



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW



B'NAI B'RITH VICTORIA Inc.

UPDATE: CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION FROM BBVic PRESIDENT

23 March 2020

Dear BBVic Members,

The Coronavirus pandemic is suddenly changing every aspect of our work, family life and even basic social gathering activities.

Here at BBVic our first priority is the safety and welfare of our members and staff. We have therefore set up a Members Support Network that you can access, if you need to you can do this via your Unit's designated welfare officer.

All face-to-face social meetings run by BBVic and Units will have to stop for the time being. Even the functions already organised and listed in this month's Preview - are all cancelled or postponed.

Instead of face-to-face meetings we want to encourage Units and projects to use telephones and internet technology to keep in touch with members and provide support and updates. We will provide assistance to Unit Presidents and project leaders on how to set up and use teleconferences and video conferences using the program Zoom if they wish. Our BBVic webpage and Facebook will be updated regularly by Teegan. Frances will email updates via her weekly "A couple of things..." or more regularly if required.

The situation regarding the pandemic constantly changing, but we will do our best to assist you and our community as much as we can. Thank you to the volunteers who have already offered to assist in this task.

Pesach this year will be different to all other years. We as Jewish people have developed strength and resilience to overcome difficult times. Our strength is our community.

Best wishes and *chag sameach*

Dr Benny Monheit



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW

PESACH SAMEACH!



Message from the President: War and Peace

"War, like disease, reminds us that we are mortal", penned the influential 20th century writer C.S. Lewis.

Our life at present is being sorely tested by the coronavirus pandemic. Are we being too drastic in cancelling meetings or should we have been harsher weeks ago and gone into lockdown, like the city of Wuhan in China?

I recalled these terrible uncertainties and responsibilities from the time I worked in the State Health Department in the 1980s in their public health's infectious diseases department. We had an infected salami food poisoning outbreak suddenly involving dozens of people all over Victoria. We closed a restaurant and a factory and had a food recall. It was hectic and stressful at the time, with the press on our backs. We relied on good detective work from health surveyors, skilled laboratory workers and wise health experts (the unflappable Dr Graham Rouch) who could explain to the public and to the Minister of Health (Tom Roper at the time) of what to do. The outbreak came under control after a week or two and everyone could relax again. The coronavirus pandemic is a different beast, but the principles of control are the same. I am sure we will get through this crisis, but it makes us realise that as mortals, we have to experience birth, growing up and death –always with the threat of having life suddenly taken away from us. (Ref: Mosaic March 2020).

Many of our B'nai B'rith programs are part of this life cycle. We help schoolchildren through our music and art shows and when financial problems arise through fundraising via the Make a Difference Committee of Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge. Since 1996, they have provided assistance to over 250 students, to the tune of just over \$200,000. Well done to Martha Vanderhoek and her MAD team. At the other end of the life cycle, we offer Fellowship Concerts, yoga classes and stimulating adult education, which are currently on hold. It's an ongoing satisfying role we play – much better than salami tasting.

On behalf of the BBVic Executive, Unit Presidents and Staff, we wish you all and your family a *Chag Pesach Sameach*, good health and best wishes.



Benny

Dr Benny Monheit

See page 5 for BBVic Coronavirus update

Message from the BBANZ President



Dear Members and Friends,

In my last report, I said the year had not started off well because of the bushfires. Well you don't need me to tell you that newer events have not made this year any better.

The coronavirus has obviously become a very big issue for all of us, especially as many of us are in the older age groups. Most of us have not found ourselves in this type of situation before and the question we all ask is: what do we do?

In New South Wales, Victoria and Auckland a number of B'nai B'rith functions have been arranged over the coming months. They have been organised by hard-working committee people within each Unit. In Melbourne, work is well underway organising a special function to help celebrate B'nai B'rith Victoria's 75th Anniversary.

So should you attend? I am not a medical person but at the time of writing my report, provided you are feeling in good health and you are prepared to follow the common sense rules of hand washing and touching, there should be no reason not to attend some of the forthcoming functions.

