



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW

BRING
THEM HOME

FEBRUARY

Message from the President...when success is not immediate



Often, when I wake up early, I turn to my iPhone and check if there have been any major developments overnight in the Israel-Hamas War. Early this morning, as I was scrolling through the usual online English-language Israeli newspapers, my eye caught an article titled, 'If Israel is winning the war on Hamas, why are rockets falling?'

The article goes on to explain all the barriers to a quick victory: the maze of tunnels under Gaza enabling the majority of the Hamas military leadership to successfully hide there; the problem of trying to attack terrorists rather than Gazan civilians; the continuing international pressure on the humanitarian crisis among the Palestinians; and the pressure that even our greatest ally, the United States, is exerting on Israel. There remains the ongoing risk of war with Hezbollah and the untouched threat posed by Iran. Netanyahu's war cabinet might be falling apart and there are now demonstrations in Israel on whether the attempt to 'win the war' is also the best strategy to free the hostages before it is too late.

I had trouble falling asleep after I read about all of these dilemmas and vexed choices. The take-home message was that this war was going to be a long slog. An immediate ceasefire would not of itself dismantle the military capability of Hamas, and not to achieve that would mean a very risky future for Israel.

There is absolutely no comparison with the dilemmas facing B'nai B'rith. Perhaps the only thing that it has in common is that success will not be immediate. Success in the case of B'nai B'rith is that we have secured our future and can proudly hand over some form of this organisation to the next generation. The Executive, CEO and I recently convened a 'strategic planning workshop' to review how B'nai B'rith is going in two critical areas: finance and gaining new members, or at least people who are 'interested' in some of our activities.

I shall report on the outcomes of this workshop at another time, but one thing was clear: success is not immediate. You have to have clear objectives and you have to keep slogging away at these. I am inspired by the Israeli people and support their need to bravely keep on going to secure their future. Without trying to draw any analogies, the message is that obstacles can take time to overcome, but we must remain resolute.

Peter Schattner, *President*

Members and Friends of B'nai B'rith Victoria acknowledge the Boon wurrung people of the Eastern Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet.

The International Scene from BBANZ



Amit Siman Tov Vahaba, one of the survivors who lost all her family in the Hamas attack, explained to relatives that “my deepest beliefs were turned upside down. I thought the Gaza strip was full of people who looked like us. But this was all false.”

The brutal attack on Israel shattered for many of us the illusion about peaceful coexistence. This has required a change in approach by Jewish organisations including B’nai B’rith around the world.

Benny proudly wearing the new B’nai B’rith Israel pin

In the short-term, funds were needed to feed and house the thousands of Israeli citizens who were affected by the war. Our own members were extremely generous and over \$65,000 was raised in the first four weeks and sent to Israel, especially to B’nai B’rith Lodges in Israel to help support their citizens. Further large donations continued in subsequent weeks, but more is needed according to Ilan Shchori, who is leading the B’nai B’rith international team in Israel.

In the longer-term B’nai B’rith lodges in over 59 countries have pondered how to combat rising global antisemitism and increasing Israel-based phobia. Here are some of the responses internationally:



New B’nai B’rith Israel pin

- B’nai B’rith International – based in Washington has ramped up its advocacy work in the press and at the United Nations and sent a high-powered delegation, led by its CEO Dan Mariaschin to Israel to meet with politicians, diplomats and relatives of hostages. BBI also submitted arguments to the International Court of Justice at the Hague, refuting South Africa’s false claim of genocide against Israel. Visit www.bnaibrith.org
- B’nai B’rith UK whose motto is ‘Bringing Jews together’ is heavily involved in supporting a Food Bank and distribution centre in Kiryat Gat in Israel where young Israeli volunteers distribute goods to needy families. Lectures and forums are occurring on how to deal with antisemitism. Visit www.bnaibrithuk.org
- B’nai B’rith Canada is a very active organisation with a high profile in Human Rights. It runs an Anti Hate hotline and monitors incidents of racism. The community consists of over 330,000 Jews. Special attention is given to rising antisemitism at university campuses - both in English and in French speaking provinces. Website www.bnaibrith.ca

Here in Australia and New Zealand where multiculturalism has been a success story, rising incidence of antisemitism and antizionism has come as a shock to many Jews. Many community organisations have held discussions on what the implications are for us. The varied response has been a sign of strength really. In addition to the funds we have sent to Israel, BBANZ has commenced a monitoring program on antisemitism on social media in conjunction with the Online Hate Prevention Institute. Thank you to Annette Gladwin and Suzanne Goldin for being part of this experiment. We have a long and difficult journey ahead.

