



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW



Message from the President on B'nai B'rith and Jewish Identity



Jewish identity is very hard to define. In general terms, an identity comprises the qualities, beliefs, personality traits and appearance that characterise a person or group. Psychologists explain how individuals develop their identities as they transition from childhood to adulthood; sociologists theorise how groups develop collective identities associated with role-behaviours.

While on vacation in Israel, I have been reading a book by Michael Meyer who is now an 85 year-old German-born American historian of modern Jewish history.

In 1990, he published *Jewish Identity in the Modern World* which discusses the conundrum of who and what is a Jew. He opted to avoid the difficult psychological and sociological theories of how Jews might develop a Jewish identity. Instead, he adopted an historical approach to the subject. I shall summarise Meyer's main ideas and then explain the relevance of this to B'nai B'rith.

Meyer says that modern day Jews are obsessed with the subject of identity, almost certainly because it is so closely linked with the survival of the Jewish people. In the pre-modern era, Jews lived in separate communities and were largely defined by their religion. However, in the modern era, there have been three forces which have had major impacts on Jewish identity. The three main forces, which have either weakened or strengthened our identity, are:

- 1) **The Jewish enlightenment** ('Haskalah') – this has led to religion being challenged by so-called 'reason' and universalism;
- 2) **Antisemitism** – this can both strengthen and weaken Jewish identity. If faith is weak, then being subtly placed on the 'outer' in society might not leave Jewishness worthwhile;
- 3) **Nationalism** – culminating in Zionism, but also in the assertion that Jews are not just a religious group, but also 'a people', no matter how dispersed or culturally diverse.

These are very complex issues, and a brief summary such as I have just presented cannot possibly do justice to the subject.



Searching in Tel Aviv for books on Jewish identity

I recommend you to read the book by Michael Meyer. However, this historical approach does tell us that Jewish identity must come up with answers to: the lure of assimilation in an 'enlightened' age, especially in the relatively free English-speaking world; the wearing down of Jews by subtle forms of antisemitism, sometimes by the so-called progressive element amongst Jews themselves; and the dilemma of dual identity posed by a strong commitment in the diaspora to Israel, as well as the notion of being a people apart.

B'nai B'rith is committed to Jewish identity. Our goals include helping the needy, promoting human rights, providing Jewish education and supporting Israel. While we are not an overtly religious organisation, we respect Jews of any and every branch of the faith. By bringing Jews together as a community to work together for these important goals, we are creating a positive agenda which will strengthen our identity as Jews.

People ask me: What does B'nai B'rith stand for? What is its underlying purpose? B'nai B'rith, through its good work, strengthens Jewish life in our community, and helps enrich and possibly even clarify our Jewish identity. Single-issue Jewish organisations also do good. But B'nai B'rith, by being a broad organisation, strengthens our identity in a way that is potentially unique.

Message from the BBANZ President



As this will be my last report to Preview as President B'nai B'rith Australia/New Zealand, I would like to start by thanking everyone who has worked at B'nai B'rith Head Office in Melbourne for all the help and support you have given me, and Sue as Secretary, over the past three years. You have always been very helpful and kind.

I would also like to thank the Presidents of your Units and Lodges for your help, support and kindness and I hope I can convey that thanks personally when I see you at the forthcoming Convention. Under the leadership, firstly of Benny, and now Peter, as Presidents of B'nai B'rith Victoria, you have been, and are in good hands with these two hard-working and dedicated people. One of the personal benefits Sue and I have received over the last three years are the new friendships we have made, including Tania and Morris Tobias. It was therefore extremely sad to hear that Tania has suffered a stroke and, at the time of writing this report, she is making a slow but hopefully sure recovery. To Morris and your family, our prayers and thoughts are with you and we can only hope Tania continues to get better.

With the Convention almost upon us, I wish it every success. I am sure you will find the program for the Convention interesting and relevant and I hope you all can attend.

Sue and I will be meeting the B'nai B'rith International President, Seth Rifkin, at Sydney Airport as he will be spending a couple of days in Auckland and then Sydney before he flies to Melbourne. I am sure he will not be disappointed flying all this way.

Over to you Benny!