Sue and I hope over the next few months (as we have been away) that we can catch up with many of you.

David Samuels

david.samuels@bbnsw.org.au

MAJOR BBVic EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY:

April: Wednesday 8th - First night Pesach
 Thursday 9th - Second night Pesach
 Tuesday 21st - Yom HaShoah
 Tuesday 28th - Yom HaZikaron
 Friday 29th - Yom Haatzmaut

POSTPONED:
Menorah Awards: from Sunday 3 May to Sunday 15 November @ 7:30 pm
BBVic 75th Gala Dinner: from Sunday 17 May to Sunday 15 December @ 6:00pm

OFFICE CLOSURE OVER PESACH

The BBVic office will be closed over Pesach. The office will be closed from Wednesday, 8th April (from 1:00 pm) and re-open on Monday, 20th April.



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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

*We deeply mourn the passing of our Brother Dr Norman Lewis.
 May his Memory be a Blessing*

[All future functions and meetings could be cancelled or postponed due to the Coronavirus.](#)
[Contact the Unit President if you want more information regarding events.](#)

Coming up in May:

Tuesday 5 **Regular Meeting - CANCELLED**

Wednesday 20 *Approx 10:00am: Train trip to Bendigo Art Gallery*, leaving Southern Cross Station to see the Bessie Davidson and Sally Smart avant-garde exhibition. Two women - aunt and niece – who never met – come together in a joint exhibition, combines Davidson's still-life, portrait and landscape paintings with Smart's contemporary responses to her pioneering relative. More details next month.

Coming up in June:

Tuesday 2 7:00pm: **Regular Meeting with Memorial Services** for the late Brother Dr. Reuben Glass and the late Brother Dr. Lewis Lustig to be conducted by Dr. Peter Schiff AM. Speaker: Joel Burnie of AIJAC, topic and venue to be advised.

Wednesday 10 2:00pm: Meet at Ripponlea for an **Exhibition** of "Miss Fisher and the Crypt of Tears". Concession \$19.80.

Sunday 28 2.30 pm. **FILM** afternoon at the Classic Residences. Film to be advised.

Thinking of you: We wish a speedy recovery to all those who have been ill. If you are unwell or know of a fellow Unit Raoul Wallenberg member who is not well and would like a friendly phone call or a visit, please call Ruth Figdor or Leah Black

Recent Donations:

Raoul Wallenberg Unit: Joan Black; Minnie & Josh Kahan; Judi & Peter Schiff;

GESHER-RABIN UNIT

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



gesher@bbvic.net

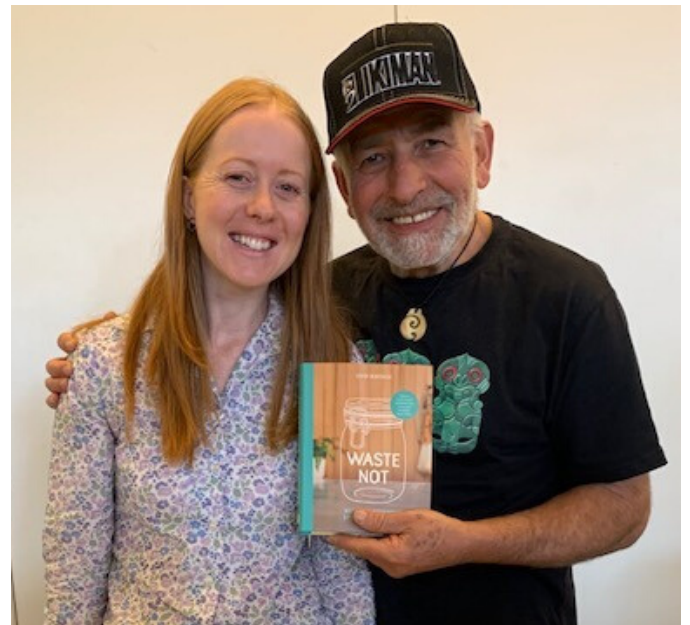
All future functions and meetings could be cancelled or postponed due to the Coronavirus.
Contact the Unit President if you want more information regarding events.

