



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW



Awakening from COVID-19 Lockdown

I had planned to be in Greece and Israel on a Jewish tour with friends by now, but that of course did not happen due to the Covid 19 pandemic that has turned our world upside down. Its amazing what a little virus can do. Here in Melbourne our organisation has survived in a 'lock down' environment over the past three months. The article compiled by Paul Gardner and published in the Jewish News and on page ZZ of Preview shows how we did it. Kol Hakavod everyone. A special thank you also to our staff Frances Stiglec and Teegan Slomoi who had to deal with countless changes associated with the closure of our office and working only from home.

The challenge now for all businesses and organisations is how to restart or reorient to the new environment we live in. Business and social experts have predicted that not all organisations will survive this transition period.

Our BBVic Executive has used the past three months as an opportunity to sit down (often in front of a Zoom camera) and think and talk about our future. The following consensus emerged:

Significant changes in BBVic have occurred over the last 3-4 years, but these have not had a significant impact on membership increase or deeper community support.

We know that there is a declining BB membership and most current members are over 70 years old. (In 2000 we had 944 members, in 2019 only 437). Therefore to do nothing different will lead to organisation's collapse in Victoria. In moving forward the Executive agreed that we want B'nai B'rith to be more focused on what our key values are and build on our areas of strength. This strength comes from our members and projects, especially in the education and community service and related support areas. Other Jewish voluntary organisations in Victoria work in this space, so we need to clearly differentiate and be able to explain and market our contribution. A rebranding and expansion of our educational activities to be under an umbrella called Jewish culture and heritage activities can help. Our communal service work in all its forms is our second key activity and be open to new ideas and participation. Furthermore, we can benefit from focusing on the demographic segment currently underserved in our community. This is the high functioning, active and 'mature' Jewish population in Australia. That group involves men and women aged 45 years and over –those willing to and able to contribute and participate in the wider community.

The Australian demographic with the post war baby boomer means there will be an ongoing pipeline of potential BBVic members in this age group over the next five years. This strategy also aligns us with the focus of B'nai B'rith in the UK. [See https://bnaibrithuk.org/](https://bnaibrithuk.org/)

Our Executive has recognised that we currently lack the senior managerial skills, high level contacts and marketing expertise required to achieve the proposed organisational goals. To rectify this some changes will be required. These ideas are being finalised and an action plan and budget allocation for the next 2 years is being developed. This plan will be circulated next month to all members. A consultation process will then be open, involving the Unit Presidents, the VBBC and interested members and stakeholders. This will be the focus of our Annual General Meeting on July 30th 2020. So we need your input and support to get this task right.

I want to thank our current Executive members and staff who spend many hours volunteering their time and expertise on running our organisation and planning for the future. This team is listed in alphabetical order: Jacqui Corry-Dinor, Faye Haskin-Dubrowin, Kath Kolb, Stephen and Sue Moskowitz, Peter Schattner, Tania Tobias and Karin Zafir.

With the gradual reopening of cafes, public halls and Beth Weizmann, life may hopefully return to some normality. I hope that BBVic will emerge stronger from the Covid 19 crises. To borrow a slogan from B'nai B'rith Courage to Care: We are celebrating our past whilst planning our future.



Dr Benny Monheit

Benny

Message from the BBANZ President



Dear Members and Friends,

Wow. It's winter. Where did Autumn go. In many ways for Sue and I the days have just blended into each other and before we knew it June had arrived. It's good to see the community in general and B'nai B'rith in particular is slowly getting back to some form of normalcy (aren't we lucky living in Australia and New Zealand). However we don't want to rush it and push our luck.

The other evening we held what turned out to be a truly enjoyable evening for our members in Melbourne and Sydney (as well as Auckland and Israel) when the President of the United Kingdom B'nai B'rith, Alan Miller together with his wife Edna gave a most interesting talk.

Their subject was their visit to the Ukraine with a delegation of members of UK B'nai B'rith. They visited various Jewish Organisations with Ukraine and their talk, supplemented by some beautiful photos, was both extremely interesting and at times most sad. We had around 100 members from all our Units participate and there has been a lot of positive feedback. In my opinion there is no reason why we cannot have similar functions in the future with guest speakers from overseas. I believe it will give us all a better appreciation of B'nai B'rith internationally. We can all join in. I intend to speak to our various executives over the coming weeks to put this plan into action. It will supplement our activities when we can all get together in person. Till next time stay safe and well.

