



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW



Message from the President: B'nai B'rith and a Civil Society

I think we are all glad that the 2020 year is coming to an end. We look forward to a more normal year where we can hug our family and have face to face meetings without having to worry about wearing a face mask. The Combined Unit meeting on 13 December showcased the diversity and strength of our members and our activities. Thank you to Mark Rubinstein and his team (Helen Heimann, Jacqui Dinor Corry, Frances Stiglec and Teegan Slomoi for organising this successful event). Data collected by our Units showed that Zoom meetings during the year often attracted more than 50 participants and some of our major events such as the Menorah Awards and Speakers Forum attracted audiences of more than 100. It shows that we can still play an important part in the Jewish Community, while at the same time satisfying our own members' social and cultural needs.

The year ahead will present its own challenges for our organisation. We are finalising the appointment of our first Chief Executive Officer whose task will be to keep invigorating BBVic and help us meet the challenges ahead. Interviews with CEO candidates have impressed me with the need and potential of our 177 year old organisation and also some of the obstacles we face. B'nai B'rith is now an unusual organisation in Western society, being a pluralistic, non-government volunteer based community organisation.

The importance of such groups was highlighted by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks who sadly died unexpectedly last month. In his last book, published this year, he wrote on morality in our society and pointed out:

In a democratic society, there is an enormous weight that falls on families, communities and local groups of all kinds. This is where we learn the logic of cooperation, not competition. De Tocqueville saw that this arena, called 'civil society' (the part that is not the state), is vital for the health of democracy.

Best wishes and thank you for your involvement in B'nai B'rith Victoria during the year. Have a safe and happy summer season and let's get together early next year. Some of the exciting forthcoming activities in January and February are highlighted in this month's Preview.

Dr Benny Monheit

Benny



BBVIC OFFICE CLOSURE OVER SUMMER:

CLOSED FROM: THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER
RE-OPENING: MONDAY 18TH JANUARY @10AM

Message from the BBANZ President



Dear Members and Friends,

Sue and I hope that you are continuing to enjoy life after lockdown and are getting out and about. With the border barriers removed, we recently flew down to Melbourne for the day to see our family there for the first time this year. It was an incredible feeling to be able to hug our two Melbourne grandchildren as well as our son and daughter-in-law. They will be visiting us in a few weeks time.

Shortly we will also be flying to Brisbane to see another son and celebrate his birthday with him. Recently I attended the Executive Council of Australia Jewry (ECAJ) Annual General Meeting. It was held over Zoom for four hours but there were a number of issues to discuss and the meeting kept strictly to timetable. The main concern of ECAJ over the past year was anti-Semitism which has taken up a lot of its time. New school educational programs have been developed, teaching children about racism and anti-Semitism. Also a motion on gender equality in communal life was passed at the meeting. In all, it was a very worthwhile meeting.

The President of B'nai B'rith International, Charles 'Chuck' Kaufman, in his latest report stated in part "Out of adversity comes new opportunities. Opportunities in community service abound. Everyone wants to do something meaningful in these times. That's what sustained B'nai B'rith for 177 years." Wise words.

With 2020 fast coming to an end, I believe that BBANZ has stayed strong. I know that in Melbourne, your Executives have worked very hard and have been very resilient during the pandemic, and let's hope that in 2021 your Units and Lodge will gradually be able to hold activities that are not over Zoom. In NSW, I recently attended two AGMs at the NSW headquarters. They were well attended and everyone enjoyed seeing everyone else in person. On that hopefully positive note, Sue and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

David Samuel

MAJOR BBVIC EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY:

January:

Sunday 17th - The Raoul Wallenberg Commemoration

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

See Unit pages for other events & flyers for all information

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY 14TH MARCH

GRU & SPEAKERS FORUM FUNCTION - VENUE/TIME TBC

Dr Harry Lew will be talking about his last published book 'Patterson of Israel'. John Henry Patterson, a contemporary of Lawrence of Arabia, helped set up the Jewish fighting brigades in WW1 which ultimately led to the formation of the Israel Defence Forces.

