



# B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW



## Message from the President...why is unity important?



There were several reasons why the separate colonies decided to unite as a federation of Australia in 1901. These included the people's desire for unity, economic factors, perceived external threats, and greater independence from Britain, among other reasons. It took many years and a number of constitutional conventions to achieve this, as the emerging states had their own agendas that

needed to be taken into account. But in the end, unity prevailed. It made sense.

Unity makes sense for B'nai B'rith Victoria. To modernise, to promote ourselves to the community as an organisation worth joining, to improve efficiencies including financial, and to optimally use a database of people who have shown some interest in us, we need to have a united structure that sits over our separate entities such as Units and projects.



*Federation of Australia, 1901*

So far, you might agree with this general principle.

Unfortunately, it is in the practical implementation that we often come unstuck. We have again returned to problems with membership invoices and new member registration that have so far stymied us from balancing the need for unity with the perceived benefits of doing things at the grass roots level.

We must do better. We must sort out the path for working together in a number of fields. Let us decide which activities are important for unity and then agree on how to achieve successful outcomes. Call it the art of the compromise or the art of the deal; it is surely not beyond us to know how to resolve relatively minor bureaucratic processes.

The colonies could do it – and that was a much bigger task. We are currently having meetings between the CEO, myself, Unit presidents and other B'nai B'rith leaders to sort these matters out. Let us get this done once and for all.

**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.

## Supporting Israel and Supporting Us



The roof body of B'nai B'rith in Australia and New Zealand (BBANZ) is working on enhancing our links with fellow members and our base in Israel. This is especially important psychologically for us when we don't seem to have many remaining friends in the general community (particularly in writers festivals and the universities). So we are trying to get two new initiatives off the ground.

The first initiative we have tried is to collaborate with other organisations to fight antisemitism. We have trialed a project with the Online Hate Prevention Institute and this was quite successful. We'll see how this develops.

The second one is to organise a delegation of our members to Israel to show support and learn how they are coping during this difficult war and how they are still expanding their own B'nai B'rith Lodges. Israel needs visitors, so let's see if we can do it.

The proposal is to have nine days together in Israel from May 7th to May 14th which is Yom Ha'atzmaut. The program is being developed and aims to meet Israelis, visit some of our B'nai B'rith projects that we donate to in Israel, to hear from VIPs there and to volunteer for a few days. The first draft for the trip is set out below. The trip is not a tourist holiday in Israel, but you can stay longer after Yom Ha'atzmaut and do your own adventure. B'nai Brith in Israel is waiting for us!

### **Draft Trip Itinerary - from Tuesday 7 May to Wednesday 15 May.**

**Tuesday May 7:** Arrive in Tel Aviv. Dinner together.

**Wednesday May 8:** Meet and greet with BB Israel President, Executive & members. Tour of local sights around Tel Aviv.

**Thursday May 9:** Meet with MPs / soldiers / returned hostages / BB Israel members.

**Friday May 10:** Volunteer work eg in kitchen or welfare centre. Kabbalat Shabbat together

**Shabbat May 11:** Free

**Sunday May 12:** Travel to Be'er Sheva- visit BB Israel Commission projects, Click and Connect schools, and possibly Kibbutz Nir Oz

**Monday May 13:** Jerusalem Day. Visit Knesset, meet with leaders. Half day free or volunteer work.

**Tuesday May 14:** Yom Ha'atzmaut

**Wednesday May 15:** Debrief. Travel home or remain in Israel on own arrangements.

If you are interested in joining I'd love to hear from you so send me an email. What would you like to see and do? The costs, programs and details (including issues of travel insurance) have not been finalised.

Another project under development is a hosting program for B'nai B'rith visitors who come from interstate or overseas.

It is good to be active with our Jewish community at a time like this. It can ease our widespread low mood and feeling of anxiety. We can get through this and come out on top.

