



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW



Volunteers of the B'nai B'rith Fellowship Group at their Thank You lunch

Message from the President: Enjoy the Summer Holiday Break

The year 2019 is nearly finished, so we have Chanukah and the summer holiday season to look forward to.

Before we sign off on the past year, I want to briefly report on a couple of recent activities. Firstly, Faye Haskin-Dubrowin OAM and I attended the annual conference of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) - an influential roof body to which B'nai B'rith belongs. Briefings highlighted how active our Jewish community of approximately 117,900 people is in Australia and that, in spite of many differences, we are a remarkably cohesive and strongly pro-Israel diaspora community – a rare achievement, according to Israel's Ambassador to Australia, Mark Sofer.

Our most outstanding activity in December was no doubt the BBVic Speakers Forum with guest speaker, broadcaster Dr Rachael Kohn AO, organised by Peter Schattner and his team. She spoke eloquently to a large audience on the topic: Should Jews Defend Western Civilization? The answer was a definite 'yes!' We will put a link of her recorded talk up on our website. That event also featured young musicians Benji Wald and Daniel Loza from our Showcase. Another enjoyable activity was the Chanukah Fellowship Concert and subsequent luncheon for their volunteers, held at Deidre Wainrit's home.

Construction changes at Beth Weizmann will start next year and our office will need to temporarily relocate to the ground floor. Details and dates will be advised to our members.

Our BBANZ (District) President David Samuels recently sent us an interesting email, asking whether we should support a request from the Australian Refugee Council to participate in a community refugee sponsorship program in Australia. Their aim is to set up intensive, individualised and holistic support for refugees, to be provided by committed local volunteers. This used to exist in Australia post World War II. There is now a worldwide increase in people fleeing war, persecution and poverty, so the challenge of resettlement and integration is enormous. As Jews, we have a special sensitivity to this topic, due to our history of persecution and migration. A reality, however, is that current refugees sometimes come from countries or communities that have been unfriendly to Jews and to Israel. The whole issue of refugee policy has become a political 'hot potato' in Australia so, B'nai B'rith has stayed out of that arena so far. If you feel that this should change, let me know.



On a brighter note, we have the Gesher-Rabin New Years Eve function coming up, followed by the 75th Anniversary of B'nai B'rith in Victoria in May next year. Keep well and best wishes for Chanukah and for a healthy safe and peaceful (but active) New Year.

Benny

Benny Monheit

Message from the BBANZ President



Dear Members and Friends,

The last month has been a busy and productive time for B'nai B'rith in both Melbourne and Sydney.

The project manager of BBNSW, Vivienne Radomsky, recently visited Melbourne to see how the Click and Connect – English for Kids programme was progressing in Melbourne. The programme has been going very well in Melbourne and Vivienne was extremely impressed by how it is being conducted. Vivienne is now hoping to launch the project in Sydney in 2020 and is actively looking for volunteers.

Recently Ian Kandel, Vice President, Management Strategy of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organisation in the USA, visited our offices in both Melbourne and Sydney. They have a very flourishing youth organisation in both the USA and other parts of the world. We had productive discussions with him in both Melbourne and Sydney and it is hoped with some of his ideas we too can have a vibrant youth movement. It was also suggested that he also get in contact with the BB President of Auckland, Jim Salinger to see whether a youth programme can get going there. In my mind we need to do whatever we can to keep attracting younger people to join B'nai B'rith and keep our organisation going.

As you are no doubt aware, our latest major fundraising project is the bushfire appeal. These bushfires are ongoing and devastating and I am in no doubt that any donation you can give will be greatly appreciated. As I write this report from my home in Alford's Point in Sydney, smoke fills that air and genuine rain is desperately needed. To date, people have been most generous in their donations and we will inform you of the final amount raised.

Well, it's that time of year when most things close down for a well deserved break. This includes our offices in Melbourne and Sydney. We are all very appreciative and thankful for the work carried out by these people behind the scenes. On behalf of Sue and myself we would like to firstly wish you a happy Chanukah and may the year 2020 be a healthy and happy one for us all.