RAOUL WALLENBERG UNIT

Co-Presidents: Simone Markus / Jacqui Dinor-Corry

Secretary: Adrienne Perch

Preview: Josh Kahan

What's happening in January:

Sunday 17 11:00am - The Raoul Wallenberg Commemoration will be conducted via Zoom. Keynote Speaker - Ms. Natalie Baker, recipient of the Raoul Wallenberg Study Grant in 2012. Prof. Frank Vajda and a member of Port Phillip Council will also address this event. **Registration is required** <http://www.trybooking.com/BNADE>. The Zoom link will be provided after registration, in time for the event. Contact for enquiries: Simone Markus. *Please see attached flyer*

Coming up in February:

Tuesday 2 7:30pm - **A Fun Regular Meeting on Zoom.** All members to think of an experience, you have 2 – 3 mins TOPS, to tell us of a comical, interesting, scary or unusual story. It is mandatory for all to attend our first meeting for 2021. So please register with Beryl. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4404414764>.

Wednesday 10 7:30pm - **Executive Meeting** at the home of Simone Markus.

Coming up in March:

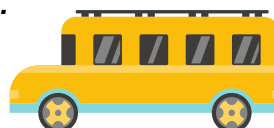
Tuesday 2 7:30pm - Israel and the Jewish World

Wednesday 10 7:30pm - Executive Meeting

We are on the move again:

Tuesday March 16 **Bus trip to Point Nepean** for morning tea. Then cruise from Sorrento across to Queenscliff for lunch at leisure, and on to Geelong to check out the arts and crafts market. Back by 5.30pm. Cost: \$45 per person. Does not include lunch.

Meet at Caulfield Park Pavilion **by 8.45am** for departure promptly at 9am. Booking essential with Irene Bud **Watch this space for more exciting expeditions during 2021.**



Mazal Tov to: Eva Lewin on her daughter, Prof. Sharon Lewin AO, being awarded the prestigious 2020 Melbourne Achiever Award for her outstanding contribution to Melbourne, by The Melbourne Committee.

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.

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:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84199794428> Meeting ID: 841 9979 4428.
 For assistance, contact Karin Zafir

Every Sunday 11:00am "Get-Together" – interesting and entertaining discussion via Zoom on a variety of topics, guest speakers & quiz. Contact Karin (details above) 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.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85211082214>
 Alternatively, you can open Zoom and enter the following Meeting ID: 852 1108 2214

What's on in January:

Thursday 14th & 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 (details as above).

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83176465022> Meeting ID: 831 7646 5022

Sunday 24 12:00pm - Not Quite Australia Day Picnic – Allnutt Park, Wheatley Road McKinnon.
 Contact Jack Aghion for more details or if extreme heat or rain is forecast.

Coming up in March:

Friday 12th to Sunday 14th Combined Weekend Away to Ballarat with Unit Akiba. Contact is Henry Winfield

Still waiting on Bunnings to give us a new date post 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 December:

Thursday 31 **New Year's Eve activity.** Your choice of seeing any movie commencing around 6:00pm to 7pm at the Palace Dendy Brighton or Palace Brighton Bay. Film to be followed by champagne and a light supper at Benny and Denise's, \$10 pp. Supper limited to the first 30 people who book with Fay Kayser. Enquiries: Henry Gladwin.

What's on in January:

Sunday 17 **Mid-morning lakeside walk at Waterways, Mordialloc.** Meet in the car park of the café at 10:00am, located at 35-36 Waterside Drive, Waterways. Walk to be followed by lunch at the café. Enquiries and bookings for lunch with Denise Le Bransky.

Wednesday 20 7:30pm - **Executive Committee Meeting** on Zoom

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:

Wednesday 17 7:30pm - **Executive Committee Meeting** on Zoom

Saturday 20 **Annual Welcome Back Soirée** at Evi Morawetz's. 8:30pm for 8:45pm start. There will be musical entertainment by 2Can Music and a scrumptious supper to follow. Cost \$30 for BB members and \$35 for non-members, with profit going to one of Akiba's nominated charities. TryBooking details to follow. Contact person: Suzanne Goldin.

BOOK NOW FOR OUR ANNUAL WEEKEND AWAY – Friday March 12 to Sunday March 14, 2021 – Akiba and Gesher-Rabin Units weekend away to Ballarat, staying at the Mercure Hotel and Convention Centre. For bookings, please call the hotel direct on 5327 1200. Further information from Henry Winfield.

HATIKVAH UNIT

President: Paula Messer

Vice-President: Claude Fromm

Preview: Judith Steinberg

What's on in January:

Tuesday 26 Australia Day - Welcome Back function At this stage the venue is undecided. Activities Committee will meet mid January and decide on the format.

Coming up in February:

Sunday 28 Regular Meeting – no details yet.

Condolences: Our deepest sympathy to Ros Hughes on the recent loss of her mother Rita, at the age of 102. We wish Ros and Alec and their family long life and many memories to treasure.

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 10 Morning - SOMW in the You Yangs, led by Evelyn Flitman.

Wednesday 20 Morning - Vardit and Ron will lead a **Midweek Walk** in South or East Melbourne.

Sunday 31 Morning - SOHW, a **hard walk** led by Eitan Froumine, Lerderderg Scenic Rim.

Coming up in February:

Sunday 7 Morning - Saul Milner will lead a **Medium Walk** in Torquay to Bells Beach.

Wednesday 17 Morning - **Midweek Walk** in the metropolitan area, led by Irena Blonder.

Sunday 28 Morning - Tania Tobias will lead a **SOHW** walk from Macedon to Woodend via Mt Macedon.



(13/12/2020) to 4 Brothers Rocks



Walk (22/11/2020) in Warrandyte

MELBOURNE MITZVAH LODGE

Co-Presidents: Devorah Zmood / Deidre Wainrit

Preview: Russell Stern

Deidre and Devorah wish everyone a Happy New Year and to stay safe and well over the summer holiday period.

Melbourne-Mitzvah's YIP, the Your Ideas Project – A report on progress

Late last year, Melbourne Mitzvah's Paul Gardner distributed a survey to all members. The Your Ideas Project stemmed from his belief that grass-roots democracy is important. Organisations should occasionally take stock and find out what's on members' minds. The YIP survey focussed on members' areas of interest. The aim was to guide our Exec in planning future activities. "Not surprisingly", Paul said, "YIP revealed that we're a diverse lot. But one activity stood out from the rest. Perhaps it's a reaction to months of lock down and Zoom meetings." That was tours. Many members wanted to join with others in visiting places of interest. "That might include guided walks around local areas, bus tours, train trips to country towns. Several members expressed willingness to form a committee to plan such events."

Coming up in February:

Monday 1 8:00pm - **Programming Meeting.** By Zoom

Wednesday 3 7:30pm - **Executive & Committee Meeting.** By Zoom.

Wednesday 10 7:30pm - **Regular Meeting.** Probably on Zoom or the hall at Beth Weizmann The meeting will commence with a talk by Rabbi Emeritus Fred Morgan AM about Diaspora Tales – Jews in Remote Places. Followed by the usual General Business. If on Zoom, please log in from 7:20 pm.

Thursday 25 **Mameloshen** will meet at the home of Dorothy and Charles New.

The Book Club continues to meet via Zoom on the 3rd Monday of January and February 2021.

'MAKING A DIFFERENCE' – Funds raised support Jewish VCE students (from low income families) at independent Jewish & State schools. Donation made by Gilah and Jack Leder on the occasion of Mary and Ian Rechtman's 60th wedding anniversary and in memory of Freda Segal.

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



Photos from MML Bagel Brunch (picnic in the Park)

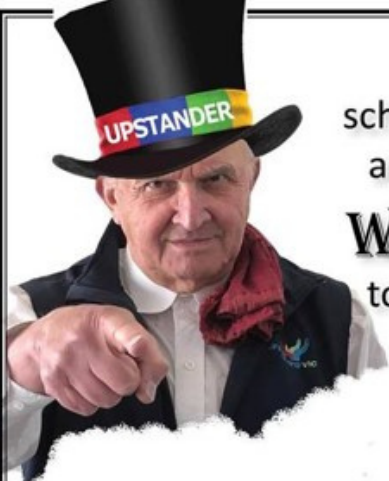


Thank goodness 2020 is behind us! It was a most unorthodox year, so we commemorated its close with a most unorthodox volunteer thank you on Zoom.

To reminisce and see our volunteer awards:

- you can watch the whole zoom event by clicking this LINK: [full event](#)
- you can watch the 2020-in-3-minutes wrap up video by clicking this LINK: [year in review](#)
- you can honour those who received awards for Meritorious Service by clicking this LINK: [three volunteers](#)

And, to prepare for a huge year coming up, “Uncle Tony” needs you!



Courage to Care
school program bookings
are coming in fast and
WE NEED YOU
to be ready to deliver!

courage to care vic
An initiative of 61 and 61
30/30 VISION

As school life moves back to normal,
and the Department of Education rolls out new curriculum requirements
to teach the lessons of the Holocaust, teachers are eager to bring the
Courage to Care program into their schools.

**Get ready with our intensive training schedule
through JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2021
and help us to deliver programs to schools in Term 1**

Training in the fundamentals:

- Middle Years Program (MYP) content and structure
- Secondary Years Program (SYP) content and structure
- Remote and/or in-person delivery
- Facilitation skills
- Using the equipment: orientation and hands-on practice

Training for leadership:

- Mentoring skills for experienced facilitators

Professional Development and expanding your knowledge base:

- Understanding Bystander Behaviour
- The development of Bias
- Genocides in Modern History
- Core concepts and language

For details of training dates, to register, or to ask any questions
contact Zoi at program.manager@couragetocare.org.au
and she will call you asap to answer all questions.

Mike Zervos CEO

B'nai B'rith Units Projects:

Special projects for Unit Akiba:

While fundraising is not a 'special project' in as much as all BBVic units do this, perhaps the process by which Unit Akiba decides to distribute its money for charity is slightly different. First, we have elections every two years to nominate three charities to which we would like to donate. We try to select three which are smaller in size where our donation can have more of an impact. Currently, we have selected Beit Rafael, Access Inc. and Impact. Second, the Executive has nominated a small range of worthwhile causes. Currently, the B'nai B'rith ones are Courage to Care, the Israel Commission and the Bernard Lustig Foundation, plus an external one, the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. Other B'nai B'rith activities are also supported, such as Showcase and the Youth Art competition. We are fortunate in that some of our charitable funds were made possible by a bequest from Peter Krafel z"l.

The other Unit activity that is in some ways a 'special project' is our support for 'serious' presentations. We host the Jewish Cultural Enrichment Program for which we have speakers, usually from within the Unit, who do presentations on a range of topics. The current series is on 'Jewish Giants' and many famous Jews have been presented in an interesting and educational way. A second activity is the Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club which, as the title suggests, presents and discusses books on Jewish history, politics, philosophy and other non-fiction topics. These sessions are held every two months.

Helen Fisher and Peter Schattner (Co-Presidents)

GANDEL HOLOCAUST STUDIES PROGRAM FOR AUSTRALIAN EDUCATORS Raoul Wallenberg Study Grant Information

Raoul Wallenberg Study Grants provide secondary school teachers (both Jewish and non Jewish) with the opportunity to participate in the 18 day intensive Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

The Raoul Wallenberg Unit of B'nai B'rith funds approximately 10 Study Grants annually. The program is aimed at expert teachers, with the overall objective of forming an active and organised network of Australian educators committed to teaching the Holocaust and its universal implications. Raoul Wallenberg Unit offers Study Grants in association with the Australian Foundation for Yad Vashem Limited for practising teachers and educators to participate in this Program. The study grant is valued at approximately AUD \$8,900. We estimate that well over 100,000 Australian students have been taught about the Holocaust by teachers who have received our Study Grants.

For more information about the Yad Vashem program, please visit:

http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/education/international_projects/australian_educators/index.asp

Contact: Ms Simone Markus Co-Chairperson of Action Wallenberg Committee.



2019 Teachers Welcome Back

Menorah Awards - Volunteers recognised on Mitzvah Day

More than 100 people joined in this year's Menorah Awards ceremony, which was held via Zoom on the evening of Mitzvah Day, Sunday 15th November.

The honours, now in their 42nd year, pay tribute to volunteers who work quietly behind the scenes making significant contributions to the community.

Five noteworthy achievers in our community were recognised for their exceptional volunteer work:

Raizel Fogel received her award for her services as a 'doula', providing emotional support to mothers during and after the birthing process, as well as for her work as a volunteer at the Royal Children's Hospital, in grief counselling at Monash Medical Centre, as a Lifeline telephone counsellor, and in several other areas as well.

Claude Fromm was recognised for his involvement with numerous B'nai B'rith projects over the years, as well as his work with JNF Blue Box collecting, cub leading, volunteering at the Jewish Holocaust Centre, and on the board of NEJC. As his nominator put it, 'Claude doesn't wait to be asked to volunteer – he just sees what needs to be done and does it.'

Vicky Grosser was recognised for her work creating the 'Geelong Chavurah' and as part of the 'Geelong One Fire Reconciliation Group' working with indigenous residents of the Bellarine area. She told how, in the spirit of reconciliation, an Indigenous friend made her a plaited challah with apple baked into it.

Geoff Sandler's award was based on the professional expertise he shared, free of charge, with a number of Jewish organisations, as well as his volunteering roles at the Progressive Chevra Kadisha, Maccabi Ajax Swimming Club, and The King David School Council.

Marianne Schwarz received her award for her work over almost 60 years with B'nai B'rith, including with the Mothers' Help Program, the B'nai B'rith School Holiday Program and Meals on Wheels. At age 98, Marianne also continues to volunteer at Emmy Monash and is a survivor speaker for Courage to Care.

The 2020 awardees join more than 160 others who have been recognised by the B'nai B'rith Menorah Awards over the years.

The keynote address was given by the recently re-elected Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp, who talked about the state of the City of Melbourne post-COVID, and the impact of volunteers in its recovery.

If you missed the ceremony you can view it online – click [HERE](#) or go to the Menorah Awards website and click on the link.

B'nai B'rith invites nominations from all members of the community. Nomination forms for the 2021 awards can be downloaded from www.bnaibrith.org.au/menorah-awards.html or picked up from the BBVic office.



January 2021						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1 New Year's Day Candle Lighting: 8:27 pm  GRU Keep fit during lockdown	2 Shabbat Ends: 9:32 pm	3 GRU Get-Together
4	5	6	7	8 Candle Lighting: 8:28 pm  GRU Keep fit during lockdown	9 Shabbat Ends: 9:32 pm	10 Ramblers – SOMW walk GRU Get-Together
11	12	13	14 GRU German Speakers Group	15 Candle Lighting: 8:28 pm  GRU Keep fit during lockdown	16 Shabbat Ends: 9:29 pm	17 Annual Raoul Wallenberg Commemoration @11:00am Akiba - lakeside walk GRU Get-Together
18 MML Bookclub OFFICE RE-OPENS	19	20 AKIBA – Executive Committee Meeting Ramblers – MidWeek walk	21 AKIBA – The Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club	22 Candle Lighting: 8:22pm  GRU Keep fit during lockdown	23 Shabbat Ends: 9:24pm	24 GRU Get-Together GRU – Not Quite Australia day picnic
25	26 Australia Day OFFICE CLOSED Hatikvah – Aus Day welcome back	27	28 GRU German Speakers Group	29 Candle Lighting: 8:18pm  GRU Keep fit during lockdown	30 Shabbat Ends: 9:18pm	31 GRU Get-Together Ramblers – SOMW walk

P.T.O February Calendar

February 2021						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 MML – Programming	2 RWU – A fun Regular Meeting	3 MML – Exec + Com	4	5 Candle Lighting: 8:11pm  GRU Keep fit during lockdown	6 Shabbat Ends: 9:11pm	7 Ramblers Medium walk GRU Get-Together
8 The Regatta (TAS)	9	10 RWU – Executive meeting MML Regular Meeting	11 VBBC	12 Chinese New Year Candle Lighting: 8:04pm  GRU Keep fit during lockdown	13 Shabbat Ends: 9:02pm	14 GRU Get-Together
15 March Preview PreviewDeadline MML Bookclub	16	17 Akiba Executive Committee Meeting Ramblers MidWeek walk	18	19 Candle Lighting: 7:55pm  GRU Keep fit during lockdown	20 Shabbat Ends: 8:53pm Akiba Annual Welcome back Soiree	21 GRU Get-Together
22 March Preview Collating	23	24	25 MML Mameloshen Erev Purim	26 Candle Lighting: 7:48pm  GRU Keep fit during lockdown Purim 	27 Shabbat Ends: 8:43pm	28 Hatikvah Reg Mtg Ramblers SOHW walk GRU Get-Together

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