**Benny Monheit**      [bennymonheit@bbvic.org.au](mailto:bennymonheit@bbvic.org.au)  
**President BBANZ**

**Click on the image to  
donate**

**Israel at War -  
B'nai B'rith Israel Appeal**



# B'NAI B'RITH ARMCHAIR SOCIETY

**BOOK FOR THE LAST 3 SESSIONS OF SERIES 1!**

March 12 - John Pesutto MP

March 26 - Warren Mundine AO

April 9 - Kalman and Timmy Rubin

**\$10 PER SESSION**

**TUESDAYS, 10:00AM - 12:00PM**

**[EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/AS1](https://EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/AS1)**



## BOOK FOR SERIES 2!

### 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

**5 PART FORTNIGHTLY SERIES**

Featuring fascinating guest speakers at each session

May 7 - Jeremy Leibler

May 21 - Prof Martin Delatycki AM

June 4 - Dr David Adler

June 18 - TBC

July 2 - Bronwyn Bishop AO

Venue to be advised upon booking

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

**TUESDAYS, 10:00AM - 12:00PM**

**[EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/AS2](https://EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/AS2)**

(03) 9523 0888 / [www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria](http://www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria)



BETH WEIZMANN  
מרכז קהילתי בית וויצמן  
Jewish Community Centre

Lamm Jewish  
Library of  
Australia



B'nai  
B'rith

## MELBOURNE LODGE MOVIE FUNDRAISER

A group of 100 Melbourne Lodge members and friends gathered on February 11 to watch 'Exodus 91', an emotive and inspiring film about Israel's efforts to bring 150,000 Ethiopian Jews back to Israel in Operation Solomon.

Able to be organised by Danielle Schilling as a fundraiser for Israel Commission projects, the event raised \$2000 which will be sent to Israel. A lovely morning tea was provided and a great time was had by all.



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## BEQUESTS

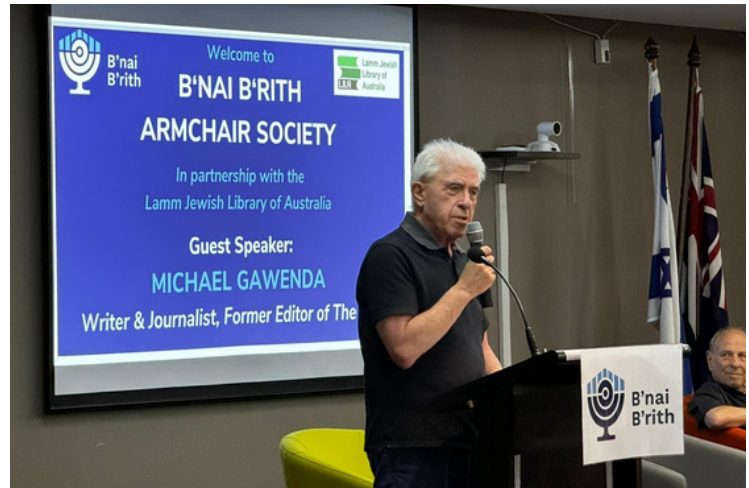
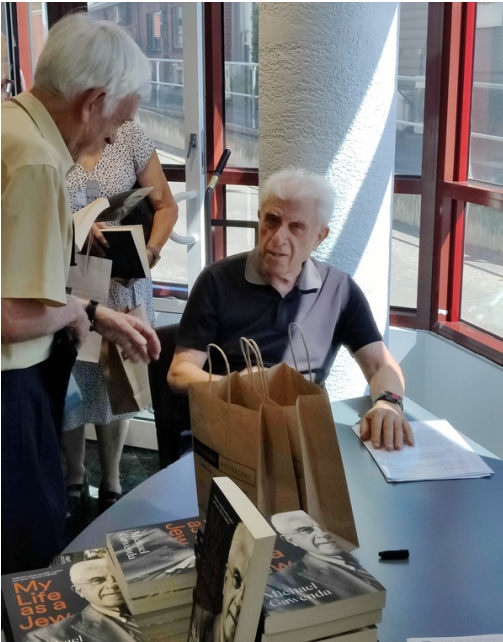
B'nai B'rith Victoria has been privileged to receive a number of bequests from past members and friends of our community. We extend our thanks to the Estate of Madeleine Zafir, the Dorevitch family, the Estate of June Rubinstein and the Estate of Bronislawa Feuer for their generosity.