David Samuels

david.samuels@bbnsw.org.au

MAJOR BBVic EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY:

Thursday 2nd July - BBVic Speakers Forum: 7:30-8:30pm Speakers Forum for Members & Friends. Guest Speaker Prof Peter Singer AC - Via Zoom. *All information in attached flyer.*

Sunday 5th - Showcase Fundraiser

Thursday 30th July - BBVic AGM 7:30pm

MEMBERSHIP NOTIFICATIONS:

Change of Email address/address:

P/P Renate Linton - paulren1@tpg.com.au

Moved out of her temporary accommodation. Tel: 95198456 (Leah black)

Joan Zawatzky - joanzawatzky@gmail.com (Claude)

Raoul Wallenberg Unit:

Resigned:

Emmil browne

Deceased:

P/P Susi Breit-Learmont

Sister Jutta Rubinstein

Akiba Unit:

Resigned:

Michael Roth

RAOUL WALLENBERG UNIT

Co-President: Simone Markus
Co-President: Jacqui Dinor-Corry
Secretary: Minnie Kahan
Preview: Josh Kahan

 0402 812 875
 0412 440 501
 9571 5272
 9571 5272

 rwu@bbvic.net

*We deeply mourn the passing of our Sister P/P Susi Breit-Learmont and Sister Jutta Rubinstein
 May their memories be a blessing.*

What's on in July:

Thursday 2 7.30pm-8.30pm. BBVic Speakers Forum for members and friends (Via Zoom): Guest Speaker: Prof. Peter Singer AC. Topic: "Doing the Most Good: How to be an Effective Altruist". For all information see attached flyer. This is in place of our Regular Meeting of the 7th.

Thursday 14 7:30pm - Executive meeting on zoom

What's happening in August:

Tuesday 14 7:30pm - Israel and the Jewish World. Speaker; Dr Bren Carlill, Public Affairs Director of the Zionist Federation of Australia. Topic to be announced.

Tuesday 11 7:30pm - Executive meeting on Zoom

What's happening in September:

Tuesday 1 7:30pm - AGM, Continuation and Regular Meeting. P/P Dr Paul Gardner AM to install the Executive and will be the Guest Speaker

NB! Wednesday 9 7:30pm - Executive meeting

Mazal Tov to: Ruth Figdor on the Marriage of her daughter Chana Simon to Chaim Weisman in Israel; Adrienne Perch on the birth of 2 great grandsons; to Wendy Waller on the engagement of her grandson Gidon to Annie Hersham; Great Grandson to Susie and Leon Taft.

Condolence: To the family of Susi Breit-Learmont; Mark Rubenstein and Esther Goldschlager and thier families

Recent donations: Judi and Peter Schiff

July Birthday Greetings: (1) Rabbi Steven Link; (1) Allen Suss; (3) Helen Sher; (7) Peter Eisler; (7) Bev Sutton; (10) Robert Goldsmith; (11) Leon Slonim; (17) Fleur Spitzer; (25) Ben Hirsh; (31) Editta Matessi

Thinking of you: We wish a speedy recovery to all those who have been ill. If you are unwell or know of a fellow Unit Raoul Wallenberg member who is not well and would like a friendly phone call or a visit, please call Ruth Figdor 0414 760 906 or 9527 4888; or Leah Black on 9531 8837.

GESHER-RABIN UNIT

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

 0400 402 032
 0418 563 091
 0430 107 372
 0409 532 442



gesher@bbvic.net

Updates:

The Presidents (Leon Nissen 0418 563 091 and Karin Zafir 0400 402 032) 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. Also, Jack Aghion is coordinating any assistance members might require: 0417 376 598 aghionj@gmail.com

What's on in July:

Every Sunday 11:00am "Get-Together" – interesting and entertaining discussion via Zoom on a variety of topics. Contact Karin if you'd like to join in and need help with Zoom:

0400 402 032 / kzafir@optusnet.com.au

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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85211082214>

Alternatively, you can open Zoom and enter the following Meeting ID: 852 1108 2214

Every Friday 2:00pm 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/81791151789> Meeting ID: 817 9115 1789

For assistance, contact Karin Zafir: kzafir@optusnet.com.au or 0400 402 032

Sunday 5 7:00pm - AGM and Installation/Initiation of new members – via ZOOM. Guest speaker Susie Shulsinger, Musical entertainment by Sharon Mattatia (see flyer).

