



# B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW



Celebrating 75 years of B'nai B'rith

B'nai B'rith Victoria Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge - Instituted, 20 May 1945

## Message from the President: Modern Plagues

Sometimes it feels to me that we are living back in biblical times with droughts, fires, floods, locusts, darkness from dense smoke and strange new respiratory illnesses killing some humans. If we add depression, social alienation, drug addiction and anti-semitism to the list, we have 10 modern plagues to worry about.

So what is B'nai B'rith doing about all this? B'nai B'rith is a Jewish service organisation committed to Jewish Unity, Diversity, and Continuity. We have five Units and a central office through which we run 15 different activities in Victoria (see list below). Many of our projects impact on social inclusion, the environment and dealing with anti-semitism. I was reminded of the impact B'nai B'rith is having when I attended the recent Welcome Back function for the secondary school teachers who participated in the Raoul Wallenberg Study Grants program at Yad Vashem. The teachers' three week trip is funded by Gandel Philanthropy, individual donors and fundraising by BBVic members. On return to Melbourne, the teachers (who were all non-Jewish and were teaching at non-Jewish schools) spoke articulately and emotionally about their experiences on the Israel trip and how it changed their world view and their teaching strategies. Some cried during their presentation to us from the impact it had on them. The flow on effect to schools and students can be long lasting.

Well done to Raoul Wallenberg Unit and all involved in this brilliant project. Congratulations also to our members Harry Better and Marlis Cohen on their OAM awards at the Australia Day celebrations. We are proud of you. Sincere thanks from all at B'nai B'rith are due to Howard Elton, Robert Wald and David Boymal AM for their long and professional management of our investment funds following the sale of the Lodge Home nearly ten years ago. These funds have helped to keep us afloat, so well done. The task and challenge will continue.

Our 75th anniversary of B'nai B'rith in Victoria is fast approaching. A fabulous gala dinner function is being organised by an enthusiastic committee; so keep the evening of Sunday 17th May free for that event. Other functions in the coming months are listed in the calendar on the back page of this Preview and on Unit pages. Please come and bring your friends.

The list of our 15 projects are:

Showcase Musical, Youth Art Competition, Israel Commission, Fellowship, Speakers Forum, Menorah Awards, BB Parents Home, Jenny Goldberg Scholarship, Bernard Lustig Scholarship, Courage to Care, Click and Connect, Calico Dolls, Ramblers & Yad Vashem Teachers Study Grants.



*Benny*

**Benny Monheit**

## Message from the BBANZ President



Dear Members and Friends,

This year has not started out well. With the continuing drought and heatwaves, the devastating bushfires and now the deadly Coronavirus, we can only hope for better times ahead.

On behalf of all of us on the Board of Governors, we would like to thank every individual, every Unit and every activity that has helped in contributing to our Bush Fire Appeal. We have to date raised in excess of \$30,000 and part of the money has already been distributed and the rest will soon be going also to the Australian Lions Foundation for immediate distribution to those whose lives have been impacted by these terrible bush fires.

Last year, New South Wales B'nai B'rith celebrated its 75th Anniversary and this year it is Victoria's year, with an appropriate function planned in May in Melbourne.

We have many challenges ahead, the main challenge being that of continuity. Obviously, no one person has the answer and we can only do the best we can by supporting each Unit's functions and projects. It will be a major topic during the year at our Board of Governors' meetings.

Another challenge will be how we handle the continued incidents of anti-semitism. Only recently in Wellington New Zealand, the Synagogue was defaced with anti-semitic slogans. With new issues and problems seemingly arising every other day and with technology changing continually, it is difficult to realise that this is still the same world we grew up in as children. As an organisation, B'nai B'rith along with all like minded organisations must learn to stand up to and deal with these issues.

