



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW



Karin Zafir & Leon Nissen, Co-Presidents of the new Gesher-Rabin Unit, with Morris Tobias, President BBANZ

Message from the President: A Global Jewish Community Service Organisation

By the time you read this, we will have had our B'nai B'rith Victoria Annual General Meeting with reports, elections and maybe some enlightening discussion. If I am still President after the AGM, I'll report on that in the next edition of Preview.

I have found that non-members of B'nai B'rith are often surprised that we are a global organisation. What does global actually mean for an organisation and what benefits do we as members get from that? At our meeting ritual, we proudly state that B'nai B'rith has a presence in over 50 countries and that we have observer status at the United Nations. We therefore can get access to decision makers in politics and can lobby at international forums on issues that interest us, such as human rights and Israel. But, at an individual member level in Australia, the international interactions are more limited. One way of bridging this is perhaps by visiting other BB Lodges and Units.

I have been to B'nai B'rith meetings as a guest in London many years ago and at the Karmiel Unit in Israel more recently. On both occasions I felt welcomed, the meeting format was familiar, but each BB constituent body, not surprisingly, was mainly occupied with its own local issues and the time was too short to make friends or develop deeper connections.

It was therefore interesting to learn that Anna Marks (President BBNSW) visited London last month and met with their B'nai B'rith President. She reported on her experience in their *Communicator* newsletter, a copy of which you will find on page 11. Twenty-two of their members from the UK had recently returned from a trip to the Ukraine where they assisted Jewish residents, and their fascinating and disturbing report is attached for your information.

Do you have any interesting experiences at B'nai B'rith meetings around the world? Write in and share them with other Preview readers. Now that Morris Tobias is one of the Vice Presidents of BB International, we may get more information on activities around the B'nai B'rith world.



I attended the installation of the new Gesher-Rabin Unit. This was a well-run and fun event with entertainment supplied by David Rothberg and Sharon Mattatia. Catering arrangements were environmentally friendly, with provisions for recycling of paper dishes and unused food. It's a changing world and we are part of it. Congratulations and best wishes to Karin Zafir and Leon Nissen as Co-Presidents and to all members of Gesher-Rabin, *Kol Hakavod*.

Benny

Benny Monheit

MAJOR BBVic EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY:

AUGUST:

Sunday 4 - 2:00pm BBVic Jewish Youth Art Competition Exhibition Opening

Tuesday 6 & 20 - 10:00am Current Affairs with Ron James Sessions 1 & 2

Thursday 8 - 7:30pm VBBC Meeting

Sunday 18 - 4:00-8:00pm Hatikvah's Major Fundraiser

SEPTEMBER:

Tuesday 3 & 17 - 10:00am Current Affairs with Ron James Sessions 3 & 4

Tuesday 3 - 7:30pm Wallenberg AGM & Installation

Friday 6-Monday 9 - BBANZ Triennial Convention

Wednesday 11 - Melbourne Mitzvah Installation

Sunday 15 - 2:00pm B'nai B'rith Showcase Finals Concert

MAZAL TOV TO THE NEWLY ELECTED 2019-2021 BBVIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!

President	Dr Benny Monheit
Vice President	Kath Kolb
Secretary	Sue Moskowitz
Treasurer	Stephen Moskowitz
Monitor	Faye Haskin-Dubrowin OAM

Community Garden: CALLING FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Do you want to be involved in the development of a new community garden? It's being set up at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre, next to the Lamm Library.

Do you want to grow your own vegetables or plants to share around? Or participate in mentoring other garden enthusiasts? BBVic can have its own planting box.

Find out how you can participate by contacting council@bbvic.org

Menorah Award Nominations NOW OPEN!

Do you know someone who has dedicated their time to the welfare of the community? Someone who deserves to be recognised for their commitment and dedication? Nominations are now open for the B'nai B'rith Menorah Awards for 2020.

Information and nomination forms can be found at tiny.cc/menorahawards or at the BBVic office.

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BnaiBrithVic



bbvic.org



council@bbvic.org



03 9523 0888

MELBOURNE MITZVAH LODGE

President: Giora Hoffmann

Preview: Ron Sack



mitzvah@bbvic.net

What's on in August:

Monday 5 8:00pm Programming

Wednesday 7 8:00pm Executive Meeting

Monday 12 2:30pm **Fellowship Concert.** Starring fabulous versatile entertainer: Phil Carroll. Admission \$7 includes afternoon tea & raffle ticket.

Wednesday 14 7:30pm **Regular Meeting.** Our AGM will be held as part of the Regular Meeting, and thereafter our Speaker, Danny Blay, will speak on: "Men Who Use Violence Against Women".