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86052888441> Meeting ID: 860 5288 8441

Thursday 9th and every 2nd 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 people interested joining our group, initially via Zoom, to meet monthly for a friendly group chat. All degrees of proficiency welcome! Our first meeting was very interesting and lots of fun.

Contact Karin on 0400 402 032, or kzafir@optusnet.com.au

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

Coming up in August:

Sunday 16 8am to 4pm - Bunnings Sausage Sizzle (COVID-19 Restrictions permitting)

Warrigal Road, Moorabbin. Enquiries: Evelyn – flitman@optusnet.com.au / 0402 894 968

Saturday 29 7:30pm - Annual Comedy Debate against Maccabi toastmasters – via ZOOM.

Topic: Life is Better in Lockdown. MC – Maurice Klein, J-Air presenter

Enquiries Sue: 0430 107 372 sue1818@gmail.com

The following members celebrate their birthdays in July: Selwyn Lever (18th)

UNIT AKIBA

Co-President: Helen Fisher
Co-President: Peter Schattner
Secretary: Annette Gladwin
Preview: Henry Gladwin

 9078 1056
 9576 9220
 9563 9959
 9563 9959



akiba@bbvic.net

Unit Akiba is currently holding all of its functions through Zoom's online video-conferencing platform. If any B'nai B'rith member (other than Akiba members) would like to join any of our Zoom meetings below, please email Henry Gladwin at hgladwin@bigpond.net.au for the link to the meeting.

What's on in July:

Wednesday 15 7:30 Executive Committee meeting

Thursday 16 8:00 - 9:30pm – **The Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club.** The meeting will review the book "The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness" by Simon Wiesenthal. Presenter: Evelyn Chizik. Contact person and enquiries re participating for the first time: Peter Schattner on 9576 9220 (AH) or email schattner@gmail.com.

Sunday 19 7:15pm – **Installation** of the 2020-2021 Executive Committee, followed at 8:00pm by our guest speaker Dr Michael Cohen, who will talk to us on the topic "South African Jews Down Under: a Retrospective and some Reflections". His talk will highlight the impact of South African Jewry on Australian Jewish Life. Contact person: Suzanne Goldin on 0414 313 136 or email suzannegoldin@yahoo.com.

Coming up in August:

Wednesday 12 7:30pm – **Combined Executive Committee** meeting for members of both the OLD and NEW Exec committees.

Sunday 16 2:00pm – Activities planning meeting.

Sunday 23 7:30pm - **Presentation to all BB members** by Leah Boulton (Co-Founder and President of Pathways Melbourne) and Hadassa (Dassi) Herszberg, who will both address us on the topic "Help in Exploring Life's many Choices". Pathways is an organisation that supports both women and men who are transitioning out of Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities. Leah says that there is an increasing number of people seeking information and resources to leave their restrictive communities, but stresses that no part of Pathways is pulling people away from religiosity. It's just to help them lead self-determined lives, to have choices how best to achieve that, and to show them that the journey doesn't have to be lonely. Contact person: Peter Schattner on 9576 9220 (AH) or email schattner@gmail.com. See attached flyer for details and for Zoom link.

The following members celebrate their birthdays in July: Brian Luber (1st), Liz James (8th), Edna Samuel (11th), Henry Gladwin (13th), Richard Neumann (19th), Michael Samuel (24th) and Pola Blicblau (31st).

A Hearty Mazal Tov: to Ruth Figdor on the engagement in Israel of her daughter Chana Simon to Chaim Weissman.

Heartfelt Condolences to: Denise Monheit on the passing in Auckland of her mother Esther (Essie) Solomon; Esther Goldschlager and Mark Rubinstein on the passing of their mother Jutta Rubinstein. We wish the families long lives.

We wish a **Refuah Shleymah** to any Akiba members who may be unwell at present, and hope to see you joining us online again very soon.

HATIKVAH UNIT

President: Paula Messer

Acting Vice-President: Claude Fromm

Treasurer: Orly Dar

Preview: Judith Steinberg



0418 368 436

9850 6134

9650 5623

9878 7365



hatikvah@bbvic.net

Hatikvah wishes all B'nai Brith members good health in these difficult times and although we cannot hold functions yet, please take the time to keep in touch with each other.

