



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW



Message from the President... the need to stand with Israel



I recently visited Israel and spoke to the international representative of B'nai B'rith Israel. The way he described their B'nai B'rith is that it stands on two legs: the social and the community service 'legs'. I thought that sums it up well. The social aspect in Israel is even more important since October the 7th as citizens need to provide support for each other during a time when there is a lot of trauma. B'nai B'rith Israel's community service

now mainly involves buying and then donating goods for needy families displaced in the south and in the north. Our donations have been used to support this work on the ground.

There cannot be any real comparison between the suffering faced by so many Israelis and the problems of Jews in Australia, even given the increase in antisemitism that most of us have witnessed in one way or the other. Nevertheless, I am pleased that B'nai B'rith Victoria is also providing a wonderful service to our community, especially to those in the senior age bracket. I am gratified by success in a range of events including the Jewish Youth Art Competition and its awards ceremony, the Fellowship concerts with great artists, the sold-out Melbourne Lodge Jazz Concert Fundraiser, the Armchair Society and its record attendances, and a multitude of activities which Units arrange. These are important and I am glad that there is so much on offer. I thank the BBVic staff and all the volunteers who spend so much time and effort in arranging these events.

The other 'leg', the community service one, has been predominantly directed toward Israel, which is quite appropriate at this time. Whether it be through the Israel Commission, direct donations to B'nai B'rith Israel, the United Israel Appeal for Victims of Terror, or other fundraising organisations for Israel, we must continue to support them as best we can.

Unfortunately, the Israel-Hamas war is a long one whose end is not yet in sight. Nor has the problem of the north been solved, with over 60,000 people who live close to the Lebanon border still remaining displaced. And violent unrest continues in the West Bank.

We need to be together and support each other. B'nai B'rith has an important role in helping us achieve these goals.

Peter Schattner

President

Member Survey
COMING IN AUGUST

Dispatch from Tel Aviv



A two week holiday in Israel during the Hamas War is a worthwhile trip to do. The Israelis, especially the business people, really appreciated the support (as there are very few overseas tourists at present so hotel bookings and travel are easier than usual at this time of year).

Our taxi driver from the airport advised us that if we don't read the newspapers in Israel we would not even know that we're in a war zone. That turned out to be good advice.

Our trip had two purposes: to continue to strengthen the bond with B'nai B'rith Israel and secondly to visit relatives and friends, especially my cousin Margalit who was one of the captured hostages who was released from Gaza eight months ago.

B'nai B'rith in Israel is growing. I had three meetings with their leadership team and Denise and I attended one large general meeting with members where we were honoured to help light the menorah candles. They had a guest speaker Yair Shamir (son of ex Prime Minister), and audience of over 60 people, mainly aged in their 50s and 60s.

Their leadership team of Ilan Shchori and Meno Cohen have a well-developed expansion and rejuvenation plan with its own budget. It is volunteer based with mentoring, training workshops for leaders and mentors. Over the past 5 years membership has grown from 1752 to close to 3000. The number of Lodges in the country increased from 62 to over 300. Each Lodge has to develop a social and then a community project. Facebook is used to maintain contact. I was very impressed by their work and success.

B'nai B'rith Israel was very grateful to Australian B'nai B'rith members for the large and ongoing donations that they sent over the past nine months direct to B'nai B'rith Israel to assist displaced Israelis and soldiers with help that is unavailable from the government. We have raised and sent \$AUD 120,000 - the largest amount per country except from America.

I also managed to visit some of Israel's southern region where my cousin had lived in Kibbutz Nir Oz which was destroyed on October 7. Margalit was held hostage in tunnels for four weeks before being released. It was absolutely wonderful to see her. She was treated relatively well by her captors and has recovered well, but has ongoing counselling and group support.

The resilience of the Israeli people in general is amazing to watch and see. They state that they have been through many wars and they now all hope for this one to finish soon, so life can return to normal. God willing this will happen soon.

Benny Monheit
President, BBANZ

B'nai B'rith Israel Lodge Holds Special Event

B'nai B'rith Israel Lodge "Avnech VeNivnet" in the Tel Aviv Regional Council hosted a special event with Yair Shamir - the son of the seventh Prime Minister, Yitzhak Shamir - who screened a biographical film he produced about his father, just after the 12th anniversary of his death.