Leaving a bequest in your Will is a powerful way to create a lasting legacy. Whether large or small, your bequest will ensure B'nai B'rith can continue to serve your community.

Please contact CEO Ellana Aarons on 9523 0888 for more information.

## FIRST ARMCHAIR SOCIETY OF THE YEAR

The first Armchair Society session of the year was a great success, with a significant turnout of over 200 attendees eager to hear Michael Gawenda share his 'Jewish Journey'. His presentation was very impactful, prompting many revelations and insights among the audience. The emphasis on personal reflection and introspection, particularly regarding one's identity and stance, resonated strongly with those in attendance. The talk served as a catalyst for deep contemplation and dialogue about individual journeys and responsibilities.





*We will dance again*



**Nova Tribute** 

**150 DAYS**

**DJs Music Dance**

**Tuesday 5th MARCH | 6-10pm**

**Register: [trybooking.com/COYPS](https://trybooking.com/COYPS)**  
Location On Registration



**#BringThemHomeNow**



B'nai  
B'rith

# GESHER-RABIN UNIT

**Co-Presidents:** Karin Zafir / Leon Nissen

**Secretary:** Sue Moskowitz

**Preview:** Karin Zafir

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

**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 March:

**Fri 1 - Sun 3** Geshher-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! Prizes for the best costumes!** Lunch can be ordered during or afterwards. RSVP Eleanor by 13 March.

## Coming up in April:

**Saturday 6** **Popcorn, movie & Pizza night** at the Flitman home. Movie to be advised. Email Evelyn to book.

**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 by 17 April.

**Tuesday 23** **Second Night Seder** at the Nissen home. Contact Irene.

### The following members celebrate their birthdays in March:

Sue Bendel (3rd), Nora Bernhardt (6th), Helen Schneider (20th), Mary Lipp (23rd), John Gould (27th)

### Condolences

Helen Heimann on the passing of her brother, James Schmul.

If you know of anyone who is unwell, please contact our Welfare Officer, Leon Nissen.

If you know of anyone who is celebrating a Simcha or birth of a grandchild, please contact Karin Zafir.

# UNIT AKIBA

*President: Henry Winfield*

*Secretary: Annette Gladwin*

*Preview: Annette Harriott*

## What's on in March:

### Friday 1 to Sunday 3

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

### Sunday 17

7:30pm - **JCEP presentation.** Myer Bloom to present the second of his series about Sephardic Jews. Please bring a chair and a plate of food to share for supper. Venue inquiries to Suzanne Goldin

### 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](http://www.museumsvictoria.com.au). Further info contact Denise Le Bransky.

### Thursday 21

8:00 - 9:30pm - **Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club.** "My Life as a Jew" by Michael Gawenda will be presented by Ron Sacks-Davis. Please contact Peter Schattner at [non-fiction@bbvic.org.au](mailto:non-fiction@bbvic.org.au) for more information.

## Coming up in April:

### Tuesday 9

10:30am - **Outing to Royal Botanical Gardens** at Cranbourne, Ballarto Road and Botanic Drive Cranbourne. Admission is free. RSVP to Miriam by 2/3/24

### The following members celebrate their birthday in March:

Andrew Kolb (5th), Robina Jay (6th), Howard Rabinowitz (17th), Rosa Dias Santilhano (22nd), Annette Harriott (24th), Lois Cyngler (30th).

We wish a Refuah Shleima to Fay Kayser and Barbara Lewis and any members of Unit Akiba who may be unwell at the present time. We hope to see you joining us again very soon!

Unit Akiba wishes all members and their families Chag Sameach!