Updates:

Sunday 29th March Bunnings Sausage Sizzle - POSTPONED to August 16th
Thursday 9th April Second Night Seder - CANCELLED

Coming up in July:

Sunday 5 7:00pm - AGM and Installation/Initiation of new members – Caulfield Park Pavilion.
Guest speaker Susie Shulsinger, musical entertainment by Eddie Moses.



Climate Change Seminar - See page 10 for report of this and Clean Up Australia Day

UNIT AKIBA

Co-President: Helen Fisher

Co-President: Peter Schattner

Secretary: Annette Gladwin

Preview: Henry Gladwin



akiba@bbvic.net

We are all living in unprecedented times, with unprecedented uncertainty and anxiety. The escalating health risk associated with Covid-19 (Coronavirus) is obviously causing much concern and has forced Unit Akiba to re-evaluate all our activities, with the best interests of B'nai B'rith members and their families in mind. It is with great regret, therefore, that a decision has been made to cancel all of Unit Akiba's activities for the foreseeable future.



Unit Akiba's weekend away to Phillip Island, March 13th to 15th.

Coronavirus update from BBVic President

The welfare of our members is of paramount importance. We are closely watching advice updates from the Chief Health Officer and Government authorities and are guided by their advice. At this stage (18/3/2020) we are not in lockdown mode, though all our large indoor meetings of over 50 people have been cancelled. Units can decide whether they wish to hold small meetings. Many of our members are vulnerable due to age and possible existing medical conditions. It's not unreasonable for Units to cancel or postpone all meetings for the time being if they wish. Committees can still communicate and organise activities via email, skype or teleconferences. Our office at the present time is remaining open for business. If Beth Weizmann has to close, phone messages will be regularly accessed and email messages will be redirected. Jack Aghion (Gesher-Rabin Unit) has been appointed as our Coronavirus Welfare Officer and will liaise with Unit Presidents on how to support our members if required.

Thank you for your continued support. We will continue to update you regularly as further decisions are made and when more information comes to hand.

Dr Benny Monheit

HATIKVAH UNIT

President: Paula Messer

Acting Vice-President: Claude Fromm

Treasurer: Orly Dar

Preview: Judith Steinberg



hatikvah@bbvic.net

All future functions and meetings could be cancelled or postponed due to the Coronavirus.
Contact the Unit President if you want more information regarding events.

Sunday 29th **March** - Regular Meeting **CANCELLED**

What's on in April:

Sunday 5 Calico Dolls - **CANCELLED**

Sunday 26 11:00am - 12:30pm - **ANZAC Day Walk and Lunch** - Going ahead at this stage
 Guided walk along Maling Road, Canterbury with James Nicolas. \$10 pp.
 Starting at Theatre Place at 11:00am sharp.
 Lunch will be at LBC and food to be dropped off before the walk at 10:15am. We will carpool from LBC to Maling Rd as parking may be a problem.

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 April:

Sunday 5 Morning: Vardit and Ron Sacks-Davis will lead a SOMW walk in Riddells Creek.

Wednesday 22 Morning: Midweek Walk in Geelong, led by Nina Richwol

Sunday 26 Morning: Tania Tobias is hoping to "lead a different" SOHW walk in the Macedon area.

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MELBOURNE MITZVAH LODGE

President: Garry Fabian

Preview: Russell Stern



mitzvah@bbvic.net

*We deeply mourn the passing of our Sister Mary Cohen.
May her Memory be a Blessing*

**All future functions and meetings could be cancelled or postponed due to the Coronavirus.
Contact the Unit President if you want more information regarding events.**

What's on in April:

Monday 20 Book Club meeting at the home of Adele Schachter

Wednesday 22 8:00pm Mameloshen - Judy Kolt's house

Coming up in May:

Wednesday 13 7:30: Regular meeting - Venue: DC Bricker Hall, Princess Park Caulfield.
Speaker - TBC

Condolences to: Michael Cohen on the passing of his wife Mary

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.