Benny Monheit
President BBANZ

Click on the image below to donate

Israel at War - B’nai B’rith Israel Appeal



B'NAI B'RITH ARMCHAIR SOCIETY

*In partnership with the Lamm Jewish
Library of Australia and Beth
Weizmann Jewish Community Centre*

Hosted by Ron James



BOOK NOW

5 PART FORTNIGHTLY SERIES

Featuring fascinating guest speakers at each session

FEB 13 - MICHAEL GAWENDA

FEB 27 - MICHAEL KROGER

MARCH 12 - JOHN PESUTTO MP

MARCH 26 - TBC

APRIL 9 - TBC



**SERIES TICKETS \$40 OR
\$10 PER SESSION**

Venue: Beth Weizmann Auditorium

TUESDAYS, 10:00AM - 12:00PM

[EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/AS1](https://events.humanitix.com/as1)

9523 0888 / www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria



BETH WEIZMANN
מרכז קהילתי בית וויצמן
Jewish Community Centre



Lamm Jewish
Library of
Australia



B'nai
B'rith

RAOUL WALLENBERG DAY

Raoul Wallenberg Day was celebrated on Sunday 14 January 2024 at the St Kilda Town Hall. Councillor Tim Baxter welcomed the audience on behalf of the City of Port Phillip. Mayor Heather Cunsolo and Councillor Marcus Pearl were also present. There were about 100 people present to hear Keynote Speaker, Dean Levitan, Chair of 'Stand Up', give an inspiring presentation relating Raoul Wallenberg's heroic deeds of saving approximately 100,000 Jews in Hungary in 1941. Dean used Raoul Wallenberg's heroism as an example for all humanity.

Thank you to the City of Port Phillip for co-hosting this event with Melbourne Lodge No. 1547 of B'nai B'rith Victoria and providing a generous morning tea.



Councillor Tim Baxter, Dean Levitan, Mayor Heather Cunsolo, Simone Markus, Jacqui Dinor Corry, Councillor Marcus Pearl



Ron Saunders, Miriam Saunders, Jacqui Saunders, Simone Markus



Nadine Levitan, Dean Levitan, Simone Markus, Faye Haskin-Dubrowin



Benny Monheit and Paul Gardner



Gilah Leder, Ian Pohl, Jack Leder



Jacqui Dinor-Corry, Sandra Farber, Simone Markus



Dean Levitan



Carol Bloustein, Rena Komesaroff



*Ron James, Harry Newhouse, Cera Newhouse,
Lorraine Freeman*



Simone Markus, Beryl Sandler, Merelyn Corry, Wendy Waller



Jacqui Dinor-Corry and Merelyn Corry



Evelyn Flitman, Laurie Bar-Ness, Simone Markus, Jack Bar-Ness



*Simone Markus, Phil Lipshutz, Rona Zinger,
Brian Schauer, Margaret Masur*



Lily and Eitan Levy, Simone Markus, Michelle Huppert

GESHER-RABIN NEW YEARS DAY PICNIC



UPCOMING EVENTS

B'NAI B'RITH

MELBOURNE LODGE 1547

invites all members and friends to a

Welcome Back Picnic

Time:

11:00am

Venue:

Landcox Park- Mavies Ave, E Brighton

Bring:

Food, drinks, sun hat, sunscreen, chair

Please confirm attendance with Danielle by text 0408 128 639 or email danielle@the-schillings.com.

Contact Danielle for carpool arrangements and queries.



TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2024

www.bnaibrith.org.au

admin@bbvic.org.au



GESHER-RABIN UNIT

Co-Presidents: Karin Zafir / Leon Nissen

Secretary: Sue Moskowitz

Preview: Karin Zafir

Welcome to our new member Barry Ziegler! We hope you enjoy what we have on offer.

