box of souvenirs.

I fetched it and in it I found tickets and brochures of his ship’s journey to Australia, so I donated it to them and instantly became a local hero at the Maritime museum.” It is an example of her can do -will do, altruistic character.

She describes herself as a ‘native’. Her parents came to Australia in 1926, but she was born here, in Australia, and went to school in Dover Heights in Sydney’s eastern suburbs.

“I had a lovely youth. My parents came from an orthodox background and I grew up with Jewish people. When I finished school, I went to business college. My father ran a successful family business of trimmings and braids, for children’s singlets and ladies underwear. When he fell sick. I was promoted to business management. My education in business college meant that I could read a balance sheet.” She ran her father’s business, an enterprise that comprised 12 employees.

Around this time she heard of B’nai B’rith.

“I grew up and matured with BB,” she summarises. “I joined the organisation because friends of ours were involved with them. We were very young and very naïve. I had no idea why I should be there but before I knew it, I was on the steering committee and got to know all the hoi polloi in the organisation. There were no more than ten people at most. In those days the males were called lodges and the women in chapters. They met separately but joined on these committees. The aim was benevolence; they would look for projects to do for the community at large.”

At around this time, she and her husband, Walter, joined the first team of volunteers at B’nai B’rith. It started with gifts for the residents of the Montefiore Home for Rosh Hashana. “Then we took 20 children once a month to different places for a day out. We had barbecues and picnics in parks. We even went to the airport behind the scenes to see the aeroplanes land and take off!” she chuckles. “I must tell you that the there was a reunion of these children 10 years ago and one of the gentlemen said that the best thing they enjoyed was the picnics we had organised for them.”

“We also started a charity shop. Everything was voluntary. I ask you: what is a volunteer? A volunteer is a person with a heart, who does things without any thought of reward.”

“During a welfare committee meeting it emerged that the government had made an announcement, offering \$2 dollars for every \$1 that an organisation would invest in building housing for elderly people. At the time there were no retirement villages,” she recalls, “and we, the welfare committee, thought: what a good idea.”

“Back then,” she tells me, “if you found it difficult to look after your home you either went to an old people’s home, or the Montefiore home.”

So, was the Parents Home born of necessity?

“Yes, although, at the time, we didn’t know what to call this project. We didn’t want to call it an ‘old people’s home’ but then came the idea to call it a “Parents’ Home”, meaning a place where people of the age of parents and grandparents could live independently and with dignity.”

“The idea was that Mrs Green in Coogee and Mr Blanche in Maroubra could live in the same complex, so that when one had the flu, the other could make lockshen soup for her,” she exemplifies, with humour.

This, in essence, is how the idea of finding suitable, affordable accommodation for members of the community, took roots.

“In 1958 the idea grew. It was a big undertaking, and it took a long while to find the land. We slogged and worked until enough money was raised to build the first of the Parents’ Homes, on a piece of land in Waitara, in the North Shore of Sydney.”

Founding the retirement villages was the crowning success of her work with B’nai B’rith. She was the Secretary for ten years and then its treasurer where she quietly and efficiently carried out her duties.

Not that it has always been smooth sailing and harmonious. There have been occasions where Jean has had to step in to soothe, placate and serve as intermediary when disagreements arose around issues of religious practices and personality clashes. “There was also the case of the gentile,” she remembers. “A non-Jewish elderly woman applied for housing. The other residents kicked up a fuss. But the law says we cannot refuse and we did not.”

“Do you know how B’nai B’rith got started?”, she asks me, eager to answer the question. “It started in Washington DC. Well, the Polish Jews didn’t like the German Jews; the French Jews didn’t like the Spanish Jews. Suddenly this fellow said ‘this is ridiculous’. He and a few friends created B’nai B’rith where *all* Jews, regardless of their religious or political stripes, could come together. They are all Jews and that’s all that counts.

## Click&Connect - English for Kids

Its 5.30pm and I sit apprehensively at my computer, the zoom meeting open. I'm the only one on my screen. It's Thursday evening and Click & Connect is about to start. I hope my new breakout room skills are up to the task.

At 5.45pm our volunteers start to appear; we greet and discuss the session. Our topic for this evening, the themes the kids are they doing in class, and if we can we relate it to their curriculum. Should we just let the children take over and play a game of wordles? What does Shira, the teacher say?

I'm silently going over the steps to put everyone into their breakout rooms as fast as possible. I don't want to waste precious time. I have my list ready in front of me but with the Covid outbreak rampant, who knows who will be at school today and then I have to reorganize the group quickly.

Click & Connect is a nonprofit organisation aimed at empowering disadvantaged Israeli children with English skills. Our volunteers meet once a week with the children on zoom and we converse in English. The aim is to get their skills to a level where they are proficient enough for university entrance once they leave school. B'nai B'rith NSW took on the program in early 2020 and after extended hitches due to Covid, managed to start up in October 2021. We currently work with one school and 8 volunteers with the plan to extend.