Our next 2 regular meetings will be held on zoom

Still to come in June:

Sunday 28 8:00pm - Zoom meeting Iain and Helen Messer talking about overseas travels.

What's on in July:

Sunday 26 8:00pm - Zoom meeting Paul Hamer Labour MP guest speaker.

The following members celebrate their birthday in July: Ros Huze (1 July), Betty Alexander (7 July), Jeanette Hain (11 July), Edna Samuel (11 July), Evelyn Moszkovic (20 July), Michael Samuel (24 July). Our best wishes for a wonderful year filled with good times and much laughter.

Best wishes: Our heartfelt wishes to Ben Alexander who we hope is on the road to recovery.

Best wishes: a speedy recovery and our very best wishes to Sam Lew.

Congratulations: a tremendous Mazal Tov to Betty and Ben Alexander who recently celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary.

B'NAI B'RITH RAMBLERS

Chair: Vardit Sacks-Davis

Secretary: Tania Tobias

Preview Secretary & Mail Out: Judy Winikoff

Treasurer: Irena Blonder



9527 6002

0417 329 986



enquiries@bbramblers.org.au

What's on in July:

Sunday 12th Morning: Irena will lead a SOMW walk from West Gate Park to Williamstown. She can be contacted at irena.blonder@gmail.com

Wednesday 15th Morning: Midweek walk in East Malvern and Chadstone, led by Judy, winikoff@tpg.com.au

Sunday 26th Morning: Josh will lead a SOHW walk in Bunyip State Forest, to the 4 Brothers Rock. His address: henzel@tpg.com.au

MELBOURNE MITZVAH LODGE

President: Garry Fabian
Preview: Russell Stern

 9532 8509
 0419 273 512



mitzvah@bbvic.net

A message from our President, Garry Fabian:

We are slowly adapting to the “brave New World” of living and functioning in the Zoom dimension and function as normally as possible running a number of our usual activities on Zoom or other social media platforms. We have held our monthly executive meeting and our June regular meeting with our standard ritual – with some adjustments – which seemed to run quite well. Tom Zafir was a very interesting and informative speaker and we had well over 60 participating with a number from interstate “in attendance”. With the relaxation of some restrictions now being introduced, we are considering to hold some small face-to-face meeting for interest groups in order to maintain more personal contact and more importantly to consider future activities and projects. Possibly regular meetings with physical attendance will be able to resume in the not too distant future. This will depend on both government rules and the opening of venues. It is important to maintain contact with each other and to ensure that members who need assistance continue to be looked after and most importantly maintain contact during this period when our normal way of life faces “a brave new world” Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge continues to support projects both locally and in Israel. Our support for the Showcase Musical project and BB Youth Art Competition has donated \$500 for each, continuing our long time support for these important programs. Our July Regular meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th July at 7.30 on Zoom. A note with log on instructions will be emailed to members a day prior. We are working on streamlining the process to simplify to log process. Keep healthy and safe while we all look forward to when life returns to a semblance of normality in the hopefully not too distant future and we can meet each other in person

What's on in July:

Wednesday 8

7.30pm - **The General Meeting** - ZOOM meeting. The Speaker will be ANNA EPSTEIN – Author. Her subject is “MELECH RAVITSCH : THE ECCENTRIC OUTBACK QUEST OF AN URBANE YIDDISH POET FROM POLAND”.

Log on to the Meeting – ID: 269 194 6931 Password: MML

Anyone who has knowledge of another members' birthday, special event, etc please contact: Ruth Waisberg on 0411 801 596 or email her at rutheo@ozemail.com.au.

'MAKING A DIFFERENCE' - Funds raised support Jewish VCE students (from low income families) at Independent Jewish & State Schools.

If you would like to make a donation, please credit our **"Making a Difference"** account: **BSB: 013 017; Account: 9001 28923; Ref: Your Name.** Then email Devorah Zmood at devorahz@zmood.net with your details or send cheque payable to: "B'nai B'rith Making a Difference" to Devorah Zmood: c/o - B'nai B'rith Victoria, 306 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield South 3162.