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 (in May) or *email/phone me and I will provide more details.*

Thanking you for supporting this project, Yvonne Elton.





CORONA VIRUS The health and well-being of our wonderful volunteers and staff are at the forefront of all our decisions during these challenging times. We have cancelled our planned incursions to schools until after the school holidays. Our current exhibition at the Catholic College Wodonga had a very successful first week but has now been cancelled. We originally had over 1,600 students from 16 local schools booked.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR - LISA LEWIS

We are delighted to confirm that Lisa Lewis has joined us as our Volunteer Coordinator. This new role will report to Mike Zervos as CEO, and the role will interact a lot with Zoi and, hopefully, it will help free up some of her time. Lisa has spent the last two years as Volunteer Coordinator with Inclusion Melbourne and has a wealth of experience interacting with volunteers.

In Lisa's own words, "I was excited by the opportunity to apply for the role at Courage to Care due to my own family's experience with acts of the Righteous Among the Nations. My paternal grandmother was a recipient of a Sugihara Visa issued by Mr Chiune Sugihara at the Japanese Consulate in Kavon, Lithuania in 1941, allowing my grandmother and her family to escape Bialystok and settle in Zimbabwe".

Please join us in welcoming Lisa to the Courage to Care "family".

BEQUESTS/ GIFTS IN WILLS

We have recently put together a flyer entitled "You can be part of our future". This invites us all to consider remembering Courage to Care when making our wills.

If you are considering making a gift in your will and would like a copy of this flyer or more information about our future plans, please contact Mike Zervos confidentially

VOLUNTEER MORNING TEA:

We are scheduling our next Volunteer Morning Tea for Tuesday 2 June.

ANTI-SEMITIC SCHOOL BULLYING - COURAGE TO CARE IS PART OF THE SOLUTION

We were all dismayed and outraged by the inappropriate behaviour and school response as reported at both Hawthorn West Primary and Cheltenham Secondary College late last year.

We have done something about it with our new Middle Years Program delivered to all the Grade 5 and 6's at Hawthorn West and our Secondary Years program to all the Year 8 and 9's at Cheltenham Secondary. That is nearly 400 students who now better understand the dangers of racism, discrimination, prejudice and bullying.

Hawthorn West Primary was the first time we delivered our new Middle Years Program! Bookings are now being confirmed for the MYP at additional schools.



Our wonderful volunteers with the principal at Hawthorn West Primary School.



Showcase: fostering Jewish musical talent

Baruch ha ba!

Welcome to our new Assistant Treasurer Louis Koper, who has already taken to his role with a calm professional eye.

Welcome to our new Administrative Assistant Pablo Cravzov, a young man with great musical talent and experience in arts management. Pablo will be in the Office on Tuesdays and early on Thursdays.

Welcome back to our Chair 2 Howard Franks, who has returned after an extended leave.

Refuah Shleyma to Eva Rathner, with whom the Committee keeps in regular touch.

A happy milestone birthday to Andrew Kolb and Mazal Tov to Judy Firestone on becoming a grandmother for the second time in 12 weeks.

I am pleased to report that the work of the Showcase committee is moving forward with great energy. We have completed the advertising design for Showcase 2020 with the valuable assistance of Izi Marmur. The Showcase 2020 Facebook page is almost completed.



Andrew Kolb, Past Chair of B'nai B'rith Eisteddfod/Showcase being presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from BBVic VP Kath Kolb for all his work in promoting Jewish musical talent. I-r Judy Firestone (Chair 1 Showcase), Andrew Kolb and Kath Kolb

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.



March happenings at BBVic:

Melbourne Mitzvah - Car Rally on Sunday 8 March

47 Members of Melbourne Mitzvah participated in a car rally to Sorrento Park where they were faced with a rally route questionnaire. When the questionnaire was completed, they drove to the Rye home of John and Janet Kohn who organised the rally. P/P Giora Hoffmann donated a painting on the day to assist the funds of the Lodge.