At 6pm, the kids start arriving, Daniel the dragon slayer, Itay the artist, Guy with his big smile who repeats words to get his pronunciation right and Shira, their teacher who supervises them lovingly, her pride in them palpable. Young eager faces appear in the waiting room, ready to speak with their volunteer, tell their news for the week and practice their English. I work fast, ticking off the names and assigning the kids and adult volunteers into their rooms. Then it's quiet; they're together, chatting, creating connections, having fun.

I wait in the main room to see if we have any latecomers, internet connection is not always reliable, and then holding my breath, I sneak into a room to see what's happening. I'm hardly noticed, they're so busy chatting, getting to know one another and trying out new words.

In no time it's all over, the kids have to go to their next class and they sign off. The volunteers stay after for a debrief, we're all excited to relate how the session went. It's clear that it's not only the kids who are benefitting from this interaction. Research has proven that social interaction is vital for our wellbeing and Click & Connect is the ultimate "feel good" project.

Shira has mentioned that she has a waiting list of kids keen to join the project and asked if I can get more volunteers.

**So here is the call out:**

**Do you want to join our Click & Connect program?**

**One hour a week, on zoom, speaking to kids in Israel to help them improve their English.**

**What you need: Working with Children Check, computer with internet, a sense of fun and love for our children.**

**Please contact me and I will let you know how to get in on the fun: [vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au](mailto:vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au) (02) 9321 6307**



Empowering disadvantaged Israeli children with English Skills

Our Click & Connect project is expanding and we are looking for more volunteers to join us

Enjoy conversing with Israeli children in English to improve their skills

Where: From the comfort of your home on zoom

When: Mondays 7pm – 8pm (ongoing)

What you need: Working with Children Check, a sense of fun, a desire to help, a love of children, internet access

The power to help change a child's destiny is within each of us

To join: Vivienne on [vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au](mailto:vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au) or call 9321 6307



Yerucham Association  
For the Future of Education in Israel



**Friday 4th March 2022**

**10.30am -12.00pm**

**Morning tea with guest speaker**

**Heather Morris**

**Talking about her new book "Three Sisters"**

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Three Sisters is a beautiful story of hope in the hardest of times and of finding love after loss. Two of the sisters are alive in Israel today, surrounded by friends and family. They have chosen Heather Morris to tell their story in Three Sisters.

Heather Morris is the global bestselling author of The Tattooist of Auschwitz and Cilka's Journey, which have sold eight million copies worldwide. Three Sisters is her third novel, and the final piece in the phenomenon that is the Tattooist of Auschwitz series.

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**Date:** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**Time:** 10.30am Sydney /9.30am Brisbane

**Location:** B'nai B'rith centre – 17 Barker Street, Kensington or Zoom. Due to Covid restrictions please RSVP by 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86327443300?pwd=RlBwTUptUmNRMUNTOfU0bEJOd0t6Zz09>

Meeting ID: 863 2744 3300

Passcode: 084953

For any questions please Email: [Anna@couragetocare.com.au](mailto:Anna@couragetocare.com.au)



Please come and celebrate

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



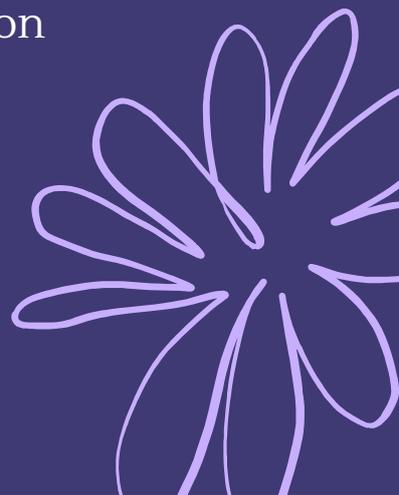
Guest speaker: Sallianne Faulkner  
General Manager  
Bayside Women's Shelter  
(The project Womanpower has been supporting)



Sunday 6 March 2022  
7.30pm for coffee & dessert  
B'nai B'rith Centre, 17 Barker Street Kensington  
Cost: \$10

B'nai B'rith Womanpower Unit BSB 062236  
A/c Number 010038397 (please add your name)

RSVP to Nina Blair by 2 March  
[pnnb@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pnnb@optusnet.com.au)





## **NORTH SHORE KADIMAH UNIT 3501 Inc.**

Welcome Members, Family and Friends of B'nai B'rith  
to join us for an enlightening 'Zoom' talk from

### **Dr Larry Vogelnest**

**BVSc (Hons), MVetStud (Wild Med Husb), MANZCVS (Zoo Medicine), PSM  
Senior Veterinarian, Taronga Zoo Sydney**



#### **"The Art in my Surgery"**

Larry graduated from the University of Sydney. He has been employed by the Taronga Conservation Society Australia since 1990 where he is responsible for the health of the Zoo's animal population and native wildlife admitted to the Taronga Wildlife Hospital. Larry is a member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists by examination in Zoo Medicine. He was awarded a Public Service Medal for his contribution to conservation medicine and service to the Taronga Conservation Society Australia and is recipient of the Barry L. Munday Award, recognising his significant contributions to wildlife health made by a member of the Wildlife Diseases Association, Australasia. He is principal editor of 'Medicine of Australian Mammals' (2008) and author and co-author on several chapters; author and editor of 'Radiology of Australian Mammals' (2015) and principal editor of 'Current Therapy in Medicine of Australian Mammals' (2019) and author of several chapters. He has also authored several other book chapters and authored or co-authored several peer reviewed journal publications.