The Continuance of COVID-19 does not mean that the necessity for continuing support of these students is any the less. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



B'NAI B'RITH COURAGE TO CARE:

The second week of our Wodonga program in March had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. Until schools are able to re-open to outside visitors and to take their students on excursions, we will remain unable to provide our programs. However, we have not been idle:

TRAINING We have been able to continue some of our Training Programs for volunteers using ZOOM quite successfully and have developed a process that will allow us to support new volunteers in a much more structured way than we have in the past.

DATABASE An up to date, accurate database is essential for any modern, professional organisation and we have taken the opportunity to bring the information about our volunteers, including the survivors, our supporters and donors, up to date.

WEBSITE Another essential tool for any modern, professional organisation and we are taking steps, with pro bono support, to re-design this source of information. Since the last National Conference of Courage to Care entities held in Melbourne in February 2019 we were able to establish a common Opening Page and so all entrants seeking information about Courage to Care are directed to a site giving the choice of the four states in which programs are offered – NSW, Queensland, WA and Victoria.

VOLUNTEERS At the beginning of March we engaged Lisa Lewis as a part-time Volunteer Coordinator and, although commencing at a particularly difficult time, she has settled into that position with ease. To maintain our links with our volunteers we have arranged two ZOOM sessions to which we invited Alpha Cheng, our Ambassador, and Penny Jones, a recipient of one of the Study Grants to attend the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program at Yad Vashem and teaches in Cobram, to talk with them. These sessions were extremely well received. Another light session of fun and games was also organised by Karen Lutchner, our Schools Coordinator.

PRESENTATIONS Our CEO, Mike Zervos, presented a session via ZOOM to the Kew branch of Rotary and I have presented to a ZOOM meeting of Gesher & Rabin members as well as at a session with Julie Meadows at LIMMUD OZ attended by over 150 screens.

PROJECTS An anonymous donor has given us sufficient funds to proceed with two important projects:

- Development of Teachers Resource material based on a selection of 6 stories from the Courage to Care Anthologies edited by Julie Meadows.
- A business plan to be developed by the Business School of La Trobe University on providing a modified version of our program to corporations, Government agencies, etc. on a fee for service basis.

VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS Courage to Care proudly projects itself as an initiative of B'nai B'rith and as such is appreciative of the many B'nai B'rith members who support us as volunteers and donors. Such support is always welcome and allows us to continue to grow and develop.

30/30 VISION The goal we have set ourselves is to reach out to 30,000 more students by the year 2022, the 30th. year since the first Courage to Care Exhibition was held at the Jewish Museum. Since 2000 we have had more than 142,000 students involved with the program.

www.couragetocare.org.au <https://www.facebook.com/CourageToCareVic/>

P/P Dr. Tony Weldon OAM, FRACP Chairman



Showcase: fostering Jewish musical talent

Jacqui Corry is the publicity co-ordinator for our fundraisers. Please note the dates of our online concerts on **Sunday 5 July** and **Sunday 2 August**. All information is available elsewhere in Preview. At the moment our focus is on promotion.

On 4 June we advertised in AJN. On June 12 I was interviewed on J-Air.

To listen use this link: Shabbat Shalom Am Yisrael Chai PEACE <https://omny.fm/shows/shabbat-shalom/5-6-2020-shabbat-shalom-drive-judy-firestone-bnai>

Our committee has been manning the phones. We have now contacted all sponsors, donors and advertisers. We are now able to offer the opportunity to publish their support online at our channel, as well as using the existing paper based methods. They will be acknowledged nation wide and world wide. We have also contacted all former contestants, their parents and music teachers. Our young people are interested and we have had 5 applications to date, but more are needed. Please promote Showcase among any young talented Jewish musicians you know. We are open for business and all information is available and kept up to date at our website: bnaibrith.org.au/our-projects/showcase.

Please send inquiries via our email address: showcase@bbvic.org.

Registration closes on: Friday 26th June

Judy Firestone

Glen Eira Council's Volunteer Recognition Awards

BBVic would like to congratulate the following BBVic members for being recognised for their voluntary work within the community.

Glen Eira Council's Volunteer recognition program honours the valour of volunteering to Council, the community benefit, service that volunteers provide and the important role they play in the health and wellbeing of our local community.

In 2020 certificates of appreciation, a lapel pin and a thank you from Glen Eira Mayor Cr. Margaret Esakoff have been sent to 46 organisations.