Report from JECO/B'nai B'rith Unit Gesher-Rabin Clean Up Australia Day activity - Sunday 1st March

A number of Jewish groups and locals teamed up to help 'Clean Up Australia' on Sunday 1st March. Organised by B'nai B'rith Unit Gesher-Rabin and the Jewish Ecological Coalition (JECO), the clean-up also had the support of Mitzvah Day, JNF and Habonim Dror. More than 20 people aged from 8 to 80 picked up litter including cigarette butts, cans, bottles, broken glass and other rubbish dumped along Normanby Rd beside the train line. The litter was sorted into recyclables and other rubbish, with about 10 sacks of each being collected. As Reuben (aged 12) said, "I wanted to save rubbish going into the ocean and also to raise awareness about recycling and cleaning up." Clean Up Australia Day is held each year on the first Sunday in March when community groups choose a location to clear of litter.

This year's clean-up was part of the B'nai B'rith units' "Environment Day", which included an afternoon with speakers on the topic, "Climate Change – What can I do?" and displays of solar panels, reusable nappies, books on reducing waste and artwork using recycled and upcycled materials. Until next year's activity, you can still help clean up our streets by contacting Love Our Street at <https://www.facebook.com/LoveOurStreet3162/> who run clean-up activities in Caulfield, Caulfield North and other suburbs each month.

Many thanks,

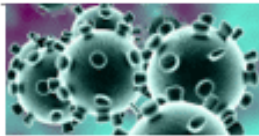
Jack

Jack Aghion

Activity Committee
Gesher-Rabin Unit



Paul Gardner's book launch:



Paul Gardner's book launch

The Unsung Family Hero
(Hybrid Publishing 2020)

The story of the death and life of Gerhard Badrian, an anti-Nazi resistance fighter, the cousin of the author's mother



First, the unhappy news:

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the launch planned for Sunday 19 April has been postponed to an indefinite date. Could be months away. Who knows?



Then, the slightly happier news:

Like to buy a copy of the book? Paul has 12 boxes of them at home, intended to be sold and signed personally at the launch.

A fast-moving historical biography with the feel of a thriller...how did an ordinary Jewish man find the courage to impersonate a tough Nazi officer? (from the back cover of the book.)

A gripping story of how extraordinary times converted ordinary people into heroes, ... this book transforms the history of a global war and monstrous crimes against humanity into a personal story of courage, risk and heart-trembling fear. – The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG.

BBVic 75th Anniversary Gala Dinner postponed to Sunday, 13 December 2020





Cut me out and put the calendar on your fridge

APRIL 2020 • PREVIEW

12

April 2020						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3 Candle Lighting: 6:52pm 	4 Shabbat Ends: 7:48pm	5 Showcase - Soiree Rablers SOMW walk
6	7	8 TA'ANIT BECHOROT EREV PESACH  OFFICE CLOSED @1:00pm	9 PESACH DAY 1  OFFICE CLOSED	10 PESACH DAY 2 Good Friday Candle Lighting: 5:42pm 	11 Pesach Day 3 (Chol Hamoed) Shabbat Ends: 6:38pm Easter Saturday	12 Pesach Day 4 (Chol Hamoed) Easter Sunday
13 Pesach Day 5 (Chol Hamoed) Easter Monday OFFICE CLOSED	14 Pesach Day 6 OFFICE CLOSED	15 PESACH DAY 7 OFFICE CLOSED	16 PESACH DAY 8 OFFICE CLOSED	17 Candle Lighting: 5:32pm 	18 Shabbat Ends: 6:28pm	19
20 BBVIC OFFICE RE-OPENS MML - Bookclub	21 YOM HASHOAH 	22 Ramblers - Midweek walk MML - Mameloshen	23	24 Candle Lighting: 5:23pm 	25 Shabbat Ends: 6:20pm Anzac Day	26 Hatikvah ANZAC Day Walk Ramblers - SOHW walk
27	28 YOM HAZIKARON 	29 YOM HA'ATZMAUT 	30			

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.