Larry specialises in the health and reproductive management of small populations including ex situ breeding programs for endangered species. He has participated in and advised on both in situ and ex situ components of numerous conservation projects, both in Australia and overseas. He has extensive experience with preventative medicine programs, zoonotic disease management, chemical restraint, reproductive management, clinical medicine and rescue and rehabilitation of Australian wildlife. His experience extends across mammalian, avian, reptilian and amphibian taxa.

**on  
SUNDAY, 20 MARCH 2022  
at  
2.45pm**

**RSVP by: Thursday, 17 March 2022 to: Marsha Lake on mobile: 0417 249 701**

**Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82889510406?pwd=QmkxN08xNTBLMU9LWkUvTVFyajJMUT09>  
Meeting ID: 828 8951 0406 Passcode: 744050**

**An exciting talk not to be missed !!**

**SPECIAL EVENT**

# THE KABBALAH EXHIBITION OPENING DAY PANEL

**SUNDAY 13 MARCH 2022 – 11AM-12PM**

**B'NAI B'RITH CENTRE 17 BARKER ST KENSINGTON NSW 2033**

Join us at our special panel event marking the opening of the Kabbalah Exhibition at the B'nai B'rith Centre. The panel will share and discuss a wide range of views on Jewish mysticism, Kabbalah, and its relationship to Jewish history and tradition.



#### About our Panellists:

Rabbi Dr. **Orna Triguboff** (PhD, University of Sydney), founder of Neshama Life: "Kabbalah for the Soul", teaches Kabbalah texts in Sydney and specialises in Jewish mystical texts dealing with angels. Orna is a yoga and meditation teacher, and facilitates courses in Kabbalah text, meditation, mindfulness, and leads 10-day spiritual tours to Israel.

Rabbanit **Judith Levitan** is a lawyer with over 15 years' experience in the field of social justice. She is a member of the Jewish Alliance Against Family Violence, runs women's *tefillah* services and teaches bat mitzvah. Judith received her rabbinic ordination (*smicha*) from Yeshivat Maharat in New York. She is the Religious Program Coordinator at Maroubra Synagogue and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council of Jewish Women Australia.

**Dovi Seldowitz** is the creator of the Kabbalah Exhibition (B'nai B'rith, 2022) and a PhD candidate studying Sociology at UNSW. His research concerns social change in religion and the growth of women's leadership in Hasidic communities. Dovi received his rabbinical ordination from the Central Lubavitch Yeshiva in Brooklyn.

#### **RSVP Required to meet COVID restrictions**

*To RSVP and for more information, please contact:*  
**vivienne.radomsky@bbnsw.org.au – (02) 9321 6307**



**KABBALAH  
EXHIBITION**

**About the Kabbalah Exhibition:**  
*Running 13 March – 3 April 2022 at B'nai B'rith, the exhibition offers the Sydney Jewish community a unique overview of the 2,000-year social history of Jewish mysticism and Kabbalah.*



**SPECIAL EVENTS**

# THE KABBALAH EXHIBITION EVENT SCHEDULE

**13 MAR – 3 APRIL 2022**

**B'NAI B'RITH CENTRE 17 BARKER ST KENSINGTON NSW 2033**

Join us throughout the Kabbalah Exhibition for special events hosted at the B'nai B'rith Centre.

## EXHIBITION EVENTS

<b>SUN 13 MAR</b>	<b>11AM</b>	<b>OPEN DAY PANEL</b> WITH RABBI DR ORNA TRIGUBOFF, RABBANIT JUDITH LEVITAN, DOVI SELDOWITZ	
<b>TUE 15 MAR</b>	<b>5PM</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL LECTURE: "SEEKERS OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY"</b> WITH ZEVI SLAVIN (VIA ZOOM)	
<b>SUN 20 MAR</b>	<b>11AM</b>	<b>GUIDED TOUR OF THE EXHIBITION</b> WITH DOVI SELDOWITZ	
<b>TUE 22 MAR</b>	<b>6PM</b>	<b>MEDITATION WORKSHOP</b> WITH RABBI MICHAEL GOURARIE	<b>TICKETS: \$10</b>
<b>THUR 24 MAR</b>	<b>6PM</b>	<b>MEDITATION WORKSHOP</b> WITH RABBI DR ORNA TRIGUBOFF	<b>TICKETS: \$10</b>
<b>SAT 26 MAR</b>	<b>8PM</b>	<b>MUSICAL HAVDALAH CEREMONY</b> WITH BBYO & MARCUBRA SYNAGOGUE	<b>TICKETS: \$10</b>
<b>SUN 27 MAR</b>	<b>11AM</b>	<b>YOGA WORKSHOP</b> WITH RABBI DR ORNA TRIGUBOFF	<b>TICKETS: \$10</b>

**RSVP Required to meet COVID restrictions**

To RSVP and for more information, please contact:  
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