Monday 19 7:30pm **Book Club**

TBA Mameloshen

'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 or post to Making A Difference, B'nai B'rith Victoria, 306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield Vic 3162

GESHER-RABIN UNIT

Co-President: Karin Zafir

Co-President: Leon Nissen

Secretary: Sue Moskowitz

Preview: Tom & Karin Zafir



gesher@bbvic.net

What's on in August:

Monday 12 7:45pm Executive meeting

Thursday 15 7:15pm **Saltpillar play 'Solomons' Secrets'**, \$30 per ticket. Only 2 tickets left.

Saturday 31 7:30pm **Pizza and Popcorn Movie Night - Ushpitzten.** Numbers are limited and bookings are essential. **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.**

Coming up in October:

Friday 25 - Weekend away at Vibe Marysville
Sunday 27

Coming up in November:

Sunday 10 Fundraising Trivia Night

Please see the activities of the other BBVic units – all BB members are welcome to attend activities of all BBVic units.

RAOUL WALLENBERG UNIT

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



rwu@bbvic.net

What's on in August:

- Tuesday 6** 7.00pm. **Israel and the Jewish World.** Speaker: Rebecca Rothschild on the topic "One Lone Soldier", sharing her experience of 2½ years in the Israel Defence Forces. Memorial Services for Eddie Komesaroff and Sol Perch.
- Tuesday 13** 12 Noon **Programming Meeting**
 7.30pm **Executive Meeting**
- Tuesday 20** 3:00pm **Schmooze**
- Sunday 25** 1:00pm **Lunch**

Coming up in September:

- Tuesday 3** 7.30pm. **AGM; Installation of the Executive** with Prof. Louis Waller AO as the Installing Officer; Regular Meeting; followed by a Quiz Evening with Iain Messer as the Quiz Master; Prizes will be given. Supper will be served. \$20.
- Tuesday 10** 12 Noon **Programming Meeting.** 7.30pm **Executive Meeting.**
- Tuesday 17** 3:00pm **Schmooze**
- Sunday 22** 1:00pm **Lunch**

NB! There will be no meetings in October due to the Yom Tovim

Thinking of you: We wish a speedy recovery to all those who have been ill. If you or a fellow Wallenberg member is not well and would like a friendly phone call or visit, please contact us.

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

What's on in August:

- Sunday 4** Morning. **SOMW** in Mt Macedon
- Wednesday 21** Morning. **Midweek Walk** in Central Business and North Melbourne.
- Sunday 25** Morning. **SOHW** in Werribee Gorge.



HATIKVAH UNIT

President: Paula Messer

Vice President: Evelyn Moszkowicz

Preview: Judith Steinberg



hatikvah@bbvic.net

Still to come in July:

Sunday 28 8:00pm **Regular Meeting** - Guest speaker to be Tony Bartel speaking about wills and such like.

What's on in August:

Sunday 18 4:00pm-8:00pm Please keep this date free for **Hatikvah's Major Fundraiser, South American afternoon/evening**. Tickets \$35 per person (includes afternoon tea).

Sunday 25 8:00pm **AGM**. Guest Speaker: Alison Harcourt AO – Senior Victorian of the Year (2019)

Coming up in September:

6-9 BBANZ Triennial Convention

Sunday 15 Calico Dolls

No September Regular Meeting

Photos from Hatikvah's Chanukah in July:



UNIT AKIBA

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



akiba@bbvic.net

Still to come in July:

Sunday 28 10:30am **Fundraising activity in aid of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation**, with brunch. Donations received from those attending will support the work of the Foundation.

What's on in August:

Sunday 4 2:00pm **BBVic Jewish Youth Art Competition Exhibition Opening**.

Sunday 4 7:30pm **Combined Executive Committee Meeting** for members of both the OLD and NEW Exec committees.

Sunday 18 8:00pm **Regular meeting**, followed by a new initiative of the Jewish Cultural and Enrichment Program – a TED talks screening and WADI (Watch and Discuss Ideas) presentation led by Annette Gladwin. VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME TO JOIN US.

Saturday 24 7:30pm **Theatre Night – 'Solomons' Secrets'** presented by the Saltpillar Theatre. Please book your own tickets online at www.saltpillar.org.au. Supper afterwards in Elsternwick.

Coming up in September:

Sunday 15 2:00pm **BBVic Showcase Finals Concert**.