*David Samuels*

david.samuels@bbnsw.org.au

### MAJOR BBVic EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY:

#### March:

**Sunday 1st March** - Climate Change seminar

**Tuesday 3rd & 17th March** - Current Affairs (Series 4)

**Sunday 15th March** - In One Voice festival

**Sunday 22nd March** - Speakers Forum

*Save the Date*

**SUNDAY 17TH MAY**

**BBVIC 75TH**

**ANNIVERSARY**

### HAVE YOU LIKED OUR FACEBOOK PAGE? STAY UP TO DATE WITH ALL THINGS BBVic!



BnaiBrithVic



bbvic.org



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# RAOUL WALLENBERG UNIT

**Co-President:** Simone Markus  
**Co-President:** Jacqui Dinor-Corry  
**Secretary:** Minnie Kahan  
**Preview:** Josh Kahan



[rwu@bbvic.net](mailto:rwu@bbvic.net)

*We deeply mourn the passing of our Brother Dr Lewis Lustig. May his memory be a blessing.*

## What's on in March:

### Tuesday 3

7:00pm Israel & the Jewish world, preceded by a Memorial Service for Dr Eric Taft AM and a farewell to Rabbi Prof Bert & Mrs Haya Mond who are making Aliyah.  
 Guest Speaker: Ron James "Hot off the Press".

### Wednesday 11

12:00pm Programming Meeting  
 7:30pm Executive meeting

### Sunday 22

2:30pm Speakers Forum  
 Speaker: Jamie Hyams, Senior Analyst at AIJAC (and former Mayor of Caulfield) on the topic of Israel and the Middle East, dealing with change or changing the deal.  
 Musical entertainment by Sharon Mattatia.

## Coming up in April:

*There will be no meetings in April due to the Yom Tovim.*

### Wednesday 22

9:00am - 5:00pm Bus trip to the Dandenongs. \$40 pp.  
 Visit the rhododendron garden, optional picnic lunch at Skyline Restaurant or BYO, feeding the birds and leisure time in Olinda/Sassafras.

**Thinking of you:** We wish a speedy recovery to all those who have been ill.

### Recent Donations:

**Raoul Wallenberg Unit gave a donation to the Bush Fire Appeal.**



# GESHER-RABIN UNIT

**Co-President:** Karin Zafir  
**Co-President:** Leon Nissen  
**Secretary:** Sue Moskowitz  
**Preview:** Tom & Karin Zafir



[gesher@bbvic.net](mailto:gesher@bbvic.net)

## What's on in March:

**Sunday 1** 10:00am - 12:00pm **Volunteering that morning for Clean-Up Australia Day**, corner Inkerman & Normanby Roads, North Caulfield - <https://www.trybooking.com/BIIVP>  
 2:00-5:00pm **B'nai B'rith Environment Day** - Learn about navigating the often-confusing world of waste reduction plus other options for making our world a better place to live. Find out what you can do!  
*Topics include:*  
*How and what to recycle, Reduce plastic dependence, More efficient energy consumption, Lowering carbon footprint, Re-using and repurposing existing materials.*  
*Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BHBOA>*

**Sunday 22** 6:00pm **Dinner Get-together**

### 2:30pm Speakers Forum

Speaker: Jamie Hyams, Senior Analyst at AIJAC (and former Mayor of Caulfield) on the topic of Israel and the middle east, dealing with change or changing the deal. Musical entertainment by Sharon Mattatia.

**Sunday 29** 8:00am - 4:00pm **Bunnings Sausage Sizzle** – Warrigal Road, Moorabbin. Volunteers required for 2 hour shifts.

## Coming up in April:

**Thursday 9** **Second Night Seder** – Aspendale Gardens.



Photo from Gesher Rabin's 2019 New Years Eve celebration



'Not Quite Australia Day Picnic'

# UNIT AKIBA

**Co-President:** Helen Fisher  
**Co-President:** Peter Schattner  
**Secretary:** Annette Gladwin  
**Preview:** Henry Gladwin



[akiba@bbvic.net](mailto:akiba@bbvic.net)

## What's on in March:

**Friday 13 to Sunday 15**

Akiba's Weekend Away to Phillip Island.

**Thursday 19** 8:00pm - 9:30pm **The Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club** - The meeting will review the book "Jews and Words" by Amos Oz and Fania Oz-Salzberger.  
 Presenter and host: Rae Popper  
 New members are always welcome

**Sunday 22** 7:00pm **Executive Committee meeting, followed by our Regular meeting at 8:00pm and a Jewish Cultural Enrichment Program (JCEP) presentation.** This will feature the next instalment in the 'Jewish Giants' series, when Mark Rubinstein will speak about the life and times of Benjamin Grossbaum (aka Ben Graham).