The guests of honor at the meeting were president of B'nai B'rith Australia and New Zealand, Benny Monheit and his wife Denise, who were on a private visit to Israel.

Avi Pevzner, former Israeli ambassador to Italy and France and Yitzhak's former advisor also participated in a panel discussion in the last part of the evening moderated by Ilan Shchori, the adviser to the president for international relations, and heritage and the chairman of the regional council Tel Aviv.



Armchair Society with Bronwyn Bishop AO



Bronwyn Bishop AO graciously and very warmly addressed a large crowd at the final session of Series 2 of Armchair Society. She was highly articulate and was most informative on many subjects. Ms Bishop was very pro Israel and supportive of the Australian Jewish community. She was shocked and condemned the rise of anti-Semitism in Australia.

A recording of this talk and other Armchair Society talks are available on www.j-air.com.au/news/bnai-brith-armchair-series/



OUT AND ABOUT Fellowship Concert

B'nai B'rith Fellowship held their July concert at the Glen Eira McKinnon Bowling Club.

Dr Elizabeth Finkel AM delighted the 100 audience participants with her beautiful soprano voice and renowned pianist Alan Kogosowski captivated them with his artistic ability on the piano.



JEWISH YOUTH ART COMPETITION AWARDS CEREMONY

The B'nai B'rith Jewish Youth Art Competition concluded spectacularly on Sunday, June 30, at the Glen Eira Town Hall Gallery. An enthusiastic crowd gathered for the Awards Ceremony, where 46 talented students were honored with awards and prizes for their artwork.

B'nai B'rith President Dr Peter Schattner opened the ceremony by welcoming Mayor of Glen Eira, Cr. Anne Marie Cade, who praised the innovative artworks created and the impressive talent on display. Prizes were awarded to students in Year 6 through Year 12 across multiple categories. Photos of all the artwork and a complete list of the 2024 winners can be seen by visiting <https://www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria/projects/jewish-youth-art-competition-2024/>











B'NAI B'RITH ARMCHAIR SOCIETY

In partnership with the Lamm Jewish Library of Australia
Hosted by Ron James

FORTNIGHTLY SERIES

Featuring fascinating guest speakers at each session

REMAINING SESSIONS

- August 6 - Hon Bridget McKenzie
- August 20 - Menachem Vorchheimer
- September 3 - Prof Adiva Sifris
- September 17 - Hamish Rotstein

Venue to be advised upon booking

\$10 PER SESSION

TUESDAYS, 10:00AM - 12:00PM

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/AS3

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



Armchair Society with Prof Leon Piterman AM



Josh Piterman, Hannah Piterman
and Leon Piterman



Peter Schattner and Leon Piterman



Rosa Schattner, Josh Piterman,
Hannah Piterman

At Armchair Society on July 23, guest speaker Prof Leon Piterman AM shared excerpts from his book *'There's a lot of it going around'* on his experiences as a GP and shared his opinion on the future of General Practice in Australia.

A recording of this talk and other Armchair Society talks are available on www.j-air.com.au/news/bnai-brith-armchair-series/



OUT AND ABOUT

Jazz Fundraiser

On Sunday, July 7, over 100 people gathered at TBI for the Jazz and Klezmer Concert. This wonderful afternoon of music delighted the audience, who enjoyed the performances, buffet, and lively atmosphere. Many thanks to Danielle Schilling and her dedicated volunteers for organising such a successful event. Special thanks also to Alex Starr for his connections in arranging the services of the talented musicians—the Erez Trio and the Melbourne Klezmer Quartet. Both Adam Starr and Simon Starr were members of the band.

We also extend our gratitude to TBI for their support and for allowing us to use their hall and To Catch a Chef catering for sponsoring the delicious food. This event was a fundraiser for the Israel Commission, and approximately \$4,000 will be sent to the B'nai B'rith projects in Israel that need our support the most.

A box of excess food was donated to the Salvation Army in St Kilda.



OUT AND ABOUT GESHER-RABIN INSTALLATION

The Geshher Rabin AGM and Installation was enjoyed by all. Members of other units joined us to celebrate the occasion.