# HATIKVAH UNIT

*President: Claude Fromm*

*Vice-President: Orly Dar*

*Preview: Judith Steinberg*

## What's on in March:

**Sunday 31 March**      8:00pm - **Regular Meeting** at Leo Baeck- Harp Rd, East Kew.  
Guest speaker Avi Dar talking about the book 'The Fifth Risk'. Please bring a small plate to share for supper.

## Coming up in April:

**Sunday 7 April**      9:30 - 11:30am - **Calico Dolls** at the home of Ken and Garry Hamer,  
Please let them know if you are coming.

**Thursday 25 April**      10:30am - **Anzac Day walk and lunch.** Drop off food at LBC. Walk begins at 11:00am for those walking.  
Lunch to share.

**Happy Birthday** to Issy Barit (1st), Ron Friedman (10th) and Jenny Harvey (14th).

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

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

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# B'NAI B'RITH RAMBLERS

*Chair: Vardit Sacks-Davis*

*Secretary: Tania Tobias*

*Preview Secretary: Judy Winikoff*

*Treasurer: Irena Blonder*



9527 6002



[enquiries@bbramblers.org.au](mailto:enquiries@bbramblers.org.au)

## What's on in March:

**Sunday 3**      *Morning* - Monique will lead the Warburton Rail Trail from Mt Evelyn to Seville.  
This is a medium walk.

**Wednesday 13**      *Morning* - An easy suburban walk through Edithvale wetlands trail to Mordialloc Creek, led by Sydney.

**Friday 15 - Sunday 17**      There will be all levels of walks (SOHW, SOMW and easy) in this weekend getaway to Bright. For accommodation suggestions and to book, please contact Vardit or Ron.

**Sunday 31**      *Morning* - SOHW from Upper Ferntree Gully to Belgrave via Sherbrooke Forest, led by Boris.

# MELBOURNE LODGE NO 1547

*President: Danielle Schilling*

*Vice-President: Morris Tobias*

*Preview: Dr John Kohn*

## What's on in March:

- Monday 4** 7:30pm - **Programming meeting** at the Huppert home.
- Tuesday 5** 12:30pm - **Studley Park Lunch**. See flyer on page 11.
- Thursday 7** 3:30pm - **Executive meeting** at Beth Weizmann.
- Wednesday 13** 7:30pm - **Regular meeting** at Beth Weizmann. Guest speaker Peter Gaspar OAM on 'Schools and Universities in Hong Kong'.

## Coming up in May:

- Tuesday 7- 9 May** **Discover Sale and beautiful Gippsland for 3 unforgettable days.**  
Details on page 12 or click [HERE](#).

### Past Events:

6 Feb: Welcome Back function at Landcox Park. Members had a fun afternoon enjoying a picnic and a chat in the park.

11 Feb: Successful screening of the film "Exodus 91". Write up on page 4.

14 Feb: As guest speaker at our Regular Meeting, Gila Leder spoke on "Keeping History Alive" - a very heartwarming account of her family's history in war time Holland. On a recent trip back they were able to meet with family and commemorate with her foster family on Liberation Day celebrations. We welcomed Renee Schwartz as a new member of B'nai B'rith.

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

David Lewis (3rd), Lesley Gaspar (13th), Jennifer Harvey (14th), Dr Peter Schiff OAM (15th), Susie Taft (18th), Ann Offenberger (20th), Dr Noam White (20th), Joe Kaufman (27th), Carol Bloustein (28th), Maurice Freeman (28th), Simone Markus (28th), Janice Huppert (30th)

### Mazel Tov:

Peter and Lesley Gaspar for their well-deserved awards (OAM)  
Margaret Fischer and Ruth Figdor for the arrival of great grand children  
Cera and Harry Newhouse on the marriage of their grandson  
Rickard and Joe Kaufman on the engagement of their grandson  
Happy Birthday to Ari Offenberger  
P/P Adrienne Perch on the birth of two great grandsons- one in Melbourne and the other in America

### Welfare of Members:

We mourn the passing of Robin Starr (younger brother of Alex), Sandra Rosengarten (sister-in-law of Janice Huppert), Bernard Rechter and Daphne Sarkin.