Every Sunday **11:00 am - Sunday morning "get-together"**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85211082214?pwd=QU5HNmwySjhvRzltc1cvMVgwWS9RUT09>.
 If you use the link, you will not need to enter the passcode. However, if you start Zoom and enter the meeting ID, you will be prompted to enter the passcode. Zoom Meeting ID: 852 1108 2214, Passcode 923143. **Note:** Zoom get-together will not take place on 3rd Sunday of each month due to Umbrella Lounge in person get-together

What's on in February:

Wednesday 14 **10:10am - Train Trip to Geelong.** Train departs Southern Cross Station at 10.10am. Contact Karin Zafir kzafir@optusnet.com.au if you're coming.

Sunday 18 **11:00am - Members' coffee and chat** get together at the Umbrella Lounge, 338-340 Glenhuntly Rd, Elsternwick. Harry Lew will talk about Maurice Brodzky and his book "Five Walking Sticks". Lunch can be ordered during or afterwards. RSVP Eleanor Aghion ezaprudsky@gmail.com by 12 February.

Coming up in March:

Fri 1 - Sun 3 **Gesher-Rabin & Akiba Weekend in Castlemaine**

Sunday 17 **11:00am - Members' coffee and chat** get together at the Umbrella Lounge, 338-340 Glenhuntly Rd, Elsternwick. Pre-Purim Party! Lunch can be ordered during or afterwards. RSVP Eleanor Aghion ezaprudsky@gmail.com by 12 March.

Coming up in April:

Saturday 6 **Popcorn, movie & Pizza night** at the Flitman home

Sunday 21 **11:00am - Members' coffee and chat** get together at the Umbrella Lounge, 338-340 Glenhuntly Rd, Elsternwick. Lunch can be ordered during or afterwards. RSVP Eleanor Aghion ezaprudsky@gmail.com by 12 April.

Tuesday 23 **Second Night Seder** at the Nissen home

If you know of anyone who is unwell, please contact our Welfare Officer, Leon Nissen (kirschnerissen@hotmail.com).

If you know of anyone who is celebrating a Simcha or birth of a grandchild, please contact Karin Zafir (kzafir@optusnet.com.au)

UNIT AKIBA

President: Henry Winfield

Secretary: Annette Gladwin

Preview: Annette Harriott

What's on in February:

Sunday 4

3:00 - 5:00pm - **'Get to Know 'You Afternoon Tea.** An opportunity to meet with a small group of Akiba members over afternoon tea. You will be invited by your host closer to the day.

Sunday 11

10:30am - **Beach Walk and Lunch.** Meet outside North Point Café (end of North Road) at 10.30am for a walk along the beach and return to café for lunch at 12 noon. RSVP by 4 February.

Saturday 17

8:30pm - **Welcome Back Soiree** with entertainment, regifting raffle and delicious supper. Cost is \$45 members, \$50 non-members. Funds raised will go to BB Israel Relief Fund. Please use link to book, address will be disclosed after booking and prior to the event. The link for the booking is <https://www.trybooking.com/CNPWH>. Please see flyer on page 12. Bookings close 9 February.

Coming up in March:

Friday 1 to Sunday 3

Weekend in Castlemaine together with Gesher Rabin Unit. Contact Henry Winfield for more information.

Sunday 17

7:30pm - **JCEP presentation.** Myer Bloom to present the second of his series about Sephardic Jews. Venue TBA.

Wednesday 20

10:00am - **Titanic Exhibition** at the Melbourne Museum Carlton. Meet at the Museum at 10.00 for 10.15 entry. Book your own tickets for the 10.15am entry time. Tickets are \$32.50 and \$22.50 concession. Book at www.museumsvictoria.com.au. Further info contact Denise Le Bransky.

We wish a Refuah Shleima to any 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

Coming up in February:

Sunday 25 February 8:00pm - Regular Meeting

Our speaker will be Nafti Vanderhoek talking about nuclear power.

Happy Birthday to Ruth Taft who celebrates her birthday in February.

We wish her a year of hope, health and happiness.

We wish a Refuah Shleima to anyone feeling under the weather, recovering from operations or covid.

B'NAI B'RITH RAMBLERS

Chair: Vardit Sacks-Davis

Secretary: Tania Tobias

Preview Secretary: Judy Winikoff

Treasurer: Irena Blonder



enquiries@bbramblers.org.au

What's on in February:

Sunday 4 Morning - Saul will lead a medium walk in Creswick.

Wednesday 14 Morning - Vardit and Ron will lead an easy walk along Elwood Canal and the beach.

Sunday 25 Morning - SOHW in Wombat State Forest, led by Joshua.