The new committee was installed and the current Co-Presidents Karin Zafir and Leon Nissen were again re-elected with most of the previous committee and some new committee members.

Our installing officers were Simone Markus and Jacqui Dinor-Corry who delivered an historical account of B'nai B'rith. We also inducted 3 new members and enjoyed a tasty dinner and schmooze.

Guest speaker Zach Gomo gave an enlightening and historical talk about why the Jews are the rightful residents of Israel.



Co-Presidents Karin Zafir and Leon Nissen with new members being sworn into the Gesher Rabin Unit: Debra Star, Ben Bekerman and Barry Ziegler. We welcome Kathy Kaplan and Vera West as new members as well.



B'NAI B'RITH MENORAH AWARDS CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY'S ACHIEVERS

For more than 40 years, the B'nai B'rith Menorah Awards have celebrated our community's greatest contributors.

If you know a volunteer who has gone above and beyond over many years, please nominate them for a 2024 B'nai B'rith Menorah Award.

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

CLOSE 16 AUGUST



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 August:

Sunday 11 11:00am - **Members' coffee and chat** get together at the Umbrella Lounge.
Note 2nd Sunday this month **Guest speaker Henry Lew** will talk about one of his books. Lunch can be ordered during or afterwards. RSVP Eleanor by 3 August.

Saturday 31 7:30pm - **Annual Comedy Debate vs Maccabi Toastmasters.**
Topic: "Mother Knows Best". Flyer on page 16.
Bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/comedy-debate-2024>
For more information, contact Sue.
Venue to be announced on booking.

Coming up in September:

Sunday 15 11:00am - **Members' coffee and chat** get together at the Umbrella Lounge.
Guest speaker is Nita Jawary. Topic: "Shavuot Massacre – an excursion into the past". Lunch can be ordered during or afterwards. RSVP Eleanor by 7 August.

The following members celebrate their birthday in August:

Debra Star (1st), Sue Newman (18th), Colin Schneider (25th), Halina Leitch (31st)

Condolences:

Ellana Aarons (BBVic CEO) on the passing of her mother

UNIT AKIBA

President: Henry Winfield

Secretary: Annette Gladwin

Preview: Annette Harriott

What's on in August:

Saturday 10 7:30pm - **Saltpillar production of "Little Shop of Horrors"**.
Phoenix Theatre - 101 Glenhuntly Rd, Elwood.
Purchase your own tickets.

Sunday 18 7:30pm - **Regular Meeting**. Myer Bloom will present his third talk on the Jews of Spain. Meeting will be at Denise's home. Please bring a small plate for supper. Enquiries to Denise.

Coming up in September:

Saturday 14 7:30pm - **Ten Pin Bowling** at Moorabbin Bowl, followed by supper at Pancake Parlour in Southland. Contact Denise for further details.

Sunday 15 7:30pm - **Regular Meeting** at Kolb home. Guest speaker will be Alan Harvey, speaking about Sidney Myer. Please bring a folding chair and small plate to share for supper. Contact Kath.

Thursday 19 8:00 - 9:30pm - **Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club**.
Featuring "Israel- A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth" by Noa Tishby. Presented by Rae Popper and Peter Schattner.
Please contact Peter Schattner at nonfiction@bbvic.org.au for more information. Flyer on page 17.

The following members celebrate their birthdays in August:

Karen Neumann (1st), Fred Pollack (2nd), Andrew Freadman (12th), David Rooseboom (18th), Beatrice Mense and Miriam Sztrajt (26th).

HATIKVAH UNIT

President: Claude Fromm

Vice-President: Orly Dar

Preview: Judith Steinberg

Still to come in July:

Sunday 28 July, 2:00 - 5:00pm: Movie Afternoon

Screening of the film "Bombshell" - the Hedy Lamarr Story. Austrian actress Hedy Lamarr fled an oppressive marriage to create a name for herself as one of Hollywood's leading ladies in the 1940s. Behind the glamour and sex appeal though, was a talented and inquisitive inventor who created a radio system that is now considered the basis of Bluetooth technology. Please bring a small plate to share for afternoon tea.