Best wishes,

David Samuels

President B'nai B'rith Australia/New Zealand



*B'nai B'rith wishes all our
members and friends
A happy and healthy New Year!
Easy fast and enjoy the time with your
family!*

RAOUL WALLENBERG UNIT

Co-Presidents: Simone Markus / Jacqui Dinor-Corry

Secretary: Adrienne Perch

Preview: Jacqui Dinor-Corry



What's on in September:

Tuesday 6

2:30pm - Raoul Wallenberg Unit **AGM, Installation** by Assoc. Prof. Peter Schattner and **Regular Meeting** with guest speaker, visiting Rabbi Dr Danny Schiff, son of our Wallenberg founders Dr Peter Schiff OAM and Judi. Topic: "Fifty years after Munich".
Venue: Beth Weitzman Centre

Wednesday 21 2:30pm - **Executive Meeting** at the home of George Schimmel.

Coming up in October:

There will be no Regular Meetings in October due to the Yom Tovim.

Wednesday 26 2:30pm - **Executive Meeting** at the home of Wendy Waller.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

SEPTEMBER: Ian Meltzer (6), Irene Bud (14), Leah Black (22), Esther Zbar (22), Hilda Freeman (22), Roman Frimer (28), Walter Rapoport (29).

OCTOBER: Naomi Potash (19).

MAZAL TOV to Ruth Figdor on the birth of a great granddaughter AND great grandson.

DONATIONS RECEIVED:

Leah Black, Emery and Miriam Faraday, Lorraine Shapiro and Eve Lustig.

RESIGNATIONS: Edith and Basil Ornellas



Simone Markus, Co-President of Raoul Wallenberg Unit, presenting a gift of a Raoul Wallenberg stamp sheet to guest speaker Dr. Simon Holloway, Director of Education at the Melbourne Holocaust Museum for the August Regular Meeting, commemorating the 110th anniversary of the birth of Raoul Wallenberg.

GESHER-RABIN UNIT

Co-Presidents: Karin Zafir / Leon Nissen

Secretary: Sue Moskowitz

Preview: Karin Zafir

We wish all our members a good New Year and well over the Fast

Every Sunday 11:00am - Sunday morning "get-together"

Note: Face to face on 18 September and 16 October. See below.

Every Thursday 11:00am - **Exercise Classes** - Exercises adapted for all levels of fitness.

What's on in September:

Sunday 18

11:00am - **Members coffee and chat get together** at the Umbrella Lounge, 338-340 Glenhuntly Road, Elsternwick. Lunch can be ordered during or afterwards. In July, we sat in the front section and it was very pleasant as the restaurant opens to the public at 12 noon. RSVP Eleanor Aghion by 14 September.

Coming up in October:

Sunday 16

11:00am - **Members coffee and chat get together** at the Umbrella Lounge, as above. RSVP Eleanor Aghion by 12 October.

The following members celebrate their birthdays in September:

Irene Kirschner Nissen (7th), Sandra Salkinder (15th)

The following members celebrate their birthdays in October:

Stephen Schmideg (1st), Jock Orkin (6th), Steve Moskowitz (8th), Phil Lipshut (29th)

Refuah Shleima to Hilary Gocs, Dianne Mattatia, Tom Reisner, Val Varga, Eleanor Aghion, Frank Newman

UNIT AKIBA

Co-Presidents: Helen Fisher / Henry Winfield

Secretary: Annette Gladwin

Preview: Annette Harriott

*We wish our members and their families a Shana Tova and well over the Fast.
May the New Year be a sweet, healthy and joyful one.*

What's on in September:

Wednesday 14 7:30pm - **Executive Committee meeting** on Zoom.

Thursday 15 8:00-9:30pm - **The Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club** will meet and review the book "Menasseh ben Israel: Rabbi of Amsterdam" by Steven Nadler. The meeting will be presented both via Zoom and face-to-face in a private home. Presenter: Peter Schattner. Enquiries: Peter Schattner

Sunday 18 6:30pm - **Regular meeting** with Soup/Hot dogs and a Movie. Screening "Wondrous Oblivion". Venue: the Monheits'. BB members \$5, non-members \$8. Enquiries: Suzanne Goldin

Coming up in October:

Saturday 8 8:00pm - **CLOC Theatre Night** to see "Chicago" at the National Theatre, St Kilda. Dinner beforehand at a local restaurant. Enquiries: Henry Winfield

Wednesday 19 7:30pm - **Executive Committee meeting** on Zoom.

Wednesday 26 **Visit to Immigration Museum**, with lunch. More details to follow. Enquiries: Miriam Sztrajt

The following members celebrate their birthdays in September:

Kath Kolb (3rd), Peter Morris (5th), Jocelyne Schiffan (14th) and Janette Pat (29th).

The following members celebrate their birthdays in October:

Rosa Schattner (1st), Jim Cyngler (3rd), Fred Dias Santilhano (10th) and Ralph Levy (19th).