David Samuels

President BBANZ

david.samuels@bbnsw.org.au

MAJOR BBVic EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY:

JANUARY:

Monday 13 - BBVic office reopens

Monday 27th - Australia Day Public Holiday (Office Closed)

FEBRUARY:

Sunday 16th - Wallenberg Teachers' Welcome Back



First Ever Showcase Fundraisers

Please keep these dates free for an unforgettable series of youth twilight concerts:

Sunday 8th March 2020, 4:00-6:00pm

Sunday 7th June 2020, 4:00-6:00pm

Sunday 25th October, 4:00-6:00pm

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



BnaiBrithVic



bbvic.org



council@bbvic.org



03 9523 0888

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 January:

Sunday 19 11:00am Raoul Wallenberg Commemoration.

Coming up in February:

Tuesday 4 12 Noon Programming Meeting.

NB Tuesday 11 2:00pm Regular Meeting. Guest Speaker: Mr David Southwick MP, Member for Caulfield.
 & 7.30pm Executive Meeting.

Sunday 16 Teachers' Welcome Back.

Coming up in March:

Tuesday 3 7:00pm Israel & the Jewish World - Memorial Service for Dr Eric Taft AM

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.

Photos from RWU's Bus Tour to Point Leo Estate Sculpture Garden:



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 January:

Monday 27 1:00pm **Almost Australia Day Picnic.** Bring beach umbrellas and other forms of shading, chairs, picnic tables, etc.

Coming up in February:

Sunday 16 11:00am **Members Get-together** - Informal coffee & chat format.

Coming up in March:

Sunday 1 2:00-5:00pm **B'nai B'rith Environment Day** - Learn about navigating the often-confusing world of recycling + 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. Enquiries:

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

Photos from Gesher Rabin's Mitzvah Day activities - Reverse Garage Sale and food preparation at Father Bob's:



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.



UNIT AKIBA

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



akiba@bbvic.net

Still to come in December:

Tuesday 31 8:00pm **New Year's Eve dinner dance**, with a live band and fully catered kosher buffet. BYO. BB members \$75, non-members \$85. Limited numbers and bookings essential. Book through Trybooking: www.trybooking.com/538567.

What's on in January:

Thursday 16 8:00 - 9:30pm **The Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club**. The meeting will review the book "In Search of Israel: the History of an Idea" by Michael Brenner. Presenter: Mark Haskin. NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Sunday 19 10:30am **Mid-morning beach walk in Brighton**, followed by **lunch** at 12.30 pm.

Coming up in February:

Saturday 15 **Welcome Back Soirée**. There will be musical entertainment and supper. Cost \$30 for B'nai B'rith members and \$35 for non-members.

BOOK YOURSELF IN: Friday March 13 to Sunday March 15, 2020

Akiba's Weekend Away to San Remo. For further information, contact akiba@bbvic.net

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



Photo from Akiba's Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club meeting in November - discussing the book 'Future Tense' by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

DO YOU WANT TO KEEP B'NAI B'RITH GOING?

Remember us in your will. After you have taken care of your loved ones, leave a legacy for B'nai B'rith Victoria. For further information, contact Benny Monheit on 9523 0888.

HATIKVAH UNIT

President: Paula Messer

Acting Vice-President: Claude Fromm

Treasurer: Orly Dar

Preview: Judith Steinberg



hatikvah@bbvic.net

Coming up in February:

Sunday 2 12:30pm **Welcome Back in 2020 - Lunch.** Please contact hatikvah@bbvic.net to get their address and to coordinate the food you will be bringing.

Sunday 23 8:00pm **Regular Meeting.**

Our best wishes for a wonderful year filled with good times and much laughter.

Photos from Hatikvah Unit's Mitzvah Day activity, making calico dolls:



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 January:

Sunday 5 Morning. **SOMW** in the Sorrento/Portsea area.

Wednesday 29 Morning. **Midweek Walk** in the Botanic Gardens.

Coming up in February:

Sunday 2 Morning. **SOMW** along the Barwon River near Geelong.

Wednesday 19 Morning. **Midweek Walk** from Gardenvale to Sandringham.

Sunday 23 Morning. **SOHW** at a venue not yet decided.

MELBOURNE MITZVAH LODGE

President: Garry Fabian

Preview: Russell Stern



mitzvah@bbvic.net

Still to come in December:

Sunday 22

9:30am **Sausage Sizzle.** Say hello to Melbourne Mitzvah's volunteers and cheer them on! Or at least shout them a drink.