What's on in August:

**Sunday 18 -
Tuesday 20**

Bendigo Break. Contact Yvonne if you would like to join us for a few days in Bendigo.

Sunday 25

8:00pm - Regular meeting. Guest speaker Pierre Harcourt on the topic: "How many lawyers does it take to change a lightbulb?"

Happy birthday to our members who celebrate their birthdays in August:

Alec Huze (14th); Peter Arnheim (21st); Tessa Berger (21st).

Our best wishes for a healthy month filled with good times and much laughter. We wish a Refuah Shleima to anyone feeling under the weather.

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

What's on in August:

Sunday 4

Morning - Julie will lead a medium walk around Sugarloaf reservoir.

Wednesday 14

Morning - An easy midweek walk from Royal Park to Clifton Hill will be led by Fairlie and Dennis.

Sunday 25

Morning - Saul will lead a SOHW walk in the Yarra Ranges, along the Morley Walking Track.

MELBOURNE LODGE NO 1547

President: Danielle Schilling

Vice-President: Morris Tobias

Preview: Dr John Kohn

What's on in August:

Monday 5 7:30pm - **Programming meeting** at Deidre's place.

Thursday 8 3:00pm - **Executive Meeting**

Wednesday 14 7:30pm - **Regular Meeting**
Guest speaker: Publicity Officer with Crime Stoppers

PAST EVENTS:

Wed 19 June: Jeffrey Pang was the guest speaker at our regular meeting. As an audiologist, he gave an interesting talk about the proven link between untreated hearing loss and Dementia (Cognitive Decline). Whilst we don't have a cure for Dementia right now, we do have treatments for hearing loss.

Sun 7 July: Jazz Concert at TBI. Full report and photos on page 11.

Wed 10 July: Rachelle Unreich gave a heartfelt and moving account of her mother's ordeals and survival under Nazi imprisonment during the Holocaust. Rachelle is a journalist and author of "A Brilliant Life". Rachelle was inspired by her mother's optimistic perspective on life.

"The past is behind me, I have a future to live."

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

Howard Elton (4th), Esther Gross (10th), Peter Pulver (12th), Ron Zmood (15th), Ruth Goldman (15th), Eve Lustig (17th), Josh Kahan (17th), Lorraine Freeman (18th), Barbara Wolfson (21st), Gabor Ujavari (25th), George Schimmel (25th), Eva Slonim (29th), Elizabeth Minc (31st).

Mazel Tov to Cera and Harry Newhouse on the engagement of their granddaughter.

Our condolences to Janet Machliss Kohn on the passing of her mother (aged 104)

Our condolences to Renee and John Eisner and family on the passing of Renee's brother Jeff Degen - a cherished member of B'nai B'rith Shalom Unit, honoured with a Menorah Award; a testament to his commitment and service.

Our condolences to Hilary Friedland on the passing of her husband Nick.

Our condolences to Ellana Aarons on the passing of her mother.

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

DONATE NOW on the B'nai B'rith website (www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria)

Select "Making a Difference".

Thank you to Melbourne Lodge, Alex and Janet Starr and Stephen Moskowitz for their donations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MACCABI TOASTMASTERS VS GESHER-RABIN UNIT

"MOTHER KNOWS BEST"

ANNUAL COMEDY DEBATE

MEMBERS \$20; NON-MEMBERS \$30

Venue to be announced on booking.
Refreshments provided after the debate.

For more information contact Sue
0430 107 372 / suem1818@gmail.com

SATURDAY 31 AUGUST 7:30PM

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/COMEDY-DEBATE-2024



B'nai
B'rith

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

B'NAI B'RITH FELLOWSHIP CONCERT

Featuring
Versatile singer Ellen Hundley

Venue:

Glen Eira McKinnon Bowling Club
Tyrone St, Ormond

Time:

2:30pm

Cost:

\$10 entry includes afternoon tea & a raffle ticket

MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

BOOKINGS: Deidre 0408 121 213



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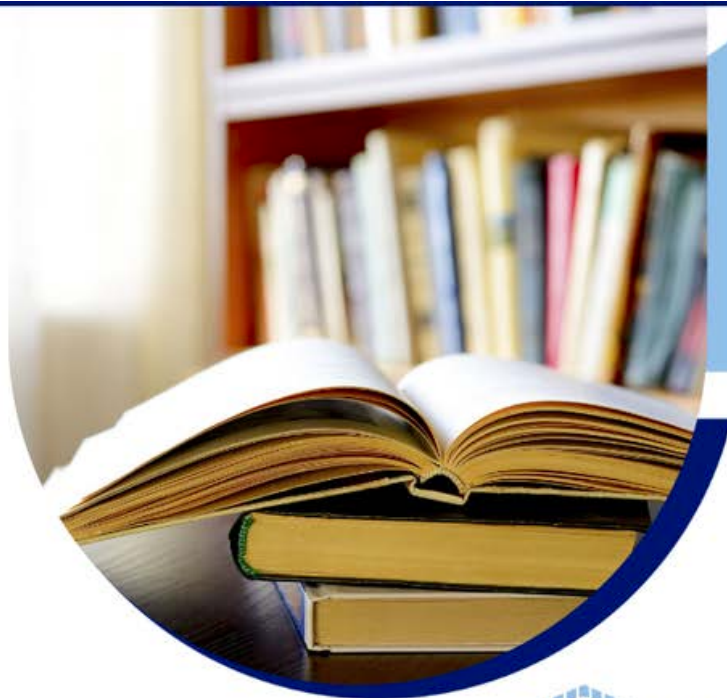
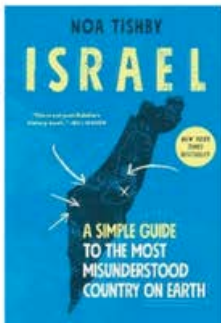
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B'NAI B'RITH JEWISH NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

Featuring "Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth" by Noa Tishby.

Presented by Rae Popper and Peter Schattner

A fresh, 360-degree view, Tishby brings her "passion, humor, and deep intimacy" (Yossi Klein Halevi) to the subject, creating an accessible and dynamic portrait of a tiny country of outsized relevance. Through bite-sized chunks of history and deeply personal stories, Tishby chronicles her homeland's evolution, beginning in Biblical times and moving forward to cover everything from WWI to Israel's creation to the disputes dividing the country today. Tackling popular misconceptions with an abundance of facts, Tishby provides critical context around headline-generating controversies and offers a clear, intimate account of the richly cultured country of Israel.



THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER, 8:00 - 9:30pm

For more information on the book club, or how to obtain the book and for the venue, please contact Peter at non-fiction@bbvic.org.au.



COURAGE TO CARE UPDATE

**COURAGE TO CARE OPEN DAY
8 SEPTEMBER - SAVE THE DATE**



We are having an Open Day as a wonderful opportunity to bring family, friends or anyone interested in learning more about volunteering at Courage to Care to our hub.

Date: Sunday 8 September

Time: 2pm-5pm

Venue: Courage to Care Office

For security purposes this event will be strictly by registration. Drop by and see how far we have progressed over the last 32 years! Look out for details.

More schools than ever!

We continue visiting schools all over Victoria with our Upstander education programs. We are having wonderful feedback from our Middle Years program reaching students in grades 5 to 7.



The team at Beaumaris Primary School

AUGUST 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
29 Jul	30	31	1 Aug	2	3	4 Ramblers walk
5 7:30pm ML Programming meeting	6 10:00am Armchair Society Series 3	7	8 3:30pm Melbourne Lodge Executive	9	10 7:30pm Akiba Saltpillar Show	11 11:00am GRU Coffee & Chat
12 Erev Tisha Beav	13 Tisha Beav	14 Ramblers walk 7:00pm ML Regular Meeting 8:00pm Hatikvah Activities Meeting	15	16 Menorah Awards Applications due	17	18 Hatikvah Bendigo getaway 7:30pm Akiba Regular Meeting
19	20 Hatikvah Bendigo getaway 10:00am Armchair Society Series 3	21	22	23	24	25 Ramblers walk 8:00pm Hatikvah Regular meeting
26	27	28 7:00pm Hatikvah Executive meeting	29	30	31 7:30pm GRU Comedy Debate	1 Sep

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



MITZVAH DAY
International | Australia
Sunday 24 November 2024

www.mitzvahday.org.au



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.

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

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