## Coming up in April:

**Sunday 19** 7:00pm **Executive Committee meeting. Followed by our Regular meeting**

Unit Akiba's lunch at the Royal Brighton Yacht Club, following our beach walk on Sunday January 19th



Unit Akiba's annual soiree held on, Saturday February 15th, which raised \$750 for the bushfire relief appeal.

# HATIKVAH UNIT

**President:** Paula Messer

**Acting Vice-President:** Claude Fromm

**Treasurer:** Orly Dar

**Preview:** Judith Steinberg



[hatikvah@bbvic.net](mailto:hatikvah@bbvic.net)

## What's on in March:

**Sunday 29** 8:00pm **Regular Meeting**, Speaker Helen Messer Speaking about the logistics of booking a holiday and possibly highlights of her recent trip to Norway.

## Coming up in April:

**Sunday 5** 10:00am-12:30pm **Calico Dolls**

**Sunday 26** 11:00am-12:30pm **ANZAC Day Walk and Lunch**, guided walk along Maling Road,

# B'NAI B'RITH RAMBLERS

**Chair:** Vardit Sacks-Davis

**Secretary:** Tania Tobias

**Preview Secretary & Mail Out:** Judy Winikoff

**Treasurer:** Irena Blonder



[enquiries@bbramblers.org.au](mailto:enquiries@bbramblers.org.au)

## What's on in March:

**Sunday 1st** Morning: Harvey will lead an interpretive walk in Bittern (SOMW standard)

**Wednesday 18** Morning: Midweek walk in the Ashburton/Glen Iris/Burwood area, led by Judy.

**Sunday 22nd** Morning: Tania will lead a SOHW walk, the Monda track, in Yarra Ranges National Park

Monda Track



# MELBOURNE MITZVAH LODGE

*President: Garry Fabian*

*Preview: Russell Stern*



[mitzvah@bbvic.net](mailto:mitzvah@bbvic.net)

## What's on in March:

**Wednesday 11** MML Regular Meeting

**Monday 16** *Book Club* - Book to be discussed "The Cartographer" by Peter Twohig.

**Sunday 22** 2:30pm **Speakers Forum**

Speaker: Jamie Hyams, Senior Analyst at AIJAC (and former Mayor of Caulfield) on the topic of Israel and the middle east, dealing with change or changing the deal. Musical entertainment by Sharon Mattatia

**Wednesday 25** 8:00pm Mameloshen

## Coming up in April:

**Sunday 19** 2:30pm **HOLD THE DATE** - Melbourne Mitzvah member Dr Paul Gardner's book, "The Unsung Family Hero", a true story about a family member during the Holocaust in Holland, will be launched at an event co-sponsored by BBVic, Courage to Care and King David School.

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE** - Funds raised support Jewish VCE students (from low income families) at Independent Jewish & State Schools. If you would like to make a donation, please email: [devorahz@zmood.net](mailto:devorahz@zmood.net) or post to Making A Difference, B'nai B'rith Victoria, 306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield Vic 3162.

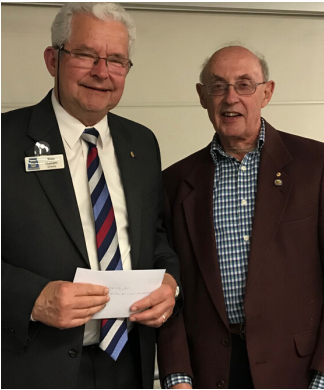


### RE-SPECS GLASSES COLLECTION FOR RECIPIENTS IN ISRAEL

Could members please have a clear-out of their drawers and bring any unwanted glasses/sunglasses to our next meeting. The glasses frames are recycled and fitted with new lenses for the needy in Israel through the Re-Specs project. Also if anyone is intending travelling to Israel and would be able to take a small 500g pack of frames with them please catch up with me at our next meeting or *email me* [yvonneelton@ozemail.com.au](mailto:yvonneelton@ozemail.com.au) and I will provide more details.

Thanking you for supporting this project,

# B'nai B'rith Foundation



In response to the devastation caused by bushfires this summer, B'nai B'rith members and supporters have responded with wonderful generosity – over \$31,000 has been contributed to the Bushfires Appeal which we launched in mid-November. Already at that time, there were many areas of NSW and Queensland that had been seriously affected. We weren't to know how much worse it would become, with the impact including Victoria and South Australia, with huge areas of forests and towns destroyed, properties razed and lives lost. I personally know two families who have lost their homes on the NSW South Coast. The wonderful contribution of our volunteer fire fighters has been recognised widely, and B'nai B'rith endorses that recognition whole-heartedly.