We wish a hearty **Mazel Tov** to:

Karen and Richard Neumann on the birth of their grandson Matan Avraham (brother to Noa), to parents Racheli and Shalev.

Esther Goldschlager on the birth of her grandson Noah Miles, to parents Karen Goldschlager and Simon Freiberg.

Ruth Figdor on the birth of her great granddaughter, to parents Yehuda and Shevi Simon; and also to Ruth on the birth of her great grandson, to parents Rivki and Ephraim Kramer.

We extend heartfelt **Condolences** to Peter Morris on the passing of his father, Jack.

We wish a **Refuah Shleima** to Barry Lewis and Andrew Kolb and to any other members of Unit Akiba who may be unwell at the present time. We hope to see you joining us again very soon!

HATIKVAH UNIT

President: Claude Fromm

Vice-President: Orly Dar

Preview: Judith Steinberg

Wishing all our members a sweet New Year and well over the Fast

Coming up in October:

Sunday 30

7:30pm - **Installation of new Executive** at the Leo Baeck Centre, Harp Road, East Kew.

Guest speaker Ron James. \$25 pp

A festive supper will be served. Please contact RuthTaft to book.

Calico Dolls

Click and collect any time. Please give Gerry Hamer a call on if you would like to pick up a bag of dolls to complete at home.

The following members celebrate their birthdays in September:

Kris Barit (10), Leah Black (22), Sam Lew (22), Sabina Brzezinski (27)

October birthdays:

Marilyn Arnheim (17), Sylvia Lew (24)

Our best wishes for a healthy month filled with good times and much laughter.

B'NAI B'RITH RAMBLERS

Chair: Vardit Sacks-Davis

Secretary: Tania Tobias

Preview Secretary: Judy Winikoff

Treasurer: Irena Blonder



enquiries@bbramblers.org.au

Wishing everyone a Shana Tova and well over the Fast

What's on in September:

Sunday 18

Morning - There will be a difficult walk to a destination to be confirmed. For information closer to the date, please contact Vardit.

Wednesday 21

Morning - An easy midweek walk will be led by Vardit and Ron in Yarra Bend Park.

Friday 30 - October 2

Ramblers members may participate in Bushwalking Victoria's Federation Walks in Wangaratta area. Information at <https://fedwalks.org.au>.

Coming up in October:

Wednesday 12

Morning - Fairlie and Dennis will lead an easy midweek walk from Royal Park to Clifton Hill.

Friday 21 - Sunday 23

A weekend in the Grampians with a multi-day hike on the Grampian Peak Trail, and easier day walks.

MELBOURNE MITZVAH LODGE

President: Janet Machliss Kohn

Vice-President: Dorothy New

Preview: John Kohn

What's on in September:

Monday 5 7:30pm - **Programming Meeting** (Zoom)

Wednesday 7 7:30pm - **Executive Meeting** (Zoom)

Sunday 18 6:00pm - **Installation** at Caulfield Park Pavilion

Coming up in October:

Monday 3 7:30pm - **Programming Meeting** (Zoom)

Wednesday 12 7:30pm - **Regular Meeting** with guest speaker Mia Gardiner (journalist)

Wednesday 19 7:30pm - **Executive Meeting** (Zoom)

A hearty Mazel Tov to members who are celebrating their birthdays in September:

Naomi Barnett, Miriam Bergman, Michael Cohen, Kathy Deutsch, John Eisner, Sima Garfield, Lucy Gould, Fay Haskin-Dubrowin

Birthdays in October:

Bette Pulver, Rifka Kaufman, Doris Page, Robert Wald, Susan Wald, Martha Vanderhoek, Roger Alberts, Tania Tobias

Devorah Zmood requests that members send her details about their birthdays

Welfare of Members:

We are all shocked to hear of Tania Tobias's illness and wish her, Morris and the family strength, resilience and good luck for a full recovery.

We sadly note the passing of Geoffrey Cohen, brother of Michael.

A message from Pamela Stern:

Thank you to all of the members of B'nai B'rith for their donations to Making a Difference and beautiful condolence wishes on the sudden passing of my beloved twin sister Ellaine Cohen. I have also passed your good wishes on to Ellaine's husband Jeffrey, who is also a B'nai B'rith member of the Syd Einfeld Unit in Sydney. Both Ellaine and Jeffrey were original and active continuing members of that Unit when it was formed so many years ago. Again, thank you all for your kindness which has been an enormous help to me in coping with the grief.

Best wishes

Pamela Stern

Donations to Making A Difference:

Thank you to Janet and Alex Starr for their generous donation.