The following recipients are all members of B'nai B'rith:

- Alice Peer - Akiba Unit - 30 years as volunteer to the Jewish Holocaust Centre.
- Leah Black - Raoul Wallenberg Unit and Hatikvah Unit, 20 years organising annual B'nai B'rith Jewish Youth Art Competition.
- Sue Wald - Melbourne Mitzvah Unit, 10 years with Community Information and Support Glen Eira.
- Barbara Lewis - Akiba Unit, 10 years with Etz Chayim Synagogue.
- Judy Firestone - 2000 hours with Etz Chayim Synagogue.

June 2020 - AJN Community Showcase Edition: BBVic ZOOMS IN 2020

The pandemic was in no one's mind when, already last year, B'nai B'rith Victoria's leadership began planning its 75th Anniversary celebrations. The Gala Dinner planned for mid-year has now been postponed to December.

In the meantime, the organisation, like many other community groups, has learned to adapt. Its office at Beth Weizmann has been closed. (But the pandemic coincided with extensive building operations which would have caused temporary shifts anyway.) BBVic's President, Dr Benny Monheit and Executive Development Officer Frances Stiglec have been managing the organisation from their homes.

A BB Support Network was created. Jack Aghion, co-ordinating with Welfare Officers in each BBVic group, assists members (and non-members as well) with grocery shopping, picking up medication, fixing computer problems, and learning how to use social media. BBVic member Helen Heimann made face masks for the residents of the BB Parents Home as well as for elderly members of the community. Sometimes little actions help. One elderly member's phone wasn't working. Easily fixed: it wasn't plugged in properly. Another's can opener had broken. A replacement was provided.

BB is a major international organisation, represented at United Nations level. At national and regional level it runs major projects. In Victoria, Courage to Care was initiated by BBVic and is still supported by it. Although visits to schools to present its anti-racism program were naturally suspended during the lockdown period, on-line communication with its large team of volunteers continued unabated. The numerous pumping hearts of the organisation are however located at the grass-roots, within the groups that meet regularly and engage in social, cultural, educational and community service activities. The pandemic brought most of that to a crunching stop. But not all of it. The leadership reacted quickly. 'Zoom' might well become the most widely used new term of 2020. Although B'nai B'rith in Victoria might be 75 years old, it's nevertheless a 21st Century organisation.

In past years, BBVic has hosted BBANZ triennial conventions at which the BB International President was a keynote speaker. In a historic first last month, BBI President Charles Kaufman zoomed in to a regular grass-roots meeting of Victorian members. He was remarkably alert, considering it was 4.30am in the United States at the time. BBANZ President David Samuels also participated, equally alert. But that's not unexpected: he was in Sydney. This meeting opened with a Memorial Service honouring the late Emeritus Professor Louis Waller AO, who among his many involvements in the Jewish and wider community served as Chairman of the Victorian B'nai B'rith Council and as President of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission's Council of Advisers. Professor Waller's widow and children, some in Melbourne and some in Israel, took part in the service. Later in the meeting, Garry Fabian, former BBVic Chair and currently President of BB Melbourne-Mitzvah, reflected on the 75 year history of the organisation in Victoria.

Afterwards, BBI President Kaufman wrote to Dr Monheit: Congratulations, Benny, on an outstanding Zoom meeting today. Yasher koach to Ian Waller and the entire Waller family for the wonderful memorial to their patriarch, Louis Waller. Paul Gardner's discussion of his book, *The Unsung Family Hero*, was fascinating, and I enjoyed learning about all of your lodge/unit activities, particularly your efforts in saving lives during this pandemic. Great seeing wonderful friends." Numerous other Zoom events have been introduced to unlock the lockdown (virtually of course). BBVic member Leon Nissen, a boxer in his younger days, knows about physical fitness – he's had it bashed into him – and offers an exercise class. BB Ramblers, which usually arranges regular hikes in the countryside or around parts of town, ran a Get on Track Challenge. (Real life outdoor hikes are planned for June.) A BB book club continued to meet on Zoom. BB's Youth Art Competition – celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year – is continuing its operations, and has invited upcoming young artists to submit photographs of their work. BB Showcase, fostering the talents of young musicians, is negotiating with a professional firm to run an on-line competition this year. Three times a year, BBVic organises a Speakers Forum. The July meeting, with prominent philosopher Professor Peter Singer AC discussing the idea of altruism, will go ahead as planned: but as a Zoom session. Dr Monheit commented that the hardest challenge during the past two months was the cessation of group meetings during the lockdown period. "BBVic thrives on meetings to organise projects and community activities", he said. "It's been a feeling of loss for many of our members to not have these opportunities for social interaction. However our members have dealt with these restrictions with amazing fortitude and grace. I am very proud of them." BB veteran Dr Paul Gardner, whose long-planned April launch of his book had to be postponed indefinitely, has been talking about the book in four Zoom sessions during the past month, to B'nai B'rith and other organisations. He summed up the experience in his best German-flavoured Yiddish: "Ich bin oyzgezoomt!"

B'nai B'rith Jewish Youth Art Competition

This year the coronavirus pandemic is driving what are arguably the biggest changes in the 25-year history of the B'nai B'rith Jewish Youth Art Competition.

The pandemic has thrust us into the digital age, accelerating our adoption of online systems to manage all the Competition's key processes. These include registration of students' artworks, submission of the artworks themselves, judging, the Competition catalogue, display of artworks in a dynamic virtual gallery, the opening ceremony and even meetings of our hard-working organising committee.

The closing date for registration of entries has been extended by two weeks and is now 19th June 2020. At the time of writing (9th June) there are over 70 artwork registrations and we have already received digital photos of over 50 of the actual artworks. The general standard is excellent.

The Glen Eira Town Hall Gallery is currently closed. There is a possibility it might re-open by our scheduled exhibition opening date of 23rd July. At this stage a physical exhibition seems unlikely, particularly given the lead times required and the increased workload of all the art teachers involved. The Competition is funded by donations from a wide variety of generous sponsors and we greatly appreciate their support. Their sponsorship enables us to offer numerous substantial prizes to the winning entries.



Last year I took over from Leah Black as Chair of the Competition organising committee. Leah had served on the Committee for over 20 years and was recently recognised by the Glen Eira Council, with a Community Service Award for being an outstanding volunteer. Once all artworks are received, the Art Competition page on the BBVic website the page will include a link to the virtual gallery and to the online Competition catalogue. The page is a comprehensive source of additional information about the Competition.

www.bnaibrith.org.au/our-projects/artcomp

Mark Rubinstein
Chair – Organising Committee



Cut me out and put the calendar on your fridge

JULY 2020 • PREVIEW

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July 2020						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2 BBVic Speakers Forum - Zoom	3 Candle Lighting: 4:55pm  GRU – Exercise classes via Zoom	4 Shabbat Ends: 5:56pm	5 Showcase Fundraiser – Online GRU – Get-together via Zoom GRU – AGM and Installation of new members
6	7	8 MML – General Meeting	9 TZOM TAMMUZ Beginning of 3 Weeks GRU – German Speakers Group	10 3 Weeks Candle Lighting: 4:59pm  GRU – Exercise classes via Zoom	11 3 Weeks Shabbat Ends: 6:00pm	12 3 Weeks Rambler – SOMW walk GRU – Get-together via Zoom
13 3 Weeks	14 3 Weeks RWU – Executive meeting via Zoom	15 3 Weeks Akiba – Executive Committee meeting Rambler – Midweek walk	16 3 Weeks Akiba - The Jewish Non-Fiction Book club	17 3 Weeks Candle Lighting: 5:03pm  GRU – Exercise classes via Zoom	18 3 Weeks Shabbat Ends: 6:04pm	19 3 Weeks Akiba – Installation GRU – Get-together via Zoom
20 3 Weeks	21 3 Weeks	22 3 Weeks	23 3 Weeks GRU – German Speakers Group	24 3 Weeks Candle Lighting: 5:09pm  GRU – Exercise classes via Zoom	25 3 Weeks Shabbat Ends: 6:09pm	26 3 Weeks GRU – Get-together via Zoom Rambler – SHOW walk Hatikvah – Zoom meeting
27 3 Weeks	28 3 Weeks	29 3 Weeks	30 TISHA B'AV End of 3 Weeks BBVIC AGM @7:30pm	31 Candle Lighting: 5:14pm  GRU – Exercise classes via Zoom		

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

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