As with the 2019 Drought Appeal, we have decided to channel our financial support through the Australian Lions Foundation (ALF). Lions Clubs in all the affected areas are working with local communities in providing assistance wherever required to those in need. We have received a briefing from ALF as to the detailed work they are doing – here are some of the key points.

**Victoria:** There have been two areas impacted in Victoria, being the Gippsland area and the Northern Eastern part of the State from Wangaratta through Corryong and surrounds. Gippsland support is being combined with South Coast New South Wales because of the logistics and area and NE Vic separately. The main needs for the NE Vic areas have been support for the farming communities as this is the major industry in this area. Local clubs have provided essential needs as previously described and the ALF has assisted with funding for transport of donated hay and fodder to the area.

**NSW:** Northern NSW has assisted individual families with the provision of 20 water tanks. These were supplied by the ALF and installed locally through Lions and refilled with water. Additional funding has been provided to purchase fencing material from suppliers which will be erected as boundary fences in properties adjacent to main roads.

**South Coast NSW / Gippsland** border areas is the largest geographic area impacted by the fires. Funding has been provided for initial needs, relocation assistance, supply and installation of new water tanks, supply of tools and equipment to assist local residents with the maintenance and clean up needs they have and can undertake themselves. Water and fodder for farms have also been provided. The focus in this area will now concentrate on recovery assistance as more longer term needs are determined.

Thanks to all our donors for your generous support.

James Altman  
Chair, B'nai B'rith Foundation



## In One Voice Festival Sunday 15 March



Are you able to give an hour or two on the Sunday (*from 8.30am - 5:00 pm*) to help set up/dismantle and/or staff our stall and inform people about BBVic and hand out pamphlets?

This is a wonderful way for us to inform members of the community who and what we are and of all the good works and interesting projects that BBVic undertakes - and that it's our 75th active year in Victoria - a wonderful feat for any organisation.

# Courage to Care

*have pleasure inviting you to an exclusive private fundraiser*



***"The remarkable story of Mui Thomas might bring a tear to your eye." The Guardian.***

Rare disease doesn't come with a manual. It changes your life forever. As parents we have one responsibility: find the courage to be and remain positive. Tina is the birth-granddaughter of a Jewish Holocaust survivor and the mother of a daughter with a rare, appearance altering disease. While preparing to start a new life in Australia, Tina and I met an abandoned baby girl hidden away on the fringes of Hong Kong society because she looked different. Doctors made clear to us Mui would die in infancy; the authorities insisted we acknowledge the medical prognosis; they insisted on our silence. People told us to walk away. Twenty-five not entirely uneventful years later, Mui is the world's first rugby referee and yoga teacher with Harlequin Ichthyosis! She is part of the first generation of survivors and a contagious smile lights up her face. Cyberbullying drove Mui to the brink of suicide. It put all three of us where we never wanted to be: on the front pages of a newspaper.

***Join us to hear this family's remarkable story***

**Courage to Care (Victoria)** aims to educate young people to be upstanders rather than bystanders by using the story of the Holocaust as a case study, exploring the dangers of prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping, bullying, and the consequences of bystander behaviour.

**Date:** Thursday 27th Feb, 2020

**Time:** Start 7.30pm sharp - 9.00pm

**BOOK NOW**

**Venue:** Available on booking

**Tickets:** <https://www.trybooking.com/BHZNY> - \$40 – all proceeds will go towards the roll out of the new middle years program. Light refreshments will be available

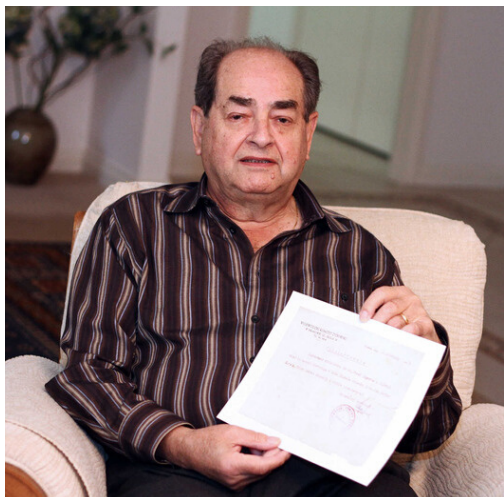
**Enquiries:** Allan 0403 959 748



MAZAL TOV FROM BBVic &amp; BBANZ TO

# HARRY BETTER & MARLIS COHEN

ON EACH RECEIVING AN OAM IN THIS YEAR'S AUSTRALIA DAY'S HONOURS LIST IN RECOGNITION OF ALL THEIR WORK WITHIN THE COMMUNITY