MELBOURNE LODGE NO 1547

President: Danielle Schilling

Vice-President: Morris Tobias

Preview: Dr John Kohn

What's on in February:

- Monday 5** 7:30pm - **Programming meeting**
- Tuesday 6** 11:00am - **Welcome Back Picnic**- Landcox Park. See flyer on page 11.
- Thursday 8** 3:30pm - **Executive meeting** at Beth Weizmann.
- Sunday 11** **Movie Fundraiser for Israel featuring film 'Exodus 91'.**
Bookings: events.humanitix.com/exodus91. See flyer on page 11.
- Wednesday 14** 7:30pm - **Regular meeting** at Beth Weizmann

Past Events:

17 Dec: Bagel Brunch - Thanks again to Alex and Janet Starr for organising another very successful Bagel Brunch which was enjoyed by all.

14 Jan: Raoul Wallenberg Commemoration 2024. Recap on pages 4-5.

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

Mazel Tov:

Rifka and Joe Kaufman on their 60th Wedding Anniversary!

Vera Unger on the recent birth of her great grandchild.

DONATIONS TO "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" ARE NOW TAX DEDUCTIBLE:

DONATE NOW on the B'nai B'rith Website [here](https://www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria) (www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria)

Select "**Making a Difference**".

Generous donations made by:

Bette and Peter Pulver, Rosalyn Goldberg, Mel and Naomi Barnett - in honour of the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Rifka and Joe Kaufman.

Martha and Nafty Vanderhoek in honour of Phillip Zmood's 80th birthday

Devorah Zmood in honour of Yvonne Elton's 80th birthday

UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't miss this opportunity to help our brothers and sisters in Israel!
All proceeds of this event will go towards our Israel Commission projects.
Watch the extraordinary film that tells the incredible story of Operation Solomon,
Israel's airlift of the Ethiopian Jewish community.

B'NAI B'RITH MELBOURNE LODGE 1547

invites all members and friends to a

MOVIE FUNDRAISER featuring film 'Exodus 91'

Venue: Classic Cinema, Elsternwick

Cost: \$20

Cake buffet with tea and coffee

All proceeds towards the Israel Commission

Exodus 91 takes viewers behind the scenes and behind the spin of Operation Solomon, the diplomatic and military mission to bring thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel in the midst of Ethiopia's brutal civil war. The feature-length film explores challenging questions of racism, white saviour-ism, homeland, cultural identity, the politics of immigration, and the hardships of these immigrants, and those that followed them, to this day.



SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY, 3:00PM

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/EXODUS91

www.bnaibrith.org.au

admin@bbvic.org.au



B'NAI B'RITH UNIT AKIBA ANNUAL WELCOME BACK SOIREE

Join us for an evening of entertainment, merriment, our 'regifting raffle' and much gastronomic delight!

Cost: \$45 members; \$50 non-members

Includes a sumptuous supper

Venue to be advised upon booking

Bookings close 9 February at 5pm

SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY, 8:30PM

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CNPWH

ENQUIRIES: Suzanne Goldin 0414 313 136



TRAGEDY IN ISRAEL

35 year old Elkana Vizel, a married father of 4, was killed in Gaza on 23.1.24. He was one of 21 soldiers tragically killed in one day. Elkana left a farewell letter in the event of injury or death.

"In the event that I get kidnapped, I demand that you refrain from making any deals to secure my release."

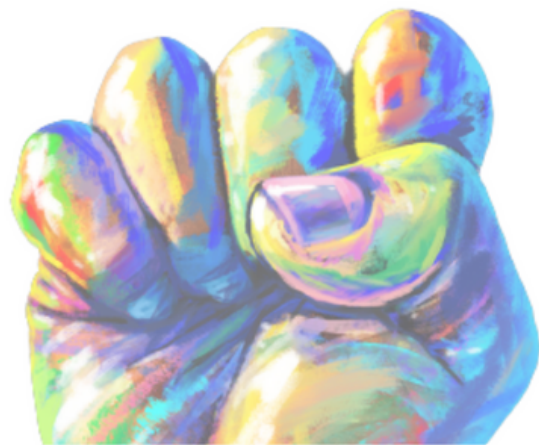
A farewell letter left by Elkanah Wiesel who was killed in battle today in the Gaza Strip