To make a donation, please credit our "Making A Difference" account:

BSB 013017

Account Number 9001 28923

Reference box - Your name

** If you know someone who has a special birthday, is unwell or has a welfare update, please let us know.*

OUT AND ABOUT

Gesher-Rabin Unit and Maccabi Toastmasters had their 8th Comedy Annual Debate on Saturday 23 July. It was the best one so far. The topic was "Things were better in the olden days".

All involved did a stellar job. A big thank you to our fantastic team, Steve Moskowitz, Evelyn Flitman and Sue Newman. They did a brilliant job and it was much appreciated by everyone who heard their wonderful presentations.

Danny Shafar from Toastmasters did a great job as Master of Ceremonies. The opposing team was all dressed up and ready to rumble. A big thank you to Carin Danon, Miranda Davis and Morry Sztainbok, who really gave our team a run for their efforts.

The event was very successful and well attended and we look forward to seeing you there next year.



Weekly Update Emails

Are you receiving our emails?

It has come to our attention that some members and friends are not receiving our weekly update emails.

If you are not receiving them and would like to, please contact the office at admin@bbvic.org.au.

Bernard J. Lustig Scholarship Winners

B'nai B'rith is very pleased to announce the recipients of the 2022 Bernard J. Lustig Scholarship:

Sammy Brygel, Isabel Gelb and Alon Meltzer

Now in its 67th year, the B'nai B'rith Bernard J. Lustig Scholarship seeks to support outstanding tertiary students in the achievement of their potential as scholars and as leaders in our community.

Mt Scopus Jewish Studies teacher Rabbi Sammy Brygel has been awarded a travel grant to enable him to attend Yeshiva Shapell's – Darche Noam for a year. The immersive Yeshiva experience will provide Sammy with professional development as a Jewish Studies teacher. Additionally, Sammy and his wife Esther will be joining the World Mizrahi Shalhevet program - a program designed to train young educator and rabbinical couples as they lead communities in the diaspora.

Isabel Gelb, a student of Monash University, holds Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Commerce degrees and will be using the Scholarship travel grant to further her studies abroad at King's College London. She is looking forward to availing herself of the many leadership and volunteering opportunities available in London.

Rabbi Alon Meltzer, Rabbi of Or Chadash Synagogue and the Director of Programs at Shalom, is currently studying a PhD at La Trobe University's Law School. He has been awarded a research grant to enable him to write his thesis on "Digital Fidelity: how social media has impacted on Modern Orthodox Jews and their relationship with Jewish law and the rabbinic establishment". This fascinating research will not only inform current research on the trends and impacts of social media across society, but will also delve into its effect on Jewish legal texts and processes.

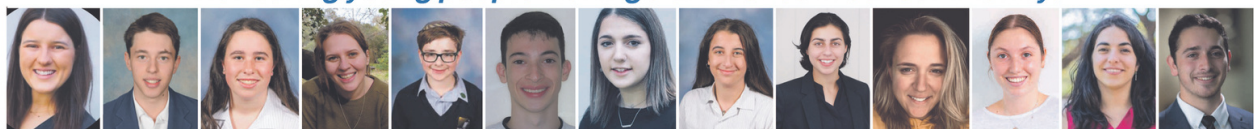
We wish all our scholarship recipients the best of luck with their travels and their studies.



L-R: Isabel Gelb, Sammy Brygel, Rabbi Alon Meltzer

JEWISH CHANGEMAKER AWARDS

Honouring young people making a difference in our community.



THE JOSHUA LEVI AWARD FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
FROM 18 - 36 YEARS OF AGE \$5000 PRIZE MONEY

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS
FOR UNDER 18'S \$1500 PRIZE MONEY

YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS
FROM 18 - 36 YEARS OF AGE \$3000 PRIZE MONEY

NOMINATIONS
CLOSE 30 SEPT



Nominate a Changemaker Today

www.australianjewishnews.com/changemakers

FOR MORE INFORMATION - JNF: 02 9386 9559 or etty@jnf.org.au
B'NAI B'RITH: 02 9321 6309 or ernie.friedlande@bbnsw.org.au

THE Australian Jewish News



Courage to Care

Succession at B'nai B'rith Courage to Care (Vic) Inc.



Having held the role of Chair since 2005, Dr Tony Weldon OAM FRACP stepped down as Chair at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held recently.

We are delighted to advise that our Vice Chair, Judy Glick was elected as Chair and our current committee member Kerry Low was elected as Vice Chair. Both Judy and Kerry were elected unopposed.