Coming up in February:

Wednesday 5

8:00pm **Executive and Committee Meeting.**

Wednesday 12

7:30pm **Regular Meeting.** Talk by Patrick Lawrence, CEO of First Step, a non-profit mental health, addiction and legal service hub in St.Kilda.

Monday 17

7:30pm **Book Club.** Holiday Reading.

Wednesday 26

8:00pm **Mameloshen.**

Coming up in March:

Date TBA

Car Rally in Mornington Peninsula. Fundraiser \$10 per head.

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.

Menorah Award Recipients for 2020

The B'nai B'rith Victoria Menorah Awards were established 41 years ago in 1978. They are presented annually to worthy recipients who have performed voluntary work of benefit to the community, usually over a long period of time. We call them our quiet achievers. These are individuals who have furthered religious, educational and social welfare by their communal work, for which they have not previously been recognised.

The Menorah Awards committee receives nominations for the awards in September each year, and then meets to consider the merits of the nominations that have been submitted. Over the years we have been pleased to recognise the contributions of over 150 individuals who, by their efforts, have enriched the lives of our community.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the recipients of the B'nai B'rith Menorah Awards for 2020. They are:

- Raizel Fogel
- Claude Fromm
- Vicky Grosser
- Geoff Sandler

The Menorah Awards Ceremony will take place at 7.30pm on Sunday 3rd May at the Adele Southwick Hall, adjacent to St Kilda Shule. Keep the date free and come along to hear the inspiring stories of these most worthy recipients.



We are all very proud that the B'nai B'rith Courage to Care education programs have reached 7,159 students across Victoria in 2019. That is 27% more than last year! Here is a quick update on three important topics:

Update on Anti-Semitic School Bullying - COURAGE TO CARE part of the solution

Like everyone else, we were dismayed by the totally inappropriate behaviour and school response at both Hawthorn West Primary and Cheltenham Secondary College recently.

After extensive consultation with the Department of Education (DET), we are pleased to report that Courage to Care was specifically named as a part of actions that need to be taken by these schools.

Principals of both schools have been in contact and we are arranging our programs to be offered to these schools in early 2020.

At Courage to Care we see education as a significant part of the solution – education of students, teachers, parents, in fact all of us.

Our Cultures without Borders Wall

We had about 40 students from indigenous, Muslim, Jewish and Christian backgrounds spend time together for an educational program and then express their creativity on the Penhalluriack's wall. This was an outstanding success thanks to the hard work of Lani Brayer and the Gen2Gen team. We managed to get excellent publicity. We are now looking for another wall for next May.



Sarah Saaroni enjoying our entertainer

Our Volunteer Celebration

Gary and Susan Hearst kindly hosted our end of year Volunteer Celebration in their beautiful home. Around 90 people had a chance to gather and reflect on what has been a wonderful year. Tony Weldon outlined the many achievements during 2019 and, as is our custom, honoured two volunteers for the outstanding contribution. Both Peter Gaspar and Lorraine Basist were surprised and thrilled to receive this year's awards.

COURAGE TO CARE and the future

We have had a wonderful year thanks to the support of the community and our incredible volunteers but there is still much to do. Over the next three years we are aiming to reach another 30,000 students in time to celebrate our 30th birthday in 2022.

If you would like to find out how you can get more involved, please contact our office on 9533 0955.

Photos from the BBVic Speakers Forum



Photos courtesy of Arie Offenberg



Showcase 2020 Update

Firstly let me introduce myself. I am a recent member of B'nai B'rith and the new Chair 1 of Showcase- fostering Jewish musical talent. My professional background is in education (music, drama production and humanities), and I am a musician.

I want to acknowledge Andrew Kolb as Chair of Showcase for 6 years. Andrew has remained on the committee and is a constant source of guidance. I also want to acknowledge the Showcase Committee with whom I have had many conversations. This committee has enviable experience, which has enabled the success of Showcase.

Showcase 2019 was an inspiring event with 62 solo applicants and 60 participants representing the schools: Mt Scopus Memorial College, Leibler Yavneh College, Bialik College and The King David School. The Finals Concert was a celebration of the talent of 9 finalists from the solo sections with the B'nai B'rith Victoria major prize being awarded to Benji Wald (clarinet).