"If you are reading these words, something must have happened to me. First of all, in the event that I get kidnapped, I demand that you refrain from making any deals for the release of any terrorist in order to release me. Our overwhelming victory is more important than anything, so please just continue to act with all your might so that our victory is as overwhelming as possible. Maybe I fell in battle. When a soldier falls in battle it's sad. But I ask you to be happy. Don't be sad when you part with me. Sing a lot, hold each other's hands and support each other. We have so much of what to be proud of and happy about, we are a generation of redemption! We write the most significant moments in the history of our nation and of the entire world. So please be optimistic. Keep choosing life all the time. A life of love, hope, purity and optimism. Look at your loved ones in the whites of your eyes and remind them that everything they go through in this life is worth it. And they have a lot to live for. Live! Don't stop the energies of life for a moment! I was injured during the 2014 Gaza war. I had the choice to stay behind, but I don't regret for a moment that I went back to being a fighter. On the contrary, it's the best decision I've ever made."





**B'nai
B'rith**



HUMAN RIGHTS ORATION

WITH

ADAM BUTT, BARRISTER

*Recipient of the
2024 B'nai B'rith Human Rights Award*



NATIVE TITLE AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Including antisemitism in schools

SUNDAY 7 APRIL 2024, 3:00PM

[EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/ORATION](https://events.humanitix.com/oration)

VENUE ADVISED UPON BOOKING



COURAGE TO CARE UPDATE



A RECORD YEAR FOR COURAGE TO CARE VICTORIA

Even with the significant challenges and anxiety across the community in late 2023, we had our busiest year ever!

Since 7th October, no schools cancelled their programs and in fact we have had increased enquiries about providing education into schools across Victoria.

In the 2023 school year 16,247 students were booked into our programs.

Here's some interesting facts about 2023:

- 35% of our activity was with our Middle Years program aimed at younger Grade 5 & 6 students.

This program only started in mid-2020 and is very popular.

- 44% of our students were in rural and regional Victoria. We DO go all over the state.
- 64% of schools were Government with 18% both Catholic and Independent schools.
- 50 of our 2023 schools were new with 70 schools rebooking from previous years.

We are making a difference one school at a time.



Another happy team off to a school!

Mike Zervos, CEO

B'nai B'rith
Stands with Israel

**ISRAEL AT WAR
EMERGENCY
APPEAL**
SUPPORTING THE
**VICTIMS OF
TERROR FUND**

DONATE NOW

UIA

GESHER-RABIN CHANUKAH PARTY



February 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
29 Jan	30	31	1 Feb	2	3	4 Akiba Afternoon Tea (TBC) Ramblers walk 3:00pm Akiba Afternoon Tea (TBC)
5 7:30pm Melbourne Lodge programming meeting	6 11:00am ML Welcome Back Picnic (Landcox Park (Milroy St & Mavis Avenue, Brighton East Victoria 3187, Australia))	7 10:00am Click and connect training session in large board room - project, tables and chairs for 12, zoom	8 3:30pm Melbourne Lodge Exec meeting (Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre (306 Hawthorn Road,	9	10	11 10:30am Akiba Beach walk & lunch (North Point Cafe, North Rd) 3:00pm ML Fundraiser Movie Afternoon - 'Exodus 91' (Classic
12	13 10:00am Armchair Society Series 1	14 Ramblers walk 10:10am GRU Train Trip to Geelong 7:30pm Melbourne Lodge Regular 8:00pm Hatikvah	15	16	17 8:30pm Akiba Soiree	18 9:30am Calico Dolls 11:00am GRU Coffee & Chat (Umbrella Lounge Bar (338-340 Glen Huntly Rd, Melbourne Victoria
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Ramblers walk 8:00pm Hatikvah Regular Meeting
26	27 10:00am Armchair Society Series 1	28 7:00pm Hatikvah Executive meeting	29	1 Mar	2	3

Navigating the 'New' Antisemitism: Insights & Strategies

Join us for an expert-led session with **Zachary Schaffer** from **Project Shema** (USA), on tackling antisemitism in public spaces: workplaces, universities, online, and beyond.

Wednesday 31st January
7:45pm - 9:30pm AEDT
Melbourne: Location provided following registration

Scan to register



Click [HERE](#) to see the B'nai B'rith calendar which includes all B'nai B'rith and Unit Events and Jewish Holidays.

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

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