To quote Tony "When I, rather reluctantly, took on the Chairmanship of B'nai B'rith Courage to Care (Vic.) Inc. in 2005, it was because I was concerned that the potential was there for the organisation to implode, and not survive. I was determined to do my best to ensure that this did not happen. Looking back, I am proud of what we have all achieved together. Our current Committee of Management consists of a number of very talented individuals, each of whom brings particular skills to this organisation. I am therefore very confident that, despite this change in leadership, Courage to Care will grow and develop further and become increasingly effective in its endeavours over the next 30 years."

Here's a little about both Judy and Kerry.

Judy Glick:

Judy has an educational background working as a secondary science teacher in both the public and private sectors for over 18 years. Being a passionate environmentalist, she moved to CERES Environment Park, initially teaching and developing programs in the excursion program. Over her more than 20 years at CERES, Judy became the manager of the excursion program and progressively was involved in grant writing, strategic planning, fundraising and partnerships.

At the end of 2017, Judy retired from CERES and, after catching up on all those matters that had been waiting for attention, looked for an organisation where she could contribute her skills and experience as a volunteer.

A friend directed her to Courage to Care. The overlap with Judy's experience was striking. Courage to Care delivers values-driven behaviour change programs to school students. It has a strong clear mission, delivers the programs face to face and at no charge, making fundraising an essential activity.

Judy has been working with Mike Zervos on strategy and on gaining resources to support the organisation. She is a keen gardener, loves reading, coffee with friends and is a curious and adventurous traveller.

Kerry Low:

Kerry grew up in Doncaster and attended Mount Scopus Memorial College for secondary schooling. She studied Arts/Law at Monash University and was very involved with many clubs. She was a student representative on a University Board. During this time, she was also a foundation member of the Dinosaur Softball Club! Most recently, she worked for Melbourne Airport as their in-house legal counsel. Kerry was attracted to join because the schools' program teaches and empowers students to stand up to bullies and discrimination. Raising awareness of the Holocaust is also important to her. Kerry currently volunteers for a few other community groups and still has time to enjoy time with her family, cooking and planning her next holiday!



Left: New Vice Chair Kerry Low and Chair Judy Glick; Centre: Our new Committee (note Susan Hearst and Lani Brayer absent); Right: Outgoing Chair Tony Weldon

TRIENNIAL CONVENTION



B'NAI B'RITH AUSTRALIA/NZ TRIENNIAL CONVENTION

with International President Seth J. Riklin

"FOCUS ON THE FUTURE"

Celebrate B'nai B'rith, discuss our future and reconnect
with members from across Australia and New Zealand.

EXCITING PROGRAM TO FOLLOW SOON!

10-12 SEPTEMBER 2022 MELBOURNE

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CATAB

(03) 9523 0888 / www.bnaibrith.org.au



**B'nai
B'rith**

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 GRU exercise class	2	3
4 GRU get together	5 MML Programming meeting	6 RWU AGM & Installation	7 MML Executive meeting	8 GRU exercise class	9	10 PM Triennial Convention Cocktail party
11 Triennial Convention	12 Triennial Convention	13 Armchair Society	14 Akiba Exec Meeting	15 GRU exercise class Akiba Non-Fiction Book Club	16	17
18 GRU get together Ramblers walk Akiba regular meeting MML Installation	19	20	21 Ramblers walk RWU Exec Meeting	22 GRU exercise class	23	24
25 GRU get together	26 Rosh Hashana	27 Rosh Hashana	28	29 GRU exercise class	30 Ramblers weekend	1

October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 Ramblers weekend
2 GRU get together Ramblers weekend	3 MML Programming meeting	4 Erev Yom Kippur	5 Yom Kippur	6 GRU exercise class	7	8 Akiba Theatre Night
9 GRU get together	10 Sukkot Day 1	11 Sukkot Day 2	12 Ramblers walk MML Regular meeting	13 GRU exercise class	14	15
16 GRU get together	17 Shemini Atzeret	18 Simchat Torah	19 MML Executive meeting Akiba Executive meeting	20 GRU exercise class	21 Ramblers weekend	22 Ramblers weekend
23 GRU get together Ramblers weekend	24	25	26 Akiba Immigration Museum visit RWU Executive meeting	27 GRU exercise class	28	29
30 GRU get together Hatikvah Installation	31	1	2	3	4	5

Compiled and edited by B'nai B'rith Victoria Inc.

Proofread by Henry and Annette Gladwin

 Official Publication of B'nai B'rith Victoria Inc. 9523 0888 admin@bbvic.org.au www.bbvic.org.au

Vol. 61 No. 8, September/October 2022. 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.