Howard Elton has sustained a leg fracture and Harry Better is unwell.

We wish a Refuah Shleima to any members who may be unwell.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### B'NAI B'RITH MELBOURNE LODGE

#### LUNCH AT STUDLEY PARK BOATHOUSE

Come and join us at a renovated, historic and charming place that offers quality food and service!

Easily accessible lunch at the Conservatory.  
No set menu and large vegetarian selection.

30 places have been booked. Bookings essential.  
Carpooling is available.

1 Boathouse Road, Kew 3101

**TUESDAY 5 MARCH 2024**  
**12:30PM**

**BOOKINGS:** Danielle Schilling 0408 128 639 /  
danielle@the-schillings.com

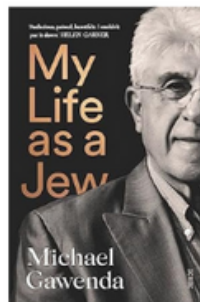


### B'NAI B'RITH JEWISH NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

Featuring "My Life as a Jew" by Michael Gawenda.  
Presented by Ron Sacks-Davis.

The author is a multi-award-winning journalist and former editor-in-chief of The Age newspaper, who spent his childhood and teenage years in a left-wing, non-Zionist Jewish youth group in Melbourne. This shaped the sort of Jew he became - a secular Jew who loved the Yiddish language and Yiddish culture.

Gawenda went on to become a public figure during his 40 years as a journalist. Throughout this time, and since, he became dismayed by the growing hostility of the left to Israel. This has also forced him to explore his own Jewish identity, his relationships with his Jewish friends, and to examine the basis of criticism of Israel during a time of rising antisemitism and anti-Zionism.



Although Michael Gawenda cannot attend in person, he has agreed to answer emailed questions; these can be sent in advance to [non-fiction@bbvic.org.au](mailto:non-fiction@bbvic.org.au)

**THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2024, 8:00-9:30pm**  
**At Ron and Vardit's home. A light supper will be served.**

For more information on the book club, or how to obtain the book and for the address, please contact Peter at [non-fiction@bbvic.org.au](mailto:non-fiction@bbvic.org.au).





## B'NAI B'RITH MELBOURNE LODGE

INVITES YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TO

## DISCOVER SALE & BEAUTIFUL GIPPSLAND

For 3 unforgettable days, we stop off at various attractions with experienced guides through East Gippsland and experience its fascinating history.

**COST:** \$754 per person twin share (includes all meals except lunch)  
+ \$175 additional fee for single

**REGISTER:** Irene Bud 0421 047 009  
sbud@bigpond.net.au

**TUESDAY 7 MAY -  
THURSDAY 9 MAY 2024**

**CLICK [HERE](#) FOR THE ITINERARY,  
BOOKING FORM & PAYMENT DETAILS.**

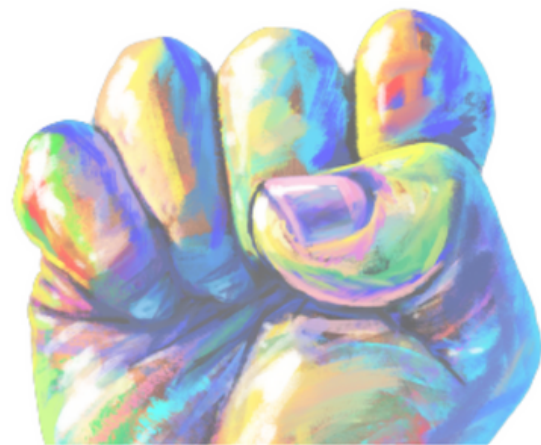
**QUERIES:** Jacqui Dinor-Corry 0412 440 501  
Danielle Schilling 0408 128 639



**B'nai  
B'rith**



**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



### EDUCATION NEED MORE THAN EVER

Our Upstander education programs are needed more than ever and we are aiming reach nearly 20,000 students this year. Half of these students will be in regional and rural Victoria. We were pleased to provide teacher professional learning to all teachers at Brighton Secondary College and will be reinforcing our important key messages with all students in March.



*Brighton Secondary College school leaders with Education Manager Zoi Juvris and CEO Mike Zervos OAM*

### CONGRATULATIONS!

We were delighted that our volunteers Barbara Kessel, Peter Gaspar and Lesley Gaspar have been appointed a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Australia Day 2024 honours. Husband and wife team Peter and Lesley both received their medals for service to the Jewish Community. Barbara received her medal for service to the community through social welfare organisations.



It is great to see our volunteers recognised for their selfless commitment to the community.

*Mike Zervos, CEO*

## OUT AND ABOUT

### Gesher-Rabin Geelong Trip



## Melbourne Lodge Welcome Back Picnic



## March 2024

| MONDAY                                                     | TUESDAY                                                                                                 | WEDNESDAY                                                                                         | THURSDAY                                             | FRIDAY                                  | SATURDAY | SUNDAY                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 26 Feb                                                     | 27                                                                                                      | 28                                                                                                | 29                                                   | 1 Mar                                   | 2        | 3                                                                                         |
|                                                            |                                                                                                         |                                                                                                   |                                                      | Akiba & GRU Weekend Away to Castlemaine |          |                                                                                           |
|                                                            |                                                                                                         |                                                                                                   |                                                      |                                         |          | Ramblers walk                                                                             |
| 4                                                          | 5                                                                                                       | 6                                                                                                 | 7                                                    | 8                                       | 9        | 10                                                                                        |
| 2:30pm Fellowship Concert<br>7:30pm ML Programming meeting | 12:30pm ML Studley Park Lunch (Studley Park Boathouse (1 Boathouse Road, Kew Victoria 3101, Australia)) |                                                                                                   | 3:30pm Melbourne Lodge Executive Meeting             |                                         |          |                                                                                           |
| 11                                                         | 12                                                                                                      | 13                                                                                                | 14                                                   | 15                                      | 16       | 17                                                                                        |
|                                                            | 10:00am Armchair Society Series 1                                                                       | Ramblers walk<br>7:00pm ML Regular Meeting<br>8:00pm Hatikvah Activities Meeting                  | 12:00pm Hatikvah visit to Heidi Museum               | Ramblers weekend                        |          |                                                                                           |
|                                                            |                                                                                                         |                                                                                                   |                                                      |                                         |          | 11:00am GRU Coffee & Chat (Umbrella Lounge Bar (338-340 Glen Huntly Rd, 7:30pm Akiba JCEP |
| 18                                                         | 19                                                                                                      | 20                                                                                                | 21                                                   | 22                                      | 23       | 24                                                                                        |
|                                                            | 12:00am                                                                                                 | Melbourne Lodge Trip- Sale/Gippsland                                                              |                                                      |                                         | 11:00am  | Purim                                                                                     |
|                                                            |                                                                                                         | 10:00am Akiba visit to Titanic Exhibition (Melbourne Museum (Nicholson Street, Melbourne Victoria | Taanit Esther<br>8:00pm Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club |                                         |          |                                                                                           |
| 25                                                         | 26                                                                                                      | 27                                                                                                | 28                                                   | 29                                      | 30       | 31                                                                                        |
|                                                            | 10:00am Armchair Society Series 1                                                                       | 7:00pm Hatikvah Executive meeting                                                                 |                                                      |                                         |          | Ramblers walk<br>8:00pm Hatikvah Regular Meeting                                          |

# HAPPY PURIM!

May this Purim bring joy and happiness to you and your family

## CHAG SAMEACH



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.

Official Publication of B'nai B'rith Victoria Inc. **03 9523 0888** [admin@bbvic.org.au](mailto:admin@bbvic.org.au) [www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria](http://www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria)

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