Thursday 19 8:00 - 9:30pm **The Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club**. The meeting will review the book "Franz Kafka: The Poet of Shame and Guilt" by Saul Friedländer. Presenter: Evelyn Chizik. NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Sunday 22 7:00pm **Executive Committee meeting**, followed by our **Regular meeting** at 8:00pm. Bubbles Segall, secretary of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) will be our guest speaker on the topic "How to record your family history on a family website".

SAVE THESE DATES: Friday March 13 to Sunday March 15, 2020

Akiba's Weekend Away to San Remo. Further information

We wish a Refuah Shleymah to any of our members who may be unwell at present, and hope to see you joining us again very soon.

CHAVERIM GROUP

Chairperson: Antony Adelman
Secretary: Rebecca Grinblat
Preview: Antony Adelman



BBVic Chaverim
Facebook group

For information on Chaverim's activities, visit the BBVic Chaverim Facebook group or contact Antony.

Courage to Care Exhibition

Alliance Française

51 Grey Street St Kilda

22 July - 2 August

Courage to Care explores racism, prejudice and discrimination through the acts of those who were Upstanders during the Holocaust and other genocides to inspire participants to reject the role of Bystander and become **UPSTANDERS**.



af | Alliance Française
Melbourne

PRINCIPAL
PARTNER



FREE PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- Testimony from a Holocaust survivor
- Explore the exhibition
- Ask questions

By reservation on 9533-0955

10 am on 24, 26 July

3:30pm on 23, 25, 29, 31 July and 1 August

EXHIBITION VIEWING

Mon - Thu 10am - 6pm

Fri 10am - 4pm

Group bookings on 9533-0955

2019-2020 Gesher-Rabin Unit Executive Committee

Co-President	Karin Zafir
Co-President	Leon Nissen
Vice-President	Sue Newman
Treasurer	Stephen Moskowitz
Assistant Treasurer	Jock Orkin
Secretary	Sue Moskowitz
Publicity/Preview	Tom Zafir & Karin Zafir
Fundraising	Evelyn Flitman
Activities	Jack Aghion
Catering	Eleanor Aghion



An Arranged (De facto) Marriage that Really Works!

On a very chilly Sunday night more than 90 people turned up at the D.C. Bricker Pavilion for the fifth annual Comedy Debate between the Maccabi Toastmasters and the Gesher-Rabin teams. The topic was "Arranged Marriages Are Better".

MC was well-known comedian Michael Shafar who set the tone for a fun evening. Stephen Moskowitz opened the positive side by showing with extreme body language the difference between the divorce rate in arranged marriages (5%) and marriages between couples who marry for love (55%). For the negative side, Debbie Strauch donned a headscarf as a modern-day Yentl with the slogan "You Hatch We Match", as she took "clients' calls" on her phone.

Next, Evelyn Flitman on the positive side reminded everyone that she is a retired maths teacher and provided two graphs to show what happened in the two scenarios. Leon Harari took a scientific view of love, saying how vaccinations could make you more sexually attractive. Sue Newman summarised the positive case, "accidentally" talking of foreplay instead of foresight. Danny Shafar, final speaker for the negative,

claimed that arranged marriages are more of a financial transaction than parents worrying about the interests of their child, and started the bidding for his son Michael, the MC. He was finally sold for five goats, with an interjector calling out, "He's just a kid".

Congratulations to Sue Moskowitz (who is both an executive in Maccabi Toastmasters and newly elected Secretary of Gesher-Rabin Unit), Karin Zafir and Leon Nissen for their organisation, and to Sue, Karin, Hilary, Margot and Eleanor who produced 190 delicious kosher scones for the night including gluten-free ones. Thanks also to Helen Heimann who donated a beautiful handmade quilt for the raffle and Leon's fruiterer from Dandenong Market who donated fruit for the supper.

The evening raised over \$1000 for cancer research, and was a very successful night on all fronts, showing that arranged marriages can work - just like the Gesher-Rabin union!



A Celebration of Young Jewish Artistic Talent

This year's opening ceremony for the annual B'nai B'rith Jewish Youth Art Competition will be eagerly anticipated by many aspiring young artists. Over 150 entries are registered from a dozen schools across Melbourne – including the grandchildren of many BBVic members. Lady Anna Cowen AM continues in her role as our distinguished patron. The ceremony will include an address by celebrated Melbourne sculptor and painter, Rachel Boymal.

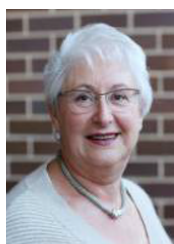
2019 has seen a changing of the guard in several respects. Leah Black, the dedicated and tireless mainstay of the competition for over twenty years, has handed over the reins as Chair of the organising committee, to Mark Rubinstein – although Leah continues her involvement as a committee member.

Sadly, Margaret Power, acclaimed illustrator of numerous children's books and member of the judging panel, passed away recently. The vacancy is to be filled by Myer Bloom, a former lecturer in photography and video production. Myer's inclusion is timely as this year we are introducing photography as a new category. This was initiated by Unit Akiba who have generously donated a photography prize in the name of Peter Krafel. Peter, a former member of Akiba and a keen photographer, passed away in 2016 and left a substantial bequest to the Unit.

Gandel Philanthropy continues to sponsor a major annual prize – for each of the next four years – to commemorate the name of Thalia Hakin, the ten-year-old Beth Rivkah Ladies College student killed by a homicidal driver in Bourke Street in 2017. The organising committee extends a big thank you to BBVic, the various B'nai B'rith units and all the other sponsors whose financial support has made this year's competition possible.

The opening ceremony commences at 2:00 PM on Sunday 4th August. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. BBVic members and members of the general public are welcome to come along and view the exhibition, a celebration of young Jewish artistic talent. The competition, now in its 24th year, is a significant event on the calendar of up-and-coming young Jewish artists. Yvette Coppersmith, for example, was a previous Art Competition winner who went on to win the prestigious Archibald Prize in 2018 (winning entry pictured at right).

The exhibition will continue until Sunday 18th August 2019. If you would like to become involved, make a donation or obtain further information, please email the organising committee at: artcomp@bbvic.net



Excerpt from The NSW Communicator July 2019: President Anna Marks OAM

In London, I met with Alan Miller, President of BBUK, and his wife Edna. He invited me to their AGM. Interestingly, there are 250,000 Jews in England and 600 BB members. I think that needs no further comment, comparing it to Australia/New Zealand where we have 800 members and a Jewish population of approximately 115,000. They have very similar

issues to all BB units: ageing and declining membership, unwillingness to take on leadership roles etc.

They have a rather sad issue with BB Europe. They decided to leave BB Europe in 2005 and, for some years now, have wishes to rejoin, and, in spite of meetings and firm decisions to let them rejoin, it has not happened.

Alan and his lovely wife Edna and 20 other members had just returned from a BBUK mission to the Ukraine, taking money to buy medicines for those who are crying out for assistance and living in poverty. The average monthly pension is \$US 60.00.

BB International also has a similar mission to Cuba to help the elderly and very needy Jewish community there. The rise of anti-Semitism and fear of Corbyn becoming Prime Minister have many Jews fearful of the future.

◀ July		August 2019					September ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
MARK IN YOUR DIARIES SEPTEMBER: Tuesday 3 - Wallenberg AGM & Installation Friday 6-Monday 9 - BBANZ Triennial Convention Wednesday 11 - Melbourne Mitzvah Installation Sunday 15 - B'nai B'rith Showcase Finals Concert				1 3 Weeks	2 3 Weeks Candle Lighting: 5:15pm 	3 3 Weeks Shabbat Ends: 6:15pm	
4 3 Weeks Art Comp Exhibition Opening  Rambler SOMW Akiba Combined Exec Mtg	5 3 Weeks Melb Mitzvah Prog	6 3 Weeks BBVic Current Affairs: Session #1 RWU Israel & the Jewish World	7 3 Weeks Melb Mitzvah Exec Mtg	8 3 Weeks VBBC Mtg 	9 3 Weeks Candle Lighting: 5:21pm 	10 3 Weeks Shabbat Ends: 6:20pm	
11 TISHA B'AV End of 3 Weeks	12 Fellowship Concert  Gesher-Rabin Exec Mtg	13 RWU Prog & Exec Mtg	14 Melb Mitzvah Reg Mtg	15 Gesher-Rabin Theatre Night	16 Candle Lighting: 5:27pm 	17 Shabbat Ends: 6:26pm	
18 Hatikvah Major Fundraiser Akiba Reg Mtg	19 Preview Deadline Melb Mitzvah Book Club	20 BBVic Current Affairs: Session #2 RWU Schmooze	21 Rambler Midweek Walk	22	23 Candle Lighting: 5:33pm 	24 Shabbat Ends: 6:31pm Akiba Theatre Night 	
25 Rambler SOHW RWU Lunch Hatikvah AGM	26 Preview Collating	27	28	29	30 Candle Lighting: 5:39pm 	31 Shabbat Ends: 6:37pm Gesher-Rabin Movie Night	

Many thanks to this month's proof reader - Henry Gladwin

Compiled/set up by Frances Stiglec & Gaby Davis on behalf of B'nai B'rith Victoria Inc.

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