For the first time, the schools section culminated in the Combined Showcase Ensemble. With the support of the music directors at the schools and under the direction of Adam Starr, the Ensemble of vocal and instrumental students performed *Shir HaMasa* by Schlomo Gronich.

Since the Finals Concert in September, Andrew has conducted a Showcase Committee review and has sent out many letters of appreciation to the donors, sponsors and advertisers.

Showcase - fostering Jewish musical talent, has continued its work and our young performers accepted Andrew's invitation to perform at the Mitzvah Day Fellowship Concert, the Showcase Mitzvah Concert- Emmy Monash Home, and the BBVic Speakers Forum.

While Andrew has been working on these events, I have been preparing for Showcase Committee 2020. Initiating a new structure based on subcommittees, the executive subcommittee has met twice. I welcome Howard Franks as Chair 2, Annette Gladwin as Secretary and Steve Moskowitz as Treasurer. Documentation is being produced to establish a basis for the new structure. The full Showcase Committee will resume in 2020.

One of the important things for 2020 is to restructure the financial side of Showcase. Already in place, we welcome Hilary Gocs as bookkeeper, assisting Steve. A fundraising group has also been meeting with myself, Steve and Eva Rathner. You will see more about the fundraising plan in the coming weeks.

Judy Firestone

Fellowship Group's Mitzvah Day Concert



January 2020						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1 New Year's Day	2	3 Candle Lighting: 8:27pm 	4 Shabbat Ends: 9:35pm	5 Ramblers SOMW
		BBVic Office Closed	BBVic Office Closed			
6	7 FAST OF ASARA B'TEVET	8	9	10 Candle Lighting: 8:27pm 	11 Shabbat Ends: 9:35pm	12
BBVic Office Closed	BBVic Office Closed	BBVic Office Closed	BBVic Office Closed			
13 BBVic Office Reopens	14	15	16 Akiba Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club 	17 Candle Lighting: 8:25pm 	18 Shabbat Ends: 9:33pm	19 Akiba Mid-Morning Beach Walk Raoul Wallenberg Commemoration
20	21	22	23	24 Candle Lighting: 8:21pm 	25 Shabbat Ends: 9:29pm	26 Australia Day 
27 Australia Day Public Holiday GRU Australia Day Picnic 	28	29 Ramblers Midweek Walk	30	31 Candle Lighting: 8:16pm 	PTO February Calendar	

OFFICE CLOSURE OVER SUMMER

The BBVic office in Beth Weizmann will be closed for a few weeks over the summer. The office will close at COB on Thursday 19th December and will reopen on Monday 13th January.



February 2020						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
MARK IN YOUR DIARIES: MARCH: Sunday 1st - 2:00-5:00pm Geshet-Rabin Climate Change Seminar Monday 2nd - 2:30pm Fellowship Concert Sunday 8th - 4:00-6:00pm Showcase Twilight Concert Fundraiser Tuesday 10th - Purim Sunday 22nd - BBVic Speakers Forum					1 Shabbat Ends: 9:24pm	2 Hatikvah Welcome Back Lunch Rambler's SOMW
3	4 RWU Prog Mtg	5 Melb Mitzvah Exec & Committee Mtg	6	7 Candle Lighting: 8:10pm 	8 Shabbat Ends: 9:17pm	9
10 TU B'SHVAT	11 RWU Reg Mtg & Exec Mtg	12 Melb Mitzvah Reg Mtg	13	14 Candle Lighting: 8:02pm 	15 Shabbat Ends: 9:09pm Akiba Welcome Back Soiree	16 GRU Members Get-Together RWU Teachers' Welcome Back
17 Melb Mitzvah Book Club  Preview Deadline	18	19 Rambler's Midweek Walk	20	21 Candle Lighting: 7:54pm 	22 Shabbat Ends: 9:00pm	23 Rambler's SOHW Hatikvah Reg Mtg
24 Preview Collating	25	26 Melb Mitzvah Mameloshen	27	28 Candle Lighting: 7:44pm 	29 Shabbat Ends: 8:51pm	

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who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet.