



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW

B'NAI B'RITH VICTORIA

MENORAH AWARDS SPEAKERS FORUM

SUNDAY 15TH
NOVEMBER

SUNDAY 29TH
NOVEMBER

See attached flyers for all information

Message from the President: The Kodak Moment

The gradual lifting of COVID restrictions in Melbourne is warmly welcomed. I am sure there are dozens of things we all want to catch up on after our months of lockdown. For me, I want to prioritise a holiday (in Victoria) – and a meal in a restaurant with friends.

Despite the social restrictions, B'nai B'rith in Melbourne has continued to be very active with Units organising Zoom meetings, education sessions and keeping in touch with their own members. Paul Gardner's book launch using a webinar format and getting multiple Jewish organisations to work together was one of the highlights of the month.

I know some members have been adversely affected emotionally and financially by the pandemic. If you are having problems, you can speak to your Unit President or welfare officer for advice on what services are available. The same applies if you are having difficulties paying your membership fees this year.

At the October Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge meeting, there was much discussion (and even vigorous debate) on our strategic plan and our decision to search for a Chief Executive Officer. The focus of the role will be on program development and reinvigoration of the organisation to ensure its viability. We have worked on this for the past three years or more, involving outside consultants, focus groups with members and non-members and of course with our Victorian B'nai B'rith Council (the VBBC).

Our members have a wealth of lived experience and carry the knowledge and history of BBVic. On the 75th year of our existence, this is a wonderful opportunity to try and pass on our enthusiasm for the community work we do to a younger generation. Initially we plan to focus on the 'baby boomer' group in our Jewish community before looking at younger people who may have no knowledge of BBVic at all or just a few reminiscences from their grandparents. Achieving this re-invigoration will be the challenge for our new CEO. He or she will need to be able to communicate well with our target group, but they will also need your support and goodwill.

This change process reminds me of the lessons we were taught in our course in Management at Sydney University. It's known as the 'Kodak moment'. Kodak used to be a worldwide leader in photo development and cameras. It blundered badly when in the 1980s it missed all opportunities to get into digital photography and to adapt to changing circumstances. This led to its bankruptcy in 2012. We were taught in class not to be responsible for the next Kodak moment. This haunts me when I think of the future of B'nai B'rith.



Dr Benny Monheit

Message from the BBANZ President



Dear Members and Friends,

With the High Holidays behind us (and how different they were to all other years), it's time to move forward with keeping B'nai B'rith alive and relevant. The Chief Executive Officer of B'nai B'rith International, Daniel S Mariaschin, said inter alia "This year, it is particularly poignant to think back – there have been so many changes and so much loss. B'nai B'rith, founded in 1843, has persevered to repair the world through some of history's most trying times. We take comfort in that experience and know that we will do so again – as there is no other choice."

In the Leadership Letter from the President of B'nai B'rith International, Charles (Chuck) Kaufman, he writes in his opening paragraph the following:- "We continue to revel in the remarkable Abraham Accords signing. We've witnessed what in recent years we've called 'miracles' – the moving of the US Embassy to Israel's eternal capital, Jerusalem; the announcements of several other countries to do the same; American support of Israel annexing the Golan Heights; robust relations with the Saudis and now treaties with the UAE and Bahrain. Something miraculous is happening at a rapid pace. With so many innovations from the Startup State, there's no escaping rising anti-Semitism, acts of terror, BDS and other disconcerting matters. The Lord giveth; the Lord taketh away. Resilience is our strength".

What I read from this is that we must be optimistic about all the positive events that are happening but we must not bury our heads in the sand when it comes to the ongoing issues. I know that this winter and the 75th year of BBVic's existence have been extremely difficult for every one of you in Melbourne but as the message above goes, we must remain resilient. In this regard, B'nai B'rith International is holding a Virtual Leadership Forum on 15th and 16th November (US times). They have a number of high profile speakers and B'nai B'rith International welcomes all of us, your friends and network to attend. Please contact me if you are interested in attending and I will supply you with all the details.

No doubt many of you have already heard of the organisation called Dunera. Dunera is an easy to use platform that was born out of COVID-19 necessity. Dunera aims to create a new sense of togetherness for our Australian community, with a focus on older members who have been in isolation. It features a mix of community learning, cultural enrichment and diverse entertainment. I would encourage anyone who would like to partake in some of the events this organisation holds to do so. Since my last report, I have attended the AGM Installations of both the Raoul Wallenberg Unit and Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge. I congratulate the Co-Presidents of both for taking on their positions and wish them and all their executive and members every success for this coming year. The one common factor was the participation of Dr Paul Gardner. Paul gave a very relevant and insightful speech at Raoul Wallenberg called "The need for a plandemic" and running the fancy hat contest at Melbourne Mitzvah. Unfortunately, due to a prior commitment I was unable to attend Paul's book launch of his book "The Unsung Family Hero" but heard that it was well attended and successful. Well done.

david.samuels@bbnsw.org.au

David Samuels

B'nai B'rith 'WhatsApp' Current Affairs and The World

Due to the current climate we are in, I am running two of my classes online through 'WhatsApp'. Our 'B'nai B'rith WhatsApp' group is an online Current Affairs chat where we share ideas and opinions and provide valuable sources of information on global Current Affairs topics and World Affairs as well as local topics. This allows people to be informed and for them to provide their opinions in an open, safe forum during this time of lockdown. The advantage of 'WhatsApp' is that you are not restricted to be somewhere at a certain time. You can answer, or not answer at your leisure wherever you are. Members of the 'WhatsApp' Group can catch up on the latest 'hot' topics making the news. They can have their say, hear what others are saying and see the value of differing points of view. The postings are also meant to be fun and relaxed and not always serious, but at the same time, members are always respectful and mindful of the right to listen to each other's opinions and ideas, regardless of religious and political beliefs. Louis Cukierman shares medical topics and controversial ideas that challenge our belief in modern medicine and, at the conclusion of the day, after serious discussions, Suzanne Aladjem shares humorous and relaxing posts for the class to unwind and lower their blood pressure. We welcome new members to join our group. To Join - download 'WhatsApp' on your smartphone.

Ron James

RAOUL WALLENBERG UNIT

Co-Presidents: Simone Markus / Jacqui Dinor-Corry

Secretary: Minnie Kahan

Preview: Josh Kahan



rwu@bbvic.net

What's happening in November:

Wednesday 4 7:30pm - **Regular Meeting.** Irene Bud will produce a murder mystery play - "Malachai Stout's Family Reunion".

Wednesday 11 7:30pm - **Executive Meeting on Zoom**

Sunday 15 **Mitzvah Day** - Collection of nonperishable goods. Jacqui will collect. **See page 11 for Mitzvah Day activities and more details regarding collection.**

Sunday 15 7:30pm - **Menorah Awards** see page 10 and flyer for all details

2020 Memorial Service

The Memorial Service this year was quite different from previous years as it was all on Zoom. However, it was still a very dignified service and very well attended. Mark Rubinstein showed us a very elegant animated candle lighting service, while Irene Bud lit the memorial candles in front of the camera. Sue Newman presented us with a very professional well thought out and practical presentation on dealing with loss. Overall, attendees were comforted hearing the names of their loved ones read out, listening to Rabbi Philip Heilbrunn OAM reciting the Psalms and singing El Male Rachamin, Andrew Kolb singing Adonai Roi and Leon Mattatia's recitation of Kaddish.

An added feature this year was BBVic President Dr Benny Monheit's recitation of the name of deceased Past Presidents/Chairmen of B'nai B'rith Victoria. This was very well received and will remain a feature of future services. We hope to see you all "in the flesh" at next year's service.

If any members would like to have their list of names read out in perpetuity, please contact Teegan at admin@bbvic.org.au. Thank you to Frances and Teegan for your assistance.

Regards,

Karin Zafir and Kath Kolb

Co-Chairs

GESHER-RABIN UNIT

Co-Presidents: Karin Zafir / Leon Nissen

Secretary: Sue Moskowitz

Preview: Tom & Karin Zafir



gesher@bbvic.net

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 Geshher-Rabin Unit's Co-President Leon Nissen. To join the class, click on the following link or enter the meeting ID into Zoom:
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 if you'd like to join in and need help with Zoom (details above). You will need to have Zoom installed on your device but there is no need to set up an account. Here is the link for the meeting. It will take you directly to Zoom.

What's on in November:

Every second Thursday of each month

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.

Sunday 15 10:00am - 2:00pm Mitzvah Day - Annual Collect-a-thon/'Reverse Garage Sale' where we will be collecting things you want to get rid of from the attached list (see flyer). Covid-safe precautions will be in place – wear a mask, maintain social distance, etc. If you are able to help on the day with the sorting of items collected, please contact Evelyn. **See page 11 for more details of Mitzvah Day activities.**

7:30pm - **Annual BBVic Menorah Awards Presentation** – will be held via Zoom. Register at <https://events.humanitix.com/menorahawards> after which login details will be sent to you.

Sunday 22 9:00am - 2:00pm - Garage Sale Trail – Any saleable items collected at our collect-a-thon on Mitzvah Day will be offered for sale as part of the Garage Sale Trail. Any money collected will be donated to Launch Housing, which helps provide housing and support for Melbourne's homeless. Anyone able to help on the day please contact Evelyn (details above).

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



akiba@bbvic.net

What's on in November:

- Tuesday 3** **Cup Day Picnic**, weather permitting, from 1:00pm with real live people! Recent easing of restrictions will permit us to have one or more separate groups of up to ten people per group. Enter Landcox Park via Mavis Avenue, East Brighton, and meet near the play equipment. BYO picnic lunch, a mask, rug, some grandchildren and 4-legged friends. Includes a cup sweep and lovely walk around the lake. This activity is subject to change if restrictions are revised, and may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather. Members will be kept updated.
Contact person: Suzanne Goldin
- Sunday 15** **Mitzvah Day Collectathon of food items, toiletries and household items.** See page 11 for activities and more details.
- Sunday 15** **7:30pm - BBVic Menorah Awards** see flyer and page 10 for all information
- Wednesday 18** **7:30pm - Executive Committee Meeting** on Zoom
- Thursday 19** **8:00 - 9:30pm – The Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club on Zoom.** The meeting will review the book “Aaronsohn’s Maps: The Man Who Might Have Created Peace in the Modern Middle East” by Patricia Goldstone. Presenter: Stephen Schmiddeg. Contact person and enquiries re participation: Peter Schattner
- Sunday 22** **7:30pm – Zoom movie night and fundraiser.** We are screening the 2017 Israeli film ‘Foxtrot’. BB member tickets are \$8 with all proceeds being donated to Beit Rafael. Bookings and full details are available via the TryBooking link: www.trybooking.com/BMAIN. The Zoom link will follow in due course. Enquiries: Henry Gladwin on

Coming up in December:

- Sunday 13** **2:00pm - Activities Planning Meeting** on Zoom
- Thursday 31** **New Year's Eve activity**, to be advised

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!

HATIKVAH UNIT

President: Paula Messer

Vice-President: Claude Fromm

Treasurer: Orly Dar

Preview: Judith Steinberg



hatikvah@bbvic.net

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.

What's on in November:

- Tuesday 3** 2:00-4:00ish pm - **November Fundraiser - Melbourne Cup Mask-erade**
 Our Mask-erade will have 2 categories: Elegant/Fashionable and Ugly/scary with prizes awarded by popular vote. Your job is to decorate a covid mask, bought or home made, to fit either category. (See attached flyer)
 - \$10 to Orly Dar ASAP.
 - Book with Orly Dar for zoom meeting reference number.
- Sunday 15** 7:30pm - BBVic Menorah Awards see flyer and page 10 for all details
- Sunday 29** 7:55pm - **Regular Meeting Zoom**, Guest Speaker Professor James McCaw. Please contact Michael Taft for zoom meeting details and log in to meeting at 7:55 pm.

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

Continuing COVID-19 restrictions will not allow us to organise a walk until at least November 2nd. At this stage, we believe that we will be able to walk within 25 km from our homes in groups of no more than 10 (where the number of households in that group is not stipulated).

So the October walks that we previously advertised must be cancelled. Here are our planned walks in November. The walks on the 8th and 18th November should be within 25km of most of us. We hope that the distance that we may travel will allow for our hard walk on the 29th November.

What's on in November:

- Sunday 8** Morning - Irena will lead a **Medium Walk**, along the beach from Brighton heading south for no more than 6km.
- Wednesday 18** Morning - **Midweek Walk**, "Surprising Ormond and McKinnon", led by Nina.
- Sunday 29** Morning - **Hard Walk** from Donnelly's Weir to Mt St Leonard, led by Boris

MELBOURNE MITZVAH LODGE

Co-Presidents: Devorah Zmood / Deidre Wainrit

Preview: Russell Stern



mitzvah@bbvic.net

Co Presidents, Deidre Wainrit and Devorah Zmood are acting as President in 3 monthly intervals. You should contact the President in charge for that quarter, as shown, should you have any queries or concerns.

Oct-Dec: Deidre Wainrit, Jan-Mar: Devorah Zmood, Apr-Jun: Deidre Wainrit, Jul-Sep: Devorah Zmood

We have included photos from the Installation showing many of you wearing very creative hats and we thank you for your effort which helped to put a smile on our faces.

Melbourne Mitzvah is responsible for one charity and allocates one award. Not everyone is aware exactly what their purpose is: **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. Payment details at bottom of our page. **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.

What's on in November:

Wednesday 4 7:30pm - Executive Meeting via Zoom

Monday 9 7:30pm - Programming Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday 11 7:30pm - **Regular Meeting**, Speaker Steven Huppert - "80 Years of Family History" via Zoom. Any problems getting on, contact Morris Tobias

Monday 16 **Book Club** via Zoom. Hostess: Janice Huppert. Author: Malala Yousafzai "I am Malala"

Tuesday 24 11.30 am - **BYO Bagel Brunch Picnics**. Park Venue to be advised by your host. If you have not already advised Alex Starr that you wish to participate, either as a host or a guest, please phone him ASAP

Coming up in December:

Monday 14 **Book Club** via Zoom. Hostess: Doreen Hermann. Author: Madeline St John. "Ladies in Black"



'MAKING A DIFFERENCE': Donations received from: Sabina Kolt, and Fairlie and Dennis Nassau.

To make a donation, please credit our "Making a Difference" account: BSB: 013 017 Account 9001 28923;

Ref: Your name. Email Devorah Zmood



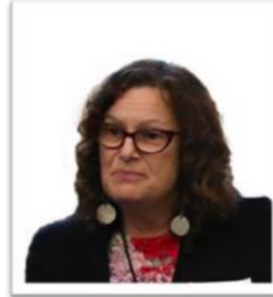
While it continues to be a very turbulent and unsettling time, there are still many positive initiatives underway at B'nai B'rith Courage to Care. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about what we are up to.

Changes in our committee of management:



Outgoing Committee members

Frank Carew, Peter Gaspar and Les Kausman OAM



Incoming Committee members

Sabrina Chakman and Judy Glick

At our recent Annual General Meeting, there were a number of significant changes to our Committee of Management (COM). Les Kausman OAM, Peter Gaspar and Frank Carew all stepped down from their respective committee roles. Judy Glick took up the role of Vice Chair from Les, and Sabrina Chakman joined the committee. These changes were expected and are part of the well-considered succession planning for COM. Judy has already made a significant contribution, on both COM and as a Marketing and Fundraising Subcommittee member, and we know she is looking forward to contributing even more as our new Vice Chair. Similarly, Sabrina has been an active member of our Education Sub-Committee and will take over as Chair of this sub-committee from Frank. Les, Peter and Frank have made an enormous contribution to our development and it is wonderful to have their ongoing wisdom and expertise. More than 100 people attended the subsequent Zoom session to hear their reflections and honour their many years of contribution. Most importantly, it was good to hear that all three are continuing to be deeply involved in our ongoing program delivery.

IF WE CAN'T PROVIDE OUR PROGRAMS, WHAT IS THERE TO DO?

Asking this question is understandable and, frankly, it's surprising how much there is to do. All our committee, sub-committees and project groups are now in the habit of meeting via Zoom. Although the office remains closed, we are taking the opportunity to accelerate projects that have been on the back burner. We are updating our program materials, procedures, databases and volunteer records. We are also planning to reorganise our office space to make it more welcoming and effective for volunteers who come in to help with administrative matters. Zoi continues to set up the training sessions using Zoom and has worked with expert volunteers on developing streamlined guidelines and training materials for all our programs. Karen has been in constant contact with schools and the feedback continues to be very positive. Our communication with schools is now to arrange school visits in 2021, giving preference to those programs that were postponed. Lisa is continuing very positive and comprehensive volunteer recruitment, communications and relationships. It is amazing that although we cannot meet in person we have had about a dozen new volunteers join us over recent months!

RECRUITMENT: INTRODUCTION TO COURAGE TO CARE. ARE ANY OF YOUR FRIENDS INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

The process between the time someone decides to become a volunteer and receiving sufficient information and training can be quite lengthy. Besides offering "refresher" training to existing volunteers, we are holding a number of "Introduction to Courage to Care" Zoom sessions. These have proved very successful and if you know anyone who may be interested in finding out about volunteering opportunities, why not invite them to contact Lisa Lewis, our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer.coordinator@couragetocare.org.au. Make sure you keep an eye out for future events! Find out more. Contact us on 9533 0955 or www.couragetocare.org.au.



Showcase: fostering Jewish musical talent

Jacqui Dinor Corry, our event organiser maven is again assisting us to stage a special concert. On Sunday 15 November we are planning a Mitzvah Day Concert at 1.30pm via our channel at <https://bbvic.net>. We plan to invite young Showcase Entrants who did not make the Finals Concert. From 36 entrants, there are many students who deserve recognition and an opportunity to perform more widely. Charge: \$10 to cover costs.

Bookings are available via the Trybooking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/BMFJO>

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. We were encouraged by the entries we received for Online Showcase 2020. The standard of entries was very high and we are proud to report that there were three entries from Sydney. This is the pilot for Showcase going national in 2021. Among our entrants was a substantial number of returning musicians who have a strong connection with our Showcase community, including Miriam Rotblat, who took out this year's B'nai B'rith Victoria First Prize of \$1,000. We hope our entrants will use this experience and feedback from the adjudicators in preparation for their exams.

The Finals Concert on Sunday 13 September was a live-streamed event via our channel using pre-recorded videos from the finalists and Jewish schools. It was a stellar event with wonderful performances, awards and the culmination of Showcase.

Our advertisers, sponsors, donors and Unit Presidents were invited to attend the concert and send messages of support. Also, local representatives of Glen Eira City Council, State and Federal Parliament and our patrons were contacted. All of our adjudicators made instructive videos as well. Their messages of support and advertisements can be seen on our channel until December. Interested people can also subscribe to our three replay concerts at the channel. A special thank you to **yoursportlive** who are the owners and managers of the channel we use.

Our replay concerts are available to all on a fee per view basis. Your instructions are below:

Access the channel <https://bbvic.net>

- 1- Click on the video.
- 2- Create an account to Login.
- 3- Enter your credit card information.
- 4- Enjoy. Please tell your friends to support Showcase fundraising.



Showcase 2020 Winner
Miriam Rotblat

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

Finally, an important message to the B'nai B'rith community. At a recent meeting, the committee discussed feedback from our stakeholders. We have also recognised our need for new committee members in 2021. To support our new direction for the future sustainability of Showcase, we need people with technology skills. In 2021, we plan to cater for live and online events, which requires 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 and marketing. Please send all inquiries via our recently updated email address: showcase@bbvic.org.au.

Judy Firestone (Chair)

Menorah Awards 2020 - Sunday 15th November

What better way to round off Mitzvah Day this year than with the B'nai B'rith Menorah Awards, which recognise the contribution of volunteers in our community?

Since 1978, the annual Menorah Awards seek to shine a light on members of the community who have not previously had their contributions formally acknowledged. These quiet achievers inspire others by their example, and make us optimistic when we look at their actions and how they help to make a better future.

This year we have five awardees – Raizel Fogel, Claude Fromm, Vicky Grosser, Geoff Sandler and Marianne Schwarz. Presentation of their awards will be followed by a talk by Sally Capp, the 104th Lord Mayor of Melbourne and an inspiring speaker and role model.

The Menorah Awards will be presented from 7.30pm on Sunday 15th November. Tickets are free but bookings are essential. Book through <https://events.humanitix.com/menorah-awards>. See flyer for all details. Evelyn Flitman - Chair Menorah Awards Committee

BBVic Speakers Forum - Sunday 29th November

How can our community afford to give our kids a Jewish education?

The Speakers Forum on Sunday 29th November at 7.30 pm will see an expert panel discuss the affordability of Jewish education for young people. The panel will be chaired by **Rabbi Ralph Genende**, Senior Rabbi at the Caulfield Hebrew Congregation (Caulfield Shule). The speakers will be **Marc Light**, Principal, The King David School, **Itzik Sztokman**, Executive Principal of the United Jewish Education Board (UJEB) and **Nechama Bendet**, Co-Chair, Australian Council of Jewish Schools. This meeting will be held on Zoom and the general Jewish community will be invited as well as members of B'nai B'rith. The discussion will be very timely given the recent release of the Gen17 survey conducted by the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation at Monash University on attitudes and beliefs about Jewish education for young people. The Forum hopes to provide a more solution-focused perspective based on the opinions of experts in the field. The BBVic Speakers Forum is a regular event which brings well known personalities to a wide audience, including members of B'nai B'rith. While the forums are usually held in a large hall, most recently in the main lecture room at Beth Weizmann, they have been held on Zoom during the pandemic. Recent speakers have been Professor Peter Singer on the ethics of 'effective giving' and Jamie Hyams, a senior policy analyst at the Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC), who spoke on developments in Israel and the Middle East. Information about forthcoming Speakers Forums, including the one on November the 29th, will be given by regular email bulletins from the BBVic office. See attached flyer for further details.

Peter Schattner

(Chair, Speakers Advisory Group)

Presenters for the November 29th Speakers Forum



Photos L-R: Rabbi Ralph Genende, Marc Light, Itzik Sztokman & Nechama Bendet

BBVic Mitzvah Day Activities - SUNDAY 15th November

Unit Akiba - Collectathon of food items, toiletries and household items. Unit Akiba is collecting items that will be distributed to needy residents of the City of Glen Eira. We are specifically collecting non-perishable food items with a use-by-date that is AFTER March 1st 2021, as well as toiletries and other useful household items. We welcome all B'nai B'rith members' contributions to this most worthwhile project. To arrange for the drop-off or collection of goods, or for any enquiries, please contact Akiba's co-ordinator Helen Fisher.

Raoul Wallenberg Unit - Collection of non-perishable goods, AFTER the expiry date of March 1st 2021. Please contact Jacqui Dinor Corry to collect any items. Goods will be picked up from your front door.

Gesher-Rabin Unit - 10:00am - 2:00pm Mitzvah Day - Annual Collect-a-thon/'Reverse Garage Sale' where we will be collecting things you want to get rid of from the attached list (see flyer). Covid-safe precautions will be in place – wear a mask, maintain social distance, etc. If you are able to help on the day with the sorting of items collected, please contact Evelyn.

Showcase - Mitzvah Day concert at 1.30pm via our channel at <https://bbvic.net>. We plan to invite young Showcase Entrants who did not make the Finals Concert. From 36 Entrants there are many students who deserve recognition and an opportunity to perform more widely. Charge: \$10 to cover costs. Book now: <https://www.trybooking.com/BMEJO>. See page 9 for all details.

Community Organisations Assisting:

During difficult times such as the current pandemic, BBVic feels it is important for us to work with other likeminded organisations for the benefit of our community. Therefore, the programs below are included for your information.

C Care:

C Care is a Jewish Community Assist group who provide inexpensive kosher meals, delivered to homes by volunteers, supported by large corporate organisations.

If needed they can be contacted on <https://www.ccare.org.au/> or by telephone on 9636 3321

They provide:

1. Freshly cooked 3 course dinners once a week
2. Weekly groceries (fruit and vegetables) and challah for Shabbat and monthly pantry essentials
3. Social engagement chats and check ins with a C Care 'Buddy'

Confidential requests can easily be made here: <https://www.ccare.org.au/how-to-receive-help/>

Dunera:

Dunera is a Sydney based Jewish organisation which was born out of COVID-19 necessity. Dunera aims to create a new sense of togetherness for our Australian community, with a focus on older members who have been in isolation. It features a mix of community learning, cultural enrichment and diverse entertainment.

Here is the link to Dunera: <https://dunera.org.au/>

How does it work? The website has two sections:

- 1) **Live:** Users register for an event at a certain date and time
 - 2) **On-Demand:** Recorded events, activities and resources that are available to access at any time.
- Content comprises Dunera original live events such as live cooking demos and synchronicity, external organisation's live events (subject to our guidelines) and a wealth of on-demand activities curated by our team of dedicated volunteers. Organisations we have listed events for include: AICC, WIZO, AJF, JNF, JCA, JIFF, Limmud OZ + NZ, NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, The Lowy Institute, Melbourne Jewish Book Week, +61J, The Sydney Jewish Museum, The State Library of NSW, Shalom, UIA, and many more.

Project Dignity Crisis Relief program:

Project Dignity is a Temple Beth Israel initiative that has been formed from seeing Jewish history reflected in the plight of refugees from many nations who have come to Australia as a place of safety from war and persecution. The Project Dignity Crisis Relief program was created out of necessity to provide support to refugee students and families who are seeking asylum in Australia during this current COVID-19 crisis. Starting in March 2020, our priority was to provide access to sufficient food and essentials for the most vulnerable group. The plight of those seeking asylum in Australia during Covid-19 continues to be of great concern and the need for the continuation of our relief program continues for the foreseeable future.

How you can help: The program would greatly appreciate any of the following:

- Tax deductible donations – please click on the link <https://www.mazonaustralia.org/projectdignitycrisisrelief>
- Donations of non-perishable food, toiletries, feminine hygiene products and nappies / Supermarket vouchers / Cooked Meals - we currently deliver around 250 meals each week.

To find out more information and how you can help please see our webpage <https://www.tbi.org.au/project-dignity-crisis-relief/> or call Elly Brooks 0409 002 485 or Nicole Brown 0425 774 712

Compiled and edited by Frances Stiglec and Teegan Slomoi on behalf of B'nai B'rith Victoria Inc.

Proofread by Henry Gladwin and Printed by Blackfeather, Box Hill.

Official Publication of B'nai B'rith Victoria Inc. Tel: 9523 0888 Email: council@bbvic.org.au Website: www.bbv.org

Vol. 59 No. 9 November 2020. Price 40 cents. Approved by Australia Post P/P No. 100000993

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.