## Showcase: fostering Jewish musical talent

### Coming up in April:

**Sunday 5 April 2020 2:45pm - for a 3:00pm start:** Pre Pesach - B'nai B'rith Showcase first fundraiser for 2020.

Our fundraising group is being coordinated by Jacqui Corry and Ruth Figdor. We are thrilled to announce our first House Concert with Afternoon Tea. We urge you to book as soon as possible. The concert will feature a performance presented by pianist and raconteur, Warren Wills.

#### **Tickets:**

**\$25 pp (Includes afternoon tea)**

## Help us help others!

Please collect and deliver to the B'nai B'rith office at Beth Weizmann any unwanted stamps, spectacles (for Israel), hearing aids and hotel give-aways as well as batteries, compact fluorescent light globes and mobile phones.





Cut me out and put the calendar on your fridge

## MARCH 2020 • PREVIEW

11

| March 2020                               |                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                |                                                        |                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon                                      | Tue                                                                                                     | Wed                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Thu                                                                                                            | Fri                                                                                                                                            | Sat                                                    | Sun                                                                                                                  |
|                                          |                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                |                                                        | <b>1</b> Clean Up Australia Day<br>Gesher Rabin Environment Day / Climate Change Seminar<br>Ramblers – SOMW          |
|                                          | <b>3</b><br>Current Affairs<br>Israel and the Jewish world – RWU (Ron James)                            | <b>4</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>5</b>                                                                                                       | <b>6</b> Candle Lighting: 7:34pm<br>                          | <b>7</b> Shabbat Ends: 8:41pm                          | <b>8</b> Int'l. Women's Day                                                                                          |
| <b>9</b> TA'ANIT<br>ESTHER<br>EREV PURIM | <b>10</b><br>PURIM<br> | <b>11</b><br>RWU Programming meeting/Executive Meeting<br>MML Regular meeting                                                                                                                                 | <b>12</b><br><br>VBBB Meeting | <b>13</b> Candle Lighting: 7:24pm<br><br>Akiba (Weekend away) | <b>14</b> Shabbat Ends: 8:30pm<br>Akiba (Weekend away) | <b>15</b><br>In One Voice Festival<br>Akiba (Weekend away)                                                           |
| <b>16</b><br>MML Book Club               | <b>17</b><br>Current Affairs                                                                            | <b>18</b><br>Ramblers – Mid week walk                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>19</b><br>Akiba – Book Club                                                                                 | <b>20</b> Candle Lighting: 7:13pm<br>                       | <b>21</b> Shabbat Ends: 8:20pm                         | <b>22</b><br>Gesher-Rabin – Dinner get together<br>Speakers Forum<br>Akiba – Exec & JCEP meetings<br>Ramblers - SOHW |
| <b>23</b>                                | <b>24</b>                                                                                               | <b>25</b><br>MML Mameloshen                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>26</b>                                                                                                      | <b>27</b> Candle Lighting: 7:03pm<br>                       | <b>28</b> Shabbat Ends: 8:09pm                         | <b>29</b><br>Hatikvah Reg Meeting<br>GRU: Bunnings sausage sizzle                                                    |
| <b>30</b>                                | <b>31</b>                                                                                               | <b>Coming up in April:</b><br>Sunday 19th, Book launch 'The Unsung Family Hero' by Paul Gardner<br>Wednesday 8th - Thursday 16th, Pesach (Office closed)<br>SAVE THE DATE 17th MAY - BBVic's 75th Anniversary |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                |                                                        |                                                                                                                      |

Compiled and edited by Frances Stiglec & Teegan Slomoi on behalf of B'nai B'rith Victoria Inc.

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Members and friends of B'nai B'rith Victoria acknowledge the Boonerwung group of the Kulin Nation who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet.