



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW



Message from the President:

David Samuel, our President of the Board of Governors of B'nai B'rith Australia and New Zealand, covered all the issues in his article that I was going to write about this month. So I'll let him take the lead in this Preview edition, especially as I am having a short holiday in Echuca in our wonderful Corona free State of Victoria this week.

I just want to add a couple of points of local interest to David's article. Firstly, our office in Beth Weizmann is slowly reopening, now that the rebuilding there has finished. New security arrangements for all visitors and infection control measures such as temperature checks and mask wearing will be applied to keep everyone safe.

The B'nai B'rith Menorah Awards held recently were just wonderful. Thank you Evelyn Flitman and your committee for organising such an important event which was well structured and which recognises some of the amazing volunteers in our community.

I attended the AGM of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria. BBVic is represented on this influential roof body and a new President has been elected at the meeting. I congratulate Andre Oboler as the new head and thank Jennifer Huppert for her community leadership. Andre is a leader in fighting anti-semitism and is the Director of the Online Hate Prevention Institute. I wish to thank our delegates to the JCCV who regularly attend these monthly meeting – thank you to Simone Markus, Rosa Schattner and Josh and Minnie Kahan.

There will be a flurry of communal activities before the end of the year. I want to mention two in particular that we are running: the Speakers Forum on Sunday 29th November on Jewish Education in Schools and our Combined Meeting for all Units on Sunday 13th December which will have a fun Chanukah theme. Details are in this month's Preview. Join in the celebrations and the learning. Planning for next year is under way – including for our postponed 75th Anniversary (now due on Sunday 23rd May 2021) and a joint function with B'nai B'rith NSW in late January.

So, we are nearly at the end of an unusual year. We survived. Happy Chanukah and best wishes.



Dr Benny Monheit

Benny

Message from the BBANZ President



Dear Members and Friends,

Firstly let me say how happy Sue and I are that you have finally got out of lockdown and you can once again enjoy some of the freedoms that we all used to take for granted.

The BB Unit that Sue and I belong to, the Syd Einfeld Unit, recently had a 3 night getaway at the Berrida Manor in Bowral, located in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. Around 30 members attended and it was wonderful to see people in real life and speak face to face.

May your Units and Lodges down in Melbourne once again experience these "pleasures" and make B'nai B'rith an organisation that not only does good for the community but also allows us all to enjoy that real social contact we all crave.

If there is one thing I have learnt through all this, it is not to take anything for granted and to appreciate every nice thing that happens (okay 2 things). With the recent passing of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, of which B'nai B'rith is a member, made the following statement: "With the passing of Lord Jonathan Sacks recently, who was a scholar, writer and former Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregation of the Commonwealth, the world has lost a towering moral and intellectual figure at a time when it is most in need of people of his calibre."

Over the past four weeks, a lot has happened that may affect Australia, Israel and the World. In particular, I find everyone has a view of the recent American elections. In his latest leadership letter, the President of BB International, Charles Kaufman, stated that "the recently completed American election marks changes on the horizon". Everyone has a right to have a view on any subject but, as B'nai B'rith members, we should always respect other members points of view.

Getting off the heavy stuff, I recently attended, via Zoom of course, the Hatikvah Unit installation. I would like to thank all of you who served on the Executive over the last year and wish all of you on this year's Executive every success on everything that you do.

david.samuels@bbnsw.org.au

David Samuels

MAJOR BBVIC EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY:

November:

Sunday 29th - Speakers Forum see page 11 for all details

December:

Sunday 13th - Combined Units Meeting see page 11 for all details

January:

Tuesday 19th - Joint Zoom Meeting with BBNSW "Speaking across the divide"

REMINDER OF UPDATED EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Benny: president@bbvic.org.au

Frances: council@bbvic.org.au

Teegan: admin@bbvic.org.au

Showcase: showcase@bbvic.org.au



BBVIC OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday

10:00am - 1:00pm

2:00pm - 4:00pm

RAOUL WALLENBERG UNIT

Co-Presidents: Simone Markus / Jacqui Dinor-Corry

Secretary: Minnie Kahan

Preview: Josh Kahan

Still to come in November:

Sunday 29 7:30pm - B'nai B'rith Speakers Forum (see page 11 & flyer for all details)

What's happening in December:

Tuesday 1 7:30pm - **Memorial Service** for the late Brother Gerald Shapiro.
8:00pm **Israel and the Jewish World.** Speaker: Naomi Levin, Senior Policy Analyst of AIJAC. Topic: "How has Israel Fared in a Tumultuous Year?" She will also discuss Israel's domestic challenge with the Coronavirus, and the work being done in Israel towards the Covid-19 vaccine and also "The Changing Dynamics of Israel's Relationship with many of its Neighbours". See flyer for all details

Wednesday 9 7:30pm - **Executive Meeting**

Sunday 13 7:30pm - **A Chanukah Combined Meeting of all Units** will include lighting of candles, cooking of latkes demonstration, Jewish comedians, snippets of recent annual BB Art Competition and Showcase musical Finals Concert, 2 competition winners singing Maoz Tzur, piano musical recital by winner Yehonatan Margolin and guest performers pianist Warren Wills and singer Leiya Rothberg to include a medley of our favourite music. See page 11 & flyer for all details

Coming up in January

Sunday 17 11:00am - **Each year Raoul Wallenberg is commemorated at an event hosted by the City of Port Phillip at the St Kilda Town Hall.** The date chosen for this commemoration is the closest date to the last sighting of Raoul Wallenberg. Please diarise this date. The keynote speaker will be Ms Natalie Baker, a recipient of the Raoul Wallenberg Yad Vashem Study Grant in 2012 and a school teacher at Parkdale Secondary College. Another speaker will be a representative of the City of Port Philip. The event will be either via Zoom or "In Person" depending on Victorian Government Covid-19 restrictions at that time. Please check for further announcements to confirm.

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



BnaiBrithVic



bbvic.org



council@bbvic.org.au

GESHER-RABIN UNIT

Co-Presidents: Karin Zafir / Leon Nissen

Secretary: Sue Moskowitz

Preview: Tom & Karin Zafir

The Presidents (Leon Nissen and Karin Zafir) wish all our members and their families good health during the Covid-19 crisis. If you need any support (or just want to chat) please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted:

Every Friday 11:00am **Keep fit during lockdown - Exercise classes** - Exercise adapted for all levels of fitness brought to you by our very own Gesher-Rabin Unit's Co-President Leon Nissen. To join the class, click on the following link or enter the meeting ID into Zoom.

Every Sunday 11:00am **"Get-Together"** – interesting and entertaining discussion via Zoom on a variety of topics, guest speakers & quiz. Contact Karin if you'd like to join in and need help with Zoom. Here is the link for the meeting. It will take you directly to Zoom.

What's on in December:

Thursday 10th & every 2nd Thursday of each month

2:00pm - German Speakers Group - Are you a native German speaker or grew up in a home where German was spoken but now rarely have an opportunity to speak the language? Karin Zafir is looking for more people interested in joining our group, initially via Zoom, to meet for a friendly group chat. All degrees of proficiency welcome! Contact Karin

Sunday 13 8:00pm - Combined Units Meeting via Zoom. There is great entertainment lined up, so be sure to join. See page 11 & flyer for all details

Thursday 31 8:00pm - New Year's Eve Karaoke Party in a private home - Tentative only Contact Karin (details above).

Coming up in January:

Monday 25 1:00pm - Not Quite Australia Day Picnic – details to be provided closer to the date

Postponed until further notice due to Covid-19 - Bunnings Sausage Sizzle – Warrigal Road, Moorabbin. Enquiries: Evelyn

UNIT AKIBA

Co-Presidents: Helen Fisher / Peter Schattner

Secretary: Annette Gladwin

Preview: Henry Gladwin

Still to come in November:

Sunday 29 7:30pm - B'nai B'rith Speakers Forum (see page 11 & flyer for all details)

What's on in December:

Sunday 13 2:00pm - Activities Planning Meeting on Zoom

Sunday 13 8:00pm - **Combined Units Meeting via Zoom.** There is great entertainment lined up, so be sure to join. See page 11 & flyer for all details

Thursday 31 New Year's Eve activity, to be advised

Coming up in January:

Wednesday 20 7:30pm - Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday 21 8:00 - 9:30pm – **The Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club.** The meeting will review the book "The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon" by Richard Zimler. Presenter: Myer Bloom. Contact person and enquiries re participation: Peter Schattner

Coming up in February:

Saturday 20 Annual Welcome Back Soirée. Keep the date free.



Akiba's Cup Day picnic on Tuesday 3rd November

HATIKVAH UNIT

President: Paula Messer

Vice-President: Claude Fromm

Preview: Judith Steinberg

Hatikvah wishes all B'nai B'rith members good health in these difficult times.

Please take the time to keep in touch with each other.

Still to come in November:

Sunday 29 8:00pm - **Regular Meeting Zoom**, Guest Speaker Professor James McCaw, Epidemiologist. Please contact Michael Taft for zoom meeting details and log in to meeting at 7:55 pm.

What's on in December:

Sunday 13 1:30pm (after lunch) - **Farewell to 2020 and Channukah celebration**. This will be a zoom activity. Join us for a few games and chat to round off a very difficult year. Please contact Michael Taft for the meeting code.

8:00pm - **Combined Units Meeting via Zoom**. There is great entertainment lined up, so be sure to join. See page 11 & flyer for all details

Mazal Tov to Ruth Taft who is the recipient of one of the 2020 UPJ Ner Tamid Awards.

These awards are given to "unsung heroes" in the Union for Progressive Judaism who perform exceptional service for their congregation and within the wider community.

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

Covid-19 Restrictions are being lifted and we can now enjoy our bushwalking anywhere in Metro and Regional Victoria. Our allowed group sizes will also increase to a reasonable size. So come along and walk in the country, wearing a mask. Of course if you are unwell or if you should legally be in quarantine, then we ask you not to attend.

What's on in December:

Sunday 6 Morning - Vardit and Ron will lead a **Medium Walk** in Trentham.

Sunday 13 Morning - **SOHW walk** in Bunyip State Park, the 4 brothers walk, will be led by Josh.

Wednesday 16 Morning - **Midweek Walk** along Merri Creek, led by Edna.

Sunday 20 Morning - **Walk leaders' meeting**, venue undecided. If interested in joining the meeting, please contact Vardit

MELBOURNE MITZVAH LODGE

Co-Presidents: Devorah Zmood / Deidre Wainrit

Preview: Russell Stern

2020 has really tested all of us. We have been challenged to live alone without family or friends visiting, wear masks, only leave home for exercise or essentials, use new technology. Thankfully, the majority of us have got through unscathed. Many of us have had time to declutter & that was definitely a plus. Many of us have become better creative cooks through necessity as we didn't want to eat the same meals every day! I'm sure most of us have never done so much walking to stay sane & keep fit. Meeting the neighbours along the way for a chat was great. We have now learned to value the important things in our lives & not fret over trivial things.

How many knew what Zoom was pre-covid?

For those of us trying to host a meeting, it has been more of a challenge but at least we have still been able to hold our meetings, even if there were a few hiccups along the way! It was wonderful to at least be able to see each other & chat even if we couldn't physically be together. I think we should all be proud that we have got through these times. We would like to wish all our members a happy & healthy Chanukah. This is the first Jewish Festival in 2020 that we will be able to physically celebrate with our families which will make it extra special for all of us who are lucky enough to have family living in Melbourne. For those of you who don't, we pray that it won't be long before you too can connect personally with your families.

Still to come in November:

Sunday 29 7:30pm - B'nai B'rith Speakers Forum (see page 11 & flyer for all details)

What's on in December:

Sunday 13 8:00pm - **Combined Units Meeting via Zoom.** There is great entertainment lined up, so be sure to join. See page 11 & flyer for all details

Monday 21 **Book Club** via Zoom. Hostess: Doreen Hermann. Author: Madeline St John. "Ladies in Black". Details TBA.

'MAKING A DIFFERENCE'

To make a donation, please credit our "Making a Difference" account: BSB: 013 017 Account 9001 28923; Ref: Your name. Email Devorah Zmood

Help us help others!

Please collect any unwanted stamps, spectacles (for Israel), hearing aids and hotel give-aways as well as batteries, compact fluorescent light globes and mobile phones.





Although 2020 has been a disappointing year as we have been unable to engage with students since March, this time has been used productively as seen in this brief outline of a selection of the various projects.

REMOTE LEARNING The COVID crisis motivated us to develop an alternative program that we will deliver to students in their classrooms under the supervision of a teacher. This has been developed for both our middle years and secondary years programs and will be piloted in schools this term and made available next year.

TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT A schedule of on-line sessions is being offered together with a well-developed, supportive approach to help integrate new volunteers to the organisation. Compared to the ad hoc manner in which this has been done in earlier years, these moves reflect the professional and important task that our volunteers undertake, regardless of their varying roles.

VOLUNTEERS remain the lifeblood of this organisation. It has been calculated, on the basis of our work in previous years, that in 2021 our volunteers will contribute in excess of 1600 days of service valued conservatively at over \$500,000. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in giving some of their time to this important work, please contact Lisa Lewis, our Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer.coordinator@courageincare.org.au

ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS Our role in response to such incidents is to offer our services in an appropriate manner as an educational resource.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION Courage to Care (Vic.) has been a part of the team that has worked on producing a comprehensive resource for teachers to support the requirement set by the Victorian Government for mandatory Holocaust Education in Years 9/10 in state schools. The Courage to Care programs will be included as one of the student experiential programs.

TEACHER RESOURCE MATERIAL For students who have participated in the program we will have available on our website a follow-up activity based on a selection of six stories from the two Courage to Care Anthologies edited by Julie Meadows. This will reinforce the message we deliver on becoming an upstander in the face of actions or behaviour one knows to be wrong.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE While our principal focus remains on the education of students, there is a clear need in a wide range of organisations for promotion of our fundamental message of never being a bystander. We are actively working on a model that will allow us to offer a relevant program on a fee-for-service basis that will help support the programs we continue to deliver at no charge to schools.

B'NAI B'RITH COURAGE TO CARE (NSW) Following their recent AGM, we have congratulated Eitan Neishlos as the new Chairman of the Board there. We look forward to developing an increasingly cooperative relationship with sister organisations in other states.

PLANS FOR 2021 In Term 1 2021 we will offer our new remote learning programs. In Terms 2 and 3 we plan to run our regional major exhibitions in Geelong, Echuca and on the Mornington Peninsula. In addition, we will be running a series of Incursions to schools in and around Mildura as well as offering our Incursion program more generally.

We are looking forward to a better 2021 and working towards our 30/30 Vision to reach an additional 30,000 students. If you would like to find out more about our activities, please contact the office on 9533 0955.

Dr Tony Weldon OAM FRACP



Showcase: fostering Jewish musical talent

On Sunday 15 November, we held another wonderful event. Our Mitzvah Day Concert used the channel bbvic.net to showcase nine young entrants who did not make the Finals Concert. From 36 entrants, there are many students who deserved recognition and an opportunity to perform more widely and they performed splendidly. In fact, several more entrants contacted us to participate after the program had been set.

Thank you for your support and encouragement of young Jewish talent at this year's B'nai B'rith Showcase. Many of you supported our fundraisers and our Finals Concert and Mitzvah Day concert.

If you would like to be a sponsor or donor or to advertise your or your children's businesses in 2021, please contact Annette Gladwin or showcase@bbvic.org.au.

We look to continuing our program in 2021. Finally, an important message to the B'nai B'rith community. At a recent meeting, the committee recognised our need for new membership in 2021. To support our new direction for the future sustainability of Showcase: fostering Jewish musical talent, we need people with technology skills. In 2021, we plan to cater for live and online events, which require greater literacy in the digital platforms we use. Being able to use email, the internet and Office are essential.

We are seeking people to enhance the sub-committees of the treasurer, administrator, secretary, and fundraising & marketing. Please send all inquiries via our **recently updated email** address: showcase@bbvic.org.au.

Happy Chanukah and happy new year to all.

Judy Firestone, Chair

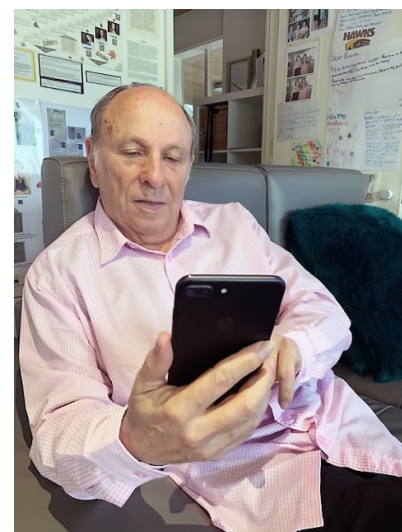
A Current Affairs WhatsApp Group with Ron James

The BBVic 'What'sApp' Group has finished for this year. Many thanks to Louis Cukierman and Suzanne Aladjem for having regular daily celebrity posts.

We have had voices from the left and right, humour and music posts and it was a great way to have fun and connect in a relaxed manner with likeminded people. **The site remains open** for people who wish to continue posting, having conversations, having fun or wanting to catch up on the latest news until we start again in 2021.

The **Classes officially begin in the first week of February**. You too, can belong to our group. All you need to do is download 'What'sApp' on your mobile phone and then contact us with your phone number and you are on the way to a roller coaster ride of fun posts.

Ron James



HATIKVAH EXECUTIVE 2020/2021:

President	Paula Messer
Vice President	Claude Fromm
Treasurer	Orly Dar
Monitor	Orly Dar
Warden	Michael Taft
Councillors	Iain Messer & Judith Steinberg

MITZVAH DAY PHOTOS 2020:

GESHER-RABIN REVERSE GARAGE SALE/COLLECT-A-THON



SHOWCASE CONCERT:





COMBINED B'NAI B'RITH UNITS MEETING SUNDAY, 13 DECEMBER @ 8:00 PM



BBVic will be convening a Combined Units Meeting on Sunday 13th December 2020 at 8:00 PM via Zoom. The program will consist of two parts: one more serious and one we hope you'll find more entertaining.

Part 1 will include brief segments from Charles Kaufman, President of BB International and David Samuels, President of BBANZ. President of BBVic, Dr Benny Monheit, will also speak briefly, focusing on what to expect in the year ahead.

Part 2 will include segments on cooking latkes, summaries of BBVic's arts and culture projects, Jewish humour, guest singers, music, Chanukiah candle lighting (complete with Ma'oz Tzur sung by two girls who were Showcase winners) and more.

Keep the date free for what promises to be an evening not to be missed. Miracle... where you deem suitable.

Zoom Information: Meeting ID: 834 7672 3395

Passcode: 2020

Click [HERE](#) for the link



B'nai B'rith Speakers Forum - 29th November

Click [HERE](#) to Join the meeting or use the Meeting ID/Password on the flyer



B'NAI B'RITH VICTORIA SPEAKERS FORUM

**HOW CAN OUR COMMUNITY AFFORD TO GIVE
OUR KIDS A JEWISH EDUCATION?**

CHAIRMAN: RABBI RALPH GENENDE OAM

PANEL: MR MARC LIGHT, MR ITZIK SZTOKMAN & MS NECHAMA BENDET
(PRINCIPAL KDS, EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL UJEB, CO-CHAIR AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF JEWISH SCHOOLS)

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2020

7.30-8.45PM ON ZOOM | NO REGISTRATION NEEDED

MEETING ID 894 3118 1122 AND PASSCODE 2020






B'nai B'rith Units Projects:

UNIT HATIKVAH – CALICO DOLLS PROJECT

Unit Hatikvah was established in 1992 and decided that sewing calico dolls for patients at the Royal Children's Hospital should be their major project. Our team meets 6 or 7 times a year on Sunday mornings at the Hamers'. They sew 300-400 dolls per year, thousands since the project's inception.

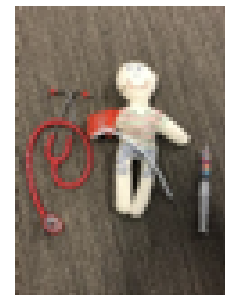
Children across all wards receive a doll to help them cope with treatments and procedures. The dolls are plain so the children can draw features or apply bandages, cannulas or injections.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, the sewing team only met once this year. However, keen members have continued sewing dolls which were collected by an RCH employee. So far Unit Hatikvah has donated 380 dolls in 2020.

Gerry Hamer, Calico Doll Project Coordinator



Plain calico doll



Doll Decorated by patient

MELBOURNE MITZVAH:

Making A Difference's aim is to help significantly disadvantaged Year 11 or 12 Jewish Students with financial assistance. The students need to demonstrate a commitment to their studies, their school and the wider community. Schools are invited to submit the names of one or two students who they feel need financial support due to family illness, unemployment, family breakdown or other issues. We would like to encourage all B'nai B'rith members to support this worthwhile cause especially when there is a special occasion: birthday, anniversary, new grandchild or great grandchild etc. For all payment details see Page 7.

The Jenny Goldberg Award aims to help improve people's skills as volunteers, which then benefits the community at large. Eligibility for the \$2500 grant: applicants must be Jewish, reside in Melbourne, be aged between 18-35, and have a history of volunteering in the Jewish and/or wider community.



2019 Jenny Goldberg Award Winner
Sarah Bendetsky

IF YOU MISSED BBVic's ANNUAL MENORAH AWARDS CEREMONY, this took place on Sunday, 15 November - where once again exceptional members of our community were recognised for their work in both the Jewish and broader communities: Raizel Fogel, Claude Fromm, Vicky Grosser, Geoff Sandler and Marianna Schwarz.

We have uploaded the Ceremony onto Google Drive for you to watch at your leisure.

The link is: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12wYX7a6JCoLJHiPrgRanzOhGVQNI-6Jy/view?usp=sharing>

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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.